Level: 5TH PRIMARY SCHOOL

GENERAL AIMS:

- To understand oral and written texts related to personal experiences.
- How to speak and establish oral interaction in common situations.
- To write texts with different intentions about the topic.
- To obtain some information using ICT.

CONTENTS:

Listening, Speaking and Oral Interaction

- The understanding of oral texts about traditional festivities in different countries.
- How to speak and write using the semantic field related to traditional Festivities in English spoken language countries, developing a progressive personal autonomy.

Reading and Writing

- To understand and write texts related to traditional British festivities as well as those of other countries and the dates on which they take place.
- About the progressive usage of autonomous reading.
- To use ICT to write texts and pass on information to others.
- Knowledge of language
- Accurate pronunciation, rhythm and intonation.
- Recognition and usage of some structures in order to express the date: ask and answer questions about Special days, Festivals and celebrations.
- Recognition and usage of ordinals and the expression of the date: days of the week, months of the year... and use of prepositions.
- Reflection about the pupil's own learning, work organization, and the acceptance of error as part of the process of learning and self-assessment.
- The common customs in English spoken language countries celebrating different festivities.

The lesson is divided into five sections: Special days in the UK, Festivals and Celebrations, Advent and Christmas, Ethnic Community Celebrations and Special Celebrations in other countries. Each section contains various exercises that cover the contents described above.

Sessions: This lesson has been designed to be covered in approximately 180
Festivals and Special days – Teacher’s guide

minutes, that is, six 30 minute teaching sessions, but of course, the time spent on it by each group of students will depend on their previous knowledge of the topic, the contents and the grammar and vocabulary included in the lesson.

You can find a printable version of this document with the key to the exercises and the audioscripts in the root directory of the unit.

The structure of the unit is as follows:

PART 1 - Special days in the UK

Exercise 1 consists of a brief description of some of the most important days in the UK. Students can listen and read the text at the same time.

Exercise 2 contains a writing exercise that students must complete with information about the days of the week.

Exercise 3 provides students with a dictation. It is a gap-filling exercise using audio support.

Exercise 4 is a reading comprehension text, in which students have to choose the true or false statement.

Exercise 5 consists of a recording of summarised sentences from this section to be checked by students, paying attention to intonation, pronunciation and rhythm.

PART 2 - Festivals and Celebrations

Exercise 1 consists of an interview. Some festivals and celebrations are described. Students can listen and read the text at the same time.

Exercise 2 is a matching exercise. Students must join each festivity and celebration with the date in which they take place.

Exercise 3 consists of putting in order the months of the year.

Exercise 4 provides students with a dictation. It is a gap-filling exercise using audio support. It is aimed at students’ consolidation of written dates, paying special attention to the use of prepositions and ordinals.

PART 3 - Advent and Christmas

Exercise 1 is a description of Christmas time that a student has written as a composition. It can be read and listened to at the same time.
Exercise 2 is a multiple choice exercise in which students must choose the right option. All the sentences are connected with the comprehension text they have read in the previous exercise.

Exercise 3 is a gap-filling exercise that includes an aid: a chart containing the words to be used.

Exercise 4 consists of a word ordering exercise. Students have to arrange the word order in each statement correctly.

**PART 4 - Ethnic Community Celebrations**

Exercise 1 is a reading and listening comprehension text. Students can read and listen to a text regarding a street interview in a radio broadcast.

Exercise 2 is a gap-filling exercise aimed at students’ consolidation of the formation of ordinals. They must join the right form of the cardinal number with the ordinal one.

Exercise 3 is a gap-filling exercise that students have to complete by writing the correct ordinal number.

Exercise 4 is a gap-filling exercise that students have to complete by writing the correct date for each celebration

Exercise 5 is a gap-filling exercise. Students must complete each sentence on the screen by dragging the correct form of the ordinal number paying attention to the form of the ending.

**PART 5 - Special Celebrations in other countries**

Exercise 1 consists of a brief description of some of the most important celebrations in other countries. Students can listen and read the text at the same time.

Exercise 2 is a reading comprehension text, in which students have to choose the true or false statement. All the sentences relate to the comprehension text they have read in the previous exercise.

Exercise 3 is a recording activity. Students have to complete the dialogues by recording and they can later listen to their performance by playing the full text.

Exercise 4 provides a dictation to the students. It is a gap-filling exercise using audio support. It is aimed at students’ consolidation of vocabulary related to celebrations.

Exercise 5 is a Hangman game for students to learn vocabulary regarding Festivities and Celebrations.
Exercise 6 is a Webquest activity that students have to follow and finish using the Internet: *Winter Celebrations*. A Family Studies WebQuest. For First Grade and an Intermediate Partner. Designed by JoAnn Hughes. Library Media Specialist, *Kent* School District.
Part 1: SPECIAL DAYS IN THE UK

Scene 1

Some of the most important days in the UK are:

**Shrove Tuesday.** It’s the last day before Lent and it’s usually known as Pancake Tuesday, because everybody cooks pancakes at home. Also, **Mother’s day,** which is celebrated on the Sunday 3 weeks before Easter. Children usually give their mother a present or a card. Sometimes they bring her breakfast in bed or make the lunch and tidy up the house. This tradition comes from medieval times, when young girls in service made a “Simnel cake” to be taken home to their mothers on their day off. Simnel cake is a light fruit cake, similar to Christmas cake, covered in marzipan.

