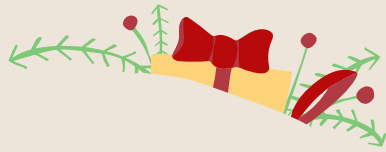


'TIS THE  
**HAKUNA MATATA**

BY THE STUDENTS OF MODERN HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, IGCSE





# WISH YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS



**2020 is coming to an end. This year has been exhausting for us all. However, as the saying goes, 'every cloud has a silver lining'. The silver lining to this year is simply that it is ending!**

**Christmas this year is not going to be what we have experienced the other years of our lives. It is going to have a special touch to it; the quarantine flavour of Christmas. Some of us will have a magical, white Christmas, others a green one. One thing that we have in common is whether it be white or green, we will all be at home and have an equally magical Christmas.**

**This Christmas season, be safe and have fun with your families and friends, that is after all why Zoom and Google Meet were made!  
Here's to jingling bells, a not so very silent night, and decking the halls with joy in the world.**

**From our IGCSE family to yours,  
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**Sanjana C Mitra  
Chief Editor.**





# NEW YORK- THE CITY OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Spending Christmas in New York is incomplete without spotting a well lit and colourful Christmas tree, especially at the Rockefeller centre. This year, due to the restrictions imposed by the lockdown, the public will not have any access to the tree lighting but the Rockefeller Centre will be open for ice skating under the dazzling stars and will surely be a popular attraction for New Yorkers during the icy months of winter.

Bloomingdales and Macy's on Fifth Avenue, are famous for window decorations. They are exquisitely decorated and usually have their own themes and the stores are decorated with lights and garlands.

Dyker Heights, an American- Italian enclave in Southwest Brooklyn, attracts over a 100,000 visitors every season. Life-size nativity signs, toy soldiers and an inflatable Santa Claus are a few things you can expect to see there.

The Bank of America Winter Village at Bryant Park offers a variety of things to do, such as seasonal shopping and rinkside dining. It is often called the "Winter Wonderland" of Midtown Manhattan.

More than a million people visit Times Square to watch the New Year's Eve ball drop during the festive seasons.

All in all, the atmosphere in New York City during the holiday season is colourful, cheerful, festive and definitely a place you should visit during the Christmas season and New Year's.



FESTIVE  
VIBES



# THE TALE OF SINTERKLAAS

Everyone has heard of the big, old man who enters chimneys and gives gifts to children but, have you heard of another man with a long, white beard who along with a Grampus – a wild-looking half-man, half-beast, went around knocking on doors late at night?

No? Well then, let me tell you all about this particular bishop, known as Sinterklass.

Nicholas Sinterklass was born in Myra, Asia Minor where he became a bishop. We do not know a lot about him apart from the fact that he absolutely loved children. There is one fascinating story that tells us how much he adored and cared for children.

It has been said that once, there were three young boys who were having food at a small inn. After having their meal, they told the innkeeper that they did not have enough money to pay for all that food. She got quite frustrated and to make up for her loss, she chopped them up into small pieces and made them into a soup. The news reached Nicholas and he felt awful. He decided to do something about the situation and reached the scene. Being the person who believed that every child had something good in them, he made a deal with the furious innkeeper. If he, Sinterklass could find a small, pure part of the children in the boiling pot, he would perform a miracle and bring them back to life. Just as Nicholas thought, the boys became alive once again and were taken into his care.

In present-day Holland, it is believed that Sinterklass travels from Myra all the way to Northern Europe with the Grampus, also known as Black Peter handing out goodies to the good children and threatening to kidnap the naughty children in Peter's big, black bag.





# CHRISTMAS CAROLS

One of the most iconic parts of Christmas is singing Christmas carols. We have all grown up listening to them and singing them in school before the Christmas holidays. 'Jingle Bells', 'Joy To The World', 'We Three Kings', and 'Deck The Halls' are some all-time classics that remain in our heads long after Christmas is over. However, not much is known about these carols and the history behind them. Now that Christmas is coming, let's dive into the history behind some of these carols that we so fondly remember.

## DECK THE HALLS

Deck the Halls is a rather popular Christmas carol and is essential to sing-alongs. The origin of this carol dates back to the 16th century. While this song has been associated solely with Christmas, its original melody was derived from an old Welsh New Years' song known as 'Nos Galan'. English lyrics were added to the Welsh tune by Thomas Oliphant, a popular Scottish songwriter. He also incorporated a Christmas feel to the song by changing some of the lyrics.

**Fun Fact-** The signature 'fa la la' was an addition from the Middle Ages and was based on the idea of Madrigal choruses (a traditional music form from the Renaissance) that use vocal breaks to fill songs in between two or more verses.

