



Oh, Dane Court Christmas Tree!

What a wonderful spectacle in the House plazas this Christmas!



Clockwise from top left: Sorrento, Neuchatel, Heart, Barcelona, Helsinki, Tallinn, and Delphi.
Photos by Charley Stoddart. Trees modelled by Maddie Erridge.

“I love the Barcelona tree! The aqua blue really stood out against the snowy white. It had fabulous decorations and the winter wonderland around the bottom, including **cute little snowmen and a glistening ice rink**, gave a very **Christmassy vibe.**” Maddie Erridge 9D

“My favourite tree was Delphi’s. It includes fun photos of most of the **House mentors with Christmas outfits on**, as well as green plastered everywhere. This tree gave the whole plaza a **warm and homey feel.**”
Charley Stoddart 9D

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Words from the Editor



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

What a long haul from September but well done everyone - YOU DID IT! Now to enjoy the holiday and rest your weary heads. Be proud of what you have achieved, and if you are going to make a resolution for the New Year then let it be to be even greater next year.

It has been wonderful to have such a committed and ever-growing group of individuals, enthusiastic enough to want to produce a festive edition of DCGS Chatter in a little over a week. Well done Chatter team - YOU ARE BRILLIANT!

To everyone, we wish a very happy holiday, and The Chatter team look forward to seeing you in the library on Wednesday and Friday lunchtimes in January.

Have a Jolly Holly Christmas!

The Editor

This Chatter Team...

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Libby-Anne Kirby 7N * Oscar Whitehall 7S * Jenny Allan 8D * Tim Allan 8H
Sofia-Rose Baker 8N * Thomas Cadby 8N
Erica Cousins 8D * Tasneem Daud 8H
Eleanor Golding 8H * Hazel Leese 8N
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Charley Stoddart 9D * Grace Williams 9S
Jacob Cherry 11S * AONM 11D
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Tamsin Hooker 6N2 * Remi Wiorek 6N2

with a little help from

Mrs Cronin, Mrs Finlay and Mrs Hutchings

Contact the Chatter team on
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The BIG Debate

Nowadays you're less likely to get your house burnt down by candles on a tree!
~ Jolly Jenny 8D

Remi Wiorek 6N2

'Which is better - Christmas past or Christmas present?'

More than forty students faced off in the library on Wednesday 12 December. Amid the festive tension we heard from those who prefer the nostalgic, traditional Christmas, and those who would rather opt for the 21st century hi-tech experience!



FOR CHRISTMAS PAST...

- * The **true meaning of Christmas** is missed nowadays - it is actually about **Jesus Christ, going to church, and the words of the Lord.**
- * There was very little waste as the poor used everything - **every part of the animal was used rather than a little bit of meat.**
- * Christmas past brings families together more: **singing carols by the fireside, playing traditional games, reading together and talking with each other.**
- * **Christmas is meant to be about Jesus** and people now are just selfish and self-centred.
- * People used to appreciate the simple things they received whereas they **now ask for money which defeats the object of giving and receiving gifts.**
- * Candles on real, **environmentally friendly fir trees** gave a magical glow and warmth to the family room.
- * Traditional **hand-crafted wooden decorations**, often homemade, were simple but authentic.
- * **The past does not always mean 100 years ago.** I miss when the whole family used to get together at Christmas as **we all lived near each other.**
- * It should go back to the old days; when kids were **'naughty'** they were given a **lump of coal and threatened with Krampus who whack them round the back with his half-horned sapling!**
- * **'Nice'** children were delighted to receive a **satsuma, candy cane and nuts** in their stocking.



FOR CHRISTMAS PRESENT...

- * **Christmas is about sharing quality time with your family**; church can be part of that but not all encompassing.
- * **Technology enables us to keep in touch with friends and family** by sending cards, video calls, or using on-line suppliers to deliver gifts to those who live far away.
- * **Artificial trees are more eco-friendly** as we can buy one and **use it forever** and they don't kill one tree a year for two weeks of pleasure.
- * **Who doesn't want to sit on Santa's lap and get a gift?!**
- * Seeing streets and trees ablaze with **colourful lights bathes us in the warm glow of Christmas.**
- * The fact that the world has developed so we can **travel abroad** on holiday over Christmas enables us to experience skiing or beach holidays - whatever we want.
- * Developments in **media and technology** help us **experience other cultures** and **share global traditions.**
- * **Giving and receiving gifts** that people actually want, **regardless of cost**, shows them **how much people mean to you.**
- * **Why can't we have the whole shebang?!** If we can afford it and want to have a fabulous Christmas with our families, splashing out on treats, then why shouldn't we?

