

# The Hive Children's University Winter Challenge 2023



KS1 & 2



Category: Literacy  
Skill: Aiming High



**The Reading Agency and the Youth Sport Trust invite children on a winter reading adventure**

The Reading Agency has today announced that they are teaming up with the Youth Sport Trust again for this year's Winter Mini Challenge, a free reading adventure. The Challenge encourages children to keep up their reading over the winter holidays and offers rewards and prizes for continuing to read.

[Find out how to get started](#)

1 credit for each book completed

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## Blue Peter Book Badge

Introducing the exciting new Book badge, designed by one of the UK's best known illustrators, Sir Quentin Blake; who you might know from bringing to life characters such as Roald Dahl's BFG and Matilda!

Tell us about a book you have read and what you think about it. Maybe you liked the characters, or perhaps you enjoyed going on exciting adventures in faraway places.

Upload your illustration of a character or a scene from the story. This could be a drawing, painting or even digital artwork. Let us know what other books and authors you have enjoyed reading and why.



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You can apply using our online form or by post. To earn this badge, you must: Be aged between 5-15 years old. Apply for your Book badge online using the uploader form, or click the 'get the Book badge' button above, to download the paper application form. [How to get started](#)

1 Credit

## Pawprint Badges - Christmas Around the World

<https://pawprintfamily.com/product/christmas-around-the-world/>



This pawprint challenge pack is full of fun facts about how Christmas is celebrated all over the world and as usual there are lots of great activities to try at home with your family - have fun !

1 credit

Category - Online  
Skills - Teamwork



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## Advent Kindness Jar

**Earn 1 credit for each completed activity/challenge**

Make a list with your family of acts of kindness you can do to make people smile!

Suggestions to get you started:

- make a card for a lonely neighbour
- donate a pre loved toy, you no longer use, to a local charity shop
- add one extra item in your shopping basket to give to the local food bank
- make someone a gift from recycled materials
- Get outside and pick up some litter (with an adult)
- make some food for birds and make sure they have water
- do something helpful for a family member or friend.



Find an empty glass jar and decorate it with winter snowflakes to put your challenges in. Also find some of last years cards and cut out star and Christmas stocking shapes and each day when you complete a kindness challenge glue it to one of your shapes and hang it on the Christmas tree or put up a line of string and peg them out.

How many will you have completed by Christmas Day?

Category: Social and Community Action, Family Learning

Skills: Creativity and Teamwork



## Forestry England

Free Christmas family activity sheets

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- Decorate festive pine cones - Decorate pine cones to create a mini Christmas tree, or paint a pine cone robin to get in the festive spirit.
- Create a twig star - Ditch your plastic tree-topper in favour of a lovely handmade stick star with this guide. The perfect ornament for your family Christmas tree.
- Forest artwork - Make forest artwork with branches, pine cones and leaves collected on your forest adventure.
- Natural wreath - Get the family together to make your very own Christmas wreath for your home.
- Gruffalo winter - Help the Gruffalo match the snowy footprints to each of his animal friends!

Download all the activities here:

<https://www.forestryengland.uk/family-activity/christmas-family-activity-sheets>

**Try Forest England's Ten forest challenges for winter:**

<https://www.forestryengland.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Winter.pdf>

Categories: Nature and the environment

Skills: Creativity, problem Solving



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Make your own paper decorations, a great family activity



<https://www.redtedart.com/paper-christmas-ornament-diy-ideas/>

- The classic Paper Bauble
- Cute Mickey Mouse Ornaments (5 designs including free printable!)
- Paper Photo Bauble (based on the classic Paper Bauble)
- Paper Bauble Christmas Tree
- Paper Bauble Christmas Stars
- Paper Bauble Hearts (great for Valentine's Day too)
- Fun Paper Rudolph Ornament
- Pretty Paper Reindeer Ornament DIY (with printables)



Category: Art and Culture

Skills: Creativity



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## Family Cooking

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/collection/christmas-kids-recipes>

Have some festive fun and try out this selection of easy biscuits, cakes and treats that can be made by the smallest of hands.

Some of these would also make some lovely gifts:

[Gingerbread mince pies](#)

[Snowman biscuits](#)

[Gingerbread stained glass biscuits](#)

1 credit per recipe  
Category: Life Skills  
Skills: Creativity



## The GCHQ Christmas Challenge 2023

KS2 & 3

The GCHQ Christmas Challenge returns on Thursday 14 December with a special festive puzzle mission for secondary school and college students!

The Challenge comes in the form of a Christmas card, sent by our Director, Anne Keast-Butler, to partners around the world. The card contains a series of brainteasers, designed by GCHQ's own puzzle volunteers, specifically for 11 to 18-year-olds

<https://www.gchq.gov.uk/news/schoolsxmaschallenge2023>

2 credits

Category - Science, technology, engineering and maths

Skills - problem solving



Keep a record of everything you have completed and send it to us to receive your credits

	<b>Winter Mini Reading Challenge</b>	Evidence	Date
1	Read 3 books		
2	Blue Peter Book Badge		
	<b>Advent Kindness Challenge</b>		
3	Decorate a Jar		
4	Make a list of challenges and cut them up to put in Jar		
5	Cut out old cards for tree decorations, when a challenge is completed stick it onto the card and hang on the tree		
6	How many challenges did you complete?		
7	<b>Pawprint Badge - Christmas Around the World</b>		
	<b>Forestry England</b>		
8	Decorate Pine Cones		
9	Make a Twig Star		
10	Forest Art Work		
11	Natural Wreath		
12	Gruffalo Winter		
13	Ten Forest Challenges Activitiy Sheet		
	<b>Make Paper Decorations</b>		
14	Classic Paper Bauble		
15	Mickey Mouse Ornaments		
16	Paper Photo Bauble		
17	Paper Bauble Christmas Tree		
18	Paper Bauble Christmas Stars		
19	Paper Bauble Hearts		
20	Paper Rudolph Ornament		
21	Paper Reindeer Ornament DIY		
22	Christmas Lights Garland		
23	Mouse Ornament		
	<b>Family Cooking</b>		
24	How many recipes did you try?		
25	<b>The GCHQ Christmas Challenge 2023</b>		

Parents/Carers please complete this form and email it together with photo evidence of the activities completed. (Children do not have to be in photos)

We will email a certificate with the codes and credits

Email [lstout@thehive-croydon.org](mailto:lstout@thehive-croydon.org)