



CHRISTMAS

Activity

BOOKLET

Merry Christmas

from the Virtual School



Well, it's that time of year again, where Santa gets ready to load up his sleigh and spread the magic of Christmas!

The Virtual School have gathered some fun ideas, games, and things to do on the run up to Christmas, which we hope you will enjoy.

We'd love to see your crafty Christmas photographs, so please send them over to us on email at virtualschool@sheffield.gov.uk.

Have a very Merry Christmas!

With love from all at the Sheffield Virtual School.



Christmas Wordsearch

a	s	a	n	m	i	c	g	f	h	i	m
o	s	n	n	b	s	r	t	j	e	s	i
l	p	s	a	n	t	a	z	g	i	n	n
g	v	j	o	p	e	c	x	b	n	o	c
b	p	n	j	e	p	k	g	t	a	w	e
a	r	e	i	n	d	e	e	r	t	m	p
u	c	r	a	b	h	r	e	i	i	a	i
b	y	n	a	j	m	i	n	o	v	n	e
l	b	p	r	e	s	e	n	t	i	b	n
e	b	r	v	s	n	o	p	b	t	n	m
a	e	e	b	u	n	n	i	v	y	h	y
e	r	v	b	s	l	e	i	g	h	p	l



Santa



cracker



present



Jesus



snowman



mince pie



reindeer



bauble



nativity



sleigh

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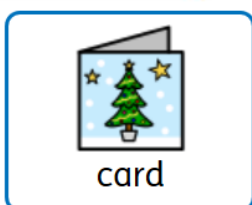
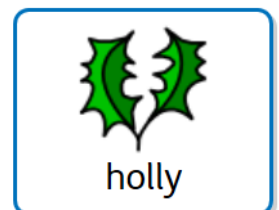
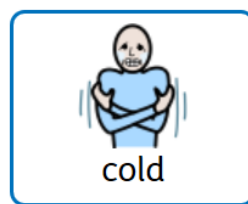
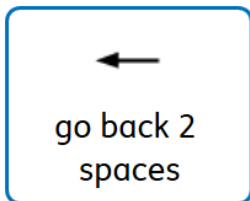
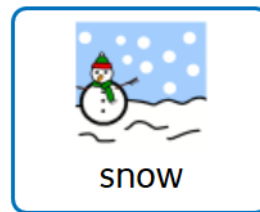
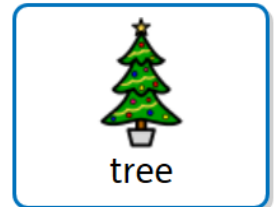
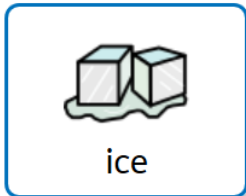
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Christmas Read and Rhyme Game

Roll the dice and land on a word. Think of a word which rhymes and say it out aloud. The winner is the first one to the finish line!

START



FINISH



Christmas Roll a Story Game

Instructions:

1. The aim of the 'Christmas Roll a Story' is to create a story by rolling a dice. The story can be created together (adult with child) or individually. It could also include the creation of a storyboard using the child's illustrations.
2. Roll number one will identify the character for the story. For example, if on the first roll the number '2' is facing upwards, the character selected will be 'An Elf'.
3. This method continues throughout until a story has been rolled:

Example:

Roll 1 - Character: A Snowman

Roll 2 - Setting time: Christmas Night


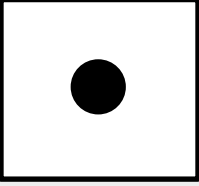
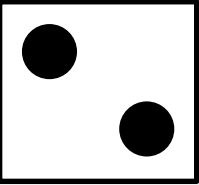
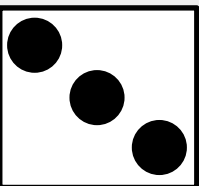
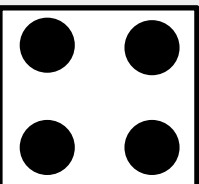
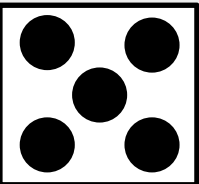
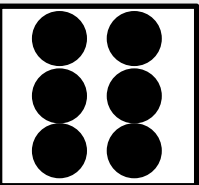
Roll 3 - Setting place: Santa's Village

Roll 4 - Conflict / plot: Someone is trying to Ruin Christmas



Help the child to create the story and model first if required. You could focus on the child's vocabulary to think of different words / sentences together. It may also help if you write the story down as the child creates, so that you can go back and discuss each area.

