

Christmas



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.



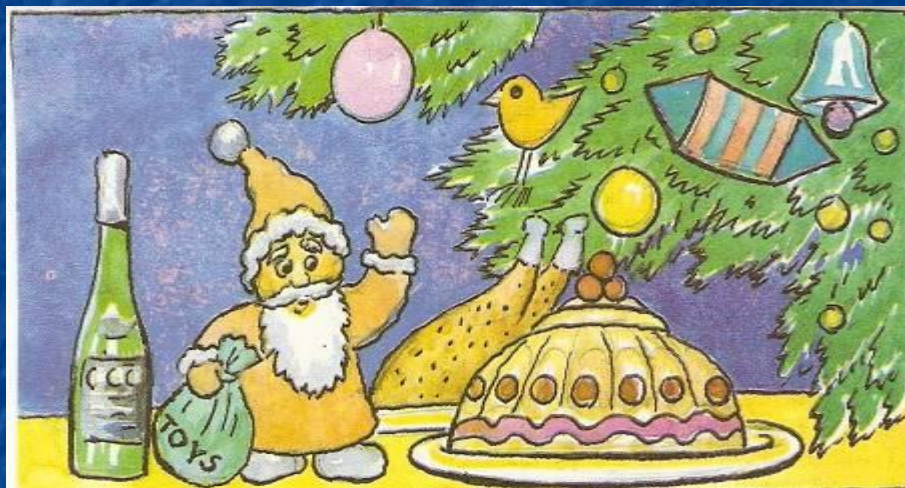
Christmas or X-mas is the most important festival of the year. It combines the Christian celebration of the birth of Christ with the traditional festivals of winter. X-mas is celebrated on the 25th of December. It is the greatest holiday of all in England.



There are a lot of traditions connected with X-mas:

- people decorate their houses with brightly coloured paper or holly
- they usually have a Christmas tree glittering with coloured lights and decorations





On this day people sing special Christmas songs, or carols. There are different types of carols:

- old traditional songs such as "Jingle Bells"
- religious songs like "Joy to the World" and "O Little Town of Bethlehem"
- modern American songs like "I`ll be home for Christmas."

They capture the spirit and the excitement of the season.

The most important tradition is the giving presents
Family members wrap up their gifts and leave them
at the bottom of Christmas tree to be found on
Christmas morning.



Children leave a long sock or stocking at the end of their bed on Christmas Eve, 24th of December, hoping that Father Christmas will come down the chimney during the night and bring them small presents, fruit and nuts.



**Father
Christmas**



fruit

On Christmas Day families sit down to a big holiday dinner including:



a turkey



a Christmas cake

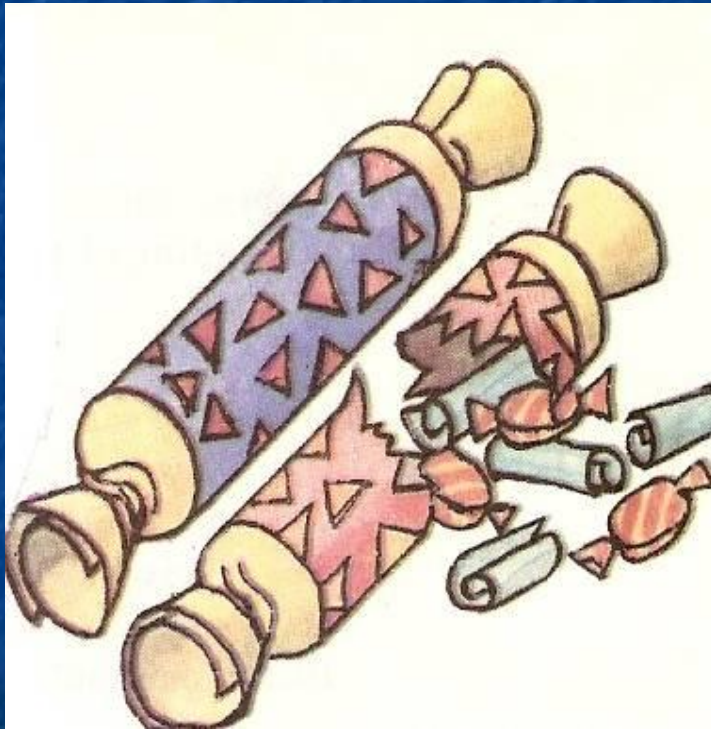


a pudding



hot mince pies

Children pull a cracker, it makes a loud crack and a coloured hat, small toys and jokes fall out!



In the afternoon they may watch the Queen on television with her Christmas message to the UK and the Commonwealth.



On this day people visit friends and relatives and wish each other

Merry Christmas

