

What Christmas is really about (a worksheet)

Activity 1

Discuss the questions with your partner.

1. What is the Spirit of Christmas?
2. Do people behave differently during Christmas?
3. Describe the best Christmas you have ever had. What made it so great?
4. How important was Christmas to you when you were a child?
5. Have your feelings towards Christmas changed since you were a child?
6. Is Christmas more about commercialism or goodwill these days?
7. What does Santa think about the commercialisation of Christmas?
8. How and with whom do you celebrate Christmas?
9. Have you ever done any good deeds at Christmas?

Activity 2

Read the article and put the paragraphs in the correct order. What do you think about the school's decision? Discuss with your partner.

A

In an assembly, 'Father Christmas' told children that if they want to reverse the ban they must persuade their Religious Education teacher to 'change her mind' - who believes Christmas should be about the 'birth of Jesus'.

Headteacher Richard Bramley said: 'In assemblies this week, Mrs Paul, one of our teachers of RE, spoke about Christmas and whether the message of Christmas has been lost and buried under an avalanche of commercialisation.'

B

Other parents agree with the new exercise for their children.

One parent wrote on Twitter: "As an RE teacher Mrs P is trying to get the pupils to understand what Christmas is really about..... family and friends and caring for each other rather than Xboxes and Playstations. Bravo Mrs P. Keep fighting intolerance and selfishness."

C

The decision has sparked outrage among parents with some claiming their children had returned home 'upset' by the news.

One parent tweeted: 'I understand the way the re teacher is trying to educate the kids.but it's the way the kids have been told..mine came in upset.'

'Told no Christmas cards allowed or Christmas hats. Detention..it's ridiculous.it's gone to far.'

D

A school has cancelled Christmas this year after the true meaning became 'too commercial' and are asking children to beg for it to be brought back.

Cards, gifts and Christmas activities have been banned for children at Lady Lumley's School in Pickering, North Yorkshire.

E

'Christmas is a day celebrating the birth of Jesus and should be a time of goodwill to all, yet it can be a very stressful, expensive, argumentative and lonely time.

'In her message to students in the assemblies Mrs Paul asked them to consider the true meaning of Christmas and to write to her with their reasons why we should still celebrate this time of year and try to persuade her to change her mind.'

Adapted from article by [SOPHIE LAW FOR MAILONLINE](#)

Activity 3

Imagine you are a student at Lady Lumley's school. Together with your partner write a letter to Mrs Paul, explaining why Christmas at your school should be reinstated.

Activity 4

Watch a [video](#) about a father who gave his children unusual Christmas presents and discuss the questions.



1. Why do you think this video got 5 million views?
2. Why did the father play this joke on his children?
3. Are you surprised at how the children reacted?
4. What does this video tell us about these children and their parents?
5. Is it important to buy presents for Christmas?
6. Talk about the most memorable gift you've ever received over the winter holidays?
7. If you don't like a gift, should you regift it?

Activity 5

Watch the first part of the [video](#) (0:00 - 1:16) and answer the question:

Does he like the gifts?



Look at gifts 1 to 5.



- What nice thing could you say about each of them?
- Practice with your partner.

Watch the rest of the video and compare your answers.
Which of you managed to sound the most appreciative and sincere?