Help practice handwriting and story writing skills, by seeing whether the child would like to write their story out. Remember to send any stories to virtualschool@sheffield.gov.uk – we would love to see them!

	Roll 1: Character	Roll 2: Setting time	Roll 3: Setting place	Roll 4: Conflict / plot
	A Snowman	Christmas Eve	A Winter Wonderland	An Exciting Discovery is Made
	An Elf	In the Middle of the Night	Santa's Village	A Mystery Needs to be Solved
	Santa	Christmas Morning	A Christmas Party	An Adventure takes Place
	Reindeer	Christmas Night	A Gingerbread House	Someone Goes Back in Time
	Gingerbread Boy or Girl	Boxing Day	The North Pole	Something or Someone is Lost
	A Nutcracker	Winter Time	Up on the Rooftop	Someone is Trying to Ruin Christmas

Character Setting (time).....

Setting (place).....

Plot.....



4 Christmas Toilet Roll Characters

You will need:

Toilet roll inner
Cotton wool
Scissors
Glue
Coloured cards

There are so many characters to create by using the inner of a toilet roll. Here's how to make Santa:

1. Start by covering the bottom half of the tube with red craft paper using glue or cello tape (this is for Santa's red coat)
2. Make a Santa hat by cutting a circle of red paper. Cut a slit from the outside of the circle to the centre and make into a dome shape. Stick a white pom pom or some cotton wool to the top, and cotton wool around the bottom. This should be big enough to sit on top of the tube
3. Towards the top of the tube, either stick googly eyes on or draw your own Santa face. Add some cotton wool for his beard
4. Finish by making a belt from black and gold paper, stick on the hat and maybe some red pipe cleaners for arms.



You could make a whole set of toilet roll characters. They also double up as a bowling game – just scrunch up some silver foil or use a soft ball to play! (You will need at least 6 to do this):

- **Snowman** – add on a hat made of material, or pipe cleaner with pom poms to look like earmuffs. Add matching material or paper for a scarf
- **Reindeer** – cover in brown paper, add a red nose and eyes and a small bell if you have one around his neck. Use either spiralled brown pipe cleaners or twigs for his antlers
- **Elf** – use green paper for the jacket and add little buttons. Make a hat using coloured paper and include some little pointy ears at the sides of the tube
- **Carol singers** – cover the tube in a coloured paper and cut an oval piece of paper for it's face. Add a singing mouth 'o' and eyes. Finish by cutting a book from a rectangular piece of paper, fold in half, and stick each side to the tube. Add a material or paper hat
- **Angel** – cover the tube in white material or paper doily. Add a face with a smile and a yellow pipe cleaner to look like a halo.



Mince Pie Tasting



Join the Virtual School with a spot of mince pie tasting! Over the run up to Christmas, select a range of high street mince pies and score by assessing their features such as overall visual appearance and buttery texture of pastry. Make it even more fun by taking it in turns to test the pies and try to guess where they're from!

Each criteria is to be marked out of a possible 10 points. If 4 people are participating, add all 4 scores to give an overall criteria score.

Example: Criteria marking for 'buttery texture of pastry'

Helen: 6 out of 10; Tom: 7 out of 10; Faye: 7 out of 10; Hannah: 8 out of 10 = 28 in total (out of a possible 40 points) for the 'buttery texture of pastry' criteria.

NOTES:

- Overall visual appearance – includes the neatness of the sugar sprinkles, the colour and of course, you must mark down if you can see a 'soggy bottom'!
- Buttery texture of pastry – can you taste a rich butter, is the pastry 'stodgy' or too 'floury'?
- Overall taste of filling – is the mincemeat too bitter or too sweet, or does it have a grainy consistency?

Mince Pie Comparisons					
<i>Each criteria to be marked out of 10</i>	Pie # 1	Pie # 2	Pie # 3	Pie # 4	Pie # 5
Overall visual appearance					
Buttery texture of pastry					
Overall taste of filling					
Price of individual pie					
Brand name					
Additional comments					

Overall winner.....

2nd place.....

3rd place.....



Christmas Poetry



Why not have a go at your own Christmas poetry? Here are a few ideas to try:

The Children in Care Council produced an amazing poetry book during lockdown, full of their own original creations. Here's a technique the CICC used with writer in residence, Nik Perring. You can take a look at their book [here](#).

The below idea stimulates thinking and the sentences can be made into a short individual or group poem. Use opening words such as:

We can be...

We will be...

We are not...

