

# Festival and Celebration Days 2016

## Long term planning – Woodlands and Park Lane Nursery

<b>January</b>		
Burns Night	25 <sup>th</sup>	Five years after Robert Burns died, a group of his friends got together to remember him and his poetry. The tradition became established and now, every year on his birthday, 25th January, Scots all round the world celebrate Burns Night with a Burns Supper which follows a format similar to the original dinner
<b>February</b>		
Charles Dickens Day	7 <sup>th</sup>	Celebrating his birthday & books
Chinese New Year (Monkey)	8 <sup>th</sup>	Chinese New Year is the main Chinese festival of the year. As the Chinese use the Lunar calendar for their festivals the date of Chinese New Year changes from year to year. The date corresponds to the new moon (black moon) in either late January or February. Traditionally celebrations last for fifteen days, ending on the date of the full moon. In China the public holiday lasts for three days and this is the biggest celebration of the year.
Chatterbox challenge	8 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup>	I CAN's annual, educational fundraiser for 0-5 year olds is now in its 15th year! The theme for 2016 is 'Ben & Holly's Elf and Fairy Party.' Children will have fantastic fun learning songs around the theme before singing them together in an inclusive sing-along. As well as developing their own communication skills they'll be raising funds to help children across the UK who are struggling to speak and understand.
Pancake Day	9 <sup>th</sup>	Pancake Day in the UK is also known as Shrove Tuesday, and is celebrated as Carnival and Mardi Gras elsewhere in the world. Next enjoyed on 9th February 2016, it was traditionally a day of fun and feasting before the fasting required during 40 days of Lent.
Valentine's Day	14 <sup>th</sup>	
World thinking Day	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Its aim is to bring together children from all over the world (nearly 150 countries take part) to celebrate international friendships, raise money and think about a global theme, which is changed each year.
<b>March</b>		
St David's Day	1 <sup>st</sup>	St David's Day is celebrated in Wales and by Welsh people throughout the world on 1st March.
World Book Day	3 <sup>rd</sup>	World Book Day is recognised by over 100 countries around the world. Its purpose is to encourage reading and a love of books in children.
Mother's Day	6 <sup>th</sup>	Mother's day in the United Kingdom (also known as Mothering Sunday) is held on the fourth Sunday of Lent, or 3 weeks before Easter Sunday. It is a celebration of mothers, motherhood and the influence that mothers make to the lives of their children and society.
Commonwealth day	14 <sup>th</sup>	Commonwealth Day is a day of celebration for all the 53 countries of the Commonwealth. Falling on the second Monday in March
St Patricks day	17 <sup>th</sup>	Every year on March 17, the Irish and the Irish-at-heart across the globe observe St. Patrick's Day. What began as a religious feast day for the patron saint of Ireland has become an international festival celebrating Irish culture with parades, dancing, special foods and a whole lot of green.
Easter	27 <sup>th</sup>	Easter is an important Christian festival and holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. There are many different customs for celebrating Easter around the world, but the Friday before Easter Sunday (Good Friday) and the Monday after are given as a bank holiday in the UK.  Early celebrations included the painting of eggs, which represented Jesus' empty tomb

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<b>April</b>		
National pet month		The charity holds the event each year. The aim is to promote responsible pet ownership, make the public aware of the benefits of pets and the contribution they make to our society, as well as letting owners know about the pet services available to them.
World Health Day Diabetes	7 <sup>th</sup>	WHO is focusing the next World Health Day, on 7 April 2016, on diabetes because: 1. The diabetes epidemic is rapidly increasing in many countries, with the documented increase most dramatic in low- and middle-income countries. 2. A large proportion of diabetes cases are preventable. Simple lifestyle measures have been shown to be effective in preventing or delaying the onset of type 2 diabetes. Maintaining normal body weight, engaging in regular physical activity, and eating a healthy diet can reduce the risk of diabetes. 3. Diabetes is treatable. Diabetes can be controlled and managed to prevent complications. Increasing access to diagnosis, self-management education and affordable treatment are vital components of the response. 4. Efforts to prevent and treat diabetes will be important to achieve the global Sustainable Development Goal 3 target of reducing premature mortality from noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) by one-third by 2030. Many sectors of society have a role to play, including governments, employers, educators, manufacturers, civil society, private sector, the media and individuals themselves.
4 <sup>th</sup> year open at Woodlands		
Queens Birthday	21 <sup>st</sup>	
St George.	23 <sup>rd</sup>	St George's Day is celebrated on 23rd April each year. It's a great excuse to enjoy or learn about some of England's customs and traditions, and also to think about knights and castles and dragons
<b>May</b>		
May Day	1 <sup>st</sup>	
Sun awareness week	9 <sup>th</sup>	It's a good opportunity, before the sun comes out in force for the summer to remind children of the need to protect their skin sufficiently - either by covering up, limiting exposure, or wearing suntan cream and the need to stay hydrated too.
Red nose day	26 <sup>th</sup>	Sport Relief is the weekend, every two years, when the British public can get active, have fun and raise cash to help people living incredibly tough lives both in the UK and around the world.
<b>June</b>		
Queens coronation	2 <sup>nd</sup>	
World environment day	5 <sup>th</sup>	World Environment Day is held each year on June 5. It is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations (UN) stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action.
Child Safety Week	6 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	Child Safety Week is an annual campaign run by the Child Accident Prevention Trust to raise awareness of the risks of child accidents and how they can be prevented. We provide a range of resources to help practitioners run local activities and events and promote safety messages in a fun and engaging way.
Father's Day	19 <sup>th</sup>	
Wimbledon	27/6 – 10/7	

