

# The Willow Room

## Home Learning

### Term 2 - 2024-2025



Term 1 has passed so quickly, and we are now at the start of a very busy Term 2. During this term, in school, we will be theming our activities around the following: Halloween, Diwali, and Christmas. We have planned and suggested a selection of activities that will support communication, exploration of your child's sensory environment, making connections, literacy, attention and functional movement. These are only ideas and use things that are either provided or that you may have around the house.



KIND



AMBITIOUS



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# Halloween Fun!



With so many wonderful shapes and sizes and colours of pumpkins why not do some pumpkin painting? You can cut out shapes from the pumpkin or simply cut a smaller pumpkin in half to create your art work

. Please let us see if you make any spooky pictures!

## Witches Brew



Halloween is such a fun time to explore our senses. Why not make some spooky cauldrons for your child to explore?

- Cooking pasta and adding food colouring gives a great slimy worm experience,
- Scoop the inside of the pumpkin and let your child explore!
- Jelly gives a slimy feel and may be something disgusting for a witch to add to her cauldron!
- Silly string can create a wonderful spider's web effect for exploration.
- Smells may be wafting from the witches brew, why not use autumnal smells such as pumpkin, cinnamon, ginger and clove.

# Diwali

Happy Diwali!

Diwali is the Hindu festival of light. It celebrates the victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance and good over evil.

You can follow Deeya and her mum while they prepare for and celebrate Diwali, the Hindu festival of light. Click on the link below to watch the short episode;

<https://youtu.be/zXIZpwCaFxl?si=cYKJOqB2yWUtiNlo>

Alternatively, you could listen to the story, “Dipal’s Diwali” by clicking the link below;

<https://youtu.be/9aSkESrxXs4?si=6XTBX1z0wD73stsF>

This activity can help to support communication, attention, interaction and making connections by using their Poddle book to highlight things that we see. Does your child like the story? Is it good or do they not like it? What colours do they see?

You can start by modelling what the adult sees/hears and respond naturally to your child’s responses.

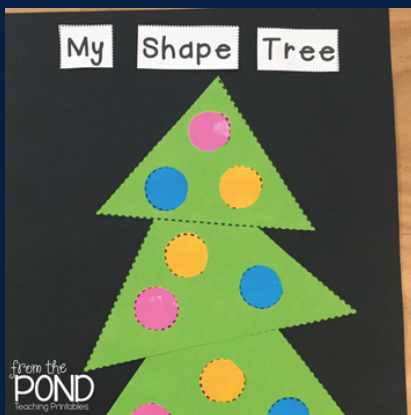


# Letters

Over Christmas one of the letters we will be looking at is the letters s, c, t and i. All of these letters link well to items found during the festive season. Perhaps you could make a sensory tray with items which begin with each letter e.g. tinsel, candy cane, Santa and ice. When out and about can you find items which begin with these letters? Maybe you could send some pictures of these items for your child to share with us.



# Shape



During the lead up to Christmas there are lots of opportunities to focus on shape. Halloween has some great shapes such as the triangular witches hat, circular pumpkins. Christmas has square presents and triangular trees, and circular baubles! Why not see how many shapers you can find? Could you use shape to create a festive picture?

# Are you an Elf?

## A Christmas sensory story



As the Christmas season is approaching fast, why not take some time to relax together with a fun sensory story. You can use items from around the house to support your story telling, items do not need to be as listed, you may think that another item may be more relevant for your child and their enjoyment of the story.

I have listed items which can be used to support the story below:

Stripy Socks

Green Hat

Gold Bells

Fur/Furry Coat

Pointy ears

Mirror

Felt/Floppy Shoes

Small Hammer/Tin Foil wrapped card

Candy Cane/Wrapped Card

Wrapped Box as Present – fill with beads etc for auditory input.



# Are you an elf?



You might be an elf if you have...

Jingly gold bells.

You might be an elf if you have...

Furry trimmed coat

You might be an elf if you have...

Big pointy ears

You might be an elf if you have...

Floppy green shoes

You might be an elf if you have...

Tiny shiny hammer

You might be an elf if you have...

Sticky candy cane

You might be an elf if you have...

Colourful wrapping paper

Oh! Look... ARE YOU AN ELF!



# Gingerbread Men



Food plays a big part in any celebration or festival and Christmas is no exception. Even if your child is PEG fed or on a restricted or blended diet, exploring the textures of recipe ingredients allows for sensory learning input and is a great opportunity to use their communication book or device to find out their thoughts on each texture/smell. It will be messy but good fun! This is a good activity to do with your child and their sibling(s).

On the next page you will find a simple gingerbread man recipe for you to refer to if you want to give this a go.

Remember it's the process and not the result that will support meaningful learning. The finished item can be eaten by family members or crumbled up and used as a sensory activity for your child to feel with hands or feet.

# Gingerbread Man

<p>Mix</p> <p>1</p> <p>1 Tablespoon butter</p> <p>with</p> <p>1 Tablespoon brown sugar</p>	<p>Add</p> <p>2</p> <p>1 Tablespoon molasses</p> <p>and</p> <p>2 teaspoons egg</p> <p>Mix well</p>	<p>Add</p> <p>3</p> <p>1/3 cup flour</p> <p>and</p> <p>1/4 teaspoons baking soda</p> <p>(don't mix yet!)</p>
<p>Add</p> <p>4</p> <p>1/4 teaspoons baking cinnamon</p> <p>and</p> <p>A pinch of ginger</p> <p>Mix well</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Put a little flour on the table and flatten out your dough.</p> <p>Cut out your Gingerbread man out with a cookie cutter.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Place your Gingerbread Man on an Ungreased cookie sheet.</p> <p>Bake at 350° for 8-10 minutes.</p>

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# Christmas Music

Christmas is a great time to share music with each other. Why not find some Christmas songs that your child likes through use of their PODD book or AAC. You could create a X factor event where they tell you 'I like this' or 'I don't like this' to make their favourite Christmas playlist.

When listening to the songs your child has chosen why not use Christmas resources to create your own music. You could use the rustle of tinsel, the chiming of bells, banging on your baking tins or the scrunching of paper to create a festive sound!



We hope you have fun exploring and trying out these activities with your child at home. Please let us know how you get on. We love to get photos of the work you do at home and it creates a super talking point in class as well.

Please let us know if you need any help too. We are more than happy to help!

THANK  
YOU

*Vicki, Catherine and Karen*