## SILENT NIGHT

Silent Night is perhaps one of the most elegant and melodious Christmas carols in Christmas history. It's no surprise that the original song was actually translated from its German version, known as 'Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht'. The German song was first performed on Christmas Eve in 1818 at a Church. The song was written by the priest Joseph Mohr, and sung by the choir director, Franz Xaver Gruber. The song was then handed over to two families, who both spread the song all across northern Europe. The lyrics then evolved and were translated into over 300 languages. Then finally by 1914, the song grew famous all over the world and was being sung simultaneously in German, French, and English.



# CHRISTMAS COOKIES

## INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup flour
- ¼ cup honey
- ¼ cup soft butter
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- ½ tsp baking soda
- ½ tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp dried ginger powder
- 1 tsp cinnamon powder
- ¼ tsp nutmeg powder
- ¼ tsp clove powder

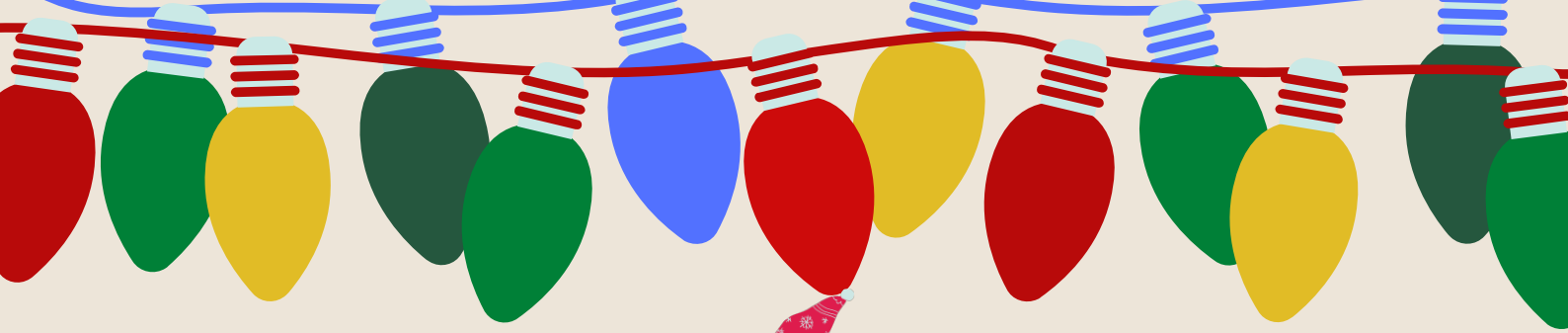
## DECORATIONS:

- Royal icing
- Sugar balls

## METHOD:

- Whisk all the ingredients (required to make the cookies) in a bowl
- Knead the dough well and keep aside for 30 mins
- Then, roll out the dough and with cookie cutters cut different shapes out of it
- Proceed to bake the cookies in a preheated oven at 180°C for 12 mins
- After baking, let cookies cool down
- Decorate cookies with royal icing and sugar balls
- Bon Appetit!





# UNIQUE CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

**“It’s the most delightful time of the year!” This is something which all of us have heard about Christmas, and it is not one bit false. Christmas is one of the most widely celebrated festivals in the world, with every year people from all across the globe looking forward to celebrating it with their loved ones. However, Christmas isn't only about candy canes, Santa Claus and hot chocolate. It also commemorates age-old traditions and cultures, a journey that this article hopes to guide you through. Today, we present to you unique Christmas traditions hailing from every corner of the world!**

**Almost everyone loves Kentucky Fried Chicken, better known as KFC. However, the Japanese take their love for crispy chicken and French fries a step further, with several Japanese families making it their Christmas dinner. Franchises of KFC in Japan are almost always overbooked during Christmas. Japan's obsession with the chain is so strong that they have online services and special seasonal packaging for their food during the festival.**

**Many of us have heard spooky stories of witches on brooms. However, it seems that the Norwegians are the most scared of these evil spirits. They take part in hiding their brooms during Christmas, to keep their brooms safe from these wicked witches during the holy season!**

**However, unlike the Norwegians, the Italians are not scared of these old, vengeful witches at all! On the contrary, they whole-heartedly believe that an old witch called ‘La Befana’ is Santa’s helper, and surprises children with gifts on Christmas Eve. This speculation is further believed in by the Vatican. So, unlike the rest of the world, Italian children believe in La Befana, instead of elves and pixies.**

**While Ukrainian families are in step with the rest of the world when it comes to decorating their Christmas trees with bells, lights, and artificial snow, they also have their twist to this common tradition. They like to trim their trees with faux spider webs since they believe it symbolises good luck!**

**These were some peculiar but unique Christmas traditions from all around the world, reminding us how diversely different cultures can celebrate festivals.**



