

Gosforth East Middle School News



Autumn Term 2

2025



Welcome to our Autumn Term 2 Newsletter! Brought to you by Press Club.

Why we're called Press Club



This is a question many people have been asking. Did you know that the term “press” comes from a machine called the printing press, which was invented to mass-produce things like books and newspapers. The term was then used for the organisations that operated them and later came to mean the collective of news organizations and journalists. That’s something that’ll please the English teachers! By Lily L Y8



What we Love about GEMS

“Miss Bannon and the library!” Owen Y6

“Being able to play with my friends” Alper Y6

“The busyness of Christmas week!” Miss Bannon

“Food Tech” Logan Y6

“My favourite subject is Maths” Rafay



Remembrance Day

On Sunday the 9th November people stop and reflect for one minute to remember all of the brave soldiers who fought in the war.



How You Can Remember

There are many ways kids can take part in Remembrance Day:

- Wear a poppy.
- Attend a school or community ceremony.
- Draw a picture or write a poem about peace.
- Say "thank you" to a veteran if you meet one.



Poppies grew in the battlefield after war that is why poppies is symbolic and related to the war.



Whole School Assembly

We watched a live stream where veterans were being interviewed and army sergeants. We all held a two minutes silence and the last post was played. There were steel plans playing the last post too.

By Lola

"I went marching on Sunday with Ronnie S and Tyler S because we are in the air cadets. When I was standing still at the memorial my knees were hurting and my right knee hurt a lot when we were marching back to church but I kept going because I would look un-professional if I stopped and because it was to remember the fallen soldiers who fell for our freedom." James H.



Raising money for lollipop lady



At the end of last half-term, we came in in bright neon colours to raise money for our lovely lollipop lady. If you wore neon clothes, you brought in £1. Some people came in dressed for the Halloween disco because it was after school on that day. Freya Y6

ODD SOCK DAY

On Monday 10th November it was odd sock day and antibullying week. Students came into school wearing odd socks. Some were colourful, some were fluffy and some were long. This was to show that we are all different. Even if you wear odd socks it doesn't mean anything because we are all unique.



It is really important that we are kind to each other all the time. If we bully people it can really affect their feelings and mental health so, we need to make sure we know how to behave around people. We need to make sure that in GEMS we are fully respected as who you are. Ava U Year 5



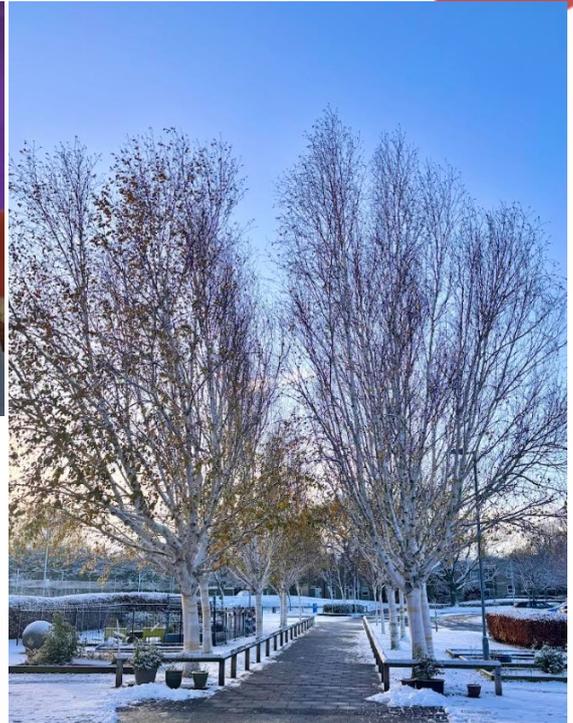
Nissan

First, we had an assembly about the Nissan plant, its operations and job opportunities that are there. They then delivered a workshop for each year 6 class. There was also a presentation on the kinds of careers available at Nissan.



