

Burns Celebrations

On 25th January Scottish people will be celebrating Burns Night.

It's an important date in the calendar.

What is it?

Burns Night is a festival to celebrate Scotland's most famous poet - a man called Robert Burns.

He wrote hundreds of poems, songs and letters. Did you sing Auld Lang Syne at New Year? Robert Burns wrote that!



Burns Night is a celebration of the life and work of the man in this picture, Robert Burns

He was born on 25 January 1759 in a village called Alloway in Scotland.

This is why Burns Night is celebrated on 25 January as it's his birthday.

He died on 21 July 1796, aged 37.

How is Burns' Night celebrated?



One of the main ways that Burns Night is celebrated is with a very traditional meal.

This includes Scottish haggis, served up with mashed turnips (called "neeps") and potatoes (called "tatties"), which are traditionally mashed too.

Haggis is a bit like spicy mince, made with bits of meat that you might not normally eat, like sheep's stomach! It also has onion, stock, oatmeal, salt and pepper. You can also make vegetarian haggis.

There are traditional puddings too. For example, shortbread or a creamy dessert called cranachan.





Traditional Scottish music may be played on bagpipes

People who want to be really traditional might even follow an official running order for their evening, with speeches, poems and music at specific times.

Others might choose to have a quieter evening with some poetry reading.

There may also be dancing and traditional Scottish music played on bagpipes or a fiddle. The children could watch a video to learn some simple steps of the highland fling:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ln3P_L8mX8

Some Scottish songs can be sung. The children could sing the following song for children Scots Language.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ckhyx9QCMpo>

The words for this favourite song are found on the next page.

The Three Crows

Three crows sat upon a wa', sat upon a wa', sat upon a wa'...

Three crows sat upon a wa'

On a cauld and frosty mornin'.

The first crow was greetin' for his maw

Greetin' for his maw, greetin' for his maw

The first crow was greetin' for his maw

On a cauld and frosty mornin'.

The second crow fell and broke his jaw,

Fell and broke his jaw, fell and broke his jaw...

The second crow fell and broke his jaw

On a cauld and frosty mornin'.

The third crow couldnae flee at a'

Couldnae flee at a', couldnae flee at a' ...

The third crow couldnae flee at a'

On a cauld and frosty mornin'.

The fourth crow wisnae there at a'

Wisnae there at a', wisnae there at a' ...

The fourth crow wisnae there at a'

On a cauld and frosty mornin'.



But whit about the fifth craw?

The fifth craw couldnae heid a ba',
Couldnae heid a ba', couldnae heid a ba' ...

The fifth craw couldnae heid a ba'
On a cauld and frosty morning'.

And whit wis the sixth craw like?

The sixth craw wis awfie, awfie braw,
Awfie awfie braw, awfie awfie braw ...

The sixth craw wis awfie awfie braw
On a cauld and frosty mornin'

Ally Bally <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D65vVGwT900>

Ally, bally, ally bally bee, sittin' on yer mammy's knee
Greetin' for a wee bawbee tae buy some Coulter's knee.

Poor wee Jeanie's gettin' awfie thin,

A rickle o' banes covered o'er wi' skin

Noo she's gettin' a wee double chin, wi' sookin' Coulter's Candy.

Mammy gies ma' thrifty doon, here's old Coulter comin' roon

Wi' a basket on his croon, sellin' Coulter's Candy.



Here are some poems by Robert Burns

To a Mouse

Wee, sleekit, cow'rin, tim'rous beastie,
O, what a panic's in thy breastie!
Thou need na start awa' sae hasty,
Wi' bickering brattle! I wad be laith to rin an' chase thee,
Wi' murd'ring pattle!

Listen to the whole poem with pictures: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cy8lehO7nqg>

A RED, RED ROSE

My luvie is like a red, red rose,
That's newly sprung in June:
O my luvie's like the melodie,
That's sweetly play'd in tune.
As fair art thou, my bonie lass,
So deep in luvie am I;
And I will luvie thee still, my dear,
Till a' the seas gang dry.



You can hear the full poem sung by Eddi Reader here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AtV5a42dIU>

I hope you enjoy singing and listening to some of the songs and poems.

Have a very happy Burns Day on Monday 25th January!

What are the children learning?

Celebrating Burns Day or a birthday, Christmas, weddings, and special events makes you feel happy! We like to sing and dance and listen to music it can be a magical experience.

Experiences and outcomes

As I listen, I discover new words and phrases which I can use to help me express my ideas thoughts and feelings. **LIT 0-10a**

I enjoy exploring and choosing stories and other texts to watch, read or listen to, and can share my likes and dislikes.

LIT 0-01b / LIT 0-11b

I enjoy singing and playing along to music of different styles and cultures. **EXA 0-16a**

I have opportunities to enjoy taking part in dance experiences.

EXA 0-10a

I can use my voice, movement and expression appropriately through role play singing and drama. **EXA012a**

D. Riddell