

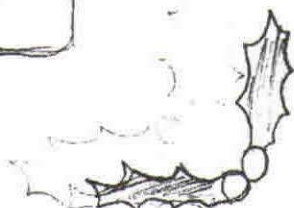
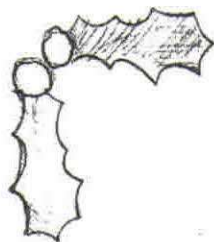


Children's pages number 185 December 2008
Edited by Laura Healy
Editor for the next issue of the children's pages is Emma Stevens

*Contributions must be received by the 20th December for the February 2009 issue.
Send your items for printing and requests for pen-pals using the back page form to the Children's
Pages Co-ordinator (see contact details on following page)*

Do you want to edit the children's pages? If so contact the children's pages co-ordinator by email on: eochildrenspages@education-otherwise.org or write to: Education Otherwise, Children's Pages, PO Box 325, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE34 3XW. Tel: 08445 868917

Notes for contributors – any contributions should only be made **using black pen on white paper**. Please note that all contributions must have the full name of the child or family and address. Membership number if possible to also be included. The next issue you are submitting for is February 2009.



Hello Everyone,

Welcome to the December issue of the Children's Pages! My name's Laura, I am 16 (in 3 days!) and live near Loughborough in Leicestershire with my parents, two younger sisters, little brother and our small 'zoo' of animals! There is Monty the Labrador who is gorgeous but rather smelly! Rubix the kitten who likes to sleep in my bed, Lynn my sisters fish (who Rubix aspires to eat for lunch ☺), Sam the stick insect and Sid the giant African land snail!

I'm interested in making my own cards through teabag folding, stamp embossing techniques and photography, also cultural history and art.

At the minute I have been busy with the Young Peoples Board I am a member of, for nation organisation Calfass. I do presentations, attend national conferences and help run workshops for new practitioners. At the minute there seems to be lots of meetings in London so it feels like I am always on the train ☺. I am also busy studying for some more GCSE's I am taking in the summer at a local college.

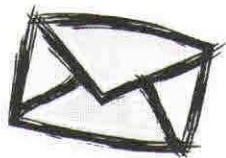
This children's pages has the theme of festivals, as December is an important month for lots of people in their religious calendars. There's Hanukkah, Christmas, Eid al- Adha and Winter solstice this month so lots going on!

This is my first time editing the children's pages – so I hope you enjoy it!

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas, Hanukkah, Eid, Winter solstice and a very Happy New Year! ☺

Laura xx ☺

The drawing above was done by Lois Rae Robinson, it's fantastic Lois, thank you!



Pen Pals



My name is Issy, aged 11. I love animals and I have a dog, cat and gold fish. I love to read, mainly Warrior Cats books (they are the best) and I also like to draw, animation and write stories and short scripts and I love Pokemon. I have just started to be home educated, so I am looking for some new friends! Ref A016



Hello my name is Aaliyah I am 6 years old, I would love to have a penpal girl or boy around my age , I like cycling, going camping, I have a kitten and fish. I Love Peppa Pig, Max and Ruby, computer games and Baking cakes. Please write soon, bye for now. Ref A015



Hi. My name is Laura and I am 13. I have been home educated since September 2008. I like art and music (but not the lesson)! I luurv punk rock music like...'Mindless Self Indulgence' and 'My Chemical Romance'! I have 6 guinea pigs and one cat! I like MSN, Bebo and Facebook. I am looking for pen-pals age 12-14! :D Ref A013



Hi! My name is Charlotte and I am 12 years old. I love all animals and have a horse, 2 rabbits and a guinea pig. I play violin, saxophone, piano, and tennis, do ice skating and like playing computer and Xbox games. My favourite TV programmes are Heroes, Dr Who, Primeval and Reaper. I would love to hear from anyone, any age/gender, who wants to be my pen-pal and I am really good at sending letters back! Ref A012



Hey! My name is Shaun, I'm a sixteen year old girl. I've been home ed for five years. I have seven sisters, they are also home ed. I have lots and lots of pets!! I like to listen to music. My favourite bands are Green Day, My Chemical Romance, Avenged Sevenfold, Fallout Boy, Slipknot and many many more. I can play guitar, acoustic and electric. I also like to read. At the moment I like to read books by Nancy Holder, Chistopher Golden and Jack Higgins. I also like to watch Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Angel. I would like a pen-pal with similar interests aged fourteen plus. Ref A011



