

## **Home School Link Worker Weekly Bulletin**

### **Christmas at Victoria Place, Woking**

Victoria Place shopping centre is holding a series of Christmas events including a Santa's grotto (no need to book), a toy donation station and 'Forgotten Toys Storytime' sessions.

[Click here](#) for more details.



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### **Article: Navigating the festive season**

[Click here](#) for an article from Confident Kids, which provides tips and strategies to help navigate this Christmas period.

Confident Kids

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### **Thank you!**

Thank you so much for all the pre-school toy donations! We have a wonderful collection growing, which will be used during our 'Coffee Mornings' this Spring term.

If you have any toys/books suitable for pre-school age children you would like to donate, they would be gratefully received! Thank you!



## **Fun activity of the week: Homemade bird feeders**

### **You will need:**

- Bird seed mix ( 1 cup)
- Unflavored gelatin (usually comes in packets)
- Water (1/4 cup)
- Cookie cutters (you can grease these lightly to help with removal)
- Drinking straw or skewer
- Wax paper or parchment paper
- Twine or yarn (for hanging)



### **Method:**

1. In a saucepan, mix the gelatin with water according to the instructions on the gelatin packet.
2. Heat the mixture on low heat, stirring constantly until the gelatin is completely dissolved.
3. Once the gelatin is ready, gradually add about 3/4 of a cup of bird seed to the mixture. Stir well until all the bird seed is evenly coated.
4. Lay out your cookie cutters on a flat surface, like a cookie sheet covered with wax paper or parchment paper.
5. Spoon the bird seed mixture into the cookie cutters, pressing it down firmly to ensure it takes the shape of the cutter.
6. Before the mixture sets, insert a drinking straw or skewer near the top of each shape to create a hole for hanging.
7. Allow the bird feeders to set and dry. This might take a few hours or overnight, depending on the thickness of your bird feeders.
8. Once the bird feeders are completely dry and set, carefully remove them from the cookie cutters. If they're not coming out easily, you can use a butter knife to loosen the edges.
9. You can now thread a piece of twine or yarn through the hole to create a hanger.
10. Find an outdoor location to hang your bird feeders. It could be on tree branches, a garden hook, or any other place where birds frequently visit.



## **Recipe of the week: Christmas rocky road**

### **Ingredients:**

- 100g butter, cut into cubes, plus extra for the tin
- 250g Christmas biscuits, such as shortbread or chocolate biscuits
- 75g shelled nuts (use up a bag of whole nuts, or bits and bobs from the baking cupboard)
- 100g mixed dried fruit (such as raisins, cherries or glacé ginger)
- 75g Christmas sweets (candy canes, marshmallows or jelly sweets)
- 400g milk or plain chocolate (or a mixture of both), chopped
- 140g golden syrup (weigh this straight into the pan you will use for melting)
- 2 tbsp sprinkles, or more sweets, to decorate



### **Method:**

1. Butter and line a 20cm square tin, or use a 20cm square silicone mould. Break the biscuits into pieces – they need to be no smaller than a pea, but not too chunky or your rocky road won't hold together.
2. Halve any larger nuts either by snapping them or carefully cutting with a knife, then combine them with the biscuits. Halve any large pieces of dried fruit and chop or snap sweets into smaller pieces, then add these to the bowl.
3. Melt 300g of the chocolate, the butter and the golden syrup carefully in a pan set over a low heat, stirring occasionally, then pour this over the biscuit and nut mixture and mix together so the chocolate covers everything.
4. Tip the mixture into the tin, then level the top – it doesn't need to be completely smooth.
5. Melt the remaining chocolate in the microwave in short blasts, or in a heatproof bowl over a small pan of simmering water, then drizzle this over the top and sprinkle with the decorations.
6. Chill for at least 3 hrs or overnight before cutting into squares.
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If you would like any further help, guidance or support for you or your family, please contact **Laura Merrick** (Home School Link Worker) [hslw2@stmarys-byfleet.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:hslw2@stmarys-byfleet.surrey.sch.uk) (Working hours: Tuesday 8:30am - 3:30pm, Wednesday 8:30am - 1:00pm, Thursday 8:30am - 3:30pm).

