A summer-green hung everywhere
For Christmas comes but once a year!* 

Welcome to this, the fortieth issue of Primary Times. All the previous issues can be downloaded from our web site at www.lang-longman.it, and the photocopiable worksheets and articles on aspects of teaching English as a foreign language are still as fresh and interesting as they were when they were first published. Everyday the Internet plays a larger role in our lives, both private and professional. Almost anything can be downloaded providing a user knows where to look and, in terms of teaching, this has opened the door to a world of teaching resources. A couple of issues ago we informed readers of a great new site specifically designed for primary school teachers called The Great Teachers Primary Place at www.pearsonlongman.com/primaryplace. Since then hundreds of subscribers to Primary Times have registered on the site and have been able to download free materials and teachers packs. The sooner you register the sooner you can take advantage of the materials. Free with this issue of Primary Times is a brand new story-strip poster on the theme of Christmas, and on page 3 readers will find some ideas for exploiting the story and the worksheets. This issue also includes articles on useful Internet sites for language teachers and the differences between Christmas celebrations in the northern and southern hemispheres. We have also included the lyrics to the most popular Christmas carols, together with Internet links to the music. The editor and all the LANG-Longman staff who are involved in producing this, YOUR magazine, would like to wish you a Very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

*from a poem by Thomas Miller
There is so much information on the Internet that finding what you want can seem like a daunting task. Sometimes it’s quicker to prepare your own materials rather than spend hours going from site to site in the hope of finding something suitable. However, once you know where to look, then you can really make the most of all the materials that are out there, whether it be ready-made printable worksheets and flashcards or online activities that can serve as inspiration if nothing else. Bookmark these sites as favourites and you’ll soon have limitless resources at your fingertips!

**learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en**
This British Council website is designed for young learners who are learning English as a second language. There are songs, stories and craft ideas on there, all with worksheets which can be downloaded and used in the classroom. If you do not have Internet access at school, then just be a bit creative: listen to the song yourself online and then record yourself singing it, or sing it live for the children during the lesson. If you have the possibility, you could then record the traditional songs that all English children know and build up your own school song library.

**www.esl-kids.com**
This website offers lots of practical advice on teaching English as a second language to children, as well as flashcards, song lyrics, personalised worksheets and ideas for games. If you take the time to read through the different sections you will discover lots of great resources that you can use in the classroom.

**www.babytv.com**
Those of you with Sky may already be familiar with the Baby TV channel. This accompanying website offers a range of activities that children can do at home, either on their own or with the help of an adult – the instructions to the games are available in Italian. The site contains a ‘Learning centre’ and a ‘Play centre’, both of which could be useful in helping children to recycle language and lexis introduced in the classroom. They can practise the alphabet in the ‘Learning centre’, for example, and play the ‘Who’s It? What’s It?’ game in the ‘Play centre’ where they have to identify everyday objects such as toys.

**www.bbc.co.uk/schools/magickey/adventures/index.shtml**
This BBC website is aimed at children studying in English primary schools, but the ‘Magic Key’ adventures are a great way of getting children into reading in English at a young age, and the worksheets allow you to focus on areas such as phonetics with ‘The Sound Monster’. You can print off the worksheets to do in class and, if the children have Internet access, either at home or in their local library, then you can ask them to play the online games for homework to help the consolidation process. Finally, if you’re particularly IT-orientated and have both the time and resources, then why not create your own website where you can share ideas with other teachers and build up your own materials bank? Have fun!

---

**E-mail address**
Did you become a subscriber to Primary Times before you got an email address?
Have you changed your email address recently?
If you have, please send your current email address to
sara.debenedetti@pearson.it
so that we can keep you up-to-date with the EFL world in Italy.

---

Sarah Gudgeon teaches both children and adults in a private language school in Milan. She is co-author of English Roundabout, LANG-Pearson Longman 2007.
Christmas story-strip poster

Inside this issue of Primary Times we have included a completely new story-strip poster for use in the primary classroom. The methodology explained below for getting the most out of the poster puts the emphasis on the children’s ability to recall and recount the various parts of the story.

On the reverse side of the poster the teacher will find:
- a complete suggested text of the story, a recording of which can be downloaded from www.lang-longman.it (click on Primary Times).
- photocopiable worksheets practising aspects of language used in the story. If the teacher decides to use a worksheet, it should be distributed to the children before they hear the relevant part of the story.

