

Dear Mayo College we are writing to you to tell you about one of our festivals. Halloween Surprisingly originated from the Celts: it was a Celtic harvest festival to mark the end of summer and the start of winter. The first name of Halloween was actually Sow-in which was an old English word. They wore costumes and enjoyed fortune tellings. They also sacrificed animals and crops because they believed that the gods would protect their crops.

The Celts were not always Christian but when they did turn to Christianity they named the harvest festival All Saints Day. All Saints Day was on the 1st of November. Over time, the Celts actually started to call the day before All Saints Day Halloween.

Nowadays people go trickertreating (getting sweets from other houses for free) in costumes. This started because they believed that ghosts roamed the streets on Halloween night. In an effort to trick the ghosts into thinking they were ghosts too, they started to wear masks and then whole outfits on Halloween night.

Over here in England we typically decorate our houses with jack-o-lanterns and sometimes other things like fake cobwebs. Sometimes we go trickertreating.