“It was really good we made cars out of LEGO, then the visitor had to pick which one was the best. They determined which one was the best depending on design—which one had a roof, which one was sturdy” Scarlett L and Rose G

Cosy Club

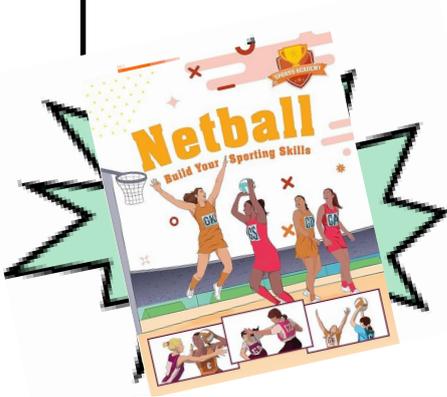


We enjoyed our first snow of the academic year this half-term! A little snow didn't stop our Cosy Clubbers, who arrived in style wearing ear warmers, scarves, and mittens. They were delighted to be welcomed with a warming hot chocolate and a biscuit on arrival, making it a truly cosy start to the day.



Netball Club

On Monday lunchtime there is a netball club and it is open to all years . It is run by 2 year 8 girls . We do fun drills, shooting and passing . If you are on school dinners they will take you to the front of the line . If you are packed lunch you can eat it in the gym. We are working towards a tourna-



Eco Club

“We went on a metro and had to arrive at school for 8am. After we went on the metro we went on a train. It was my first time on a train so it was really exciting.



We then got the bus to Durham University. When we were there we did workshops and we did workshops and we also learned about the environment what areas are green at our school.

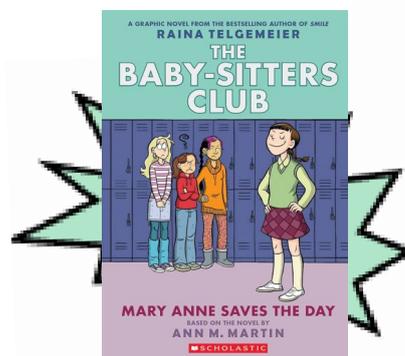
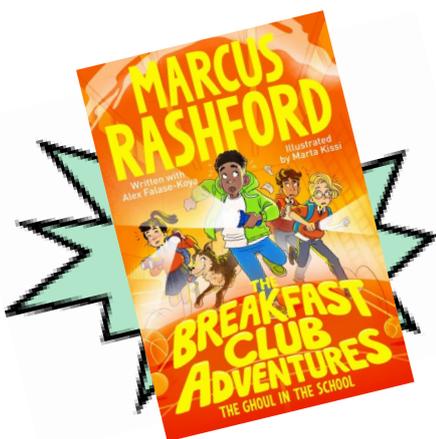


People had made football plant pots out of old footballs. They painted and used glue to keep it sturdy. They are creative and nice selling for £5 to £7.



We need other people that are not in Eco Club to share ideas of how to win the Eco competition. Students that are in Eco club can provide ideas as well” Lucy year 7.

Typed by Ava U year 5



Young Green Briton

On Tuesday 26th November, Young Green Briton came to our school to inspire pupils to think about different ways we can make a change. They encouraged pupils to think of a campaign, build and eco business, develop a product or tech solution or set up a volunteer project.

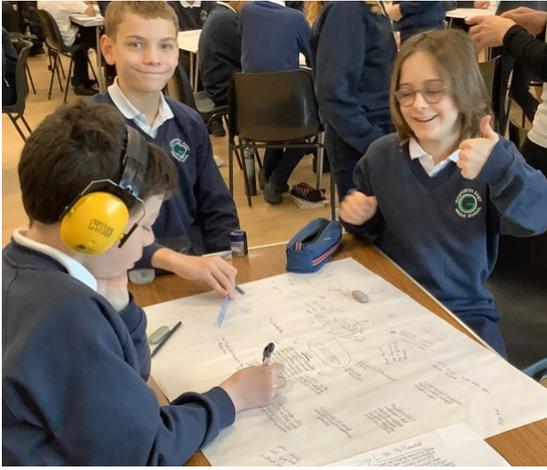
First, they helped pupils to think about things that impact our environment, for example fast fashion and the food industry.



