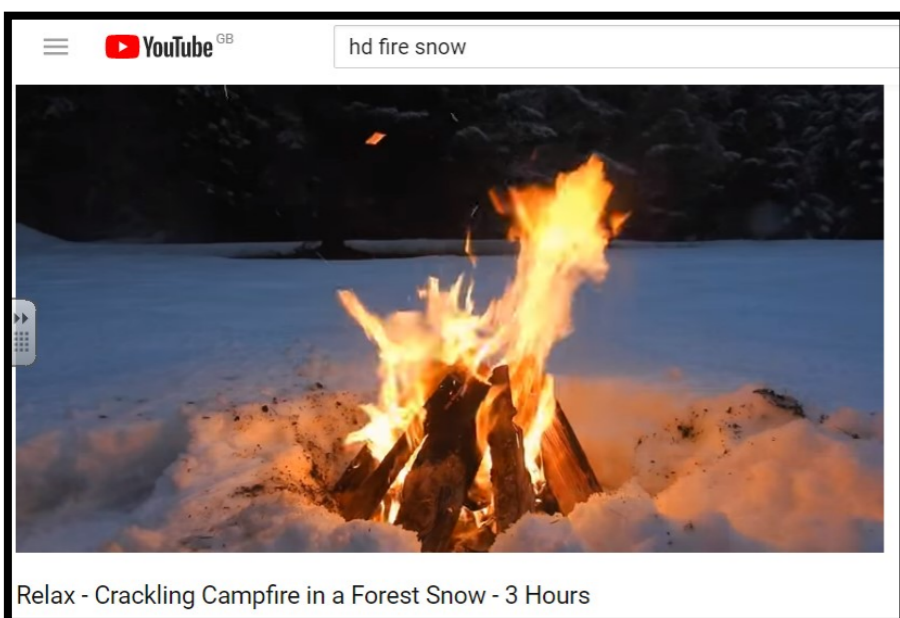


Reading the Jolly Christmas Postman...

Save the story for the end of the day and make it into a special event.

You could have hot chocolate with marshmallows / toast / tea.

Use your Interactive whiteboard, search YouTube for 'Fire snow HD' and play a video in the background whilst you are reading the story.



Relax - Crackling Campfire in a Forest Snow - 3 Hours

Reading the Jolly Christmas Postman...

Re-read the story and talk about the different fairy tale characters that crop up in the story:

Goldilocks and 3 bears, Little Red and the Wolf etc.

There are many YouTube and online versions of these classic fairy tales, or you may have the books.

If you have the books, I would display these around the classroom for the children to look at.

Introduction...

Invite a real postman to come into school and deliver the book or you could invite one of the school

receptionists to come to the classroom with a 'special parcel' for the class.

Inside is the story of the 'Jolly Christmas Postman'.

Include a letter from the Jolly Christmas Postman, something along the lines of "Dear... my name is the Jolly Postman... include some fun details and say that he hopes they enjoy the book... from The Jolly Postman".

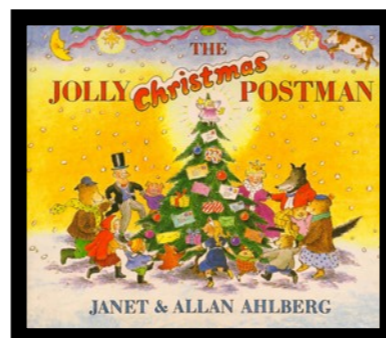
I would look at the features of a letter... Dear / short sentence / from / etc.

Provision links: letter templates, stamp sized paper they can design and stick, envelopes, make your own envelope, make a class post box.



Dear boys and girls,
it is the Jolly Postman.
I have sent you a gift. If you open your parcel and have a look inside, you will see that I have made you a 'post bag'.
You can pop something special into the post bag and your teacher can have 'post bag time' when you can share your lovely work.
Are you excited for Christmas?
from
The Jolly Postman

Planning Mind Map



When we do 'post bag time' we put on 'Please Mr Postman' by the Carpenters and do a little dance. We use the same dance as SM:TV Live (Ant and Dec) when they did 'post bag' all those years ago lol. Look it up on YouTube!

Fairy tale characters within the book

There are so many fairy tale characters within this book that you could spend weeks looking at each one and their story lol.

As its best to not rush the children and bombard them, especially as this busy time of year, I would use a maths input to 'vote' on their favourite letter within the story.

