

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

December 24th, 25th, 31st and January 1st and 6th are the main Christmas days. We celebrate these days and nights with happiness and we sing carols with a tambourine.

24th and 25th December

Christmas is a time to be with the family. On Christmas Eve Catholic people attend a special religious ceremony at church, WHICH is called ‘a misa do galo’ in Galicia (The Cock’s Mass). Families have dinner together. They usually eat a special Christmas cake, and have turkey or special dishes and special desserts and drink champagne. The special desserts are “turrón” made with almonds and honey, and “mantecados”, made with flour, sugar, almonds and oil.

Our hometown is decorated with a lot of lights and symbols like Papa Noel, Christmas trees, bells and bubbles ...and also Bethlehems



Children decorate their class and their home. Before holidays we sing carols called “panxoliñas” in Galician, and have performances where students dress up like shepherds, angels, and the Holy family. They also decorate a Christmas tree with lights and a big star and a BETHLEHEM with figures that represent the village with Joseph (carpenter) and Mary, Jesus child, and the shepherds with their sheep and a stable, the Three Wise Men, Herod and a star, too.

They usually decorate indoors with mistletoe, lights, Christmas cards, coloured ribbons and so on.





28th December

We remember the killing of innocent children at Herod's times. People laugh at those who are "naive" and make tricks on them.

31st December and January 1st

At New Year's eve families have dinner together at home but sometimes young people and adults celebrate the new year with their friends in a restaurant. At midnight we eat twelve grapes to be lucky the rest of the year.



6th January

On 6th January the Three Wise men come with a lot of gifts for the children and adults. In Spain Christmas presents are brought by The Three Wise Men. On the 5th January there is a parade 'Cabalgata de Reis' for children. They have just arrived and they will spend the night delivering the presents (only for good boys and girls). In the morning people eat the Wise men ring-shaped roll, with a surprise inside.