

# Christmas Post Challenge



**Are you pillar box red-y for some festive fun?**

180 years after the first Christmas card was sent, this challenge pack delivers heaps of activities straight through your door, just like your postie.

For even more programme ideas check out our 'Christmas Post' board over on [www.Pinterest.com/PawprintFamily](https://www.Pinterest.com/PawprintFamily)

**#AdventureForAll**  
[www.PawprintFamily.com](https://www.PawprintFamily.com)

# Meet the FAMILY

Hi there! We're Charlotte & Jamie, the husband and wife team behind the Pawprint Family and we believe in #AdventureForAll.

It's our mission to help leaders, teachers and parents save time by providing ideas and opportunities to help them deliver everyday adventure and skills for life. We do this through our family of brands; find out more below and head to the website for your next adventure!



## PAWPRINT BADGES

Pawprint Badges provides thousands of free activity ideas and resources to help leaders, teachers and parents deliver fun and adventure.

Every activity helps you share skills for life and is linked to one of our pawesome embroidered badges. Build your collection and celebrate adventures, new skills and knowledge gained.

## PAWPRINT TRAILS

Pawprint Trails are treasure-hunt style walks around locations in the UK. Solve puzzles, track down the answers and explore everything our great country has to offer.

From historical sights to popular culture discover something new or rediscover a love for where you live then collect the badge to remember your adventures!

Whether you're looking for the perfect addition to your next family holiday or a few hours of fun with friends; each trail can be completed in a few hours or extended with our activity suggestions in to a weekend or a week's worth of fun!

## PAWPRINT TALES

Pawprint Tales are fully illustrated stories that can be enjoyed by the whole family. Join Alfie (our fox-red Labrador) on his adventures around the UK - solving puzzles, turning detective and making new friends. With twists and turns, every tale is an opportunity to discover new places, people and history without needing to leave the comfort of your own home.

Enjoy Pawprint Tales alongside your Pawprint Trails or as a standalone adventure!

## PAWPRINT TRUST

Every brand in the Pawprint Family supports the Pawprint Trust with a percentage of profits from every sale providing grants to young people. We're passionate about enabling young people to access life changing adventures.

Share your adventures and join us over on our social channels for even more adventures and a nosy behind the scenes at Pawprint HQ!



@pawprintfamily



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# HOW TO: Use Your Challenge Pack



This Challenge Pack has been divided into 4 sections: Craft, Food, Games and Other. In order to help you provide a balanced and varied programme for your young adventurers we recommend that the following number of activities are completed by each age group:

<b>Age 3 - 5</b>						
<b>Age 5 - 7</b>		<b>Craft</b>	<b>Food</b>	<b>Games</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>PICK</b>
<b>Age 7 - 11</b>	+					
<b>Age 11 - 14</b>	+					
<b>Age 14 - 18</b>	+					
<b>Age 18+</b>	+					

**Leaders, Teachers & Parents**  
Award yourselves a badge for supporting your young adventurers in their activities!

## TOP TIPS

- Adapt activities as necessary to meet your needs.
- Add your own activity ideas or develop them into projects.
- Use what you have; don't buy in lots of new materials/equipment.
- No need to send us evidence, responsible grown-ups decide when the badge has been earned.
- One challenge badge can take as long as you like; from a few hours to days or even a full term!

## Terms of Use

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# Craft

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- ✉ Make some handmade Christmas cards for friends and family using materials of your choice. For example, you could make your design by drawing, painting, collaging or printing.
- ✉ Learn how to fold your own envelopes from paper. Why not recycle the wrapping paper from your Christmas presents to give it a new purpose?
- ✉ Have a go at designing your own Christmas stamps.
- ✉ Construct a Christmas postbox from recycled materials or papier mache. Why not encourage your friends, family or group to fill it with Christmas post for you to deliver for your Other challenge?
- ✉ Hand-colour one of our free Christmas Card Template resources.

## Why?

The first Christmas card was designed in 1843 for Sir Henry Cole who helped set up the Post Office, so that ordinary people could use the service. Around 1000 copies were printed and hand-coloured by John Horsley, then sold for 1 shilling each. There are only 12 remaining in the world and they now sell for up to £20,000.

- ✉ Postmarks are stamped on letters to indicate when and where they were sent from. Royal Mail also adds messages around special dates, such as a Christmas greeting. Design your own festive postmark.
- ✉ Knit or crochet a festive postbox topper to adorn your local pillar box.
- ✉ Recycle your Christmas post using our Greetings Card Crown resource. Alternatively, you could collage them into new cards or cut them into gift tags and save them for next year.
- ✉ Make a big Christmas card or letter from A1 size paper or bigger.

## Why?

The earliest record of anything like a Christmas card was given to King James in 1611. This was an ornate 84cm x 60cm manuscript containing a picture of a rose, four poems and a song. It also carried a festive message and had to be folded into panels for delivery.

- ✉ Collect the brightly coloured envelopes from the Christmas post that comes through your door and recycle them into a festive piece of art.
- ✉ Victorian postmen were known as 'robins' due to their red uniform. Decorate a pebble or pine cone to look like a robin and hang it on your Christmas tree.



# Food

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BADGES**

- ✉ Prepare a toastie or some sandwiches with festive fillings, just like your Christmas post comes stuffed in an envelope. To take this further, you could crimp the edges with a fork to seal your 'envelopes'.
- ✉ Bake some envelope treats using pastry. Start with a square of pastry, dollop your favourite filling(s) in the middle, and fold the corners in diagonally to make it look like an envelope.
- ✉ The first recorded 'Merry Christmas' is from a festive letter in 1534. Make or try some Twelfth Night Cake, which was a Tudor Christmas classic.
- ✉ Make or decorate a cake to look like a postbox or post van.