Hello my name is Isobel, I am age 6. The things I enjoy are swimming, reading Famous Five, clothes and dressing up, gymnastics and riding my bike. I would like a pen-pal age 5-9. Ref A010



Hello my name is Martha. I am 11 in December. I love climbing trees, playing on the trampoline, playing on my Nintendo DS and I love cooking. I would like someone who likes similar things to me. I would also like someone the same age as me (about). Bye for now. P.S: I also love playing with animals and babies. Ref A009



Hi my name is Leilani, I'm 12 (13 in January) and I'm looking for pen friends aged 10+. My hobbies are music, nature, animals and loads more! I like all types of music. I own loads of fish, 2 birds and a Lhasa Apso puppy. I also have Bebo but not MSN. So I can't wait to hear from you. Enjoy your Christmas! Ref A007



Hi my name is Catherine and I am 8 years old. I like boys clothes and shoes and I don't like pink. I like animals and I have a pet cat called Blu and I want a rat. My favourite sports are swimming and cycling. I love nature and enjoy going out for walks and collecting things like feathers, a heron's egg or a crab's shell. I am most interested in birds and my favourite one is the Peregrine. I want a pen-pal 8 to 9 years old and any gender. Goodbye. Ref A006



My name is George, I am a boy. I am four. I love getting letters. My mum can help me read and write. I love Bob the Builder, Thomas the Tank Engine, playing in the park, getting muddy and climbing trees. I like scootering down big hills. Please write to me. Ref A005



Hello, my name is Justice Harbach. I am 6 years old. I like Hannah Montana and High School Musical, dancing, singing, my laptop and ballet. I have a dog called Trooper. I would like some pen friends about the same age as me. Please write back! PS: I also like making cakes and putting flowers in my garden. Thankyou x Justice x. PPS: I have only just started to be home educated so I'm new to this. ☺ But I'm liking it already. I have a big sister who is already home-schooled. Ref A004



My name is Alfie. I am 5 years old. I enjoy reading and love using numbers. I really enjoy playing DS games and using the PC. I would like a pen-pal boy or girl who is between 5-9 years old. Ref A003



Hello. I'm a 9 year old boy. My name is Finley (Fin for short). My interests are football, gymnastics, swimming, Lego, Bionicle, nature, drawing, riding my bike, canoeing or kayaking and remote control cars. I would like someone who is about 7-11 with similar interests. Ref A002



Hi! My name is Michelle and I am 7. I like ballet, gymnastics, computer games, reading, dressing up, the TV programme "Drake and Josh" (because it's very funny!), music and singing. I love playing Barbie games and making things. I hate to have colds because I can't go out then, and I love outdoors! I have 2 pet cats and I soon will have 2 bunnies, I am very excited! I will be happy to write to anyone who writes to me! Ref A001



Hi. I'm Magadalen (girl, by the way). I'm nine years old. I have three brothers. Peter (7), Joe (11) and Gabriel (4). I like singing, writing poems and stories, street and disco dancing and playing my fiddle. I have lots of friends and I am very good at making friends. I like rock, pop and folk music. I would like a pen pal aged 7-12, boys or girls. ps. I love cats, especially tigers. I have 2 (domestic cats by the way) Ref A020



Hi my name is Beverley. I am 10, I love the sims2 & cooking, singing, dancing & playing on the wii, my fashion is gothic. I have 2 huskies. I would like a pen pal of any age. Ref A018



Pet Pals

Hello my name is Wilfy. I'm five years old. I love chasing most things, my favourite things to chase are rats, mice, bees and spiders. I also like to escape and play with the neighbours. I am quite a lot of breeds of dogs. My best friend is Jamie Manning, he is a collie. Bye bye, hope to hear from you soon. Ref A008



Hi, I'm Wilton. I am a cool German Shepherd Dog. I like running on the beach and trying to drink the sea! I have very poor eyesight and stalk handbags, wheelie bins and buggies. Actually I'm not that cool. Please write to me and my nine year old pet person (Unless you are a cat!) Ref A017



Hello. I am a guinea-pig and I'm called Surprise, because I was born very unexpectedly! I am one year old with gold fur. My fur goes up into a point so it looks like I have a mohican. I have cataracts in both eyes...this means I'm blind in both eyes so I cannot see! I need a friend...please write to me..! Thank you! xXx Ref A014



Hi my name is Beau beau. I am a husky. I would like a pet pal. Ref A019



While the Children's Pages editor and NL co-ordinator take care to verify that all pet/pen-pal correspondents are EO members, they are not vetted in anyway and it is the responsibility of parents to oversee any replies your children send or receive. Children are reminded that they should consider the feelings of others when writing or responding to letters.

