

# The Parkgate International

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**Feliz navidad, Bon nadal and  
Gott nytt år!**

Seasons greetings, readers of the Parkgate International! With the festive season upon us, join us on a captivating journey as we explore Christmas traditions from various corners of the world. From the radiant lights of the UK to the vibrant celebrations in Mexico, Japan's unique festivities, and the enchanting folklore of Iceland, this special edition unveils the wide range of global customs.



**Merry Christmas!**

In London, there is usually a big Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square. The Christmas tree is actually from Norway. Norway gives England a Christmas tree each year because England helped Norway in WW2. This started in 1947 after WW2. In the UK, we usually keep the same traditions. Bringing Christmas trees into our homes is a very old tradition. It started when Queen Victoria ruled over the UK( in the late 18th century). Another way we celebrate Christmas in the UK is your family coming over and having a big feast. Normally, in England people wear Christmas jumpers, schools sometimes let children wear them on a specific day as well.

At Parkgate, for Christmas we have a Secret Santa sale and a Christmas Disco. Our teachers also start hiding an elf from the 1st of December and you get a prize for finding it first! This year's prize is a Christmasy rubber duck!



At parkgate we also have a Christmas Lunch. Today people celebrate Christmas like this all over the world, but there are also lots of other different traditions too! Some people open Christmas crackers while others are wearing funny elf and Santa hats. In England, some people make cookies for Santa and stay up late to watch Christmas movies. Everyone celebrates Christmas in different ways.



*A traditional Christmas Dinner from the UK*

## **Feliz navidad**

In Mexico, their traditions are a little different to ones in the UK. One tradition they have is where children leave their shoes outside with a letter about what they want for Christmas in them. At Christmas, they make a cake with dried fruits and nuts which represent the jewels that the three wise men gave to Jesus. Jesus is represented by a clay doll that is baked into the middle of each cake.

In Mexico they start Christmas on the 12th of December and end their Christmas on 6th January. They do their own Christmas fair by lighting up candles, having fireworks, dancing and singing. They all sing Spanish Christmas carols. Mexicans call Santa 'Santo Clós' and Spanish people call Santa 'Papá Noel'.



*Figures of people carved out of radishes*

## **メリークリスマス**

People in Mexico celebrate Christmas in a different way to us in the UK. For example, they carve sacred things related to the bible into radishes. In Japan they too have their own special favourite cake and food for Christmas. Their special cake is topped with whipped cream and strawberries. The cake is red and white as those colours represent Christmas. Additionally, their traditional Christmas day meal is fried chicken. On Christmas Eve, they have beautiful and impressive light displays that they put up in their towns and cities.

In Japan, Christmas is not a religious festival like in many other countries but is still celebrated by most people as an end of year celebration or festival.

**Gleðileg jól**

Christmas is celebrated in Iceland with the telling of old tales. It has been said that when it is 13 days until Christmas, 13 trolls would come down from the mountains and play tricks on people. The trolls have been named the Yule Lads. The trolls come and decide if you have been good or bad. If you have been good they will give you presents, however, if you have been naughty they will leave you only a potato.



As part of our Icelandic 'Yule Lads' journey through global Christmas traditions, we extend our warmest wishes for a joyous holiday season to all our readers of the Parkgate International.

The richness and diversity of traditions celebrated worldwide throughout the year and not just for Christmas offer us a tapestry of cultural experiences.

Thank you for joining us on this exploration of festive customs, and may your year be filled with moments of joy, learning, and connection. Until our next international adventure in 2024, 'Happy New Year' and 'Happy Traditions' to one and all!

**International Facts**

Spain: All saints day has just passed on the 1st of November.

Sweden: The Planeta festival has just passed on the 5th of November. In Swedish planeta means planet.

World Wide: World cities day had just gone by on the 31st of October. On halloween!



Created by the pupils of  
Parkgate Junior School

