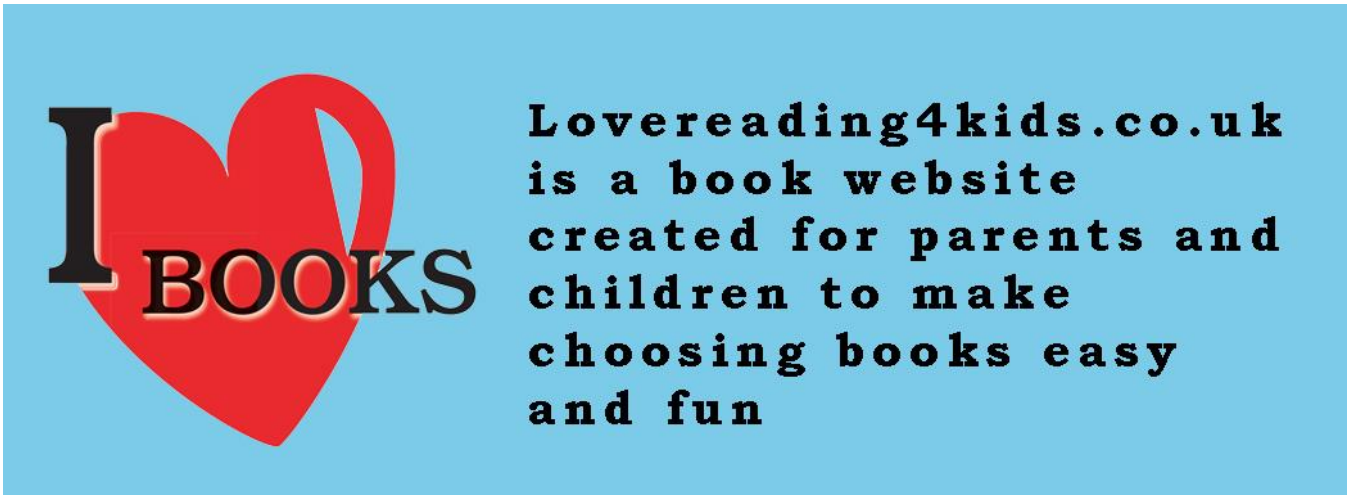


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Adventivity House

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ADVENTIVITY HOUSE

25 CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES TO BRIGHTEN YOUR HOME

It's Christmas, and time to open the first door of your creative advent calendar. Welcome to a month of making, shaping and baking for the entire family that's sure to bring light and laughter to your home!







Turn to the last page for details of the additional items you'll need for your Christmas creations.



1 SANTA HANDPRINT HANGINGS

Have fun moulding and painting salt dough characters to create a colourful Christmas decoration to hang in the house.



1 Mix together in a bowl 150g of plain flour, 250g of salt and 125ml of water. Mould the mixture into a dough.



2 Split the dough into four pieces. Lightly roll each one until it's slightly larger than your hand and 1cm thick.



3 Press your hand into the dough just hard enough to leave an impression.



4 Cut around the hand shape, leaving about 0.5cm all round. Poke a straw through the top of the shape to make a hole for the ribbon.



5 Repeat steps 3-4 with the other pieces of dough. Lay out the shapes on a baking tray and cook for ¼ hours at 160°C.

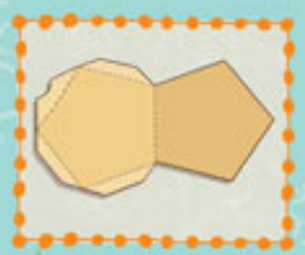


6 Take the shapes out of the oven and leave to cool. Now paint on hats, beards and faces, and loop a ribbon through the hole to hang.

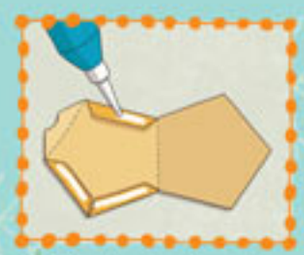
2 STARRY SWEET BOXES



What could be nicer to find in a stocking than a star full of treats? To make a galaxy of star boxes, draw around the press-out piece at the back of this book to use as a template.



1 Press out the template and fold the flaps inwards along the dotted lines.



2 Run glue along three flaps. Fold in half and stick the top side onto the flaps. The fourth flap will be the opening of the box.



3 Fold and unfold along the dotted lines to crease the outside of the box with the star shape shown above.



4 Now fold to create creases along the dotted lines shown above.



5 Pinch each flat side to form the points and indents of the star shape.



6 Fill the inside with sweets and push the last flap over to seal your starry box.

3 SLEIGH RACE

Who's the champion sleigh blower? Make up the sleigh surfers, grab a straw and challenge all-comers to a table-top race!





1 Press out the card piece of the sleigh and fold it along the dotted lines.



2 Press out the card piece for the elf. Curve the elf shape along its length and run glue along the two bottom tabs.

3 Stick the tabs on the sleigh to position the elf. Repeat steps 1-3 for all four sledges. Once the glue dries, line them up and let the race begin!

4 WINTRY EGG COSIES

In the kitchen, let this chirpy couple keep your breakfast eggs warm.