Poems, songs and stories for the winter



Christmas Pudding (sang to the tune of Frero Jacque)

Christmas pudding, christmass pudding,
Steaming hot, steaming hot
Sprinkle on the sugar, sprinkle on the sugar,
Eat the lot, eat the lot!!

A Special Trip by George Osgerby, age 12.

This year I will be going again with my dad and granddad on his boat. Every year we have a very special job to do. We collect Father Christmas from 'The North Pole'! And bring him to Scarborough, North Yorks on the boat. Once he gets off the boat he goes to the grotto in Boyes (a shop in Scarborough). Hundreds of people wait at the seafront as we come into the harbour with our special passenger. We ring bells and wave at the crowds.

It's good fun but usually very cold. This year we're collecting Father Christmas on November 14th. I think he will be arriving in the afternoon this year because of the tides. I am looking forwards to it. To me, once I've helped my granddad with this job it means Christmas is on its way!

The Sea by Rebecca Keane, age 13.

The sea is like white horses galloping towards the beach;
An ice witch's fingers groping for the pebbles she is trying to reach;
It's like a frothy monster, attacking the sand;
A blanket of water, attempting to encase the land;
Like a volley of snowballs crashing against the cliffs;
Or a polar bear stealing sand with a flick of the wrist;
A tumbling, plummeting avalanche, storming towards the shore;
Before suddenly drawing back, preparing to strike once more.

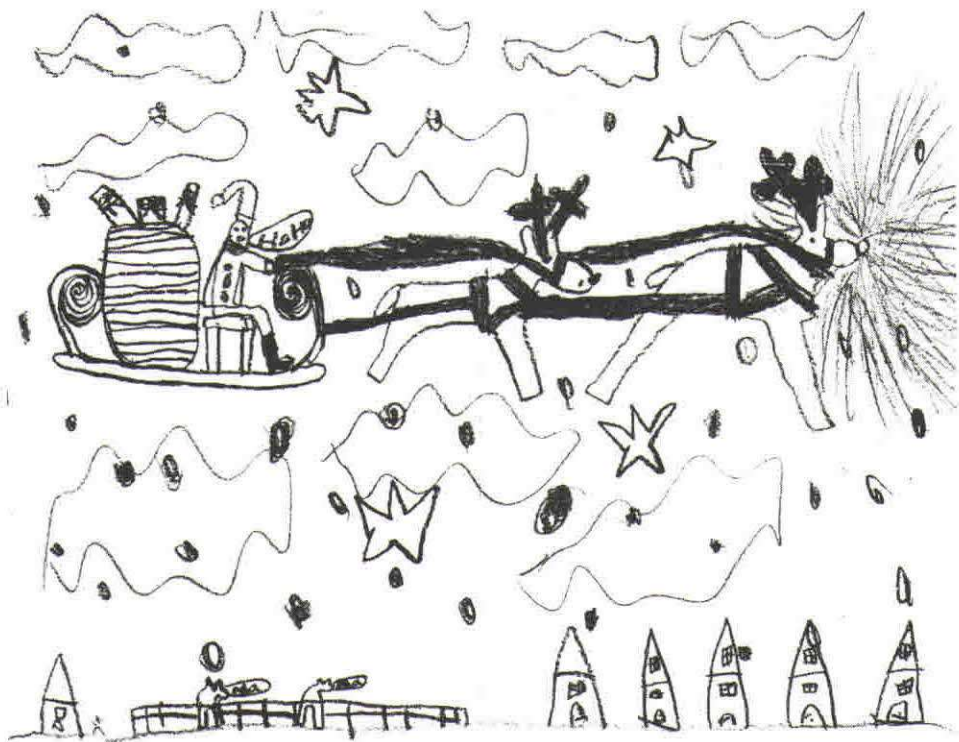
Winter Berries

Four winter berries left on a tree,
Yummy said the blackbird 'Those are for me'
He ate number one, two and three and then number four
When he flew away
The berries were no more