Teachers can also simplify the text or make it more complex as desired, or choose to read the text aloud to the children.

Suggested teaching steps:
1. During the lesson, before starting the story, teach the following key words:
   These words can be taught together before telling the story or in the lesson before a particular part of the story is told.
2. Show the children the first page of the story and play the recording or read the first verse of the poem.
3. Ask the children to repeat the sentences linked to the picture. One option is to write the sentences on the blackboard and then gradually remove some of the words.
4. Ask the class to tell you what is happening in the picture in their own (English!) words.
5. Ask the children what they think is going to happen in the next part of the story.
6. Put the poster aside and continue the lesson. Tell the children that you will continue the story during the following lesson.
7. The following lesson, show the children the first picture of the story again and ask them to tell you what they remember. This can also be done as a group activity. Divide the children into groups and ask them to discuss together what they remember.
8. If they remember very little, repeat the steps 2, 3, 4 and 5 above and tell them that, if they can remember the story, you will continue in the following lesson.
9. If the children remember the story and can recall at least some of the poem, revise it with them and show the second page of the story and repeat steps 2, 3, 4 and 5 above.
10. The following lesson, ask the children to recall the story illustrated in the first two pictures and – if they are able to – then proceed with the third picture and so on until you have told the complete story.
11. When you have told the complete story and the children are able to recall and repeat the story in their own words, put the poster on the wall of the classroom. For the following few lessons it can be used at the beginning of the lesson as revision. Eventually divide the class into six groups and ask each group to memorise one of the texts, so that they can recite them in sequence.
Sing and celebrate Christmas

If you walk down the High Street (main shopping street) of any town in Great Britain during the Christmas period, you will probably meet a group of people singing Christmas carols. People walking past offer the singers money for a local charity such as an old people’s home or orphanage.

These groups of singers and others also go from house to house in the early evening and sing carols.

Readers can find a selection of carols printed below and on the following pages. There are also Internet links where the music can be found.

Carols are special songs with the theme of Christmas. Many of them have religious connotations and they are an important part of the traditions of Christmas festivities in Great Britain and certainly part of the Christmas spirit.

www.christmas-carol-music.org/CDs/AwayInAManger_CradleSong.html

AWAY IN A MANGER

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care, and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

www.kids.niehs.nih.gov/lyrics/jingle.htm

JINGLE BELLS

Dashing through the snow,
In a one-horse open sleigh,
O’er the fields we go,
Laughing all the way!

Bells on bobtail ring,
Making spirits bright,
Oh what fun it is to ride
and sing a sleighing song tonight!

Jingle bells, Jingle bells,
Jingle all the way!
Oh what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh, hey!

Jingle bells, Jingle bells,
Jingle all the way!
Oh what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh!
SILENT NIGHT

Silent Night, Holy Night
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child,
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent Night, Holy Night
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from Heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent Night, Holy Night,
Son of God, love’s pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace.
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

THE FIRST NOWELL (NOËL)

The first Noël the Angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds
In fields as they lay,
In fields where they lay;
Keeping their sheep.
On a cold winter’s night
That was so deep.
Noël, Noël, Noël, Noël,
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the East beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
Noël, Noël, Noël, Noël,
Born is the King of Israel.

GOOD KING WENCESLAS

Good King Wenceslas looked out
On the feast of Stephen
When the snow lay round about
Deep and crisp and even
Brightly shone the moon that night
Though the frost was cruel
When a poor man came in sight
Gath’ring winter fuel.

“Hither, page, and stand by me
if thou know’st it, telling
Yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?”
“Sire, he lives a good league hence
Underneath the mountain
Right against the forest fence
By Saint Agnes’ fountain.”

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL
(ADESTE FIDELES)

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye
to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him,
Born the King of angels;
O come let us adore Him;
O come let us adore Him;
O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

Sing choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above.
“Glory to God
... in the Highest”.
O come let us adore Him;
O come let us adore Him;
O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.
WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE

We three kings of Orient are Bearing gifts we traverse afar Field and fountain, moor and mountain Following yonder star.

Chorus

O Star of wonder, star of night Star with royal beauty bright Westward leading, still proceeding Guide us to thy Perfect Light.

Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain Gold I bring to crown Him again King forever, ceasing never Over us all to reign.

Chorus

Frankincense to offer have I Incense owns a Deity nigh Pray’r and praising, all men raising Worship Him, God most high.

Chorus

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume Breaths of life of gathering gloom Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Chorus

Glorious now behold Him arise King and God and Sacrifice Alleluia, alleluia Earth to heav’n replies.

Chorus

DECK THE HALLS

Deck the halls with boughs of holly, Fa la la la la, la la la la. ‘Tis the season to be jolly, Fa la la la la, la la la la. Don we now our gay apparel, Fa la la la la, la la la la. Troll the ancient Yule-tide carol, Fa la la la la, la la la la. See the blazing Yule before us, Fa la la la la, la la la la. Strike the harp and join the chorus. Fa la la la la, la la la la. Follow me in merry measure, Fa la la la la, la la la la. While I tell of Yule tide treasure, Fa la la la la, la la la la.

www.christmas-carol-music.org/CDs/DeckTheHall.html

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

O little town of Bethlehem How still we see thee lie; Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by; Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light. The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

www.the-north-pole.com/carols/townbeth.html
THE HOLLY AND THE IVY

The holly and the ivy
When they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood
The holly bears the crown.

Chorus
O the rising of the sun
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ
Sweet singing of the choir.

The holly bears a blossom
As white as lily flower;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To be our sweet Saviour.

Chorus
The holly bears a berry
As red as any blood;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To do poor sinners good.

Chorus
The holly bears a prickle
As sharp as any thorn;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
On Christmas Day in the morn.

Chorus
The holly bears a bark
As bitter as any gall;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
For to redeem us all.

Chorus
The holly and the ivy
Now both are full well grown,
of all the trees that are in the wood
the holly bears the crown.

Chorus

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID’S CITY

Once in royal David’s city,
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her Baby,
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from Heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall:
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

WHITE CHRISTMAS

I’m dreaming of a white Christmas
Just like the ones I used to know.
Where the treetops glisten and children
listen
To hear sleigh bells in the snow.
I’m dreaming of a white Christmas
With every Christmas card I write.
May your days be merry and bright
And may all your Christmases be white.

Another popular Christmas song is **Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer**. Due to copyright restrictions we are unable to print the words although they can be found on the Internet.

Music: [www.the-north-pole.com/carols/rudolph.html](http://www.the-north-pole.com/carols/rudolph.html)
**Activity 1: Christmas Tree**

**What you need:**
- one ice-cream wooden stick
- green cardboard
- small buttons
- paint, various colours including dark brown
- paint brush
- glue
- scissors
- pencil
- one gold (or yellow) pipe cleaner

**What you do**
1. Paint the wooden ice-cream stick dark brown. Let it dry.
2. Draw and cut out some (5 or 6) strips of green cardboard.
3. Glue the strips onto the wooden ice-cream stick (see picture).
4. Use a different colour to paint each small button. Let them dry.
5. Glue the small buttons onto the green branches of your Christmas tree.
6. Shape the gold or yellow pipe cleaner as a star. Glue it onto the top of the tree.

**Lexical tips:**
- the teacher can use this activity to teach or revise colours, Christmas tree, buttons, school objects.
- New vocabulary: stick, wood/wooden, buttons, paint, paint brush, colours, branch.

**Activity 2: Christmas bookmark**

**What you need:**
- white cardboard
- pencil
- scissors
- coloured felt-tip pens

**What you do**
1. Draw the shape of Santa’s head and a rectangle as his body onto the white cardboard (see picture).
2. Draw Santa’s hat, his face, his big beard and his clothes.
3. Colour Santa’s clothes and face.
4. Cut along the shape of the rectangle and of Santa’s head: your bookmark is ready!
Activity 3: Personalized Christmas tree ornament

**What you need:**
- white cardboard
- pencil
- scissors
- coloured felt-tip pens
- black marker
- ribbon
- stapler

**What you do**
1. Onto the white cardboard, draw and cut out a Christmas shape for your ornament (a ball, a wreath, a tree, a stocking...)
2. Colour your ornament.
3. With the black marker, write your name on your ornament.
4. Staple the ribbon on top of your ornament so that you can hang it on your Christmas tree!

