



Winter Fun



WELCOME TO WINTER FUN!

This booklet of activities, games, ideas and recipes has been created for you to enjoy throughout the winter months. It is divided into 4 sections:

- 1) **Let's get outside** – things to do in your garden, street, park or an outside space
- 2) **Let's get making** – ideas for construction, crafts and design
- 3) **Let's get playing** – games you can play and ideas for equipment
- 4) **Let's get chopping** – delicious winter recipes for you to try

Before you dive into all the pages, can you find everything hidden in our cover picture created by talented illustrator and cartoonist Rory McNeill (rory.mcneill@outlook.com)? Answers inside this booklet.

Amanda Watkins Cooke has compiled the fun packed activities and ideas. Please send us photos of your creations. We would love to know what you have most enjoyed.

We hope you have hours of winter fun!

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THIS WINTER FUN BOOKLET BELONGS TO:

SECTION 1: Let's get outside



Go on a Winter Scavenger hunt!

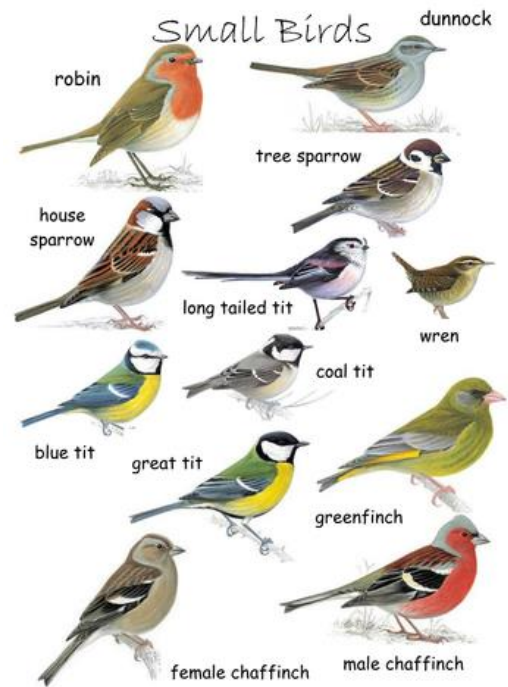
Can you find these items? Cross them off when you find them.

Make a Loo Roll Bird Feeder for hungry birds

You can make this simple feeder with items you probably already have at home:

1. Smother a cardboard tube in peanut butter (no added salt and sugar versions are suitable for birds).
2. Roll it in bird seed and thread some string through the hole.
3. Tie it up outside where birds will feel safe eating.



How many of these garden birds can you spot on your feeder?

Make Kindness Rocks

Go on a walk, find some flat pebbles or rocks and paint some kind and cheerful messages on them. Why not hide them around where you live for other people to find? You might really brighten up someone's day!



Did you find these items on our booklet cover?

8 Candy canes; 11 Robins; 3 Cats; 3 Dogs; 14 Presents; 18 Bobble hats; 13 Santa Hats; 8 Penguins; 5 Stockings; 4 Yellow wrapped sweets; 6 Orienteer posts; 5 Ducks; 3 Hot chocolates; Santa's things: Boots, Belt, List, Sleigh.

Pavement or Patio activities

All you need is chalk! (Ask an adult's permission first.)



Create a maze...or a Fitness Circuit



...or some crazy festive pavement art!



Collect fallen leaves, twigs and berries and create your own designs

Could you make them into greetings cards?



SECTION 2: Let's get making



Most of these craft ideas use everyday items such as string, tape, leaves, strong glue, paper, scissors, cardboard, paper plates, egg boxes, coloured cellophane, cotton wool, jam jars, odd bits of felt or material and natural objects found in the park, street or garden. Some use poster paints and a small paintbrush.

Make your own holly wreath

The first thing you will need is twigs to make the base of your wreath. Make sure these are bendy. If you can't find bendy twigs you can use wire, polystyrene or mesh.

You will also need:

- String
- Scissors or pruning shears
- Moss
- Natural materials such as holly with berries, mistletoe, pinecones, cinnamon, laurel, ribbons.



