



Encounter Craft – Christmas This week – Baby Jesus and Hope for the New Year

Christmas Day celebrates the birth of Jesus. These sweet crafts show how to create a baby Jesus in a manger

Star Ornament



This is made with a yellow cardboard star. Paint the bottom half with light brown paint and add on straw – or, if you do not have any, cut little strips of brown paper and stick them on randomly. Baby Jesus is made with a little piece of paper for his head and two strips of white paper to make the swaddling he is wrapped in. Finally, spots of glitter pen make little sparkles and a bent pipe cleaner stuck on at the back gives you something to hang this up with.

Paper Plate Manger

Paint a paper dish brown and cut up strips of yellow paper to create lots of straw. Take an empty kitchen roll and cover it in white paper. Create a little face on a piece of paper, cut it out and stick it onto the roll. You could also draw lines on the baby to show the swaddling.





Handprint Manger



Paint your hand with brown paint and press down onto a piece of card. Turn your handprint upside down and paint yellow straw with outward strokes from the middle of the palm. Then cut out a baby Jesus from paper and stick it on top of the straw. Lovely!



Mary and Jesus

Take a sheet of blue paper and fold it accordion-style, back and forth. Do the same with a smaller piece of white paper. Then take the folded sheets and bend them each in half, tying them in the middle with a piece of wool. Draw two different-sized faces onto circles of paper and cut them out to make the faces. It is helpful if you have a tab on the circles to stick them into place with. Stick the baby Jesus on top of the figure of Mary so she is holding him. You could then add a loop of wool to hang them up with.



Between Christmas and New Year it's great to look ahead and think of things that make us feel **happy** and **positive** about 2021. Here are some craft ideas you could make to show this!

Ribbon Tree



You can make a fresh new decoration for the New Year by adding colour to wintry branches! The bright colours could represent hope for a good 2021. Find a small branch, or even twigs, and make sure it is all clean. Then collect together any lengths of coloured wool, string or ribbon that you can find. You could even use strips of pretty fabric. Wind them around the branches, fixing them securely at each end. The more colours and patterns you use, the prettier and jollier your "tree" will look!

Sparkling fireworks start the New Year with a bang! You can make your own confetti to use here with a hole punch. Make as many different colours as you can. Then draw the shape of the exploding fireworks onto black paper with glue and stick the confetti on to create the pretty shapes against a night sky.

Confetti Fireworks





Wishing Wall

Make a poster or board that you can put up in the week between Christmas and New Year. All you need is a large sheet of paper or card and to make yourself a lovely title in bright colours. You could use paint, crayons or felt pens – it really doesn't matter what you choose.

The most important things about this is what you think about. The idea is to have a pile of sticky notes nearby and a pen. Then you and other members of your family think of things that you want to wish for in 2021. It could be personal things for your family and friends, or it could be wishes for the world – especially as we continue to live with Coronavirus and want to look forward to easier times for everybody.

Whenever any of you think of something, you can write it on the sticky note and add it to the board. What it looks like is up to you, but remember that it is not the most important thing with this. Good thoughts and wishes can make you feel positive about the year to come!



**HAVE FUN and
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