Lexical tips: the teacher can use this activity to teach or revise Christmas tree, ornament, Christmas vocabulary, school objects.

New vocabulary: shape, ball, wreath, stocking, tree, stapler, ribbon, hang.

Activity 4: Snowman in a jar

**What you need:**
- one small empty glass jar (yoghurt or jam)
- two table tennis balls
- cotton wool
- glue
- a short strip of red cloth
- black and orange felt-tip pens

**What you do**
1. Glue one of the table tennis balls on top of the other.
2. Glue some cotton wool around the bottom ball. This will be the body of the snowman.
3. Using the black felt-tip pen, draw some buttons onto the body of the snowman.
4. Using the black felt-tip pen, draw a mouth and two eyes. Use the orange felt-tip pen to draw a nose onto the top ball. This will be the head of the snowman.
5. Wrap the short strip of red cloth around the neck of the snowman as a scarf.
6. Put some glue in the middle of the jar and glue your snowman into it.
7. Put some cotton wool all around the bottom of the small jar. Your snowman is ready!

Lexical tips: the teacher can use this activity to teach or revise snowman, snow, cotton wool, table tennis, strip, cloth, colours.

New vocabulary: jar, yoghurt, jam, table tennis, ball, cotton wool, stripe, cloth, red, black, orange, wrap, scarf, eyes, nose, button.
Christmas in summer, Christmas in winter

Antonella Garofalo

Cecilia Perillo

The Australians and the British speak a similar language, use a similar political system and share a Queen and many Christmas Traditions. Christmas Day falls on December 25th in both countries and is an occasion for Christians all over the world to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Many people, even if not Christian, enjoy giving each other gifts. Millions of people try to create a Christmas that fits in with the culture or climate of their own country.

The Spirit remains the same everywhere!

Christmas in Australia

Christmas celebrations in the southern hemisphere are different from those of the northern, as Christmas festivities arrive in the summer and temperatures can be very high. The heat of summer in Australia has an impact on the way Australians celebrate Christmas. The decorations, cards and traditional foods are all very similar to those used in northern hemisphere countries. The school kids get six weeks off and all the shops close on Christmas day and Boxing Day. Outdoor displays of nativity scenes, besides having the traditional figures, often feature Australian native animals like kangaroos and koalas. Christmas plays often follow an Australian storyline involving baby Jesus in the bush. ‘Aussies’ like to sunbathe in the summer heat, and homes and yards (backyards) are decorated with various motives. Father Christmas arrives on a surfboard and people do their Christmas shopping in shorts and T-shirts. Visiting Christmas lights displays has become very popular, as suburbs are lit with coloured lights. Australians enjoy attending Christmas Eve or Morning Church services and exchange gifts with loved ones at different times during the day.

Some people like to celebrate with the traditional hot Christmas dinner meals familiar to those in England. Others may include a seafood barbecue, turkey with ham or pork and lots of pineapple. For dessert Australians enjoy a flaming Christmas plum pudding, mince pies and pavlova (write to Cecilia Perillo for the perfect recipe). Due to the multi-culturalism in Australia food can vary from family to family.

Australians like to celebrate Christmas day outside; they enjoy swimming, playing cricket, having picnics on the beach and other outdoor activities. Bondi Beach in Sydney attracts thousands of people each year. Carols by Candlelight started in 1937 and is still held on Christmas Eve. Thousands of people gather in Melbourne to sing their favourite Christmas carols. Australians like to show off their Christmas bush, a native plant which has red flowered leaves. Boxing day falls on December 26th and important sports events like the Boxing Day test match (a cricket game) are held. The Sydney to Hobart yacht race starts on Boxing Day and is another important sporting event.

Boxing Day also sees the start of the New Year Sales and many people take advantage to buy products at lower prices. Christmas in New Zealand is also a time for summer holidays, picnics, barbecues and going to the beach. Some people like to eat raw fish in coconut milk. New Zealand’s Christmas Tree is called ‘the Pohutukawa’ and has red flowers.

