

Music in Winter Festivals - ideas for Early Years

Festivals are happy occasions where people celebrate publicly. The word festival comes from the word 'feast' and many do actually involve a feast of some kind.

In Foundation Stage the work on the social and emotional aspects of learning builds on the guidance for Personal, Social and Emotional Development.

PSED focus:

- Exploring and recognising different festivals and celebrations
- Sharing experience of community celebrations

A festival can also be a coming together to share. Why not organise a singing festival where on a given day you sing, act, dance, dress up etc.

For centuries music has been written to celebrate something – a festival, a wedding and so on. Choose a specific event and compose a piece of music especially for that occasion.



Guy Fawkes Day - Bonfires are lit and effigies of Guy Fawkes made in memory of the 5th November 1605 when he was discovered in the cellar of the Houses of Parliament making preparations to blow it up.

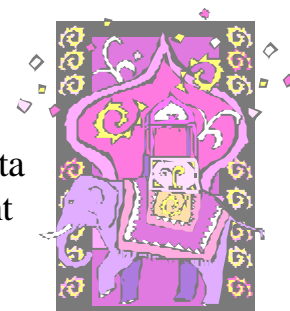
- Bonfire and fireworks composition. Fireworks poem. Use newspaper or carrier bags to scrunch for the sound of the fire.

Fireworks Tune: Mary, Mary, quite contrary
Poppers, bangers
Whizzers and sizzlers
Squeakers and squealers too.
Our firework music's full of sounds,
That we're going to play for you.

The Handy Band – Sue Nicholls - Supporting Personal, Social and Emotional Development
A & C Black £10.99

Diwali

Diwali' means 'a row of lights'. This is the Hindu festival of light (also celebrated by some Sikh people) and usually falls in October or November. The celebration is in honour of the return of Rama and Sita to their kingdom after 14 years in exile. It is also a celebration of light over darkness.



- Dance – Raga Abhogi – Indian animal hand movements
Lets go zudie-o – Creative activities for dance and music – Helen MacGregor and Bobbie Gargrave
A & C Black £19.99

Halloween the last day of October - The Celts celebrated their New Year Eve on this night. They believed that spirits were abroad so they built bonfires to frighten them away and they danced and feasted around the fires. As well as ghosts, general mischief, witchcraft, magic and hobgoblins were anticipated.

- Boo! The Hairy Scary Castle and Ghost Dance
Music Express – Foundation Stage A & C Black £29.99

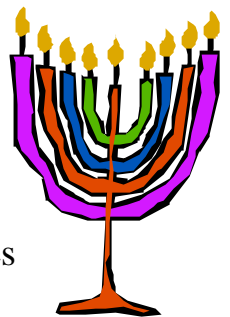
St. Andrews Day

30th November. Patron Saint of Scotland. Scottish music! Folk dancing. Bagpipes

- The Kings Birthday Music – Special occasions
Music Express – Foundation Stage A & C Black £29.99

Hanukkah

The Jewish festival of Hanukkah takes place in December - known as the festival of lights. Commemorates the victory of the Jewish people over the Syrian King, Antiochus, and the restoration of their holy temple in Jerusalem. It is said that when the temple lamp was lit it burned for eight days even though there was only enough oil to keep it alight for one day. A new candle is placed in the menorah on each evening of Hanukkah until there are eight candles burning on the last evening.



Composition based on 8 bell sounds.

- Ghoom-parani gaan – a song based around light and dark.
Music Express – Foundation Stage A & C Black £29.99

Christmas – See list of recommended shows

Chinese New Year

The New Year usually occurs between mid January and February. It is the most important festival in Chinese calendar and takes place over 15 days. Each New Year is named after an animal.

Rat, ox, tiger, hare (or rabbit), dragon, snake, horse, ram (sheep or goat), monkey, rooster, dog and pig (or boar)



- Dragon Hunt – In the Hall of the Mountain King
Lets go shoolie-shoo A & C Black £19.99
- Happy New Year
Music Express – Foundation Stage A & C Black £29.99

New Year Celebrations – Drums and cymbals to represent the dragon dancing and fireworks.