Pupils had to choose a branch to focus on and come up with solutions. They were reminded that even the smallest group or idea can have a HUGE impact.

On Tuesday, pupils were just starting to put their ideas together and even made a first prototype.





Next term, pupils will have the opportunity to do Dragon's Den in school. The three best groups will be chosen to present their ideas at the Civic Centre regionals. If they get into the final, they will be able to travel to London and in with the chance of winning £1000 for their project.



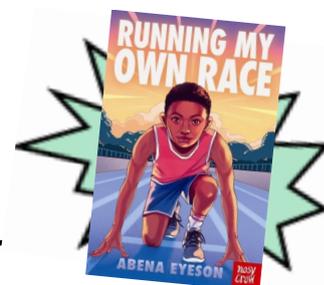
Last years finalists talked gave a short presentation, where they talked about the process and how they got to the finals in London!

Cross Country



22 year dedicated year 7 and 8 pupils took part in the Newcastle School Cross Country event at Walbottle Campus on 8th December. It was a fantastic event and luckily the weather was extremely kind to us. The children were a credit to themselves, their grown ups and GEMS displaying fantastic team-spirit and enthusiasm!

GEMS was extremely successful at the event due to the stamina, ability and determination of every single pupil involved. Ruby, Jacob and Archie have all secured a place in the next stages at Temple Park in January.





Glasshouse Careers in Arts Trip

On the 20th of November, a group of year 8s went on a Careers trip to The Glasshouse, previously known as The Sage. We had a tour of the building and people talked about their careers. It was very interesting and informative.

“The trip was fantastic, it was one of the best trips I’ve ever been on to be honest!”
Mr Hodgson.



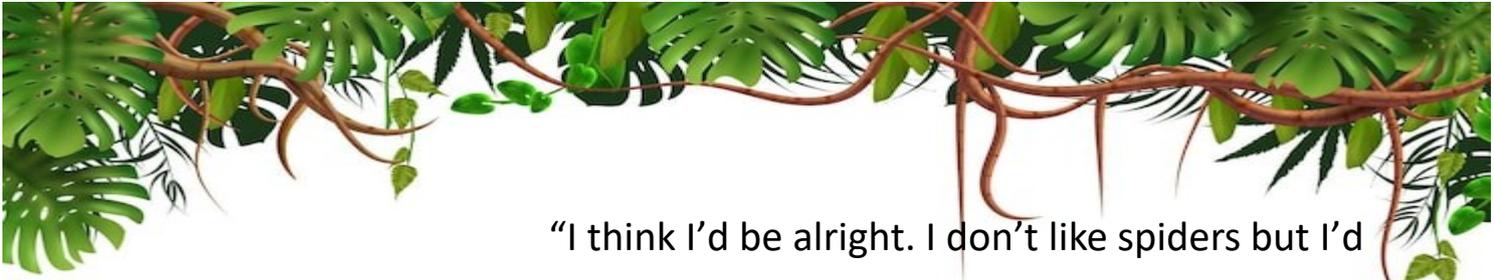
By Lily L

Lit and Phil

The Lit and Phil is a beautiful building in the centre of Newcastle that is 200 years old. It has a wonderful library full of ancient and valuable books, and several rooms for other purposes. A group of year 8s are going to visit for a writing workshop in the new

Year. By Lily L Y8





“I think I’d be alright. I don’t like spiders but I’d eat stuff if I had to. Or Mrs Ally, she is really good at making things and I’m sure she could whittle a fire!” Mrs Haig.

