

# Christmas Cards, Presents and Parcels

## Overview

- A series of topical assignments (two each at Entry 2, Entry 3 and Level 1), ideal for individual or paired work in mixed ability classes and great for generating discussion and increasing confidence in everyday maths skills.
- Could also be adapted for Entry 1 and Level 2. If you would like an editable Word version of this document please send a resource that you would like to share to: [maggie@skillsworkshop.org](mailto:maggie@skillsworkshop.org)

## Materials needed

- A selection of parcels or boxes in different sizes and weights (write the weights onto the parcels for Entry 2 if needed).  
Argos catalogues (or Christmas supplements) and/or access to the Argos web site [www.argos.co.uk](http://www.argos.co.uk)
- Last posting dates leaflet (available from Post Offices during November or online).  
For example, the Christmas 2007 "Post in Time for Christmas" leaflet is available at: [ftp://ftp.royalmail.com/Downloads/public/ctf/rm/RM\\_last\\_post\\_dates\\_2007.pdf](ftp://ftp.royalmail.com/Downloads/public/ctf/rm/RM_last_post_dates_2007.pdf)
- A postal rates leaflet (or poster). Available free from Post Offices or online.  
For example, a wall chart for rates from April 2007 is available as a PDF file at: [ftp://ftp.royalmail.com/Downloads/public/ctf/rm/UK\\_Wallchart.pdf](ftp://ftp.royalmail.com/Downloads/public/ctf/rm/UK_Wallchart.pdf)  
A more detailed booklet is also available at: [ftp://ftp.royalmail.com/Downloads/public/ctf/rm/Price\\_Guide\\_FINAL\\_26Jan07.pdf](ftp://ftp.royalmail.com/Downloads/public/ctf/rm/Price_Guide_FINAL_26Jan07.pdf)

## Notes and Extension Ideas

- *Since this resource was written in 2003 the Post Office has introduced the new Large Letter and Packet rates – you need to be aware of this and have suitable price/measure guides available if your parcels are small or weigh under a kilogram.*
- *For more practice with parcel dimensions and weights try **Posting Parcels and Letters** (contributed by Lynn Savage and Judith Ryan) available in the E2, E3 and L1 Measure sections at <http://www.skillsworkshop.org>*

Name ..... Date .....

# On-line

## Christmas Presents

### Assignment brief:

- You are buying presents for a family of four: Mum, Dad and 2 children, a boy aged 6 and a girl aged 11. Your budget is £50.
- You can use the Argos catalogue or the Argos website <http://www.argos.co.uk/> to choose your presents.

### Things to do:

- Look at the catalogue or the website and choose gifts.
- Write down your shopping list and add up the total cost. It must be less than £50.
- Calculate your change from £50.



Name ..... Date .....

## Posting your parcels

### What to do:

- Look at the weights written on the parcels and write them in a table.
- Use the Royal Mail Standard Parcels Tariff Guide to find out what it would cost to send each parcel and record that in your table.
- When is the last recommended day for posting parcels to arrive for Christmas in the UK?

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- When is the last recommended day for posting Second Class letters to arrive for Christmas?

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- When is the last recommended day for posting First Class letters?

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Name ..... Date .....

# On-line

## Christmas Presents

### Assignment brief:

- You are buying presents for 4 friends. Your budget is £100.
- You can use the Argos catalogue or the Argos website <http://www.argos.co.uk/> to choose your presents.

### Things to do:

- Look at the catalogue or the website and choose gifts. The presents must be small enough to fit into the box you are given.
- Write down your shopping list and add up the total cost. Show all working-out. It must be less than £100.
- Check using a calculator.
- Write down a calculation to work out your change from £100. Show your working out.
- Check using a calculator.



Name ..... Date .....

## Posting your parcels

### What to do:

- Look at the weight written down for each parcel and write them in kg in a table.
- Log on to [www.royalmail.com](http://www.royalmail.com) to find the Royal Mail Standard Parcels Tariff Guide. Find out what it would cost to send each parcel and record that in your table.
- Now do a search to find the last dates for posting cards, First and Second Class.
- When is the last recommended day for posting parcels to arrive for Christmas in the UK?

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- When is the last recommended day for posting Second Class letters to arrive for Christmas?

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- When is the last recommended day for posting First Class letters?

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Name ..... Date .....

# On-line

## Christmas Presents

### Assignment brief:

- You are buying presents for the group. Your budget is £1000.
- You can use the Argos catalogue or the Argos website <http://www.argos.co.uk/> to choose your presents.

### Things to do:

- Look at the catalogue or the website and choose gifts. The presents must be small enough to fit into the box you are given.
- Write down your shopping list and add up the total cost. Show all working-out. It must be less than £1000.
- Check using a calculator.
- Write down a calculation to work out your change from £1000. Show your working out.
- Check using a calculator.
- Use Word or Excel to put your work in a table.



Name ..... Date .....

## Posting your parcels

### What to do:

- Weigh each of the parcels and write the weights in kg in a table.
- Write down the formula for calculating volume.
- Measure the boxes and calculate the volume of each one, using a calculator.
- Log on to [www.royalmail.com](http://www.royalmail.com) to find the Royal Mail Standard Parcels Tariff Guide. Does the cost of sending parcels depend on weight or volume? .....
- Find out what it would cost to send each parcel and record that in your table.
- Now do a search to find the last dates for posting cards, First and Second Class.
- When is the last recommended day for posting parcels to arrive for Christmas in the UK?

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- When is the last recommended day for posting Second Class letters to arrive for Christmas?

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- When is the last recommended day for posting First Class letters?

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