# ELEMENT OF SURPRISE

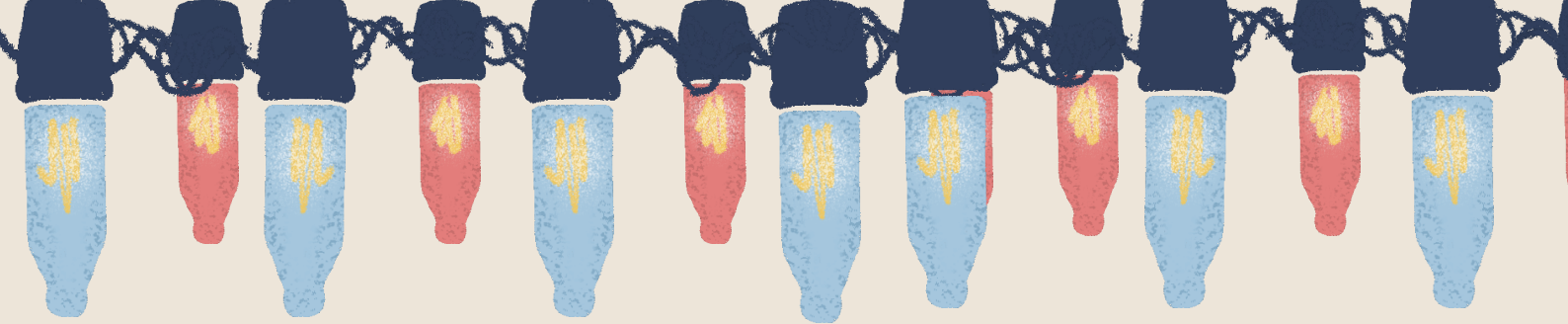
**The Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich spacecraft is a US-European satellite which was launched from the Vandenberg Air Force Base in California at 10:47 p.m. on 21st September. This satellite, named after the former director of NASA's Earth Science Division, Dr Michael Freilich, primarily aims to observe accurate data from the world's oceans. This spacecraft has begun a five-and-a-half-year mission to collect accurate data on the change in global sea level and its response to climate change. It further aims at collecting precise information of atmospheric temperature and humidity that will enhance weather forecasts and climate models greatly. The Falcon-9 rocket carried the satellite, and the Falcon's first stage flew back to the launch site, making it available for reuse.**

**On 16th November, 5.57 a.m. IST, Crew-1 launched up from base 39A in Kennedy Space Center, Florida on a Falcon 9 rocket. The crew named the spacecraft 'Resilience' in honour of their families, colleagues and citizens, highlighting that one can achieve anything. The Demo-2 flight led by Bob Behnken and Douglas Hurley earlier this year had validated the transportation system, launch pad and spacecraft. NASA (The National Aeronautics and Space Administration) astronauts Michael Hopkins, Victor Glover, Shannon Walker, and JAXA (Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency) astronaut, Soichi Noguchi were part of this team. Research related to biology and physiology will be carried out in a microgravity environment once aboard the Space Station. This mission marks many firsts as this NASA SpaceX launch was the first commercial crew rotation mission, the first crew of four to launch from American soil and the first time that the ISS's long-term crew will increase from six to seven!**

**The same way in which New Year's Day will mark the start to a new, prosperous year, these launches mark the beginning of an advanced era of space exploration!**







# THE NAME

**Names. They hold a lot of power. They are what keep us alive. Once a name is forgotten, the entity it defines slowly disappears with it. For me, however, it was the only thing standing between a peaceful departure from my rather pathetic state.**

**I know they probably mean no harm, saying my name by accident or a memory figment. But still, I can't help but wish they would let me go. It's been a long time that I've lived. Too long, even by goddess standards. If I had any energy left, I'd smite them, just for the sake of it. I wish I could, so I'd feel alive. I constantly don't exist, but then I do, and then I don't again. A battle of life or death.**

**As I watch them, I plead my name won't be spoken. There is only one of them who knows who I am anymore. She is also nearing her end, and so will I. Finally. I'll have peace.**

**Her family gathers around a crooked white bed, speaking to her about how much she meant to them, how much they love her. I hear her heart begin to slow, but not before she opens her lips to say her final words.**

**She beckons the youngest of them to her, and whispers, "I have one secret."**

**"What is it?"**

**"A name I knew."**

**"No," I plead internally, "please let me go with you."**

**I watch with tired sadness as she carefully pronounces my name one last time, then slips through the veil. They repeat it, all of them. All I can do is sigh, and continue to exist.**

**As the video call ends and the blank screen stares back, all I can think of is the wretched technology that allowed her to spill my name. I sighed as it hit me that the last spurt of energy that I spent on creating the pandemic, just to isolate her, had failed.**