1. To make the base, bend twigs into a circle and tie them together with the string. Repeat the process with several twigs to create a thick circular base.
2. Tie bunches of leaves together at their stems. This could be the laurel and mistletoe or holly.
3. Tie these bunches into the twig base covering it completely. Use the string to tie them in place. You might find it easier if all the stems are facing one direction and the leaves of the next bunch overlap the stems of the previous bunch.
4. Now tie in any extra items, like pinecones, cinnamon and orange slices. If you have some wire it is easiest to wrap the wire around the item and then poke it into the wreath and twizzle it at the back to fasten.
5. Finally tie a loop of string at the top of the wreath to hang it from your front door.

Twig Christmas Tree

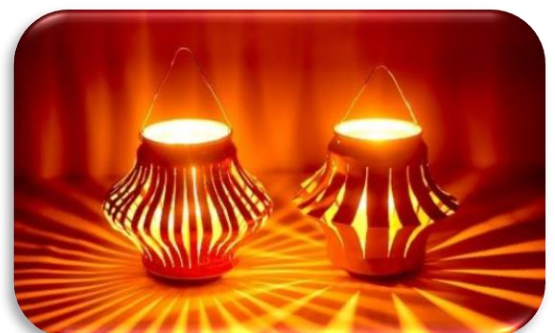
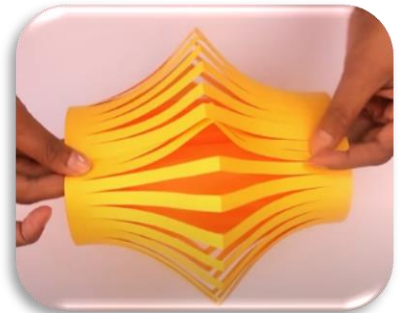
Forage for twigs on a walk; snap them into small lengths and create your own Christmas tree by sticking them to a lolly stick or piece of card. If you are feeling really creative, why not give them a little sparkle and turn them into tree decorations? You could also give them as Christmas cards.



Diwali Lantern

Diwali is the Indian festival of lights, usually lasting five days and celebrated in November.

1. Take 2 A4 sheets of coloured paper. Cut 1cm off one short edge and 1cm off one long edge of one of the pieces.
2. Fold the other sheet of paper along the long edge, exactly in half matching the edges. Cut equally spaced straight lines from the open edge of this sheet towards the folded edge but do not cut through the folded edge. (Stop cutting about 1cm from the fold).
3. Open this sheet out gently and let the cut folds stick upwards towards you. Place this sheet on top of the uncut sheet and carefully glue the long edges of the cut sheet to the long edges of the uncut sheet leaving the 1cm short edge jutting out at one end. Let the glue dry.
4. Glue the short edge of the bottom sheet and stick it underneath the the short edge of the cut sheet, bringing the two together.
5. Use the long 1cm edge you cut from the first sheet of paper to make a handle, fixing it to either side of one end of the lantern.
6. If you have a battery tea light you can put your lantern over it on a surface, to create a beautiful glow.



Clothes peg Craft

If you have any spare clothes pegs, why not create some mini festive characters. You can even use them to display Christmas cards in inventive ways.



Footprint art

Why not dip your toes in some paint and create some festive 'MistleTOE' pictures?! (Make sure you have a towel nearby, so you don't tread painted footprints all over the floor!)



Do the 25 day LEGO challenge:

DAY 1 Build a house with a chimney	DAY 2 Build a floating boat	DAY 3 Build a bridge	DAY 4 Build a garage	DAY 5 Build a rainbow
DAY 6 Build something with 100 pieces	DAY 7 Build a car	DAY 8 Build a pyramid	DAY 9 Build a box with a lid	DAY 10 Build a marble run
DAY 11 Build a tower	DAY 12 Build a bridge	DAY 13 Build a tunnel	DAY 14 Build a pencil holder	DAY 15 Build a car
DAY 16 Build a birthday cake	DAY 17 Build a picture frame	DAY 18 Build a shop	DAY 19 Build a giraffe	DAY 20 Build an aeroplane
DAY 21 Build traffic lights	DAY 22 Build a maze	DAY 23 Build a train	DAY 24 Build a sledge	DAY 25 Build a Christmas tree

Fun with LEGO!