Then use the theme of Christmas to finish off the sentences:

We can be excited that Father Christmas is visiting

We will be eating sprouts on Christmas Day

We are not opening presents before Christmas!

The household then link their sentences together and make a mini poem. Can you try to make the sentences rhyme?

How about changing a Christmas classic and put your own spin on it? Here are a couple of ideas. You could talk about being thankful after a very different year or write about something funny. Here are two familiar Christmas verses which are easy rhythms to write to and you can add as many verses as you want!

*Jingle Bells, jingle bells, Santa's on his sleigh,
Puts on his hat and prepares his flask for a distanced trip around...hey!
Jingle Bells, jingle bells, Santa's on his sleigh,
Leave a pie, for the main big guy, have a happy holiday...yey!*



*'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the town,
The skies were so clear, so silent – no sound.
Trees were put up early, for everyone to see,
A mince pie left for Santa and a special magic key.*

For more ideas on [how to write a poem](#), take a look at the BBC Bitesize website.



Christmas Scavenger Hunt

Why not have a scavenger hunt around the house and garden (if it's not too chilly) on Christmas Eve? Make up some festive clues to lead to some Christmas treats! Here are a few examples to get you started, but you could create your own riddles and rhymes:

*Presents wrapped,
so pretty to see,
your next clue
is on the Christmas ****.*



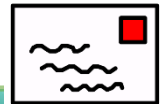
*Rudolph is the lead
because his nose can be seen,
your next clue
is in the washing *****.*



*Holly leaves are green,
the berries are red,
your next clue
is under your ***.*



*When you send your letter to
Santa,
you must use a stamp,
shine a light on this one,
it's next to the ****.*



*Santa does his travelling,
in a sleigh, not a boat,
this next clue is hiding,
in the pocket of your ****.*



*"On Dasher, On Dancer"
Santa calls out their names,
you'll find this one hiding
by a photo *****.*



*Mince pies and chocolate,
Christmas pudding too,
go and check
inside your ****!*



*Christmas is full of fun
to sing and to laugh,
this one is lurking
where you'd have a ****.*

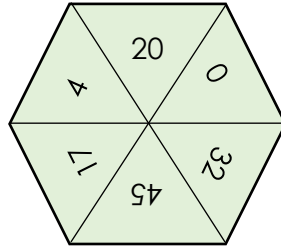




Spin and add

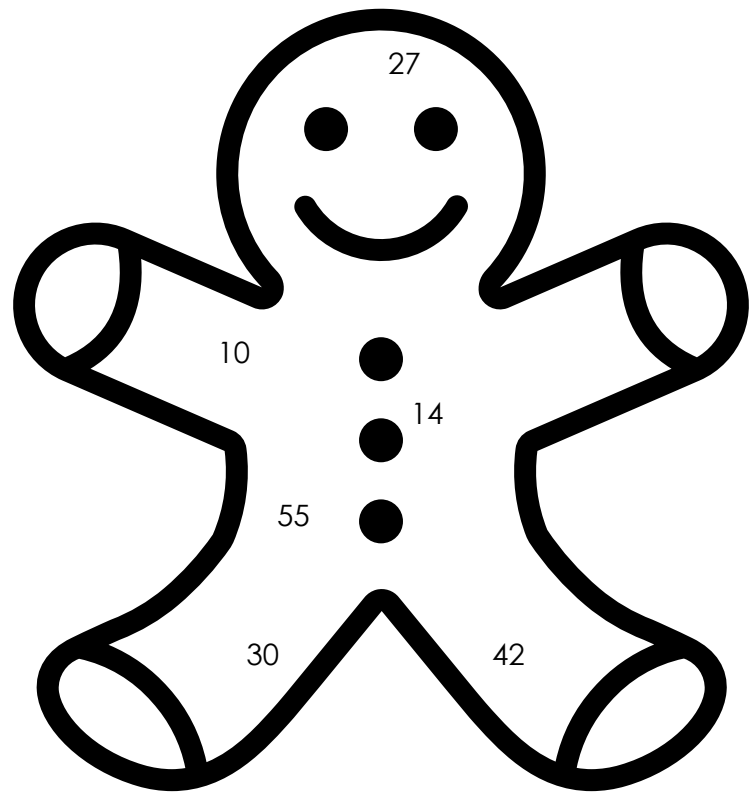
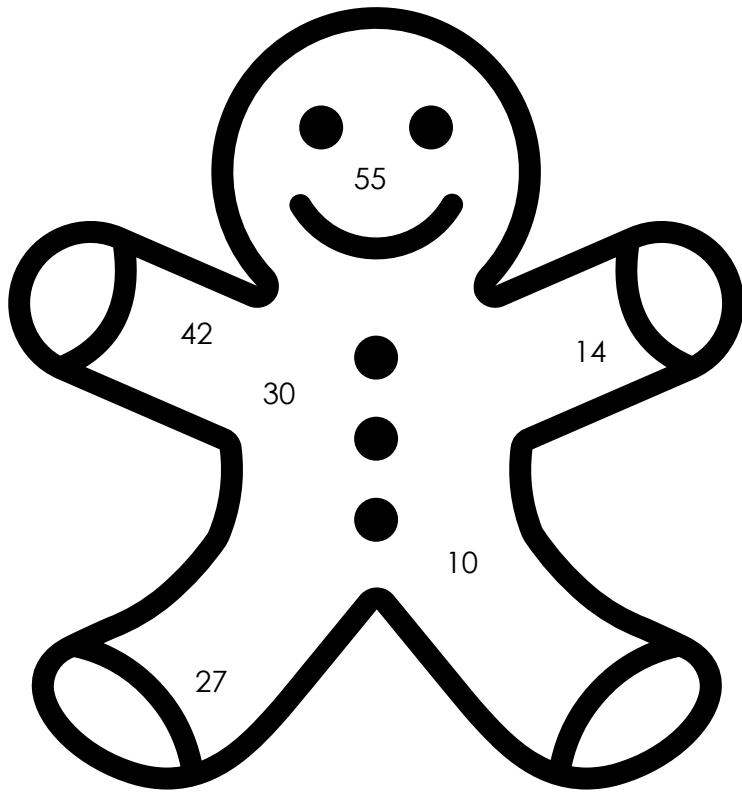
Play a Christmas game and add in some Maths practice! Use this template (and colour it in) or use some creative time to make your own.