“Mr Cheetham, he would do it all. He would definitely win. Or Miss Bhatt, she’s really funny. She would have a chance.” Emily, Jorja and Lara y8

Mr Yeoman—Louie

This was definitely NOT Mr Jordan’s idea.

I'M A STAFF MEMBER...
If all GEMS staff had to go into the jungle, complete bushtucker trials, live on rations and sleep in the wild...

“Probably Mr Jordan. His name came straight into my head.” Mr Hodgson

We think MBV—
Charlie, James, Leon
Y8

Miss Bannon said Mr Stout because he has a good mindset and would be determined to win stars for the camp!

Miss O’Sullivan said, “Would Mr Cheetham? He sporty, active and likes camping, would have the camp fire going for everyone. He would be good at challenges and getting the stars. I don’t think he’d moan if we asked him to change the dunny.”



I think Mr Jordan or Miss Hudson—
Hallie-Grace Y8

“Mrs Scollen because she is not scared of
anything.” Freddie Y8

Fares Y8 thinks Miss
Bhatt would survive
the longest.

What about Miss
Donnolly? She prob-
ably knows a lot
about jungles. Alex S
Y8

“Mr Jordan!” Jasper Y8

GET ME OUT OF HERE!

who would survive the longest?!

Mrs O’Sullivan because she is
quite daring and competitive.
She would lift everyone’s spirit
but wouldn’t like going hungry”.
Mrs Graham

Mrs Ally would be top of my list. No
one messes with Mrs Ally! She would
also make things and is really practi-
cal.” Mrs Donnolly

Mr Jordan—easy win for him! He is the PE teach-
er—Jack, Luca, Ted and Seb Y5, However, Marlee
and Megan y5 said, “

I would have said Mr Jordan but he might not like
rice or beans. I think Miss Foskin because she has
sky dived from an airplane!”

Miss Bhatt said,
“People who do a lot
of camping... Mr
Cheetham, Mrs
Townsend, Miss
Watson!”

Just to confirm, this was definitely NOT Mr Jordan’s idea.



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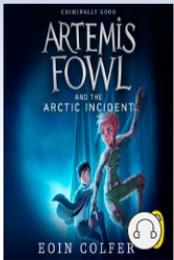
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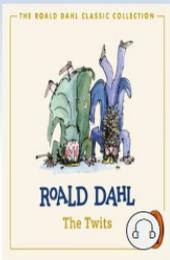
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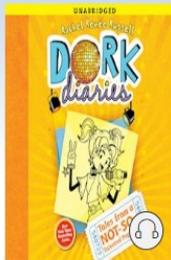
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Artemis Fowl and the Arctic Incident by Eoin Colfer



The Twits by Roald Dahl



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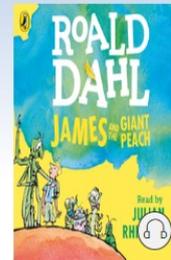
The Witches by Roald Dahl



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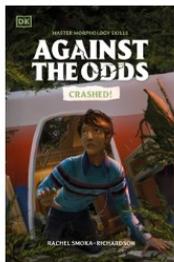
James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl



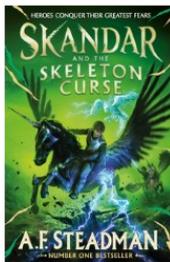
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How to Survive a Horror Movie by Scarlett Dunmore



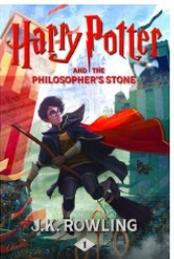
Auggie & Me: Three Wonders by R.J. Palacio



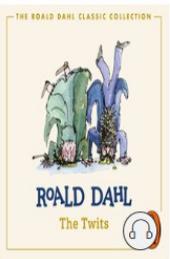
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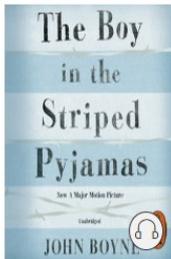
Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone by J.K. Rowling