**The technology that had for so long controlled their race, now controlled my existence.**





# WORD SEARCH

S	S	S	E	S	I	E	E	M	O	E	A	E	R
T	R	G	L	L	R	N	E	G	S	H	E	L	G
N	C	N	O	A	E	A	R	V	U	E	O	O	I
E	A	I	K	V	C	C	T	A	A	R	T	P	S
S	R	K	F	I	S	Y	S	N	L	E	E	H	T
E	O	C	S	N	L	D	A	S	C	T	L	T	S
R	L	O	N	R	A	N	M	N	A	N	T	R	D
P	S	T	O	A	C	A	T	O	T	I	S	O	T
I	N	S	T	C	T	C	S	W	N	W	I	N	S
S	N	N	N	R	T	R	I	M	A	H	M	R	L
R	E	I	N	D	E	E	R	A	S	R	M	D	E
L	E	A	N	E	C	I	H	N	T	S	I	C	I
N	S	P	I	L	E	L	C	T	A	I	I	F	G
N	S	T	A	F	N	S	L	N	E	L	R	T	H

- CARNIVALS
- WINTER
- SANTA CLAUS
- CHRISTMAS TREE
- SNOWMAN
- ELF
- NORTH POLE
- SLEIGH
- REINDEER
- PRESENTS
- STOCKINGS
- CAROLS
- MISTLETOE
- CANDY CANE

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**This contest is open for all MHS Class 9 students only (from the National Curriculum). The winner gets the opportunity to get an article published in the next issue.**

**Anyone outside of MHS who solves this puzzle and the sudoku gets a 'surprise' gift. So get cracking everyone and route your mails through the following email id: [HakunaMatata@mhsforgirls.edu.in](mailto:HakunaMatata@mhsforgirls.edu.in)**





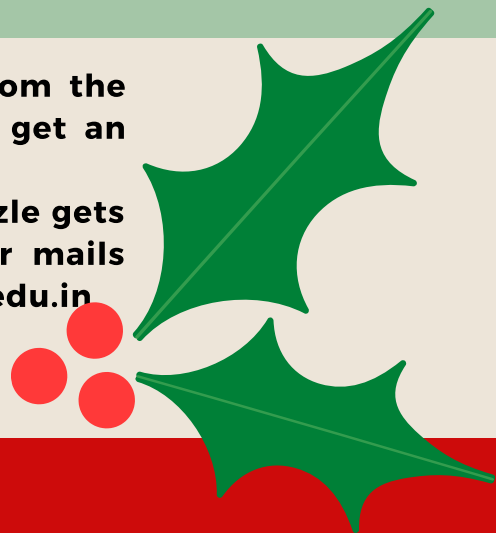
# DIABOLICAL SUDOKU

5	9				4			
	1	6		8				
	8		1					5
3						1	4	
	6	5	4		2	7	8	
	4	8						9
9					3		5	
				4		2	3	
			8				9	7

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# WORD SCRAMBLE

F	C	A	R	N	I	V	A	L
O	E	C	A	O	R	E	D	M
R	D	A	A	R	E	D	A	E
E	B	R	S	E	S	B	A	R
D	A	O	R	T	T	O	R	R
B	E	L	I	E	F	S	A	Y
R	E	E	D	N	I	E	R	O
R	A	R	A	A	G	D	B	B
M	I	S	T	L	E	T	O	E

BELIEFS, GIFTS, MERRY, REINDEER, FEAST,  
CAROL, MISTLETOE, CARNIVAL



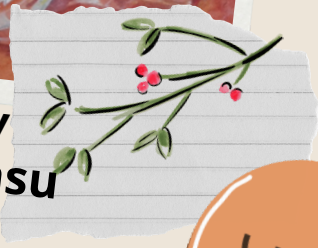


# PHOTOGRAPHY





Painting by  
Lepakshi Basu



Painting by  
Karishma Chotrani





# AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

**ADYA NATHANY-**

- Received Bronze Medal in Singapore and Asian School Maths Olympiad.
- Received First Position for Covaid 19, Social Outreach Event.
- Received First position in relay in Division B Senior School Sports.

**AKSHITA PODDAR**

- Received First Position for Covaid 19, Social Outreach Event.

**ANVITA GHOSH**

- Received special mention in ICS calendar.
- Third position in Morpheus Rockdown event

**SANJANA MITTRA**

- Third position in Morpheus Rockdown event

**SUHANI KOTHARI**

- Won special mention in NSC committee in Morpheus MUN.
- Received special mention in L MUN UNSC committee.
- Came second in Strawberry Fields Parliamentary Debate.
- Came second in Morpheus Fashin Event.

**VASHITA RUNGTA**

- Received First Position for Covaid 19, Social Outreach Event.





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