

Unit of work: 9/12	Topic title: Special occasions (Be careful about those who don't celebrate birthdays)	Half term: Spring A
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Outline	Details
<p>Learning Objectives ~</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To work as part of a group, taking turns and sharing fairly (ELG from Personal, Social and Emotional Development)</li> <li>• To talk about the Christmas story, and how it is special to many people</li> <li>• To learn about the importance of birthdays to most children</li> <li>• To think about the importance of belonging</li> <li>• To take part in a celebration for someone else</li> <li>• To be able to say "thank you" appropriately</li> </ul>	
Week 1: Jesus' birthday	<p>Talk about Christmas, and all the lovely things that happened in your home. Can you remember the Christmas story, and the names of the characters involved? Sequence the story (Scripture Union pictures on page 44) as a class and then individually, using the pictures provided. Which character do you like best, and why? Add the join-the-dot donkey (Now, what <i>was</i> his name?) and some colour as we talk about the events. If you have time, you could look at Christmas cards that show that story too.</p>
Week 2: My birthday	<p>What do you remember about your birthday and what is special to you? Think about the people, the presents, the party or outing, the friends. Why are those things special? Do people always grow older? Look at cards with numbers on and sequence them. Draw your best birthday memories and write or copy some words or a sentence.</p>
Week 3: Ruff by Jane Hissey	<p>Read the story of Ruff and talk about it. Think about Ruff's "catching up". Could you have seven birthdays in a week? Which of Ruff's presents did you like best? What was Ruff's most important present, and why? Are there other creatures that don't have a home? Draw a lift-the-flap present for Ruff and stick it in your book. Can you write the name of the present underneath?</p>
Week 4: The Preparation	<p>It's going to be Fudge's birthday (or the birthday of a well-loved soft toy who lives in your classroom) and everyone's invited to the party. But Fudge needs help in getting ready ~ can you help? Plan to make invitations, a birthday card, some birthday biscuits and to wear special clothes. Simple invitations to be made today and taken home. A reply is to be done for homework.</p>

<p>Week 5: The party</p>	<p>(Photos needed of this session. I led it up to a sharing assembly so that the children could go in and share their news straight away.) Children to help prepare room for the tea. Everyone to dress up and tidy classroom. Games first in the hall or outside. There may be a special visitor..... Back in to classroom for tea and then in to sharing assembly!</p>
<p>Week 6: I remember</p>	<p>Children use photos to help remember the party. Why do we celebrate birthdays? Stick a photo in to your book and write a thank you note to Fudge for the lovely party. Is it important to say thank you? Read the story of the Ten Men with Leprosy. (Be careful to call the men "people with leprosy" not "lepers", even though many books still use the former expression.) The version I used is published by Kevin Mayhew and is small but child friendly. Otherwise, use a children's bible.</p>
<p>Assessment:</p>	<p>Ask the children to talk about Ruff's most important present, and to say why they think it is important to have a home. If you can co-ordinate this teaching with your 'Houses and Homes' topic, then you can do a display that includes different sorts of home with some thoughtful captioning.</p>



Book focus ~ Ruff by Jane Hissey, pub. Red Fox 0-09-932781-3  
Barty says thank you, pub. Kevin Mayhew no ISBN!  
This book is, sadly, out of print; do try to borrow if you can.