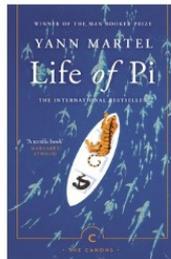
The Twits by Roald Dahl



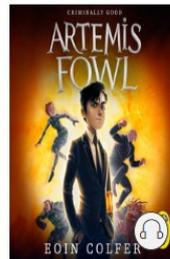
Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan



The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas by John Boyne



Life of Pi by Yann Martel



Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer



Clockwork Angel by Cassandra Clare



The Infernal Devices 1: Clockwork Angel by Rick Riordan



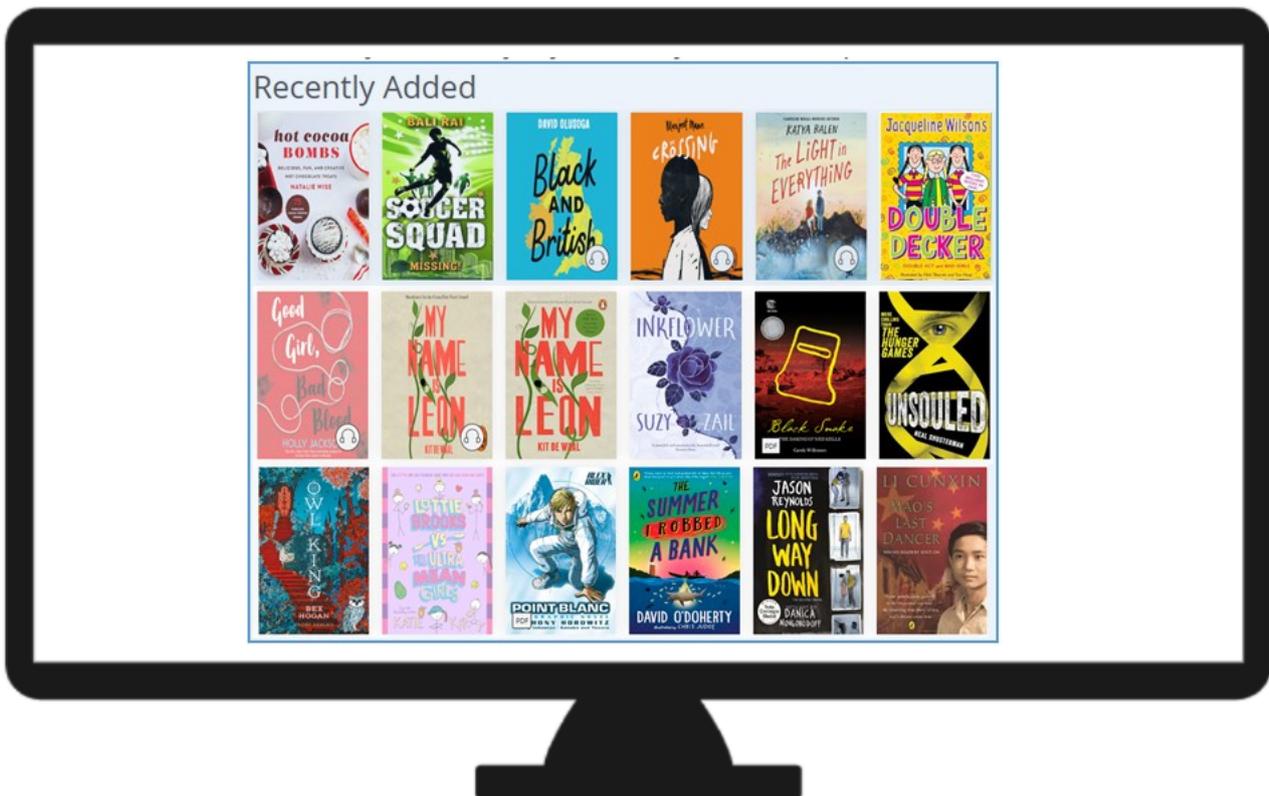
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Each category now features twelve books! Over the Christmas period, the panels will be making the tough decisions about which titles deserve a place on the shortlist. Once that's done, it's over to you! Have you read any yet? Which books are you excited to read first?