**Good Friday** is 2 days before Easter Sunday. People eat **Hot Cross Buns,** a kind of sweet made of spicy bread with currants in and a cross on top.

**Easter Sunday:** It’s the day when Jesus rose from the dead. Besides, on the previous night, and especially in the USA, the Easter Bunny delivers chocolate eggs to children, and in the morning they look for them all over the house and in the garden.

**Bonfire Night,** on November 5th, also known as Guy Fawkes’ Day. There are typical foods for this day: hot dogs, baked potatoes and toffee apples. On this day, some children make a guy wearing old clothes and ask for “A penny for the guy.”

There’s another popular day on the British Isles: **Remembrance Sunday.** It’s also known as **Poppy Day:** it’s the Sunday closest to November 11th. It is celebrated to remember those who fought in the two world wars.

Scene 3

1. Shrove is always on (TUESDAY)
2. Poppy Day is also known as Remembrance (SUNDAY)
3. The day that Jesus rose from the dead is known as Easter (SUNDAY)
4. Two days before Easter Sunday is Good (FRIDAY)
5. Mother’s day is celebrated on the (SUNDAY) 3 weeks before Easter.
Scene 5

1. Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday
2. Mother’s day is celebrated on the Sunday 3 weeks before Easter
3. Good Friday is 2 days before Easter Sunday
4. The Easter Bunny delivers chocolate eggs on Easter Sunday
5. Poppy Day is on the Sunday closest to November 11th

PART 2: FESTIVALS AND CELEBRATIONS

Scene 1

HOST: Good evening and welcome to our “Festivals Contest”:
CONTESTANTS: Good evening.
HOST: Well, this is my first question, and it’s for you… John: What’s the date of New Year’s Day?
JOHN: Oh, yes. It’s January 1st. At midnight many people listen to the Big Ben Chimes and also kiss each other and say “Happy New Year”. Often, there are fireworks, too.
HOST: Well done! 10 points for you!
Now, Susan. It’s your turn. What’s the most famous traditional Scottish celebration?
SUSAN: Well, I think it’s Burns’ night. Yes, Burns’ night, on January 25th. It’s Robert Burns’ birthday, the most famous Scottish poet!
HOST: Great, Susan. We’ve got another ten points for you.
And now you, Peter. What’s the date of Saint Patrick’s day?
PETER: Oh, this is really easy for me, because I’m Irish. It’s on March 17th. It’s a traditional Irish celebration, and people usually dress in green and wear shamrock.
HOST: Congratulations, Peter. You’ve got 10 points, too!
Now it’s your turn Sam. Do you know when April Fools’ Day is celebrated?
SAM: Well. I think it’s on 1st April. This day people usually play tricks on their friends, families and teachers, but only until midday. As you know, if a person is tricked, everybody shouts: April Fool!
HOST: Excellent! 10 points as well!
Well, that’s all, friends. We’ll meet again next Thursday night. Good-bye!
CONTESTANTS: Good-bye!
Scene 4

New Year’s Day is on January 1st
Burns’ night is on January 25th
St. Valentine’s day is on February 14th
April Fools’ Day is celebrated on April 1st
October 31st is Halloween, traditionally celebrated in Scotland, Ireland and the USA.
November 5th is Guy Fawkes’ Day or Bonfire night.

PART 3: ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Scenes 1 and 2

SEAN’S COMPOSITION:

I want to talk about Advent. Advent lasts for the four weeks before Christmas. Children have an Advent calendar and open a window each day from 1st to 24th December. Carol singers go round the houses, singing carols and people give them money.
People send each other Christmas cards and give each other presents.
The 24th of December is called Christmas Eve, and the 25th, Christmas Day. The 26th is known as Boxing Day, an official holiday.

PART 4: ETHNIC COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

Scene 1

HOST (JUSTINE): Good morning everyone. Today we’re celebrating the Chinese New Year. Kristine is now in the streets…Can you hear me, Kristine?
KRISTINE: Hello, Justine. Hello. I’m in Chinatown (a lot of noise)
JUSTINE: What can you see, Kristine?
KRISTINE: Well, Justine. It’s fantastic! I can see a lot of people.
JUSTINE: And that sound…?
KRISTINE: Well, it’s a street parade with a huge cloth dragon swaying back and forth.
JUSTINE: And that noise?
KRISTINE: Well, Justine—there are many people following the dragon, playing drums and gongs. I can see…yes… I can see dancers with cardboard lion heads on sticks. Shop and business owners are coming outside to give them money.
JUSTINE: Thank you, Kristine.
Next week, we’ll talk about EID, the end of Ramadan, the Muslim celebration.
PART 5: SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS IN OTHER COUNTRIES

Scene 1 and 2

In the USA Independence Day is celebrated on 4th July with fireworks and street parades. Thanksgiving Day, on the last Thursday in November, is celebrated as well to give thanks for the harvest and bring together Native Americans and Whites. On this day, families reunite and have a large turkey dinner.