Maths: Photocopy each letter onto A3, ask the children to draw a picture of a stamp and colour it in. They can use this as their 'vote'.

Ask the children to vote for their favourite letter in the story—talk about which has the most / more / less / fewer / match to numicon / match to number / order from most to least etc.

Literacy: Pick the top 2/3 to focus on—read the fairy tale connected to the chosen characters, as not all children may be familiar.

Look at the letter/gift that they received, orally build a letter back to the sender for each character.

Leave writing frames out in a basket in the post office / writing area for the children to 'write' their own letters back to the characters or to draw pictures they can send to the characters.

Display some in the post office or on the wall / read them aloud.

Add some baskets to your small world area that have characters from the story (or some puppets etc) they could even arrive in a package, with a letter from the characters!!!

Post Office Role Play

Design and build a post office role play with the children. Many of the big supermarkets can give you a large cardboard box.

Get the children involved, play Christmas music as you get to work making your post office and have a grand opening day.

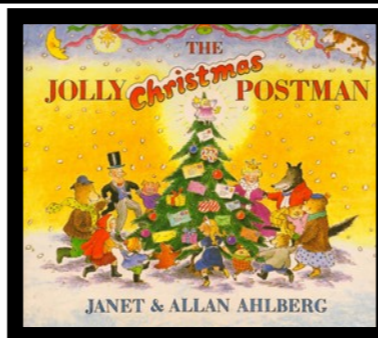
Invite parents etc in for the opening and have an open morning / afternoon where you model writing a letter together / drawing a picture and posting it.

Look into the daily life of a post person... invite one into the classroom, go on a local walk to the post office.

Another package from the Jolly Christmas Postman...



Planning Mind Map



Maths Challenge

The Jolly Postman has left his delivery sack behind. He has written a letter to the children to ask for their help. They need to solve the number sentences to put the correct number of Christmas stars into each envelope. When we find the answer, we count the corresponding number of stars into the envelope. Each number (answer) will also relate to a number that you can stick onto the doors of each teacher's classroom. Walk around the school and deliver the envelopes.

Tasks for different abilities:

- work on recognising the numbers—then count the stars to match to each number.
- could work on understanding the number sentences and count 2 groups together.
- could solve number problems with missing numbers but the correct number is inside:
example.. $5 + \quad = 9$ (inside would be 9 stars) what do we need to add on to 5 to get 9?

Lets read the label... 'Keep in the freezer'

Pass around the parcel, give it a shake, what could it be? why would it need to be kept in the freezer?

Open it up and inside could be a photograph (you have taken) of an Elf (think elf on the shelf) with a snowman. Also inside the package could be a closed lunch box full of cold water, some buttons, a tiny scarf and a carrot. What happened to the snowman?

Literacy: Write a letter back to the Jolly Postman to tell him what happened to the snowman.

UTW/L: Refreeze the snowman, what will happen? Write your observations / draw pictures of what is happening.



You could carry on the 'elf on the shelf' idea.... next have another package arrive to school

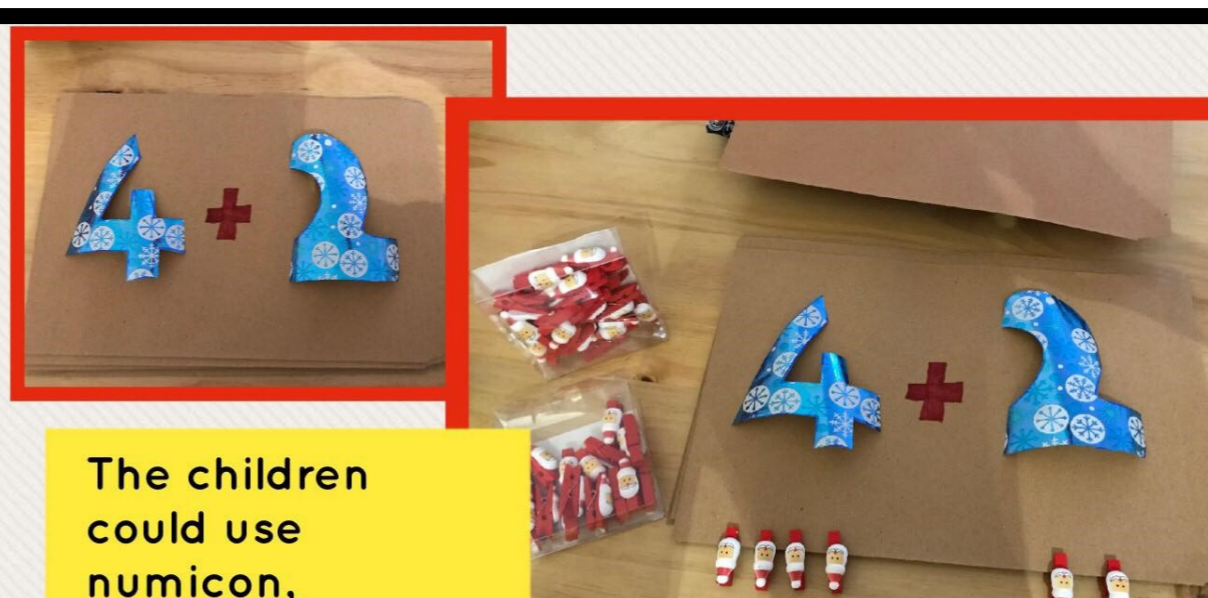
an elf frozen in a block of ice. Write letters to him as he melts.

