Gingerbread men

These gingerbread men are both fun and easy to make, and, what's more, the kids will love them!

Ingredients

☐ Melted butter, to grease
☐ 125g butter, at room temperature
☐ 100g (1/2 cup, firmly packed) brown sugar
☐ 125ml (1/2 cup) golden syrup
☐ 1 egg, separated
☐ 375g (2 1/2 cups) plain flour
☐ 1 tablespoon ground ginger
☐ 1 teaspoon mixed spice
☐ 1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
☐ Plain flour, to dust
☐ 150g (1 cup) pure icing sugar, sifted
☐ 8-10 drops red liquid food colouring
☐ 8-10 drops green liquid food colouring
☐ Smarties, to decorate

Method

1. Preheat oven to 180°C. Brush 2 baking trays with melted butter to lightly grease.

2. Use an electric beater to beat the butter and sugar in a bowl until pale and creamy. Add the golden syrup and egg yolks and beat until combined. Stir in the flour, ginger, mixed spice and bicarbonate of soda. Turn onto a lightly floured surface and knead until smooth. Press dough into a disc. Cover with plastic wrap and place in the fridge for 30 minutes to rest.

3. Meanwhile, place egg white in a clean, dry bowl. Use an electric beater to beat until soft peaks form. Gradually add icing sugar and beat until stiff peaks form. Divide icing among 3 bowls. Cover 1 bowl with plastic wrap and place in the fridge. Add red colouring to 1 bowl and stir until combined. Add green colouring to remaining bowl and stir until combined. Cover with plastic wrap and place in the fridge.

4. Place the dough between 2 sheets of baking paper and roll out until about 4mm thick. Use a 9cm gingerbread man cutter to cut out shapes. Place on trays about 3cm apart. Repeat with any excess dough.

5. Bake in oven for 10 minutes or until brown. Remove from oven. Transfer to a rack to cool.