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# PIZZA, NOT PIZAZZ TO SAY THANK YOU

**W**ORK Christmas dinners may be on the way out, as organisations put a focus on gestures to show appreciation and celebrate, rather than splashing out to impress.

Online office catering company Order-In finds companies now prioritise meaningful gifts over expensive activities or functions, which can be seen as impersonal and redundant.

Managing director Jonathan Rowley says there is no doubt showing appreciation for staff in the lead up to Christmas increases productivity and improves job satisfaction, but it does not have to cost organisations a fortune.

"In 2015, we found many companies provided Christmas buffets for staff to celebrate the end of year," he says.

"However in 2016, there was a shift towards ordering normal corporate catering that had a Christmas spin, and cheap and cheerful options like finger food platters, cold meats, cheese and antipasto that included a range of Christmas-themed items.

"When it comes to corporate gifts, expensive packaged food and alcohol hampers are also on the out and instead, fresh options like baskets of mangos are popular."

He says a pizza party can be one of the best ways to cover all dietary requirements without breaking the budget, as most sup-

pliers offer a range of vegetarian, gluten and lactose-free options.

"Rather than planning a large-scale event, set aside a budget to be spontaneous in the lead up to

Christmas," he says.

"For example, if it's a hot weather day, buy the team ice cream, or if it's a beautiful day, let them all take the afternoon off.

"It's the small things that make a big difference.

"You'll find the entire team will appreciate it and so will the company's bottom line."

If it is not feasible for the entire team to be absent at once, Rowley recommends finding another way to show appreciation, such as getting a mobile masseuse to pamper workers at alternate times.



SPONTANEOUS: Employers are moving towards cheap and cheerful Christmas celebrations.