PD/UTW: Break out some small hammers etc to chip a the ice and free the

UTW:

Look at the changing states of water: sold / liquid / solid as you freeze water into ice etc. If you have a very cold morning you could go on an ice hunt!

The Ice Cube challenge: design something that will keep an ice cube the longest.



The children could use numicon, counters, pegs etc to work out the answer.



Leave some blanks to challenge. The children would come to a door that doesn't match any of the envelopes they have solved, eg 8, how many more do we add on to 5 to get 8? Counting on etc

Creative

Do you want to build a snowman?

Using the fab picture of the snowman scene and the people sledding on the snow, the children could build snowmen using marshmallows and cocktail sticks. (draw and label your creation for a working shelf display).

Make your own envelopes

The children could learn how to fold and stick paper to create their own envelopes.

Design a Christmas tree

Melted snowman biscuits (google them, they are hilarious)

Bake Gingerbread men (character from story)

Have porridge as a snack (linked to character from story)

Write / draw pictures of the instructions for the above activities and create a Christmas Postman cooker book.

Write and perform your own original Christmas song for the Jolly Postman

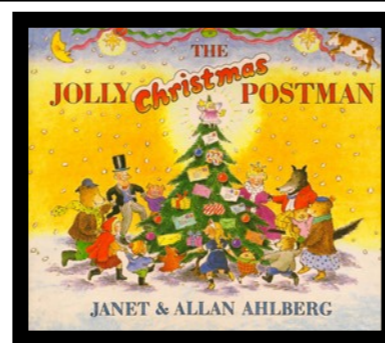
Take a traditional Christmas song and change the lyrics, using ideas from the children...example...

Jolly Post, Jolly Post, The Jolly Postman,

brings us letters, gifts and puzzles, before Christmas day, HEY!

(To the tune of Jingle Bells).

Planning Mind Map



Maths

Escape from the Forest game (comes as part of the book, for Red Riding Hood)

Blow up on photocopier to A3 and play as an actual game. Use dice, spotted (adding 2 groups) or have a numbered dice and a spotted to practise counting on.

Humpty Dumpty Puzzle (comes as part of the book, for Humpty Dumpty).

build the puzzle, leave a sand timer out and see if you can build it in a certain length of time. Maybe introduce a timer on an ipad to look at numerals.

Number recognition / sequencing: get some envelopes and draw some numerals on them. Make some post boxes and the children can post the matching envelopes to the correct 'doors'. Make the post boxes by cutting a section out of a piece of card, attach a plastic wallet to the back and they can 'post' through the cut out section. You can then empty out the plastic wallet at the end.

Delivery of wrapped 2D/3D shapes: pass around to feel and describe or put into a 'post bag' feel and guess what the shape is. Without unwrapping can they be sorted?

Literacy

Write a letter to SANTA!!

Write letters to the big man himself, go on a walk to the local post office (invite parents for the journey) and post your letters to Santa. Royal Mail have service where you post them a letter and you get a reply back!

Ask the children to bring in a stamp, addressed envelope if they would like a return letter. I always send one for the school and photocopy that version for the children who don't bring in an envelope.

