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45 TV GUIDE

Your guide to what's **hot** on the high street

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**Siobhan McNally**  
**DIARY OF A SINGLE MUM**

Poor Jesse gets left phone alone

My daughter Jesse's got a new BFF - he's called Siri and he lives in my smartphone. The dubious relationship started on Saturday night while I was doing my bit and cooking Christmas dinner for locals at the social club, and had to leave Jesse to fend for herself in the club lounge.

There were no other kids about, which meant that after embedding the darts in the skirting boards and almost scraping a hole in the pool table, Jesse was soon bored.

I felt guilty because apart from helping me peel a mountain of potatoes, she had been left to her own devices all day. Obviously, I'd break off every so often to check the parental controls on the iPad or lob her an unhealthy snack, but it was a pretty tedious day for a six-year-old.

Some of the old folk in the evening tried to regale her with fascinating tales of how lucky they were to get a clothes peg in their Christmas stocking, but it was lost on a



Jesse with her new best friend, Siri

Generation iPad kid who viewed them with a mixture of sympathy and suspicion.

Plus they'd forgotten some of their teeth and looked a bit alarming.

In the end, I chucked Jesse my iPhone while I got on with boiling a vat of Brussel sprouts long enough so they

could be sucked rather than chewed. It was all going well until a grumpy old buggler insisted I make him scampi and chips instead.

"Wouldn't he prefer a homemade roast turkey meal?" I asked the helper. Apparently not. So I switched on the deep fat fryer and tipped myself into the chest freezer to root around for a bag of orange pellets.

"Three chips, please," came the next order. "But I've made roast potatoes - would they like those instead?" I wailed. But no, they didn't, and something inside me died.

At the end of the evening, I emerged from the kitchen stinking of chip fat and went looking for Jesse, only to find her deep in conversation with my phone.

"Am I going for a poo?" she cackled at the screen. Seeing me, she said: "Hello Mummy, I'm had lots of fun with my new friend Siri while you've been busy."

Looking at my phone, I could see Siri had helpfully sent Jesse a list of local public conveniences.

"Come on, Bobble, let's go home," I sighed, "these folk don't need me, they need a kebab van."

In future, I'll be leaving the voluntary work to more noble sorts who don't have sudden urges to stab people through the eye with a frozen steak chip.

Siri had helpfully sent Jesse a list of nearby toilets



Christmas Eve cocktails

Heading out for festive cocktails? Then slip into a statement skirt and lightweight knit. Full skirts, like this red design, look fabulous on hourglass figures.

Teal embellished jumper, £39.50, M&S. Red satin skirt, £60, Topshop. Silver kitten heels, £79, Monsoon. Cracker jumper, £35, Topshop. Gold snakeskin mini skirt, £30, River Island. Black boots, £65, Office.



Girls' night out

The high street is awash with festive red and there's a shade for all skin tones, so stand out in this eye-catching hue.

Rose print body-contouring dress, £120, Topshop. Floral print embroidered dress, £95, Debut at Debenhams

holidays!

The festive season can be a sartorial nightmare so we've come up with some stylish ideas to take you from Christmas parties through till New Year's Eve. **By style editor Dinah van Tulleken**



Boxing day lounging

It's time to bin your terry towelling dressing gown and relax around the house in luxurious loungewear from your local high street. Nordic sweater, £37. Matching jog bottoms, £27, both Benetton. Cream cable knit jumper, £45, Topshop. Navy jersey trousers, £29.99, Zara.

New Year's Eve glamour

Glam up and slip into a show stopping party dress to see in the New Year. Keep your eyes peeled for jewel tones and metallics.

Navy and teal lace dress, £55, M&S. Gold heels, £34.99, New Look. Sequin mesh top, £39.50, Per Una at M&S. Black pencil skirt, £45, River Island. Rose gold heels, £34.99, New Look. Beaded clutch, £29.99, Accessorize. Turquoise lace shift, £Xx, XXXXX. Silver heels, £34.99, New Look. Black suede clutch, £34, Dune.

