



EASTER HOLD YOUR OWN CELEBRATION

Knowledge and understanding of the world

Early Learning Goal

Begin to know about their own cultures and beliefs and those of other people.

Group Size

Small groups.

A BUN PARTY!

What you need

Ingredients to make hot cross buns (see below); hand-washing facilities; clean aprons; butter; two bowls; sieve; teaspoon; tablespoon; baking tray; wire cooling rack; chopping board; blunt knives; plastic plates; colourful paper; felt-tipped pens; table cloths; paper napkins.

Ingredients: 225g plain flour; 25g sugar; 12g fresh yeast (or half a tbsp of dried yeast); 75ml milk; 2 tbsp of warm water; half a tsp of salt; 1 tsp of mixed spice; 50g currants; 25g butter; half a beaten egg.

Preparation

Check for food allergies and dietary requirements. Provide the children with colourful paper and pens, and help them to write or draw a simple 'bun party' invitation to give to a favourite teddy or toy.

What to do

- On the day of the party, invite the children to wash their hands and to put on clean aprons.
- Make some mini hot cross buns using the following recipe:
 - Sift 50g of flour into a bowl and add half a tsp of sugar.
 - Blend the yeast with milk and water. Add to the flour and sugar.
 - Mix well and leave for about 30 minutes or until frothy.
 - Meanwhile, sift the remaining flour, salt and spice in another bowl. Add the sugar, currants, butter and half a beaten egg. Mix to a soft dough with the frothy yeast mixture.
 - Knead the dough on a floured chopping board for about five minutes.

- Cover and leave to rise until it has doubled in size.
- Knead once more on a floured board and divide into twelve pieces.
- Place well apart on a buttered baking tray and leave to rise once more for about 30 minutes.
- Cut a cross in the top of each bun and bake for about 20 minutes at 220°C/425°F/Gas Mark 7.
- Place on a wire cooling rack.
- When cool, help the children to spread butter on to the buns. Alternatively, use shop-bought buns.
- Ask the children to help decorate the room by placing table cloths, plastic plates and paper napkins on the tables, and seating toys or teddies on spare chairs.
- Hold your own celebration by sharing and eating the hot cross buns with the children.



Support and Extension

Help younger children to wash their hands properly before handling food. Encourage older children to make Easter place mats or name cards for the party.

Further Ideas

- Help the children to make and wear bunny ears for an Easter bunny picnic.
- Find out about the celebrations associated with other spring festivals such as Hanamatsuri, Baisakhi, Passover and Holi.