



Learning with Roald Dahl

BIRTHDAY BUDDIES

This activity for a new school year helps a new class to get to know each other, gives children a link with a buddy through the school year and supports PSHE and numeracy at Foundation Stage.

YOU WILL NEED: a wall-chart-style calendar showing the whole school year, or you can use a monthly calendar in print or on a whiteboard and display a month at a time.

- First, put the children into pairs or groups of three with 'buddies' whom they don't already know well. If you choose groups of three, each child will have two buddies. Explain that most of us don't know everyone in the room very well and we're going to spend some time finding out about each other. Brainstorm about questions we might ask a new friend whom we didn't know: pets, favourite foods, football teams and so on.
- Give the children two minutes each to find out when their buddy's birthday is, plus another interesting fact about them. If you are working with groups of three, this will take twelve minutes. Use a timer and tell the children when to change over.
- Each child then introduces their buddy (or one of their buddies) to the class, tells the class what they have found out and adds the buddy's birthday to the calendar.
- Explain that it's Roald Dahl's birthday soon (on 13 September), add his birthday to the calendar and discuss what you're going to do to celebrate.
- If a new child joins the class during the year, give them a buddy who introduces them to the class and adds their birthday to the calendar.

For the rest of the school year, the buddies remind the class to sing 'Happy Birthday' on their partner's birthday. To help this along, ask a pupil to check for birthdays once a week, or check yourself. Appoint a pupil as Roald Dahl's buddy who will remind the class to sing 'Happy Birthday' on 13 September.

EXTENSION: BIRTHDAY CHART

Find out how many birthdays fall in each month by asking the children to get into groups according to their birthday month. Work out which months have the most and the fewest birthdays. Make a bar chart or pie chart with the information and write the children's names in the relevant spaces.

For more Roald Dahl fun go to roalddahl.com