Invite the parents to stay and have a Christmas decorating day.

Celebrate with hot chocolate and marshmallows.

Story Road: roll out some paper across the classroom floor, draw a road from one end to the other. Read the story and as you are reading, invite children to begin drawing the pictures to sign post important events during the story. Leave this out and they can walk along the road, pretending to be the Jolly Postman and retell the story.

Onset Rime envelopes: To help extend early segmenting and blending skills, make some onset rime envelopes. Cut the right side off an envelope. Make pieces of card that are slightly longer than the envelope. On the end that is sticking out of the right side, write an 'ending' such as '-at' '-in' '-ig'.

On each envelope, write a consonant letter such as 'c', 'b', 'p', 'd' etc

The children can insert the endings into the envelopes and blend and segment the words they make. They could then sort them into a 'bin bag' and a 'postal bag' depending on if they are real or nonsense words.

Jolly Postman Secret Answer Treasure Hunt!!

Inside each envelope are a series of pictures, what is the initial sound of each picture? Write each initial sound, segment and blend the word, where do you need to go next?

Story a day / count down to Christmas: Take some of your favourite books, wrap 10 books up and have a delivery from the Jolly Postman each day, inside is a story of the day, linked to one of the fairy tale characters that are in the Jolly Christmas Postman book.

Creative

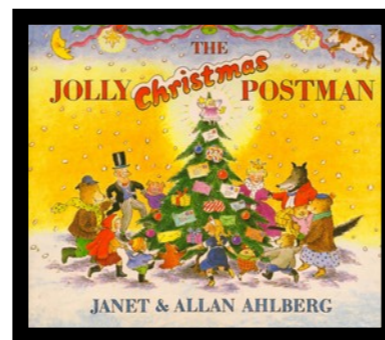
Design a new form of transport for the Jolly Christmas Postman (as the snow is too heavy for him to complete his job)

Invite parents in and have a modelling afternoon.

Google image a series of different Christmas style stamps:

sort, draw, paint their own.

Planning Mind Map



Other ideas:

Delivery of the 'Nativity Story': to help link the traditional story of Christmas, you could get a delivery of a nativity book from the Jolly Postman.

You could then plan some more activities around the story of the birth of Jesus. There are some maths resources in the Christmas section of my website.

Jolly Postman Christmas Show: you could use the book as a basis for putting on a Jolly Christmas Postman Christmas show! Use traditional Christmas songs.

Apps / technology:

Use a **Santa Cam app** (many on the app store) to film 'Santa' appearing in your classroom. You could create wellington footprints and leave a package for the children.

My Talking Pet: use this app and download a photo of the Jolly Postman. You can then use the app to 'animate' the postman talking to the children. They could write questions, orally tell you questions and he could pretend to be sending the children a video message, answering their questions. He could even set them some Christmas inspired challenges. I am going to create a couple of generic videos that I will upload to my website for you all to use.

Literacy

I spy / Words / caption / write a caption to picture / oral sentence building

Choose one of the many amazing scenes from the book, enlarge to A3 or take a photograph and upload it to your computer, to then show on the interactive white board.

Talk about the picture, what can you see? I spy something beginning with the sound..

Write words to label the picture, orally construct and write a caption.

This could form a series of phonics lessons across the week.

Guess who (communication and language)

Have a series of envelopes. A child can open the envelope and describe the character who is inside. We all have to guess which character is inside.

Jolly Postman Rhymes—written by Mr Mc ©

The Jolly Christmas Postman,

cycled on his bike,

posting cards and letters from morning until night.

He travelled to the North Pole to see what he could see,

He found Santa's workshop and elves as tall as his knee.

(To the tune of Incy Wincy Spider)

The Jolly Postman packs his bag, packs his bag, packs his bag, the
Jolly Postman packs his bag on a cold Christmas morning.

The Jolly Postman cycles his bike....to deliver cards and presents...

(then)

A postcard for the 3 little bears... Goldilocks is sorry..

A board game for red riding hood....to escape from the forest..

A puzzle for Humpty Dumpty, to put him back together...

A Christmas story for ginger.... the little gingerbread boy..

A guide for Mr Wolf....so he can't trick anybody..

The Jolly Postman cycles his bike... its time to see Santa..

Christmas letters for Santa...from all the girls and boys.

(To the tune of Here we go round the Mulberry Bush)