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Autumn 2011

Member of



## WELCOME

To my Childminding Newsletter. I plan to use this Newsletter to keep Parents informed about my childcare service and provide details of monthly themes, activities, holidays, children's birthdays and general reminders.

### AUTUMN HAS ARRIVED!

Welcome back and a special welcome to our new families. I hope everyone had a good summer holiday. The weather is changing - Autumn has arrived! I love this time of year as it is filled with so many great sights for the children to explore, lots of muddy puddles and leaves which offer a fantastic array of colours & textures for the children to investigate with their hands & feet. Not forgetting the conkers, acorns & pine cones to collect on our nature treasure hunts!



### TRAINING & POLICIES

In September I will be renewing my First Aid and I will also be going through the process of updating and checking all my policies and procedures in line with the EYFS. If you have any comments on my policies or procedures then please let me know.

### WEBSITE

Don't forget to check out my website as I regularly add new photographs: [www.helenmelvinschildcare.co.uk](http://www.helenmelvinschildcare.co.uk)

### WELLIES & RAINCOATS!

Can all children please bring raincoats & wellies suitable for our changing weather. The muddy puddles are just too tempting to resist and we end up with soggy feet! Especially as we enjoy playing outside and hunting for leaves in all weathers!



### VACANCIES

Sorry, I have no vacancies at present...

### SHOW AND TELL!



If your child wants to bring anything from home to complement any of our themes or just to show, then please feel free to do so.

### BIRTHDAYS

'R': 4<sup>th</sup> September  
'O': 28<sup>th</sup> November  
'E': 30<sup>th</sup> November



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

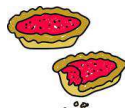
School Returns: 6<sup>th</sup> Sept

Diwali: 26<sup>th</sup> Oct  
Half Term: 24<sup>th</sup> Oct  
Halloween: 31<sup>st</sup> Oct

Firework Night: 5<sup>th</sup> Nov  
Ant Bullying Week: 14-18<sup>th</sup> Nov  
Road Safety Week: 21-27<sup>th</sup> Nov



### JAM TARTS (prep time: 20 mins, cook time 15 mins)

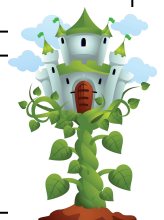


You will need: 350g plain flour, pinch of salt, 3 tsp Caster sugar, 175g unsalted butter, 1 egg, 24 dessertspoons jam.

**METHOD:** Mix flour, salt, sugar & butter until the mixture resembles bread crumbs. Add the egg & continue until the mixture forms a soft ball. Chill the pastry for 30 mins in fridge. Roll out pastry on a floured board (not too thin). Cut into round shapes (you could also use a flower cutter). Place on a greased baking tray, fill each case with 2 teaspoons on jam, bake for 15 mins. Yummy!

### AND FINALLY.....

If you are celebrating something special like a birthday, a family event, a festival, or your child's special WOW moment, and you would like to share it with us, then please let me know.



### THEMES

#### Sept - Pirates



Shiver me Timbers! The children will enjoy scavenger hunting, dressing up, rescuing their friends from the crocodiles and walking the plank.

#### Oct - Autumn/Leaves

We will be enjoying the sights of Autumn, fantastic colours as we kick up the leaves, look at the changes in the world around us, exploring colours and making collages with our collected leaves.



#### Nov - We're Going on a Bear Hunt



The children will explore the story 'We're going on a Bear Hunt'. They will be exploring over, under, through and around, and explore and experiment with a variety of sounds. We will then make our very own bear cave.

We will also have some fun around Halloween & Bonfire Night whilst creating our own imaginative art collages. We will also be talking about the Anti-Bullying & Road Safety Weeks.



### WELCOME!

'M' is now back with us, and she will be starting Big School in September, she will be joining us to play every week in the school holidays. 'M's' brother 'J' will also be joining us. 'E' is also starting in Sept, and the other children are looking forward to welcoming them.