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July		
Teddy Bears picnic	10 <sup>th</sup>	
8 <sup>th</sup> year open at Park lane	14 <sup>th</sup>	
August		
Melton by the Sea	3-5 <sup>th</sup>	All the fun of the seaside in Melton Mowbray Town centre. Sand pits, pirates, art and crafts tent, face painting, funfair rides, stalls, seaside trail and competitions galore!
Olympic games	5-21 <sup>st</sup>	
September		
Grandparents day	11 <sup>th</sup>	<p>According to the National Grandparents Day website, the aim of National Grandparents Day is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To honour grandparents</li> <li>• To give grandparents an opportunity to show love for their children's children</li> <li>• To help children become aware of the strength, information and guidance older people can offer.</li> </ul>
Ronald Dahl day		<p>Celebrated every year on the anniversary of his birthday, the unofficial holiday celebrates all the characters created by the much loved and read children's author whose most popular books included Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Matilda and The Fantastic Mr. Fox.</p> <p>While Dahl, considered to be one of the most widely read and influential British writers of all time is primarily known for his fantasy fiction stories for children, he also wrote screenplays for films and television shows, including the screenplay for the popular musical Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.</p>
Harvest festival	End sept/early oct	Harvest Festival is a traditional British celebration originating in pagan times, now celebrated in churches and schools throughout the country on a Sunday near the Harvest Moon - usually towards the end of September and sometimes in October.
October		
Diwali	30 <sup>th</sup>	<p>Diwali is perhaps the most well-known of the Hindu festivals.</p> <p>The word Diwali means 'rows of lighted lamps'. Diwali is known as the 'festival of lights' because houses, shops and public places are decorated with small earthenware oil lamps called diyas</p>
Halloween	31 <sup>st</sup>	
November		
Bonfire night	5 <sup>th</sup>	<p>Bonfire Night is when we "celebrate" the discovery of the Gunpowder Plot against the King and Parliament in the early 17th Century.</p> <p><i>"Remember, remember the fifth of November, Gunpowder, treason and plot, We see no reason, Why gunpowder treason, Should ever be forgot!"</i></p>
Children in Need		

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Diwali	30 <sup>th</sup>	<p>Diwali is celebrated by Hindus in India and all around the world in October or November. It is the Hindu New Year and is either a 3-day or 5-day holiday depending on where you come from.</p> <p>It is a very exciting and colourful holiday. Homes are cleaned to welcome the New Year and windows are opened so that the Hindu goddess of wealth, Lakshmi, can enter. It is believed that she cannot enter a house which is not lit up, so every household burns special Diwali clay lamps (diyas) to light the way for the goddess, which is why the holiday is also known as the Festival of Lights.</p>
Remembrance	11 <sup>th</sup>	<p>The second Sunday of each November is known as Remembrance Sunday, and church services remember our fallen soldiers while the Queen, members of the Royal Family, politicians and old soldiers lay poppy wreaths at the Cenotaph in London (near the Houses of Parliament).</p>
Road Safety Week	17 <sup>th</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup>	<p>Schools, nurseries and colleges can play a key role not only in <b>developing pupils' awareness</b> of the risks on roads, but also in <b>reaching out to parents and the wider community</b> and getting everyone on board with the importance of protecting kids, families and everyone else on roads. Plus road safety is a great topic to engage pupils of all ages in, while also meeting curriculum goals.</p>
St Andrew's day	30 <sup>th</sup>	<p>St Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland, as well as several other countries including Greece, Romania, Russia and Ukraine.</p> <p>According to legend a monk called Regulus brought relics of St Andrew to Scotland where he was given land to build a church by a Pictish king. The settlement grew into the town of St Andrew's, where the cathedral became a place of religious pilgrimage and the university, the oldest in Scotland, was founded in 1413.</p>
<b>December</b>		
Christmas Tree festival	2-6 <sup>th</sup>	
Hanukkah	24/12 – 1/1	<p>Hanukkah (also known as Chanukah) is the Jewish Festival of Lights and lasts eight days. It usually falls in late November or December.</p> <p>Jews celebrate Hanukkah to commemorate the Miracle of the Oil. The Hebrew word Hanukkah means "dedication". Over 2000 years ago, in 165 BC, the Jews in Judea rebelled against their Syrian ruler, Antiochus, because he insisted that all Jewish people must worship Greek Gods. After three hard years of fighting, the Jews defeated Antiochus and, to celebrate, they restored the Temple of Jerusalem - which had been taken over by the Syrians - and rededicated it to their God. As part of the celebrations they lit an oil lamp which should have been kept burning all the time, even though they could only find enough oil to keep it burning for one night. But a miracle occurred, and the oil lamp stayed lit for eight days, which was the time it took to make new oil for the lamp. This was the Miracle of the Oil. It was then declared that every year, Jews would remember the day with an eight-day Festival of Lights and celebrate the miracle of the oil by placing eight candles in a Menorah (a special candlestick) and lighting one candle for each evening of the celebration. Electric lights are sometimes used, especially where where an open flame might be dangerous, such as a hospital room. The Hanukkah lights are meant to remind those walking by the home about the holiday's miracle, so the Menorah is displayed at a prominent window or near the front door. During Hanukkah, people exchange gifts and give to the poor and needy.</p>
Christmas Day	25 <sup>th</sup>	