In Germany, the most important holiday is Walpurgisnight, on 30th April. Witches and Devils dance around a blazing fire while the head devil speaks to them. At one o’clock the May Queen appears and the dance finishes.

Anzac Day is celebrated in Australia every year on April 25th. This day commemorates the landing of Australian soldiers on the beaches of Gallipoli-Turkey. There’s a parade in every Australian capital city.

Scene 1 a

- Excuse me, can you answer a question?
  - Well, OK.

- What’s your favourite celebration?

- Ummm…Let me think …Pancake Tuesday.

- What day is Pancake Tuesday?

  - The day before Lent.

Scene 1 b

- Excuse me, can you answer a question?

  - Yes, of course

- What’s your favourite festival?

  - Well, April Fools’ Day. I like to play tricks on my friends.

Scene 1 c

- Excuse me, can you answer a question?

  - O.K.
- What’s your favourite date?
- Well… my favourite day is July 15th because it’s my birthday.

Scene 4

- What’s your favourite date?
- My favourite day is Good Friday because I like Hot Cross Buns.

- What’s your favourite date?
- My favourite day is Easter Sunday because the Easter Bunny delivers chocolate eggs at home.

- Which is your favourite day in March?
- My favourite day in March is St. Patrick’s day, because I’m Irish and then I dress in green and wear shamrock.

- Which is your favourite day in January?
- I like the Chinese New Year because I like the street parade with the cloth dragon.
Festivals and Special days – Answer Key

PART 1 - Special days in the UK

Exercise 2  writing
1. Sunday
2. Monday
3. Friday
4. Wednesday
5. Saturday

Exercise 3  writing
1. Tuesday
2. Sunday
3. Sunday
4. Friday
5. Sunday

Exercise 4  true/false
1. False
2. True
3. False
4. False
5. True

PART 2 - Festivals and Celebrations

Exercise 2  matching
1. New Year’s Day  January 1st
2. Burns’ night  January 25th
3. St. Valentine’s Day  February 14th
4. St. Patrick’s Day  March 17th
5. April Fools’ Day  April 1st
6. Halloween  November 31st
7. Bonfire night  November 5th
Exercise 3 putting in order

January    May    September
February   June    October
March      July    November
April      August   December

Exercise 4 dictation

1. January 1\textsuperscript{st}
2. on January 25\textsuperscript{th}
3. on February 14\textsuperscript{th}
4. on April 1\textsuperscript{st}
5. October 31\textsuperscript{st}
6. November 5\textsuperscript{th}

PART 3 - Advent and Christmas

Exercise 2 multiple choice

1. Advent lasts for: \textbf{four weeks}
2. The Advent calendar has got: \textbf{24 windows}
3. Children sing: \textbf{Christmas carols}
4. Christmas Eve is on: \textbf{December 24\textsuperscript{th}}

Exercise 3 gap-filling

Christmas \textbf{Eve} is on December 24\textsuperscript{th}. Children \textbf{go to bed} early and leave a \textbf{stocking} at the end of the bed. \textbf{December 25\textsuperscript{th}} is \textbf{Christmas}. Santa fills the stockings with \textbf{sweets}, chocolates and small toys and presents.

Exercise 4 word ordering

1. Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday
2. Good Friday is two days before Easter Sunday
3. St. Patrick’s day is on March 17\textsuperscript{th}
4. Halloween is celebrated on October 31\textsuperscript{st}
5. Bonfire night is celebrated on November 5\textsuperscript{th}
PART 4 - Ethnic Community Celebrations

Exercise 2  gap-filling

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Exercise 3  gap-filling

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Exercise 4  gap-filling

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Exercise 5  gap-filling

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PART 5 - Special Celebrations in other countries

Exercise 2  true/false

1. False
2. True
3. False
4. True
5. False

Exercise 3  recording activity

#1

- Excuse me, can you answer a question?
- Well, OK.
- What’s your favourite celebration?
- Ummm…Let me think …Pancake Tuesday.
- What day is Pancake Tuesday?
- The day before Lent.

#2

- Excuse me, can you answer a question?
- Yes, of course
- What’s your favourite festival?
- Well, April Fools’ Day. I like to play tricks on my friends.
# 3

- Excuse me, can you answer a question?
- O.K.
- What’s your favourite date?
- Well… my favourite day is July 15th because it’s my birthday.

Exercise 4  dictation

- What’s your favourite date?
- My favourite day is **Good Friday** because I **like** **Hot Cross Buns**.

- What’s your favourite date?
- My favourite day is **Easter Sunday** because the **Easter Bunny delivers chocolate eggs** at home.

- Which is your favourite day in March?
- My favourite day in March is St. Patrick’s day, because I’m Irish and then I **dress in green** and **wear shamrock**.

- Which is your favourite day in January?
- I **like the Chinese** New Year because I like the street parade with the **cloth dragon**.

Exercise 5  Hangman

1. Sunday
2. Easter
3. Shamrock