1 To make the robin's body and wings, place the templates at the back of this book on brown felt. Trace around them and cut out the pieces. Use red felt for the breast, yellow for the beak and white for the eyes.



2 Sew the breast, beak and eyes on one body piece. Sew on tiny black circles for the eyes. Sew wings on either side of the body piece. Then stitch the front of the robin on to the back body piece.

3 To make the penguin, use black felt for the body and white felt for the breast and eye pieces. Stitch on tiny blue circles for the eyes and yellow for the beak. Fit the wings pointing downwards.





1 Cut four squares out of one patterned piece of paper and four from another. Fold each square in half. Lay the template at the back of this book along the fold of the first piece.



2 Draw around the template and cut out the shapes. Repeat on all eight squares. Discard the heart shapes.



3 Apply glue to one side of a cut-out shape and stick a different-coloured shape on top. Repeat until you have a stack of 8 shapes, with the colours alternating.



4 Glue a looped string or ribbon to the centre of your stack as shown. Slip a small bead over the loop.



5 Now take the shapes at each end of your stack and carefully bring them round towards each other.



6 Stick the last two shapes together and your heart-of-home decoration is complete!

5 WHERE THE HEART IS!

Make a Christmas decoration with a difference to hang in the heart of your home.



6 JOLLY HOLLY CUPCAKES

If fruity Christmas pudding isn't for you, try these chocolate cupcakes with a festive twist instead.





1 Pre-heat the oven to 180°C. In a bowl, mix 100g each of butter, caster sugar and self-raising flour. Beat in two eggs and a tablespoon of cocoa powder.



2 Spoon the mixture into a greased cake tin and bake in the pre-heated oven for 15-20 minutes.



3 Remove the tray from the oven and, after two minutes, turn out the cakes onto a wire rack. Turn them over and leave to cool.



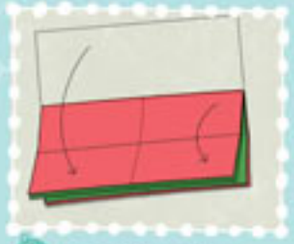
4 To make the icing, sieve 100g of icing sugar into a bowl. Mix water with the icing sugar a little at a time and keep stirring until you have a thick paste.



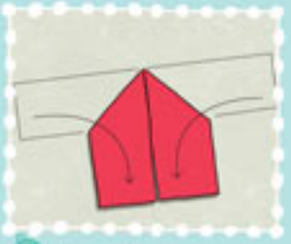
5 Pour a teaspoon of icing on top of each cake. Let the icing run down the sides of the cake.



6 While the icing is still wet, place sweets on the top to look like holly and berries. Then leave the icing to set.



1 Take two large paper napkins in complementary colours and lay one on top of the other. Fold them in half lengthways, then in half again.



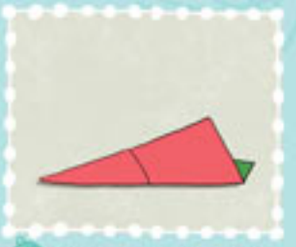
2 Take each end and angle the fold to the centre as if you were making a paper plane.

7 ELF-BOOT NAPKINS

Who laid the Christmas table but left their footwear behind? Bring fairy-tale magic to the feast with these elfin miniatures.



3 Make a second set of folds by angling each new fold to the centre again.



4 Turn the napkin over and fold along the centre so that the folded edge is at the top.



5 Take the flap nearest to you and fold it upwards.



6 Take the flap from behind and fold it round to the front, then tuck it into the pocket in the side of the boat.



7 Turn down the 'cuff' around the top of the boat. Pinch the toe upwards.



8 CHRISTMAS WREATH

Use your fingers for foliage to make a handmade Christmas wreath and hang it on your front door for the personal 'touch'.





1 Choose two or three shades of thick green paper. Draw around your hand several times on each sheet and cut out the shapes. You will need about 25 hand shapes in total.



2 Draw around a large dinner plate on card and cut out the circle. Cut out a smaller circle from the centre of the larger circle to make a card ring.



3 Take the first of your hand shapes and stick the palm of it to the ring, leaving the fingers free.



4 Work backwards around the ring, sticking each hand shape with the fingers covering the palm of the previous hand.



5 Stick the final palm beneath the fingers of the first hand shape.



6 Press out the red berry card pieces at the back of this book and stick them over the wreath. Finish by looping through a red ribbon to hang your handy wreath!

9 DIAMOND PAPER CHAIN

Use silver and white paper to make your home a paper chain with ice-palace glamour.



1 Fold a 25 x 25cm silver paper square in half. Leaving a 2cm uncut band down the centre, snip 3 straight lines 2cm apart, following the pattern above.



2 Open out the paper and lay it flat.



3 Take the two innermost corners and roll them towards each other. Glue the corners to make a tube shape.



4 Turn the paper over. Now take the next two corners, roll them towards each other and stick the corners together.



5 Repeat step 4 until all the corners are glued together.



6 Repeat steps 1-5 with silver and white paper to make lots of paper diamonds. Stick or staple them together to form a chain.