The Art Gallery

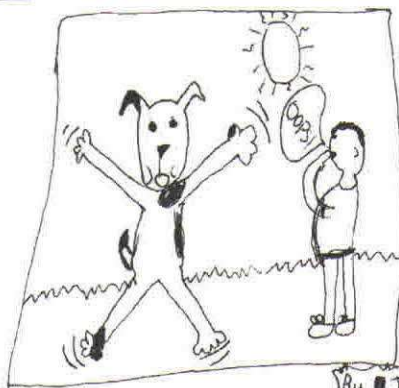
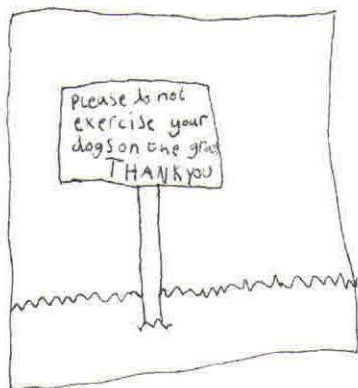


Thanks you to
George Osgerby
for the symbols of
Christmas picture

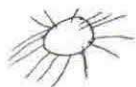


Thank you to Isabelle Summers for her picture of Santa's sleigh and to Jodie Norvell for her dog picture.

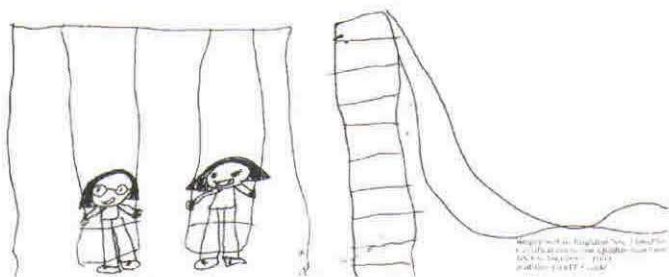
Exercising your dog



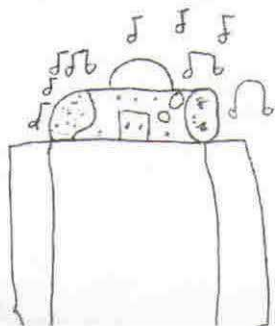
By Jodie Norvell

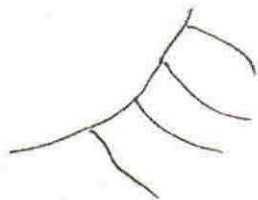


by Kirsty

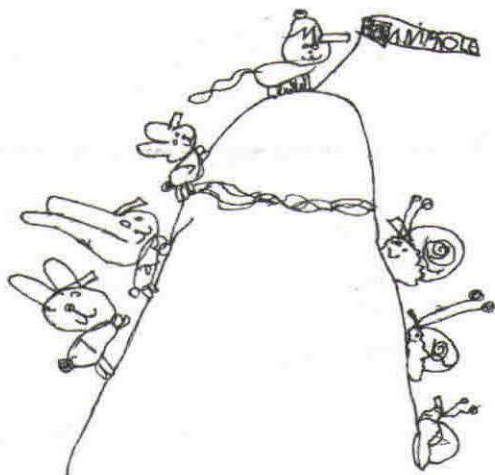


Thank you to Kirsty Gibbs for her drawing of children on swings and Lucy Gibbs for her disco girl drawing.





MICHELLE.7



Thank you to Michelle Minjahr for the animals on the hill picture. All the artwork is great.

What's Cooking.?



With so many celebrations going on in December there is lots of yummy food being prepared. These recipes, from around the world, make special food that are eaten mainly at the time of the celebration.

During Eid al- Adha people eat spicy meaty things - meatballs, curries and flat breads are all popular dishes. In the street people sell sweet meats and fruits which are particularly enjoyed by children. Adults give sweets to children, sometimes in hand decorated boxes or bags.

Eid sweet recipe:

You will need: 8oz. Icing sugar, 5 tablespoons condensed milk, a few drops of flavouring (like peppermint, vanilla, coconut) and a few drops of food colouring of your choice.

Mix together all of the ingredients until it forms a stiff dough – then rip off small sections and roll into small balls. You group decorate the sweets with grated chocolate or dried fruit.

During Christmas time people eat sweet foods such as iced fruit cake, baked apples and mince pies. Traditionally on Christmas day families eat big lunches of turkey, Yorkshire puddings, potatoes and vegetables. Nowadays people eat a wide variety of things for Christmas lunch – like nut road and salmon.

Christmas truffle recipe:

You will need: 200g cooking chocolate, 4 cupcakes, 50g chopped nuts, coco powder.

Melt the chocolate over a low heat, take off the hob and add in the cupcakes (crumbled) and nuts. Mix together and then put into the fridge to cool for about 30mins. Once the mixture is cool separate it up into small balls and dust each one in coco powder.