The aim of this game is to spin the spinner and add 10 to the number. The first player to cover all six numbers wins.



Player 1

Player 2



This game can be modified to suit your child. All you need to do is change the numbers on the spinner and the gingerbread men. For example:

- add double digits (e.g. add 12 to each number)
- take away digits (e.g. take 4 away from each number)
- practice multiplication (e.g. times each number by 5)
- try division (e.g. divide each number by 2)



Make your own Christmas Story Book

Why not create your own Christmas Story Book this year? You could even make it into a lovely homemade present for someone.

Here's a few tips and ideas:

What could you write about?

- You could create your own Superhero who saves Santa and Christmas
- What about saving Christmas from a bad guy? – Evil Sprout Man!
- Follow the journey of Santa on Christmas Eve (including coming to your house! What would you leave for him to give him energy?)

Does it have to rhyme?

A story doesn't have to rhyme at all, but you could make it into a story using verses and rhyming words if you wanted to...(a bit like the Night Before Christmas).

How do you prepare your story?

Make sure to plan your story. Use a mind map to think about describing words and the pictures to go with each section of the story. Plan your beginning, middle and end and write / draw on scraps of paper to help you plan the layout of your book.

Thinking about materials...

You could really make your story come to life! Why not try:

- Using black card for the night sky and draw a picture using pastels
- Write on to black card using glittery gel pens
- Stick lift up flaps on your pictures (maybe a flap to lift to see what is in Santa's sleigh)
- Use other materials such a wool for snow or sequins for stars

Top tip: Make sure your book is made out of pieces of card to make it robust!

How to put it together...

1. After drawing and writing your story on your pieces of card (A4 card is cheap and easy to use), make sure they're in the correct order
2. Pierce two holes on the left-hand side of each piece of card using a hole punch (a grown up can help you line it up)
3. Find some nice Christmas ribbon and tie the pages together to create your own book.



Christmas Games to Play

There are lots of Christmas games to play to keep things fun. Why not have a go at making some of your own?:

Make your own ring toss game

Use a brown cardboard box, stick on some eyes, a red nose and make some ears from card. Use twigs collected from a walk to stick in the top of the box to create Rudolph. To make the rings, use twisted pipe cleaners.



Christmas word finder

Prepare some Christmas words, write out and decorate if you wish. On Christmas day, try to find as many words as you can.

For example: How many words can you make from Mince pie, Christmas Day or Father Christmas?

Christmas word scramble

Make a Christmas word scramble! Think of some Christmas words, move the letters out and let others guess what they are. You could use words like:

elves – velse

reindeer – errdneie

The first person to either write out the correct word or shout it out gets a point, and the person with the most points wins!

