

Saint Nicholas

Lilly Pitters, age 10

His full name is "Saint Nicolas, bishop van Myra." Saint Nicolas was born in Turkey in 270. He was born on 5th December and he died on the 6th of December.

Saint Nicolas lives in Spain. Each year he comes to the Netherlands and Belgium. In Holland and Belgium they call him Sinterklaas.

Children put their shoes out some where in the house and then Saint Nicolas comes at night and puts presents in them. Children get very excited!

He comes on a boat to Holland. All the children wave to him. He has helpers who are called zwarte pieten (black peter). Saint Nicolas wears a dress called a mantel, and a tall red crown (see picture). He carries a long gold staff.



Saint Nicolas with his black peters and his golden staff.

When Saint Nicolas comes to Holland with his black pieten he stays in a castle and he brings lots of presents with him.

On 5th December (*pakjes avond*) the black peters come and bang on all the doors of little children and they leave a bag with presents outside the front door.

In Belgium they celebrate on the 6th.

Saint Nicolas has a horse called Amirico. There is a television programme all about Saint Nicolas when he is in Holland and Belgium.

He arrives in his boat on the 14th November and he leaves on the 6th December. If children are naughty, they are put his bag and are taken back to Spain (this is what parents tell their children!).



Saint Nicolas with his horse.

In Holland we have chocolate letters and marzipan when Saint Nicolas is here.

Saint Nicolas has a book with all the children's names in there and whether they have been naughty or good.

Often Saint Nicolas visits junior schools. He takes his book with him to see if the children are allowed to have any presents. Older children make presents for each other called : "surprises".

There are many different Saint Nicolas songs like: *de zak van sinterklaas* and *sinterklaas kapoentje** and lots of other songs.

Pepernoten are a biscuits that are very traditional at this time of year.



This is a picture of the Pepernoten.

This was my story about Saint Nicolas.

Only there is one thing:
He doesn't really exist! ☺

Lily Pitters is the granddaughter of Don and Rosemary Graves and lives in The Netherlands. Like all 10 year-olds there, she is studying English as a second language.

With the advantage of an English mother (Fiona) Lily's teacher challenged her to produce this article (all her own work), which we are delighted to publish. If any other young authors are inspired to write something please do let us have it!

**You may well have heard this song as it features in the film Miracle on 34th Street.*