Here's an idea!

Why not try cutting a hole in the centre and filling it with colourful sweets before you add your decorations. Surprise your friends and family when you cut the first slice and watch the sweets tumble out, just like the Christmas post when a postie opens their box or van.

- ✉ Bake a loaf of bread in the shape of a postbox. Before you put your dough in the oven, have a go at scoring to add some detail to your postbox.
- ✉ Write your favourite festive recipe in a letter or card and exchange your Christmas post with somebody else. Have a go at following their favourite recipe, then compare and decide which festive treat you prefer.
- ✉ Put together a parcel containing a recipe and its long-life ingredients. Send your Christmas post to a friend or family member so they can make themselves a treat.
- ✉ Bake some stamp shaped biscuits. Why not use icing to give each one a different festive design.
- ✉ Victorian Christmas cards often pictured robins delivering festive post as a nod to the postmen who wore red uniforms. Bake some robin shape biscuits and deliver them to you friends, family or neighbours.
- ✉ Make some bird food to put in your garden for the robins to eat. Their favourite snack is mealworms, but they also like fruit, raisins, crushed peanuts, seeds and suet.
- ✉ Fix up some festive baked goods to thank your postie for their hard work. Wrap them and leave them outside for them to help themselves or, if you're expecting a parcel, offer your delivery person a treat at the door.



# Games

**PAWPRINT  
BADGES**

- ✉ Have a game of Christmas consequences. Rather than folding the paper over each turn, tuck it further into an envelope and 'post' it to the next player. In the last round, seal the envelope and drop into the postbox or mail bag. Then the 'postie' delivers each person one piece of Christmas post to open.
- ✉ Play the colour matching postbox game.
- ✉ Generate some Christmas post for your group or future self.

## How?

For large groups, write each person's name on an envelope and place a blank Christmas card inside. Each person writes a compliment or festive greeting inside every card but their own, then the card is sealed and delivered to the person who's name is on the front. Alternatively, write some promises to yourself in a card and open it next Christmas. Have you achieved what you promised? How much has your life changed in the last year?

- ✉ Each year, millions of Christmas cards are posted around the country. Take it in turns to say a word to write a story 'through the post'.
- ✉ Go on a scavenger hunt in your local area to see how many Christmas postbox toppers you can find. Which is your favourite? With a group of adventurers, you could challenge each other to see who can find the most.
- ✉ Have a game of 'houses', as a twist on the corners game. Write some fictional addresses on envelopes and place them in a bag, and pin up the corresponding 'houses' for players to run to before the 'postie' picks a card.
- ✉ Save your Christmas stamps, or print some designs, and play snap.
- ✉ Complete some round-robin activities.

## Why?

Lots of families put a 'round-robin' inside their Christmas post to let their friends and family know what they've done during the year. Why not try writing your own round-robin Christmas letter for your Other challenge?

- ✉ Go head to head in an obstacle course to see who can deliver their post the quickest. If you're an individual adventurer, race against the clock.
- ✉ Play keeper of the postbox keys. Can you steal the keys from the postie?
- ✉ Recycle your Christmas post envelopes by writing some festive truths and lies for your 'postie' to sort.



# Other

**PAWPRINT**  
**BADGES**

- ✉ Visit your local Post Office to send some Christmas post of your own.
- ✉ Deliver some Christmas post to your friends and family.
- ✉ Sell some Christmas cards to fundraise for your chosen charity. Around £50 million is raised through Christmas card sales in the UK each year.
- ✉ The Christmas period is the busiest time of year for the postal system. Thank your local postie for their hard work and spread some festive cheer with our Would You Rather - Postie resource.
- ✉ Watch or read about Christmas post, such as a festive *Postman Pat*® story.
- ✉ Set up a Christmas postbox for your school, group or family and have a go at being the postie delivering festive cards and letters.
- ✉ Collect the stamps from your Christmas post and donate them to a charity that are collecting. Find out how your stamps can help them fundraise.
- ✉ Write a letter to Father Christmas and find out how to post it. Why not use our free Father Christmas Letter Template to get you started?
- ✉ Take a walk around your local area and count how many postboxes you can find. Extra points for spotting a postie or a post van!
- ✉ Check the last posting dates and send your Christmas post before the deadline so it arrives in time.
- ✉ Write a story or poem about the Christmas post.
- ✉ Start a stamp collection with the Christmas designs that come through your door during the festive period.
- ✉ The Guinness World Record for the largest collection of greetings cards is 2,575, which was set in Japan in August 2022. Challenge your friends and family to help you break the record by collecting your Christmas cards.
- ✉ During your Christmas break, take a trip to the Postal Museum in London.
- ✉ Read *The Jolly Christmas Postman* by Janet & Allan Ahlberg.
- ✉ Find out how to write 'Merry Christmas' in another language and send some international Christmas post. Why not also count this towards the Christmas Around the World Challenge?

## Adventure Complete?

Reward your young adventurers with their Christmas Post Challenge badge to mark their achievements! Head to the website to bag yours, download certificates and discover even more adventures!



## Create a Keepsake!

Experienced adventure? Made memories? Then it's time to create a keepsake! Our Pawprint Family camp blankets are the perfect place to sew your badges and look back on them for years to come.



## Personalise it!

Got your camp blanket? Then it's time to make it yours! Our alphabet badges are big, bright and bold...the perfect addition to your camp blanket, hoodies, bags and more. What will you personalise first?



## Even More Rewards!

We're all about added value here at Pawprint Family. In addition to the 1000s of free activity ideas and resources you'll find loyalty stickers in every order and you can claim Children's University learning hours too!



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