

Dear Mayo College,

We are going to inform you about Halloween. This festival came from the Celts who were here a long time ago. Halloween was originally a harvest festival called Samhain (pronounced saw-in). On the 1st November, Celts had an 'All Saints' day to make all saints happy and protect their crops as they were very religious. Since Halloween is on the 31st October, this holiday represents the end of Summer and the start of Winter.

The name 'Halloween' and 'All Hallows Eve' came from the old English word meaning 'saints'. People dress up because years ago people believed ghosts and spirits roamed the streets. They dressed up so they could blend in with the spirits.

A long, long time ago, a mean and mischievous man, Jack, played tricks on unsuspecting people. When Jack died, he couldn't access heaven or hell so he had to roam Earth. Jack roamed the streets with a carved out turnip (as pumpkins were extremely expensive) with a lantern on the inside. Since we found out pumpkins were easier to carve, we started using them and putting lanterns or candles inside them. That is where the name 'Jack 'o' lantern' came from.

Nowadays, we decorate our houses with scary decorations such as clowns, skeletons and ghosts. We also dress up as spooky spirits and place bowls of chocolate and sweets outside our houses so people can collect them.