



December 2023

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

Important dates this month.

Christmas Singing Celebration – 11th
December blue class & 15th December red
class. Christmas Party – 21st December.
Jumper day every Friday in December.
Poppin Pilates – 7th December.
Last day of term – Tuesday 20th December.
Please remember that regular updates about
these events will be on Famly, please check
regularly.

Where to access information.

Up to date information will be communicated via
Famly 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 own 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?

We will be going on our Christmas sing-a-long event which parents are invited to attend. A separate letter has been sent home with details about the trip.

Poppin Pilates will visit us for some fun before Christmas break. Each Friday in December we can wear Christmas jumpers/non uniform and Thursday 21st will be our Christmas party in class.

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. The Elf sleepover activities and can you spot any object at home that is a star shape?

Please email photos to 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 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.