



## December 2021

Our 4<sup>th</sup> Newsletter of the year! There is a lot of Christmas excitement in Jolly Pirates.

### **Important dates this month.**

Virtual parent information evening – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm.  
Christmas Party Day – Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December.  
Christmas Singing Celebration – Family.  
Last day of term – Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December.  
Please remember that regular updates about these events will be on Family, please check regularly.

### **Where to access information.**

Up to date information will be communicated via Family app, Facebook, news section of the website and on our noticeboard outside the classroom.  
Parents are encouraged to check regularly throughout the month for updates.  
Jolly Pirates staff are here at any time if you would like to speak to us. Please contact us and we will get back to you as soon as possible before or after sessions.

**What is our learning project?** Our learning project this month is ‘What do we celebrate?’ During this project, the children will have the opportunity to explore a range of different celebrations.

At this time of year, the children will also be celebrating Christmas within Jolly Pirates. Through celebrations we will look at traditional foods, games, clothing, and music linked with the events. Children will also be able to share their experiences of different celebrations they take part in within their home environment.

We will explore that everyone is different and can celebrate in different ways. We will be continuing to also explore the weather changes that are happening around us e.g., frost, ice, cold, rain.

**What activities might we explore?** The children will explore celebrations through a wide range of different activities. This includes food tasting opportunities at snack time, role play through small world and props in our imaginative areas. They will also have their own verbal input into this month’s project through circle time discussions, conversations with staff and with each other.

During the month of December, we will continue to explore the indoor and outdoor environments. We will be exploring the continuous change in weather and season which is taking place, what does winter look like? What can we see? We will explore a range of Christmas related activities including decorations through arts and crafts, with children having the opportunity to express their ideas.

**What might we sing or read?** The children will have the opportunity to explore our book corner with peers and staff. They will be able to explore freely throughout the session with topic related books. The books will include Christmas stories, birthday stories, and other celebrations. The books will enhance the children's learning by looking at pictures and staff reading aloud during group story time. "What do we celebrate?" promotes a wide range of songs and action songs. We will be singing Christmas songs such as Jingle bells, Rudolph, we wish you a Merry Christmas, Christmas pudding and lots more! We will also look at other celebration songs and listen to different traditional music relating to festivals. Singing songs at group time and throughout the session will continue to help grow each child's confidence and help peer friendships form. Our song and rhyme sheet are available on Family and to download from our website. Staff will also read and promote our key vocabulary words alongside the visual.

**Additional activities planned?**

Due to Covid-19 we cannot have our normal Christmas family event for the children in both classes. We will be sharing some Christmas videos from the classes with you all on Family later this month.

We will also be having our Christmas party day on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December for the children, and this will be a non-uniform day. Children can wear their own clothes or Christmas jumpers.

**What skills are we focussing on?** This month we are focusing on the skill of doing our own zips and putting on hats/gloves and scarves. Please ensure your child has a warm coat and hats/gloves in their bag with them for when we are outside. Through snack this month we are promoting an awareness of number e.g., number of pieces of food, counting how much we have and using mathematical language such as half and empty.

**Home activity ideas:**

Each month we encourage children and their families to take part in some home activities. These will be shared with you via Family. We encourage parents/guardians to engage in these alongside their child to build a school to home link. Some activities will be;

Singing our song and rhyme sheet.

Can you spot any object at home that is a star shape?

Please email photos to [info@jollypiratespreschool.co.uk](mailto:info@jollypiratespreschool.co.uk) as we use these in our classroom display.

**Additional information:**

Sickness: please phone Jolly Pirates on 02892 670988, email [info@jollypiratespreschool.co.uk](mailto:info@jollypiratespreschool.co.uk) or send a message on Family to alert staff to your child being off due to sickness. This would be greatly appreciated.

Please ensure all items of uniform are labelled and spare clothes bag clearly labelled.

Any extended family members or childminders, who may be collecting children, will need **photographic I.D.** Staff must be informed the morning off collection or ahead of time that there will be someone other than parents collecting.