

COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS – 3 Weeks to Go

With only three weeks to Christmas, I hope you are all feeling a bit more organised and there is a lot less stress this year. Let's see what we can do this week.



Presents: As this is an ongoing task, it is worth going back to your original list and updating it. What have you already bought and what you still need to buy? And don't forget to wrap them as you go. Save time later.

Decoration: If you haven't already done so, now is a good time to get your decorations out and start to make your house look festive for Christmas. This year in particular, we all want to make everywhere look bright, and welcoming, in the hope we can have some family or friends over to visit. If you have a family member who is struggling with their decorations, maybe make a day to go over to them and help them to brighten up their house too.

Christmas Tree: If you are putting up a real tree, this is a good weekend to buy and decorate it. We know it can't go up as early as an artificial tree, but you definitely won't beat the smell of a real tree! If you want to make your tree last a bit longer, try and have it in a container that can hold water and top this up at least every day for about the first week. It should stop it drying out too fast. I have even heard that adding 7up to the water every few days really helps too!



Visit Santa: If you have booked to visit Santa at Lakers, we are looking forward to seeing you on the 12th. <https://lakers.ie/book-your-santa-visit/>.

Christmas Cards: Now is a good time to start posting your Cards. And those going further overseas should definitely be in the post by December 9th for USA and 4th for the rest of the world. And last day for Europe is 18th, UK is 20th and Republic of Ireland is 21st December. If you are still looking to buy some Lakers Christmas Cards, you can get them in our online shop here www.lakers.ie/shop.

Shopping: I think it is a good idea to spread out the costs of the "Big" food shop at Christmas. In the coming two weeks, why not pick up some of the non-perishables like sweets, biscuits, drinks, snacks, freezer foods, etc. And then

next week do the same, pick up some more and only have the fresh food to buy in the days leading up to Christmas Day. And if you are looking to have your shopping delivered, book your slot now. It will book up very fast. If you usually order your turkey and ham from your butcher, remember to do that too.

Christmas Music: If you are like me, you are probably already blasting out Christmas music around the house, but if not maybe give it a go. Particularly when you are doing the decorations or baking. Christmas FM is back on the air, and well worth tuning in for some festive music. And don't forget to get out those sparkly Christmas Jumpers.

See you all next week for our next few tasks.

