



Pal and the Surprise Party

The Story

In 'Pal and the Surprise Party', Puffin Pal helps his parents to organise a surprise party for his Auntie Pam, but he is so busy organising the party that he forgets to get a present for Auntie Pam. Pal is very sad, but when Auntie Pam tells him that his present (the party) was the best present of all, he learns that helping people and spending time with those you care about is more important than material objects like birthday presents.

This story is about valuing our community and the environment we live in, and that the rewards to be gained from helping people out are often of greater value than any material objects.

The Story and the Enterprise Eggs

This story is linked to four of the Enterprise Eggs:

 **Be Positive** - Pal is very upset when he doesn't fit in with everyone else (he thinks has no present to give), but Auntie Pam shows him that he has given her a gift by organising the party.

 **Have a Go** - Pal takes on an important responsibility on his own when he agrees to deliver the invitations to everyone on the island.

 **Nurture Nature** - Understanding the impact of our actions is an important element of this enterprise egg - Pal learns that he is able to create something valuable and special for Auntie Pam without using up material resources.

 **Work Together** - Valuing community and collaboration, and that everyone makes unique contributions is at the heart of this story. Puffin Pal makes his own contribution to the party, even though it's different to the gifts others bring.

Parent & Teacher Guide

Enterprise Eggs Activity Ideas

Party Time Why not organise a surprise party for someone special or a group of special people, but instead of giving gifts, get the kids to offer to help them out with something they need instead.

Rainy Days Making your own party invitations and bunting is fun, simple, and far nicer than buying them. Children can design individual invitations for each person and practice their creative and writing skills.

Get Outdoors Delivering invitations by hand is a great way to get out and about on foot or on a bicycle, and gets kids using maps and planning routes. Why not use an online mapping service like Google Maps to search for each location and work out the best route.

Vocabulary

Warren

Guillemot



Kittiwake

Fulmar



Razorbill



Manx Shearwater

Rabbit



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Curriculum-Based Activity Ideas

The activities below are linked to the Welsh Foundation Phase curriculum, but many will also be relevant to the Early Years Foundation Stage (England), the Early Years Framework (Scotland) and the Foundation Stage (Northern Ireland).

Personal and Social Development, Well-being and Cultural Diversity

Time to plan a party! Ask children to organise a party for a special person or group of people, or to celebrate a special day or event.

Invitations – What needs to go on an invitation? Make an invitation. Give the invitation to someone in the class.

Balloons – Introduce the science of balloons. Blow up a balloon – what happens? Why do balloons eventually go down?

Bunting – Make your own triangle for the bunting for a party.

Music – Choose some music for a party. What kind of music is party music?

Party Food – What sort of food do we have at parties? Can the children identify some healthy options? Make some party food in class/at home?

- Can you give a hug as a present? Who would you give a hug to and why?
- This story also offers an opportunity for those with access to a pet rabbits to talk about caring for pets.

Did you Know?

Seabirds nest together in large colonies because their chicks and the food they bring for them are safer when they work as part of a group. Some of the seabirds in 'Seabird City' (like Guillemots) live so close together that they have just a few centimetres of space in which to lay their egg!

Language, Literacy & Communication Skills

'P' sounds – Pam, Planning, Party, Surprise, Special. Practice saying and writing 'P'.

There are some complex seabird names in this story, practice pronouncing these:

- **Guillemot** – pronounced G-(as in goat)-ill-(as in bill)-ee-(as in bee)-mot-(as in pot)
- **Kittiwake** – pronounced Kitty-Wake
- **Fulmar** – pronounced Ful-(as in in full)-mar-(as in bar)
- **Manx** –The introduction of the '**Manx Shearwater**' gives an opportunity to practice saying the 'x' sound and writing the letter 'x'.

Mathematical Development

- Practice counting (e.g. on the 'Can you find Pal?' and the party scene pages) where children can count the puffins and other animals on the page.
- Set simple maths questions using the characters and items from the stories (e.g. addition and subtraction of numbers of birds who attend the party and the number of gifts they bring).
- What time does the party start? Show children how to draw/make their own clock using a paper plate and making the hands point to three o'clock.
- Give children a specific amount of 'money' to spend on materials for their party (e.g. paper plates, card for invitations) which they can buy from classroom resources that have been priced.

Physical Development

- Ask children to make up a dance for Auntie Pam and Puffin Pal to dance at the party.
- Plan party games and play them at the party.

Welsh Language Development

Welsh vocabulary:

Party / Parti, Birthday / Pen-blwydd,

Happy Birthday / Pen-blwydd Hapus.

Introduce basic time-telling in Welsh. E.g. The party starts at '**tri o'r gloch**'.



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Curriculum-Based Activity Ideas

Continued . . .

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

- The map can be used to introduce the compass points and basic map-reading techniques.
- What is an Island? Spot islands around the world using a globe. Locate Skomer Island using Google Earth and explore.
- Download blank copies of the Lucky Island Map from our web site for children to colour in and plot Puffin Pal's route around the island.
- Introduce children to new bird species – Guillemot, Kittiwake, Razorbill, Fulmar. Show a video of seabirds nesting on cliffs.
- This story introduces the Rabbits on Lucky Island – use this to talk about where Rabbits live and what they like to eat.
- Ask what kind of boat is in the background on the 'Can you find Pal?' page. Use this to introduce sea safety, lifeboats and the RNLI. Show a video of a lifeboat in action, draw a lifeboat and if you can, visit a lifeboat station.

Did you Know?

Seabirds live for a very long time. Most Puffins live for more than 20 years, and Manx Shearwaters can live for more than 50 years, migrating to South America every winter and returning again and again to the UK to exactly the same breeding area and the same partner.

Creative Development

Children can design their own party invitations and decorations.

What would you give Auntie Pam? Think of a gift you would give Auntie Pam and draw a picture. All the gifts can be placed in a basket for Auntie Pam.

Create a giant Lucky Island Map for the classroom/playroom wall using sugar paper, and ask the children to draw pictures of each of the creatures in the story.

As you read the story, follow Puffin Pal's route on the map, marking each stop and finally place the pictures of the creatures in the location of the surprise party.

More Questions to ask . . .

What other animals and birds can you find in the book? Can you name them?

Answers : Gannets, Seagulls (Lesser Black Backed, Greater Black Backed, Herring), Grey Seals, Harbour Porpoises, Common Dolphin, Basking Shark, Rabbit, Peacock Butterfly, Razorbill, Guillemot, Manx Shearwater, Fulmar, Kittiwake, Puffin, Owl.

What kinds of flowers can you see in the book? Can you find out what they are called?

Answers: Red Campion and Bluebell.

Search for facts and videos about seabirds and their nesting sites online. Can you answer these questions?

What shape are Guillemot eggs?

Answer: They have a pointy end to stop them from rolling off cliffs.

What colour is a Razorbill's tongue?

Answer: Yellow

Find out more:

Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales - Test your map reading skills by visiting Skomer Island and following the Mystery Trail and the Discovery Trail – special family trails featuring the Island Friends characters. www.welshwildlife.org

RSPB - Take a trip to the spectacular Gannet Colony on Grassholm and see thousands of other seabirds on Ramsey Island. www.rspb.org.uk

Scottish Seabird Centre - Visit the closely-packed Scottish seabird colonies during spring and early summer. www.seabird.org

National Trust - Take a boat ride around the Farne Islands for great views of thousands of breeding seabirds. www.nationaltrust.org