Christmas seems to get earlier every year, but when it comes to child safety, earlier definitely means better. Why? Just look at the image below:

The burning effect of a button battery when placed between slices of ordinary ham, simulating a child's throat.

Lithium batteries react with saliva so that they leak acid within as little as an hour. If a child swallows a battery it can cause severe trauma, such as burning a hole in their throat or stomach or further damage to other internal organs, or even death.

Button batteries are deadly, and the risk escalates in the lead up to Christmas when flashing and musical Santa hats, Christmas cards and decorations flood the market.
What you can do:

Make sure that toys and other products using button cell batteries, such as small electronic devices, have lockable battery compartments. This should mean that they are safe for children to use as the batteries are locked away.

Be extra vigilant with items including musical greeting cards, frameless candles and remote controls as they do not have lockable compartments. RoSPA advises that children should not be allowed to have access to these products if the battery compartment is not secure.

It is a good idea to ensure that spare batteries are locked away, and used batteries are disposed of correctly.

What should I do if my child swallows a button cell battery?

If your child swallows a button cell battery, seek medical advice immediately.

Remember that the saliva in their body will react with the battery and so time is very much of the essence in these cases.