

Seasonal Celebrations



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Seasonal Celebrations



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Introduction

In this booklet we look at a number of seasonal activities.

You can find many calendars of events online e.g.

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/calendar>

<http://www.interfaith-calendar.org/>

[http://www.britainexpress.com/what's new/calendar of events.htm](http://www.britainexpress.com/what's_new/calendar_of_events.htm)

It is fun to look up which events should be taking place at different times of year and how they are celebrated.

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Apple Day

On October 21st every year, an annual celebration is held of apples, orchards and local distinctiveness.

Initiated by Common Ground in 1990, it has since been celebrated each year by people organising hundreds of local events. For more information about Apple Day visit

<https://www.commonground.org.uk/apple-day/>

Ideas for apple day activities

- Apple bobbing
- Longest peel competition
- Tree planting
- Tasting different varieties
- Toffee apple making
- Apple prints
- Apple produce
- Making/tasting apple juice



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Baisakhi

Baisakhi is a Sikh celebration held on or near April 13th to welcome the arrival of the harvesting season in parts of India.

Typically, people join together to eat spicy foods, meats and boiled sweets. They wear new clothes, play games and attend fairs. Bangra dancing is enjoyed.

There is a lot more information at this link:

<http://www.baisakhifestival.com/history-of-baisakhi.html>

Why not have some fun with your children and get fit too with some bangra dancing?

tiny.cc/nczvlz

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More Baisakhi activities

- Naming fruits and vegetables
- Making scarecrows
- Collages
- Indian cookery



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Well dressing/Rangoli

There are great similarities between the Derbyshire tradition of well dressing and the Hindu rangoli craft.

Well dressing is the art of decorating springs and wells with pictures made from local plant life. The dressings are set in clay-filled wooden trays, mounted on a wooden frame.



Why not have a go at creating your own artworks using tissue paper or leaves and petals from the garden? You'll find instructions here:

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/education-learning/gardening-children-schools/family-activities/Spare-activities/make-a-well-dressing>

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Rangoli

A Rangoli is a colourful design made on the floor near the entrance to a house to welcome guests.

At Diwali, Hindus draw bright Rangoli patterns to encourage the goddess Lakshmi to enter their homes. Traditionally, the pictures are made from finely ground powder and colours but any materials can be used to replicate similar patterns.

We made individual rangoli using clay which had been pressed into lids of margarine tubs and seeds, petals etc. Find inspiration here:

<http://bit.ly/297cySJ>

We also made a group Rangoli on a cardboard backing.



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May Day

The first day of the month of May is known as May Day. It is the time of year when warmer weather begins and flowers and trees start to blossom. It is when people celebrate the coming of summer with lots of different customs.

May Day activities:

- Maypole dancing
- Making individual maypoles
- Tree dressing
- Decorating a May Queen chair
- Storytelling

Years ago, children went to school with their own maypoles.



You can try some of the May Day activities at home!
As with everything, there's help available via the web.

For the more adventurous:

<https://www.funnyhowflowersdothat.co.uk/diy-maypole-garden>

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Shrovetide

The last three days before the beginning of Lent are known as Shrovetide. Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day) was when all fats and cream had to be used up.

Shrovetide was celebrated with games, sports and dancing. There were feasts to use up the food that could not be eaten during Lent.

Pancake Day activities;

- Look at pancake ingredients (eggs, milk and flour); investigate local produce and food miles
- Try cooking activities
- Pancake races/pancake tossing/pancake decorating
- Frying pan music!

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Plough Monday

The first Monday after the Twelfth Night (after Christmas) is Plough Monday when young men used to drag a decorated plough through the village and knock on doors asking for money, food or drink.

<http://>



www.projectbritain.com/calendar/january/ploughmonday.html

Activities for Plough Monday:

- Decorate something to represent an old plough or model with ribbons, leaves and foliage
- Try morris dancing

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Stir up Sunday

The last Sunday of the church year, or the Sunday before Advent, is often called Stir up Sunday. On Stir up Sunday it is traditional for everyone to take a turn at stirring the Christmas pudding, whilst making a wish.



Stir up Sunday activities:

- Treasure hunt for the 13 ingredients of the cake
- Measuring and weighing
- Sharing recipes
- Making a pudding for the birds

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LEAF Education

LEAF Education (formerly Farming and Countryside Education) works with school communities to help children and young adults understand the connection between farming and their daily lives.

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