



Make cupcakes with chocolate 'mud' on top

For the cupcake:

- ☆ 40g unsalted butter
- ☆ 150g caster sugar
- ☆ 100g plain flour
- ☆ 20g cocoa powder
- ☆ 1½ tsp of baking powder
- ☆ Pinch of salt
- ☆ 120ml milk

- ☆ 1 egg
- ☆ ¼ tsp of vanilla extract

For the chocolate mud:

- ☆ 100g unsalted butter
- ☆ 100g icing sugar, sifted
- ☆ ½ tsp of vanilla extract
- ☆ 2 tbsp of cocoa powder

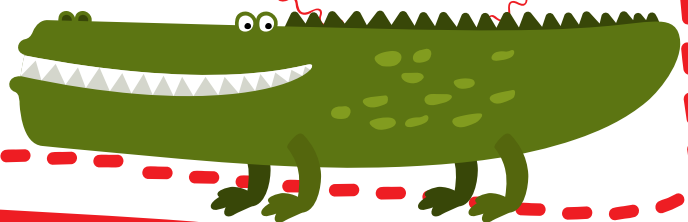
1. Preheat the oven to 170 degrees C/ 325 degrees F/gas mark 3.
2. When the butter is at room temperature, chop it into small cubes and cream it in a large bowl with the sugar together in a large bowl until smooth.
3. Then add the flour, cocoa, baking powder and salt and mix well.
4. Whisk milk, egg and vanilla in a jug and slowly pour into the bowl while mixing. Line a cupcake tin with 12 paper cases. Fill each case with the mixture and bake in the oven for 20 minutes.
5. For the buttercream icing, beat the butter, icing sugar, vanilla extract and cocoa powder together in a separate bowl. Once your cupcakes have cooled, spread the icing onto them.

We would love to see your cupcakes!

Please send photos to
booktime@booktrust.org.uk
or tweet @Booktrust
using #booktime.

TOP TIP!

You could also try making little crocodiles out of fondant icing to mooch in the chocolate mud!





Open Very Carefully is the snappy new Booktime book for 2015

This book will be gifted to 700,000 reception-aged children in England.

As September looms, lots of parents will be subtly preparing their child (and themselves!) for starting school.

This moment can often be filled with mixed emotions, but help is at hand from reading charity Book Trust www.booktrust.org.uk, which is giving all reception-aged children in England a brand-new, free picture book to encourage all families to read at home with their children every day.

The Booktime book pack, which also includes reading tips for parents and carers and fun activities for children, helps to cross the bridge between home and school, and will be given out via schools during the Autumn term.

This year's book is Nicola O'Byrne's *Open Very Carefully*. The Nosy Crow title, offers children a fun, interactive experience about a grumpy crocodile who has found himself in the wrong book. He proceeds to eat his way out as he tries to escape a storybook that is all wrong for him but hilarious fun for the reader.

Diana Gerald, Chief Executive of Book Trust, says: 'The Booktime programme is a fantastic way to support reading in the home. Starting the reading journey at home will make transitioning to school easier and will also ensure that children love words, stories and books, which is incredibly important as they start to learn more formally. Best of all, reading together helps to build a strong and loving relationship with your child.'

Look out for lots of supporting resources and games for parents, children, teachers and librarians on the Booktime website, including your fun cupcake recipe! Visit www.booktime.org.uk