9+ LONGLIST



NON-FICTION LONGLIST



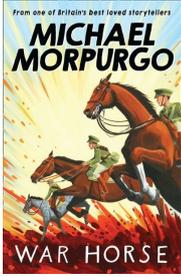
11+ LONGLIST



7+ LONGLIST

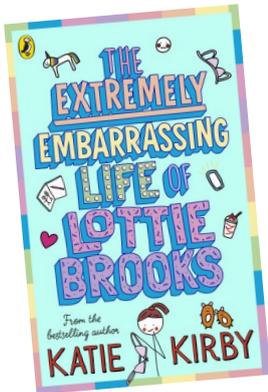
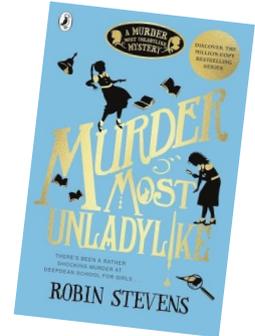


RECOMMENDED READS



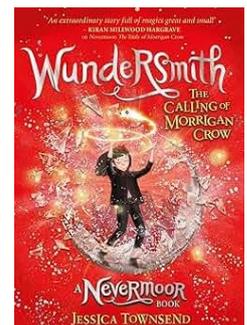
War Horse, I would really recommend this book for it's amazing description and the emotional description too. Miss Western also loves War Horse but she can't read it out loud because it makes her cry. She prefers the book to the film because the book is written from Joey's viewpoint whereas the film is narrated. By Saskia

I would recommend murder most unladylike because of its exceptional trick of luring you in to read more and its good twists and turns. By Saskia



Ava and Lola have chosen the whole series of Lottie Brooks. These aren't books I'm familiar with but on how they reacted when they said Lottie Brooks I'm guessing that it a pretty amazing book. Saskia said, "The first Lottie brooks book is a great place to start reading , you can also read all of the other books in the series, as it's a easy, fun and enjoyable read." By Zani.

Aerin recommends Wundersmith, a wonderful sequel to Nevermoor (that we read in year 5) about mythical adventures of R, a legendary master builder who created worlds and shaped universes. I haven't actually read it yet. By Zani



What are we Reading in English Lessons?

Year 5:

Nevermoor

Year 6:

Skellig

Year 7:

The wolf wilder

Year 8:

Romeo and Juliet

By Lola

Winter Reading Challenge

Pupils have been challenged to read as much as possible over the Christmas holidays.

If pupils read using the ePlatform, Miss McFall will be able to track their reading over the two weeks off. Please note that pupils must be signed up for this for their reading to be tracked.

Pupils who prefer reading physical books can still take part. They can show their reading in other ways: writing about what they have read drawing pictures related to their book.

When we return to school, prizes will be awarded to the pupils who have read the most!

Year 6 Bake Off

The bake off round two was with the year 6s on the 3rd December. There was so many amazing entries with incredible flavours. Well done to everyone who took part. Congratulations to Lucy M who made a chocolate Eclairs and Alex D who made samosas, you are both through to the next round, representing the representing year 6 in the school wide round! By Sammy Y6



School Council News

Exciting news for the school council this year as a long with running the Christmas Fair is that this year the children of the school council board will be writing their own child-friendly policy and publishing it as the schools new policy written by the children themselves. The reason this is good is because this means by publishing this policy every child should feel safe in school and remember that that it is there to protect us and give us many rights

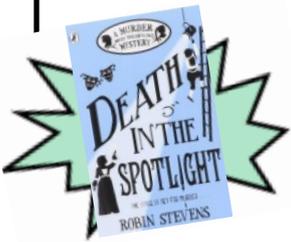


A CHRISTMAS SHOW!



