

Collective Worship



Cheeky Pandas®

Collective Worship

Christmas

What you will need

- Christmas tree decorations and two Christmas gift bags
- A large wrapped present with straw and a small cardboard box inside
- A Bible
- A way of showing the Cheeky Pandas video

How it works

The following are suggestions of what you might wish to include in this Collective Worship time. Please adapt and change it to ensure it is appropriate for your context. It incorporates a Cheeky Pandas video for you to use. There is the option of a reflection or prayer activity depending on your setting.



Welcome

Greet the group in the way you usually would in your setting, e.g. 'Good morning everyone! Let's find out what we are thinking about today.'

Today we're going to be thinking about **Christmas**! Christmas is such a busy time. There is lots to get ready. Let's play a Christmassy game which is all about Christmas prep.

Game: Invite 4 volunteers to come up to the front and put them into pairs. Ask for one of each team to be a Christmas tree with their arms spread out. Give the other person in each pair a Christmas sack full of decorations like tinsel, baubles with large ribbon loops and a star on a head band. Tell the teams they have 1 minute to decorate the 'Christmas Tree' and encourage half the children to cheer for one team and the other half to cheer for the other team. After the minute is up, celebrate both teams' efforts and take off the decorations from the 'Christmas trees'.

It might take a bit of time to calm the children down after this excitement. You could do this with a countdown or by copying some simple actions – however the school normally does this.

Say: 'Well done everyone! I wonder:

- What's your favourite part about getting ready for Christmas?
- Share your answer with the person next to you.'

Today's Theme

Today we're thinking about the Christian celebration of Christmas.

A question for you: What present would you most like to unwrap on Christmas morning?

Think/Pair/Share: Take a moment to think about this and then share it with the person next to you. Show the children the large Christmas wrapped gift box.

Say: This present was delivered to me today and I was so excited I thought I'd open it up with you all. I wonder what you think is inside? (take some answers).

Let's open it up and have a look. This is a bit strange there just seems to be lots of straw and a smaller cardboard box? I wonder what that means? That's a very strange present to send to someone. Definitely not my best present, that was a... (tell the children the best present you've been given).

Today we're thinking about the best present ever, but I don't think it came wrapped in Christmas wrapping paper.

The Cheeky Pandas present...

[Show the Cheeky Pandas video clip: The Best Present Ever. This video is available at www.thykingdomcome.global/cheekypandas and www.cheekypandas.com]

(The 3 follow-up questions could be discussed in the assembly or in classrooms after the assembly as a follow-up to collective worship.)

Watch the animation.

Synopsis: We join the pandas getting ready for Christmas in the treehouse. They are all busy preparing food, decorating the tree and waiting for snow. During the episode they learn that the best present of all is Jesus, God's son being born, and that that should be the most important part of Christmas.

Questions about the clip:

- Which panda do you think you're most like?
- What matters most to you at Christmas?
- How can we remember and celebrate the Christian celebration of Christmas this year?

Let's Reflect

Say: Let's reflect on what we've watched. (Bring out the small cardboard box and the straw)

This reminds me of the feeding trough that the Pandas were sent in the pandaroo delivery. The trough would have been where the animals ate from. It was a very strange place to put a baby, but that was where Jesus was placed on that first Christmas. It was an even stranger place to put a very important baby. I wonder why he was born in a stable?

Christians believe that Jesus is the most important person ever, God's only son, and the best present we could ever be given. That's why Christians celebrate Christmas. Jesus, coming as a baby, knew what it was like to be like us. And he brought with him love, peace, and hope, things we all need.

I wonder which of these three things (love, peace and hope) would you like to get or to give to other people this Christmas time?

When you get back to your classrooms, you could write down any ideas you have.

Let's Pray

**In the Bible, it tells us that God sent Jesus because He loves us so much
"For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son. God gave his
Son so that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but have eternal life."
John 3:16 (ICB)**

**Christians believe that God sending Jesus was part of God's big plan for
the world. Jesus would know what it's like to be human, like us and would
make a way for us to be friends with God again. That's an
amazing present.**

Let's pray about that now:

Dear God,

**Thank you that you love us so much you sent your son, Jesus, to
earth as the best present ever, to give us love, peace and hope.**

**Thank you that this is what really matters at Christmas. Help
us to remember Jesus in the middle of our celebrations.**

Amen

**Thank you for taking part in
the collective worship.**

**Whatever your Christmas looks
like this year, I pray it will be
full of love, peace and hope.**