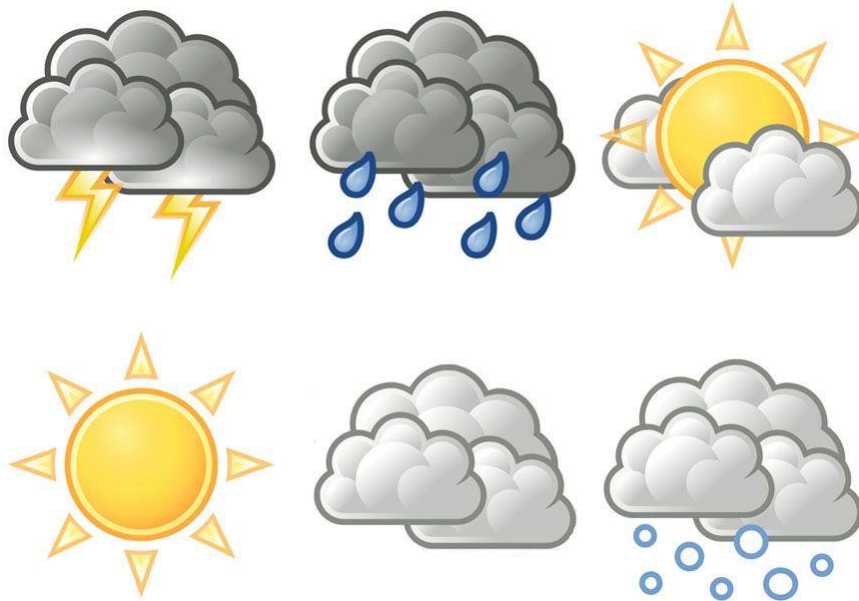
Can you create these festive characters with your LEGO?



Design new Christmas jumpers



Make a winter weather chart



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday

Plan your activities based on the weather forecast.

SECTION 3: Let's get playing



These games can be played inside, outside, with little equipment and by all members of the family. How about creating a challenge to see how many games you can play during the winter months and keep a chart of who wins most games. You could create your own Winter Olympics!

Bobble Hat Bonanza

Equipment: Bobble hats 2 per team; 6 table tennis balls or balls made from screwed up newspaper or pinecones per team.

Space: Indoors or outdoors

How to Play: Mark a throwing line with tape or cones. Divide players into equal teams and give each team 2 hats and an equal number of balls. Players stand one behind the other, behind the throwing line in their teams.



One player of each team stands holding 1 of the hats, open side up, 3 paces away from his/her team. The player at the front of the team has the balls in the other hat.

On the word "Go" the player with the balls must try to get all the balls into the other hat 1 at a time. The player with the full hat then takes all the balls and the hat to the second player in the line, while the player who has thrown the balls takes the empty hat and moves into position standing 3 paces away from his/her team ready to receive the balls. Play continues until all players have had a turn throwing and holding the hat. The winning team is the first to finish.

Variation: The game can be played with 2 people, one holds the empty hat and the other person has the full hat, seeing who can get all the balls into the hat quickest (against the clock) or who can get the ball into the hat from the furthest point.

Santa's treasure

Equipment: Pinecones, balls, cones, hoop (or bucket)

Set up: Put all the items into the bucket or hoop. Designate a 'Santa' who stands with his/her back to the group with the 'treasure' between him/her and the group. Mark a starting line behind which all players stand.

Playing the Game: Each player stands on the other side of the room to Santa, behind the starting line. When the leader indicates go, the players try to take Santa's treasure without being seen by who can turn round any time. If Santa sees a player moving, the moving player has to go back to the start. If a player manages to steal a piece of treasure, Santa can chase after him/her, but all the other players are then allowed to take the treasure. If they do so before Santa catches the player, then the players win. If Santa catches the player with the treasure first, Santa wins.



Sleighbells ring

Equipment: 1 bell (or small bells); items which can be set out as obstacles to avoid eg cones, low stall, chair, flat items on the floor; one blindfold (eg scarf or eye mask) per team, cone/rope to mark starting line.