Wow! What an Amazing Christmas performance by the Panto/Drama Group of 'No One Wraps Like An Elf.' Actors from every year group in the school worked extremely hard to learn their lines, the songs and stage directions to perform in front of the whole school and then at night in front of family members. The baddies Smash and Grab were the villains who kidnapped Santa shouting

'Mwahahaha' every time they left the stage, however Little Elf and the Mint Spies saved Santa and the reindeer and restored Christmas. We are all so proud of the actors who put on this incredible performance and we are looking forward to start practising the next show.



"Drama Club and Panto Club came together to make a Christmas play. The Christmas show was performed to the whole school in the main hall. The people who directed the show are Mrs Weston and Mr Hodgeson.

My very own friend Y5 Eve S played the role as dad in the show. Everybody who was in the show are practised very hard." Emily VW Y5

Christmas Concert

After school on Thursday 11th December, our school was filled with holiday spirit during the Christmas Concert. Pupils performed festive songs that helped everyone get into the Christmas mood. Families and friends came to support the performers, it was wonderful to see the school community come together to celebrate the season. Thank you to all the pupils, staff, and families who helped make the Christmas Concert a special and memorable event!





In the last week of term, we held our annual Christmas Fair. We raised a whopping £2000 for our school! Wow!



CHRISTMAS

There was a wide variety of exciting stalls to explore, from the bookish library stall featuring *Santa's Secret Books*, to unique handmade gifts created by the DT club.





FAIR

There were also fun game stalls with prizes to be won, and the ever-popular £1 stall—a true treasure trove of goodies!



Cinema Trip

All year groups got to go to the cinema for our annual trip! KS2 went on Wednesday 17th December and year 8 went on the Thursday. We all got the metro there and back. What a way to end the last week of term!

It was quite fun because, first of all, the movie, Zootropolis, was quite good. It was quite dramatic because the characters almost died and got poisoned! I sat next Mr Hodgson and Jacob. SPOILER ALERT! It was also really funny watching the bad people trying to hurt them and they got hurt and the good ones just ran off. I also really liked when they escaped the prison and they took the police cars! By Will T



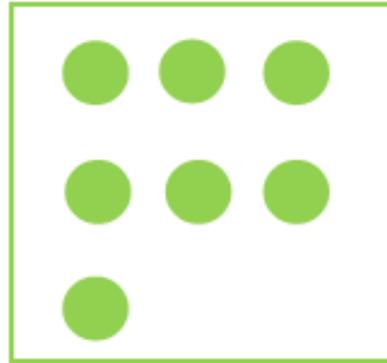
“We got to take sweets with us and a drink. It was really good because you got to watch the film and sit with your friends and not do any lessons– that was the best part!” Jessica F



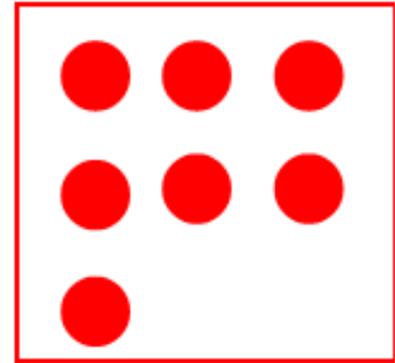
WHAT TIME IS CHRISTMAS TIME?

There have been many debates on when is the time to hang up wreaths and put up Christmas trees. I went to see what people thought.

NOVEMBER



DECEMBER



Out of everyone in press club, it's a draw! Who would have thought! I went for December, even though my mum has already made Christmas pudding. By Aerin

Christmas Tree Decoration Competition!

The Christmas tree competition was an exciting competition when we made decorations for the Christmas tree in the library. The winner, received a Christmas hamper containing. You can see all the amazingly wonderful decorations on the tree in the library.