At Hanukkah people sometimes eat things that have been fried in oil – like pancakes and donuts. This is to remember the miracle of oil lasting 8 days in the temple.

Hanukkah Rugelach recipe:

You will need: 250g flour, 225g butter, 80g sour cream, 200g cream cheese, 100g white sugar, 100g nuts, 70g raisins, 1 tsp ground cinnamon.

Mix together the butter and cream cheese until soft. Then add in the flour and sour cream and combine together. Shape the crumbly mixture into 4 equal size discs and leave them in a fridge for at least 2 hours. When the mixture is cool mix together the sugar, nuts, raisins and cinnamon into a separate bowl.

Take the discs out of the fridge and sprinkle the nut and sugar mixture all over them. Cut each disk into equal wedges and roll them into cone shapes. Bake the Rugelach cones for 20mins at 180c/350f.

Giggle Corner!!!



Why are Christmas trees like bad knitters?

They both drop their needles!

What beats his chest and swings from Christmas cake to Christmas cake?

Tarzipan!

What do monkeys sing at Christmas?

Jungle Bells, Jungle Bells...!

What do you get if you cross an apple with a Christmas tree?

A pineapple!

Where do snowmen go to dance?

Snow balls!



Puzzle Corner

Unscramble the jumbled Christmas words:



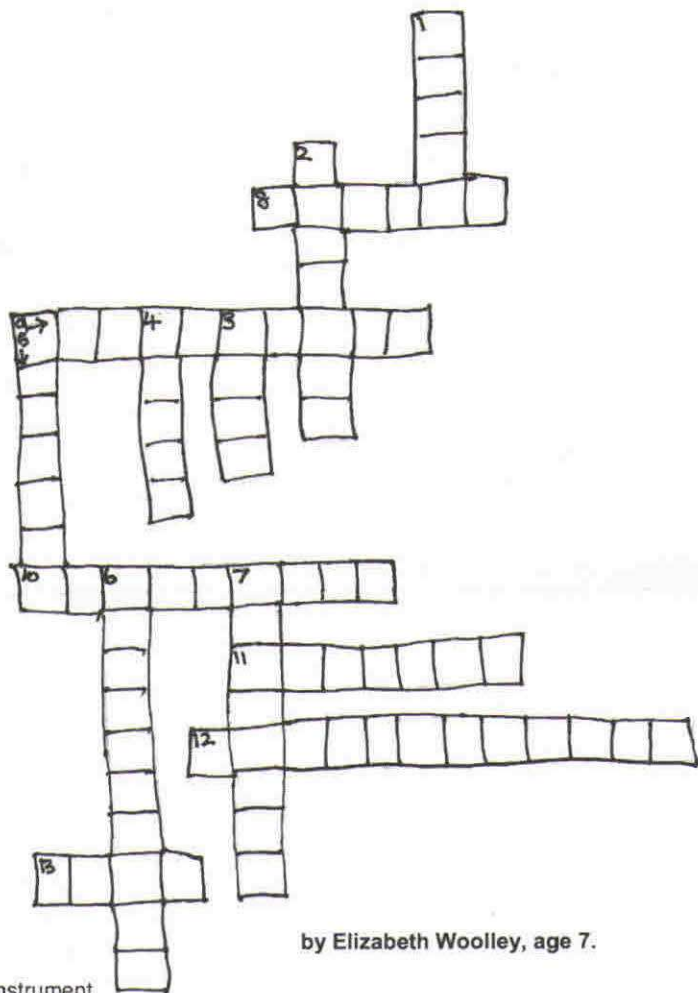
bbaeul.....

sawokinfe.....

snnmwao.....

llhyo.....

Puzzle Page!



HSM Crossword

by Elizabeth Woolley, age 7.

- 1) Kelsey's musical instrument
- 2) Ryan is good at this but Chad thinks he can't do it
- 3) Sharpay is his sister
- 4) You can dance to this
- 5) You can use a microphone to do this
- 6) Troy and Chad play this
- 7) Troy and Gabriella go to this school
- 8) She wants Gabriella to join the scholastic team
- 9) What time is it?
- 10) She is the main character
- 11) She wants to wakka wakka nikki nikki poo poo poo!!
- 12) They have bit fluffy pompoms
- 13) He doesn't dance!

Crafty Ideas!