Pin the nose on Rudolph

Play 'pin the nose on Rudolph' or 'pin the hat on Santa'...a spin on the classic Birthday game!



Christmas tree aim and shoot

Grab a cardboard box and cut holes in it (big enough for balls to easily go through). Draw a shape on the box and paint or decorate. Add numbers next to the holes on the box. Have 5 balls to throw – whoever scores the most by throwing into the holes wins!



Christmas Charades

Create your own Christmas Charade cards ready for Christmas day. You could include things like making a snowman, riding a sledge, catching a snowflake on your tongue, having a snowball fight, unwrapping a present or pulling a cracker.



Christmas cup game

Grab 6 disposable cups and insert a piece of card in the bottom of each one. Write a number on each piece of card for the score. Each person has 10 chocolate coins to throw into the cups each. Without knowing which number is in each cup, throw your coins and try to get them in the cups. When you have thrown all 10, count your score. Whoever gets the most points wins.





Create Your Own Christmas Play

Why not bring your own Christmas play or performance to the living room and have your own audience? It might be a bit difficult to do the full nativity – running around trying to be Mary, Joseph, three wise men and the star, so think how you could make the performance easy but affective:

- Could you perform a verse of your favourite Christmas song or create a dance routine to go with it?
- If you're not keen on performing, write your own play in the format of a script. Put the characters name in the left-hand column so you know when a character is speaking and when the narrator is speaking
- Do you play a musical instrument to incorporate into your play? You could have some speaking parts, maybe sing a song and then play an instrument too
- Make tickets and gather snacks ready for the performance
- Use props and grab yourself a costume from the dressing up box, create a backdrop and change the lighting



Light Up Your Window

Use your imagination and Christmas cheer to decorate a window in your home. You could add a cut out silhouette of Santa or some lights. Some ideas you could think about:

- Make silhouettes out of black card, stick coloured tissue paper to the window and have a light behind to make it glow at night
- Create a colourful Christmas tree and stick snowflakes around it
- Have some icicle lights hanging from the top of the window
- Create a village scene by making houses out of coloured cards and a silhouette of Santa flying on his sleigh
- Make a Christmas tree out of twigs, bound together with string and wrap lights around it to create your own lovely decoration
- Make a Christmassy poster and decorate with tinsel



Take a walk around the village and see what you can spot - lit-up windows, fairy lights on Christmas trees and stars. Can you count how many you find? Help spread some extra festive cheer by donating to your local food bank!

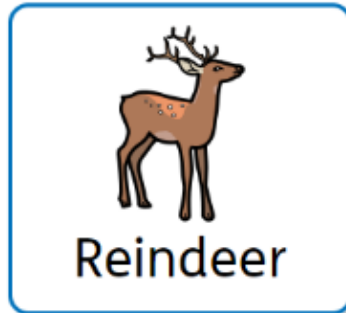
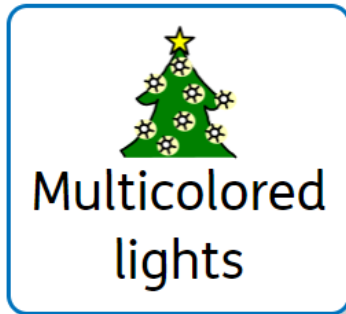
We would love to see your amazing, sparkly windows, or any decorations you have made. Please send any photographs to virtualschool@sheffield.gov.uk.



Outdoor I-spy / scavenger hunt

If you do decide to go for a walk to see the lights in your village, use this sheet to tick off the things you see on the way! Tick off each picture / word as you see them! Remember that items such as reindeer don't have to be real...look for inflatables or ornaments in gardens.

Christmas Walk Scavenger Hunt





Bake Your Own Christmas Treats

Christmas is a great time to do a spot of baking. Why not try some gingerbread men or shortbread and leave one or two out for Santa? They also made lovely homemade Christmas presents wrapped in a cellophane bag and tied with a Christmas ribbon. Remember to use your reading and measuring skills!