1st Place: Isabella R

2nd Place: Sophia G

3rd Place: Scarlett McElwee



Runners-Up: Jacob H, Oscar C, Emmy

By Lily L Y8

CHRISTMAS DINNER AND JUMPER DAY



On Thursday 11th December it was Christmas jumper day and Christmas dinner day. Pupils came to school in a Christmas jumper over their uniform to celebrate the leading up to Christmas.

Students were asked to say which type of Christmas dinner they would like. A meat, vegetarian or a packed lunch. We did this in advance so the dinner staff knew what kind of ingredients to order. On the day these were the only options available. By Ava U year 5

This got us thinking...

what is your favourite part about Christmas dinner?

We asked some of our press club members this festive question and here's what they said...

Sammy 6ER: Definitely the pigs in blankets, it isn't Christmas without them.

Lola 6NS: 100% the Yorkshire puddings (controversial)

Miss McFall: bread sauce, weird and wonderful!

Aerin 6NG: the stuffing, it has soo many flavours.

Oscar 6LW: the roast potatoes, the crispier the better!

Izzy P: Ooo! It's probably sprouts.

Oscar J: I like those sausages covered in bacon.

Miss Thompson: Oh it's really difficult because I'm torn between Christmas pudding which I love and honied parsnips—they're just so tasty!

Miss Bannon: I don't like Christmas dinner

By Sammy

Christmas Humour

Why do reindeer love Beyonce so much?

She sleighs!

What do you call Santa Clause when he stops moving?

Santa Pause!

By Isobel VW

Why did Santa go to music school?

To improve his wrap skills!

How did the snowman pay for the groceries?

With cold hard cash.

How to Spot an Elf

Have you ever wondered if any of your friends are elves? Well, if you don't know how to spot them, I'll tell you!

First, check their ears. Elves have pointed ears so this might give them away. Next, look at their height. If they are less than 2'2 they could be an elf. After, look at their shoes. Real elves always wear pointed shoes no matter what.

Then, see if they can sit still. Elves are always bouncing across walls and causing mayhem. Finally, see if they like to build toys in their free time. Elves are well known for making toys so this is an obvious one.

I hope this helps, make sure if you have send your friends back to the north pole!

By Oscar

Other Exciting News

Wicked
For good

Part 2 of the hit musical is finally out in cinemas! The first film, featuring Ariana Grande and Cynthia Erivo, was a huge success, and fans (me!) are hoping that the adaptation of the second half lives up to it's standards. The new film features all the songs in the musical, as well as 2 brand new songs and one cut from the studio cast recording. By Lily L



Christmas Wordsearch

Z D O L F L K S A K D M V T N R D Q B Y
J A Z W E D O T R E E D B E J A B C E O
J P O J M G R Y F T S N O W A G S K T X
D N Z M B Q E S Q E A C M A B M Y B Z U
M F Z U I A I E E W S S H D H Y A L B S
H H B K R L U T V G Q W L V S H Z J J J
O G I H B C K B I Y Y P S E C H J K O P
L I D G M G Q A L Q G L W S I U S R W C
Q P Q T W T D R N E K O H A P G I E N V
T N O K U D Z B J D U E K N V M H I B A
Q F O Q Y R R Z A Y C V X T A K L N Z X
V F C V X E K M Q L U O Z A E K R D X M
H X Q H N Q M E O K G L O E G Y I E X X
L D V H Y I E E Y U A S T K Q C J E U K
D V Q H K R M I U U Z W L R I V Q R Y O
R G F Q O I L J K R N K E L E E U B E P
N L B C P R E S E N T S G T E P S B I O
C T I N S E L U K Z R J S Q Z E R Z Y S
X H O T C H O C O L A T E I U F F D Q P
N T Y F O K X R F H I E L V E S C R O E

milk and cookies	hot chocolate	reindeer
presents	sleigh	bauble
tinsel	santa	turkey
elves	snow	tree

By Oscar