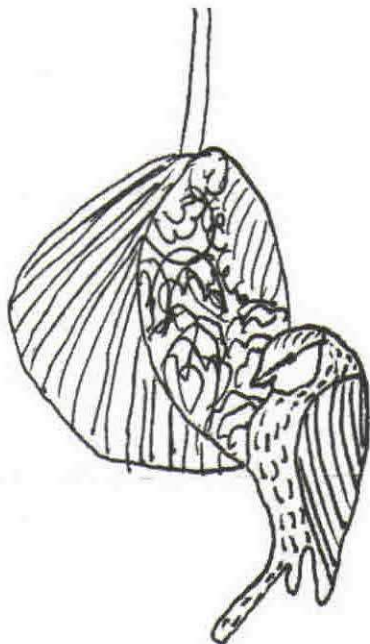
Have a go at making one of these crafty creations for winter – you could even give them as presents to your friends and family.

Feed the birds...

This bird feeder idea and drawing was sent in by Catherine Healy (10).

You will need: chopped nuts (not salted or roasted), seeds, bread, cheese, bacon scraps, lard, a shell of a coconut and string.

Get somebody to help you melt the lard over a low heat, once it is runny add in all the nuts and scraps. Take the mixture off the heat and mix it all together, pour into the coconut shell halves and leave it to set in the fridge. Once hard make two holes through the coconut shell and thread through a piece of string. Now your bird feeder is ready to hang up in a tree – away from other animals.



Hanukkah Mobile

Make this star of David mobile especially for Hanukkah.

You will need: lollypop sticks (6 per star), paint, glue, glitter, sequins, dowel and string.

Construct your star by making two triangles out of lollypop sticks, then glue the triangles together to form a star. Paint the star and decorate it with glitter and sequins. You can make as many stars as you like. When they are dry hang them up using string and attach them to a piece of dowel. Hang your finished mobile up in a window so the glitter sparkles in the light!

Pine Cone Christmas Trees

You could use this mini Christmas tree as a table decoration.

You will need: a large pine cone, cotton wool balls, glitter, glue, and scraps of fabric.

Glue cotton wool balls onto the base of the pine cone until it can stand up. Then glue small dots onto the pine cone and cover with glitter. Once it is dry use the scraps of fabric to make baubles, tinsel and an angel for the top!

Did you know...



Actress Vanessa Hudgens who plays Gabrielle in High School Musical was home educated by her mum.

The record for the most people in a mini car is 22!!

The tallest living horse in the world is Radar – who is a massive 202cm high!!

The record for the fastest time drinking 2 pints of milk is 3.2 seconds!!!

The sentence "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog." uses every letter in the alphabet!!

The sloth moves so slowly that green algae can grow undisturbed on its fur!



Talking Wall

There is a children's forum on the EO website. For the children of EO members to chat and make friends. To join, email childrenforum@education-otherwise.org for more information and sign up details.

Try this – How many times can you fold a piece of paper in half? The official record is 7, though I can't fold it in half more than 5 times! ☺

**CHILDLINE 0800 1111 –
KIDSCAPE 020 77303300 (London) or 01273 557133 (Brighton)**

Pen-Pals Form

If you would like to contact a pal from this issue of the Children's Pages (Issue 185) or would like to request that an advert, article or other item be included in the next issue, please complete the form below.

My name is _____

Could you please:

- Send me the details for pal numbers: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ / _____
- Put my attached advert for a pal in the next issue. *(Delete whichever doesn't apply).

EO Family Membership No: _____ Today's Date: _____ / _____ / 2008

Address: _____

_____ Postcode _____

Parent / Guardian's name (please print) _____

Parent's Email Address _____

I give permission for my child/ren named above to advertise for a pen-pal or reply to an advert in EO's Children's Pages. I understand that once contact details have been given out by EO, the responsibility for contact with the other family and how and when this happens is mine.

Signature _____

Please either post this slip, with an sae to:

EO Children's Pages, PO Box 325, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE34 3XW

or

ask your parent / guardian to send an email to eochildrenspages@education-otherwise.org from their personal email account with all the details on the form above. Please ensure the permission statement above is copied in full, followed by their full name.

Please note that the email address used to send this request must be listed on the membership database which will show the email address you listed on your new member or renewal form. If you have changed your email address since then, or want to register your email address, please contact the Database Administrator before sending off this form. Her email address is: database@education-otherwise.org.

Your child's home and or e-mail address will NOT be printed in any future issues. Each pal will have a reference number for members to respond to via the Children's Pages Co-ordinator.

YOUR child's safety is OUR Priority!