Set up: Mark a starting line on one side of the room and set out obstacles between there and a finishing point where the bell is positioned.

How to Play: Divide the players into equal teams (ideally with an even number of players in each team). Each team appoints a leader and one person to be blindfolded. On the word 'Go' the leaders have to direct their blindfolded players round the obstacles, avoiding each one, until they reach the bell and ring it. The first blindfolded player to ring the bell scores a point for their team. Play then resumes with another player and leader and continues until everyone has had a turn in each role. The team with the most points wins.



'Torch Tag!' (this game is best played in a small area with clearly defined boundaries)

This game mixes hide and seek with tag and is played in the dark. The person who is "it" waits at home base counting to 20 while everyone else hides. Then, armed with a torch, this person searches for the others. The torch must remain on at all times and may not be covered. When "it" spots someone, she/he must use the torch to get a close enough look at the person to identify him or her and call out that person's name (who then becomes "it")! DO NOT SHINE THE TORCH INTO THE PERSON'S EYES!



SECTION 4: Let's get chopping



Winter vegetable and lentil soup

Ingredients:

- 85g dried red lentils
- 2 carrots, quartered lengthways then diced
- 3 sticks celery, sliced
- 2 small leeks, sliced
- 2 tbsp tomato purée
- 1 tbsp fresh thyme leaves
- 3 large garlic cloves, chopped
- 1 tbsp vegetable bouillon powder or stock cube
- 1 heaped tsp ground coriander



Method:

STEP 1

Tip all the ingredients into a large pan. Pour over 1½ litres boiling water, then stir well.

STEP 2

Cover and leave to simmer for 30 mins until the vegetables and lentils are tender.

STEP 3

Ladle into bowls and eat straightaway, or if you like a really thick texture, blitz a third of the soup with a hand blender or in a food processor.

Snowman cake

Ingredients:

- 225g unsalted butter , softened, plus extra for the tin
- 225g golden caster sugar
- 4 large eggs
- ½ lemon , zested
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 225g self-raising flour
- splash of milk

For the buttercream

- 125g unsalted butter , softened
- 300g icing sugar , sieved
- ½ tsp vanilla extract, 1 tbsp milk

To decorate

- icing sugar , for dusting, 500g pack white fondant icing, ready-to-roll icing (a mixed pack green, blue, orange and black)

Method:

STEP 1: Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Butter and line the bases of two 18-19cm cake tins with baking parchment.

STEP 2: Beat the butter and sugar with an electric whisk until pale and fluffy. Add the eggs, one at a time, and beat well, scraping down the sides of the bowl after each addition. Add the lemon zest, vanilla, flour, milk and a pinch of salt and blend until just combined, then evenly divide the mixture between the tins.

STEP 3: Bake in the centre of the oven for 25-30 mins until a skewer inserted into the middle of each cake comes out clean. Cool the cakes in their tins for 10 mins, then turn out onto a wire rack and leave to cool completely.

STEP 4: To make the buttercream, put the butter in a large bowl and beat with an electric whisk until fluffy. Add the icing sugar 2-3 tbsp at a time until it is all incorporated, adding the vanilla and milk halfway through. Sandwich the cakes together with a little of the buttercream and put on a board. Use the remaining buttercream to cover the sides and top of the cake. Chill for 30 mins.

STEP 5: To decorate, roll out the white fondant icing on a surface lightly dusted with icing sugar until large enough to cover the top and sides of the cake. Drape the fondant icing over the cake and carefully mould to fit. Trim off any excess, wrap and set aside.

STEP 6: Roll out the green icing and cut out a semi-circle, using the base of the cake tin as a guide; this will be the snowman's hat. Brush one side with a little water and stick on the cake. Cut a strip of green icing and make some markings like the band of a hat, then trim to the correct length and stick on.

STEP 7: To make the nose, shape a round, flat lump from the orange icing. Mark a smile by gently pressing the rim of a water glass into the white fondant. Cut out two circles from the black icing for the eyes, then add a small circle of white icing to make the eyes appear to sparkle. To make the scarf, wrap a strip of the blue icing around the base of the cake, then use a knife to add cuts for the fringe. Will keep for up to a week in an airtight container in a cool place.