Christmas in Britain

In the northern hemisphere Christmas is in the middle of winter, but diving into freezing water on Christmas Day has become an annual custom in Britain. Special groups of Londoners dive into the Serpentine on Hyde Park or Brighton Beach, and in Ireland many go to the chilly Irish Sea. Advent starts at the beginning of December. Advent means ‘coming’ and it is time of preparation when people are busy sending Christmas cards, decorating houses and churches and preparing Christmas dinners and cribs. British people are busy with nativity plays and carol services. At Christmas dinner, a plum pudding is served with little treasures hidden inside. Christmas pudding, otherwise known as ‘figgy pudding’ or ‘plum pudding’ dates back hundreds of years in Great Britain. It is a mix of dried fruits such as raisins, figs, flour, nuts and brandy and is round and dark brown when cooked. The Christmas turkey lunch is a relatively recent acquisition, as turkeys are native to America. The main meal on Christmas Day is usually lunch, which is finished in time for the Queen’s Christmas message at 3pm.

On Christmas Eve children hang their stockings by the chimney and leave a glass of sherry for Father Christmas and a carrot for Rudolph. On Christmas morning the family traditionally open their presents. Britain was the first country to hang up mistletoe. Mistletoe is still hung in doorways and this goes back to Celtic beliefs that mistletoe healed wounds and increased fertility as it remains green with white berries in winter. Kissing someone under the mistletoe is still popular in Britain.

Carolling started in medieval England where wandering musicians travelled from town to town visiting castles and homes of the rich and, after their performance, they would receive a hot meal or money. The custom of pulling crackers in Great Britain started in the 1860s and is still very popular. These brightly coloured paper tubes contain a banger inside and two people must take either end and pull the cracker open!

Boxing Day was traditionally a day for employers in England to give bonuses of money, leftover food or old clothing to their employees, or for lords to give agricultural tools and seeds for the coming year to their tenants. These gifts were presented in a box.
Lesson Plan
Level: fifth year primary
- Teachers may like to use an IWB for the geographic part of the lesson as the digital aspect can enhance the pen and paper approach. Present a large image of the world, zoom in on the country of choice and provide a fact sheet or discussion of the hemispheres, capital cities and language.
- Introduce the meaning of Venn diagram – A Venn diagram is a simple graphic organizer that children can use to compare and find similarities between the Christmas celebrations in Australia and Great Britain.
- Give each student the Venn diagram handout.
- Read the text.
- Write key words on the blackboard / IWB.
- Children will transfer the information to the Venn diagram.
- Talk about the major differences and similarities.
- The diagrams can be displayed around a world map in the classroom.

The Great Teachers Primary Place is the place to go for free classroom resources and countless activities for Primary teachers everywhere. Find inspiring ideas for your Primary classroom, discover new techniques and solutions that work, connect with other Primary teachers, and share your own stories and creativity. Register now at: www.pearsonlongman.com/primaryplace and download your free Teacher Primary Pack.

Members of the Great Teachers Primary Place will receive exclusive access to:

- Free articles on current trends in the Primary classroom.
- Free photocopiable activity sheets to download and use in your classroom.
- Free Teacher Primary Packs filled with posters, story cards and games to use in class.
- Exclusive invitations to workshops and presentations.
- Exclusive access to professional development.

Antonella Garofalo, PhD in Semiotics, is a language teacher and a teacher trainer in Italian state schools. She has published essays and a book on theatre and music in Restoration England.

Cecilia Perillo is a teacher at all levels in both the public and private sectors. She is a teacher trainer for LANG-Pearson Longman and co-author of Sing Along, LANG Primary Resources and Let’s Celebrate CD, LANG-Pearson Longman.
A Christmas story

Ask the children what they know about Santa Claus – where he lives, what he wears etc. Then pre-teach some of the vocabulary from the story such as North Pole, reindeer, Santa Claus etc. Read the story to the class. Get the children involved by asking questions. Get them to repeat the words. Divide the class into groups and give them copies of the story with the words and pictures mixed up. Ask the children to colour all the pictures. The children then put the pictures and words in the correct order. Then they retell the story.

This is Santa’s house at the North Pole.

On December 24th Santa gets up very early.

He puts on a red jacket, red trousers and black boots.

He wakes up the reindeer and gives them breakfast.

He prepares the presents for the children.

He puts the presents in his sleigh.

He flies all over the world in his sleigh.

He climbs down the chimney and puts the presents under the tree.