Gingerbread Men

Ingredients

- 350g/12oz plain flour, plus extra for rolling
- 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 2 tsp ground ginger
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 125g/4 ½oz butter
- 175g/6oz light soft brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 4 tbsp golden syrup



To decorate

- Writing icing (optional)
- Cake decorations (optional)

Method

1. Sift the flour, bicarbonate of soda, ginger and cinnamon together and pour into the bowl of a food processor. Add the butter and blend until the mix looks like breadcrumbs. Stir in the sugar
2. Beat the egg and golden syrup together lightly, add to the food processor and pulse until the mixture clumps together. Tip the dough out, knead until smooth and wrap in cling film. Leave it to chill in the fridge for 15 minutes
3. Preheat the oven to 180C/160C Fan/Gas Mark 4. Line two baking trays with greaseproof paper
4. Roll the dough out to a 0.5cm/¼in thickness on a lightly floured surface. Using cutters, cut out the gingerbread men shapes and place on the baking tray, leaving a gap between them
5. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes, or until lightly golden-brown. Leave on the tray for 10 minutes and then move to a wire rack to finish cooling. When cooled, decorate with the writing icing and cake decorations.

Christmas Shortbread

Ingredients

100g/3 ½ oz caster sugar

200g/7oz butter, softened

300g/10 ½ oz plain flour

Flavour variations:

For White Chocolate and Pistachio

50g/1 ¾ oz white chocolate, chopped into pieces

2tbsp chopped pistachios

(you could even try white chocolate and cranberry)

For Chocolate and Orange

50g/1 ¾ oz milk or dark chocolate, chopped into pieces

½ orange, grated zest only

For Ginger and Raisin

1 ½ tsp ground ginger

80g/2 ¾ oz raisins

Method

1. Beat the sugar and butter together in a large bowl until it is pale and fluffy. Stir in half of the flour until combined and then add the remaining flour. Use your hands to bring it together, add in your chosen fillings and make the mixture into a rough ball
2. Roll the dough into a sausage, roughly 5cm/2in in diameter. Wrap tightly in cling film and refrigerate for at least 1 hour or until solid
3. Preheat the oven to 200C/180C Fan/Gas 6 and line a baking tray with greaseproof paper
4. Unwrap the cling film and slice the sausage into 14 rounds, roughly 2cm wide. Alternatively, you could use Christmas shaped cookie cutters to make festive shortbread. Place onto the lined tray and cook for 15–20 minutes or until the edges are beginning to brown but the tops have no colour
5. Leave to cool slightly before eating. These will keep well for at least 1 week in a sealed container.





And finally...

Here are some more ideas to do around the Christmas period:

Joke cards

Create your own joke cards ready for Christmas day or print these examples out...

Why did Scrooge buy everyone birds for Christmas?

Because they were going cheap!

What goes red, white, red, white, red, white?

Father Christmas rolling down a hill!

Why are Christmas trees bad knitters?

They keep dropping their needles!

What do elves do after school?

Their gnomework!

What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck?

A Christmas Quacker!

What goes "Oh, Oh, Oh?"

Santa walking backwards!

Christmas quiz

Make your own Christmas quiz to play together. It could be questions around Christmas movies or general Christmas questions. Make it fun by having a quiz master to read out the questions and score everybody's answers. Here's one to start you off:

What colour are mistletoe berries?

- A, Red
- B, White
- C, Purple

The answer is B, white.

Make your own gift tags

Have a go at making your own gift tags to stick on to presents or your homemade treats. Write a joke in glittery gel pens or even think of a riddle to try and guess what the gift might be.

Other crafty ideas include:

- Drawing lines from the top of the gift tag to half way down, then sticking a button on to look like hanging baubles
- Sticking red buttons on to a tag and green felt cut out like holly leaves
- Making a tag to look like a present by sticking on Christmas gift wrap and a bow
- Using pieces of round, brown card, sticking on googly eyes and a red nose to create Rudolph (the same idea for Santa, an elf or an angel).

Create a Christmas poster

Why not make a lovely Christmas poster and deliver it to your local care home to make someone smile? It could be a scene (Santa dropping off some presents or the three kings delivering their gifts to baby Jesus) or a lovely message in bubble writing. Decorate with glitter, coloured cards, ribbons and sequins.

A special Christmas card

To thank your lovely teachers for all their hard work this year, make a lovely homemade card:

- Add a special poem you have written, just about your teacher
- Make a Christmas tree by cutting various sizes of patterned papers (smallest at the top, largest at the bottom) and stick on to card to look like a tree. Add a star and trunk
- Make a card with Christmas fingerprints. All you'd need to do is dip your finger in paint and create little Christmas characters. You could add a reindeer, Santa or yourself with your teacher!
- Create an acrostic poem and have it on the front of the card with lots of Christmassy colours (you could use the word 'Christmas')

Whatever crafts, games and activities you decide to do over the festive season, we hope you have a great time...

With love from the Sheffield Virtual School