On Christmas Day the children find wonderful surprises.
Pre-teach all the vocabulary illustrated and make sure that the children understand their association with Christmas. Give a copy of the Bingo Board and the extra picture squares to each child. Ask the children to colour one aspect of each picture using a red pen. Get the children to cut out the ten extra squares and place randomly on the Bingo Board. Call out ALL the words and get the children to cover the pictures with a small piece of paper. The first child to cover five squares, either horizontally or vertically, shouts ‘BINGO!’ This game can be played several times.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>cracker</th>
<th>snowman</th>
<th>Christmas tree</th>
<th>reindeer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Merry Christmas</td>
<td>star</td>
<td>candle</td>
<td>lights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>card</td>
<td>stocking</td>
<td>Santa Claus</td>
<td>sleigh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wreath</td>
<td>holly</td>
<td>mistletoe</td>
<td>bells</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advent calendar</td>
<td></td>
<td>angel</td>
<td>candy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas pudding</td>
<td></td>
<td>present</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fireplace</td>
<td>balls</td>
<td>poinsettia</td>
<td>Rudolph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Christmas bow</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Photocopy this reindeer face. Ask the children to cut out the pieces and colour them in on both sides. Make sure he has a red nose! Attach pieces of cotton thread to the eyes and nose and attach the other ends to the hair. Hang him up and watch him spin!
Class Project

A letter to Santa!

Our project for this issue differs from many previous projects. The children must complete a letter to Santa describing a Christmas present that they really want. Divide the children into groups and let them discuss and each choose a present. Ensure that they know the English words for the presents that they have chosen. Put the letter to Santa onto the blackboard and ask the children to copy and complete on a sheet of paper. They must also draw and write a full description of their present.

(name of town) …………………………………       Date …………………………

Dear Santa,
I am a very good boy/girl. This is what I want for Christmas. It's a ………………………… .
Here is a picture of a ………………………………… .
(Tell the children to draw their present here)
Here is a description. It's big/small ………………………… . It's (colour) ………………………… .
It's ………………………………… .
Thank you very much.
Your friend, ………………………………………………

All the written language must be in English and physically written by the children. Teachers are asked not to correct or re-write the sentences produced by the children.
Each child who takes part in this project will receive a small present as a token of our appreciation for the time and effort taken in the preparation of the materials.

Send the project materials together with the completed project form to:

Primary Times, Class Project – Issue 40

The materials should arrive in our offices by 31.1.2012.
We may publish extracts from some of the projects in future issues of Primary Times.
All the materials submitted become the property of Pearson Italia S.p.A. and reproduction rights are reserved.
**Venn diagrams (see page 11)** are very useful when the teacher wants to encourage the children to compare their own family realities to another, looking not only for differences but also for similarities. For example, children from non-Italian cultures can be asked to complete a Venn diagram with information about how they celebrate their main holiday and what traditions are similar or different from those celebrated by an Italian family.

On a lower level get the children to fill in one side of the Venn diagram with a list of toys they have got or food they like/dislike. Then get them to work in pairs and write on the other side their partner’s list. In the centre area they can list the things that they have in common and say sentences.

Please note that there is a new address for any project work sent to us by schools and new telephone contact numbers. We have transferred the administration of *Primary Times* to our Milan offices.

The spring issue of *Primary Times* should be with you well before the early Easter break in 2012.

---

**End notes**

*Primary Times* is published three times a year, in spring, autumn and winter. Teachers can register subscriptions either on-line at [www.lang-longman.it](http://www.lang-longman.it) or by using the coupon below. Future issues of *Primary Times* will be posted to home addresses.

If you wish to comment on the articles in *Primary Times*, please do not hesitate to write to us.

---

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

*Primary Times* is only distributed through a free subscription service and during seminars and conventions for teachers of English.

---

**Name**

**New subscription**

**Change of address**

**Home address**

**City**

**CAP**

**E-mail**

**@**

**Telephone no.**

**School name and address**

**City**

**CAP**

**Course book used**

**I would like an agent to visit me at school**

**Yes**

**No**

**Ai sensi della Legge 675/96,** con la presente vi autorizzo esplicitamente al trattamento dei miei dati personali unicamente ai fini amministrativi per l’invio di materiali scolastici al mio indirizzo.

**Signed**

**Date**

---

Post or fax to: Pearson Italia S.p.A. - *Primary Times* - Via Archimede 51, 20129 Milano – Fax 02 74823362