**Which one do YOU agree with?
Let us know at
Chatter@danecourt.kent.sch.uk**



The History of Christmas

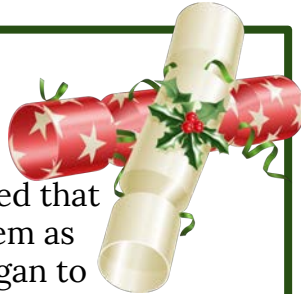


Festive Ffion Cousins 6D2

An historical insight into the beginnings of our wonderful festive traditions.

Crackers

Tom Smith owned a sweet shop in London and sold **sugared almonds**. He noticed that young men were buying them as presents for women. He began to place **'love mottos'** on slips of paper inside the wrapping. In 1846 Smith started to **wrap toys in twisted wrapping** that could be pulled apart. They were a huge success. Seeing this success he was **inspired by his fire** to put the crack in the cracker.



Childermass Day

In some parts of **Europe**, Childermass Day was celebrated on the **28 December** by **choosing a boy** to be the **'bishop for the day'**. This meant that he and his friends were in charge and were **given many gifts**. The custom died out in the 1600s. However, due to another tradition that died out in the 1700s, the **28 December is deemed unlucky**. Edward IV of England even refused to be crowned on that day. The custom was to remind children of **Herod's cruelty by being beaten**.

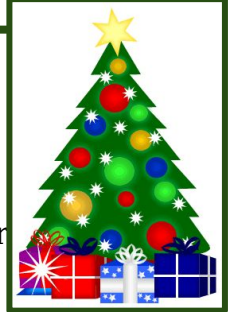
Santa Claus

Saint Nicholas was a rich bishop who lived in **Myra** (now part of Turkey) in the fourth century. The legend is that he felt bad for **three poor girls and their father** and so gave them three bags of gold. He put them down the chimney where they fell into a shoe. **St. Nick's** actual feast day is the **6 December** and he is the saint of gift giving. Santa's **red clothes** comes from a **Coca-Cola Christmas advert**. Also, there was a Saint Nicholas who wore red who got mixed up with Santa; **Santa originally wore green**.



Christmas Trees

One theory as to how Christmas trees came about, is that **pagans in Germany worshipped the oak tree**. When **Christianity** took over they wanted to worship a tree and so they suggested the **pine tree**. They suggested this because it is a **triangle** and so represents the **Holy Trinity**.



To give you luck you should decorate your tree with:

- ~ **A spider's web** (it is represented by tinsel now). This is from a Lithuanian legend that said a **poor lady had nothing to decorate her tree with**. When she woke up spiders had **decorated her tree with their glistening webs**.
- ~ **Straw bird cages**, also derived from Lithuania.
- ~ **Painted egg shells**, which are a tradition from **Czechoslovakia**.
- ~ **Popcorn**, which is an **American tradition** where popcorn dyed in bright colours is **laced on a string with nuts and berries**.



Feliz Navidad

عيد ميلاد سعيد

Joyeux Noël



Christmas Card Design Winners

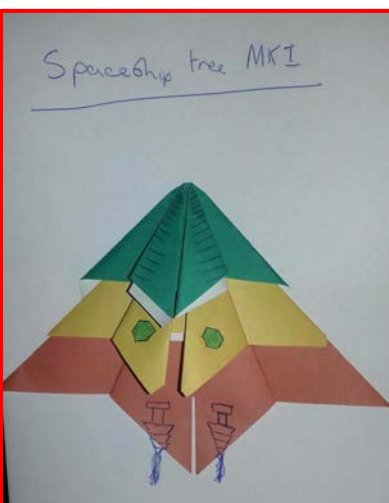
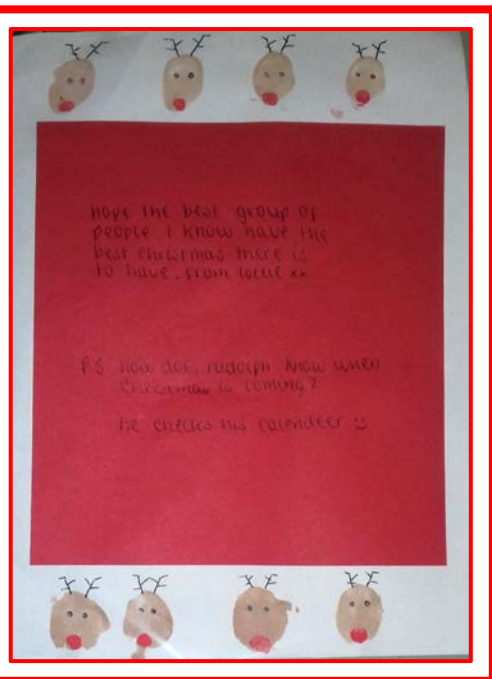
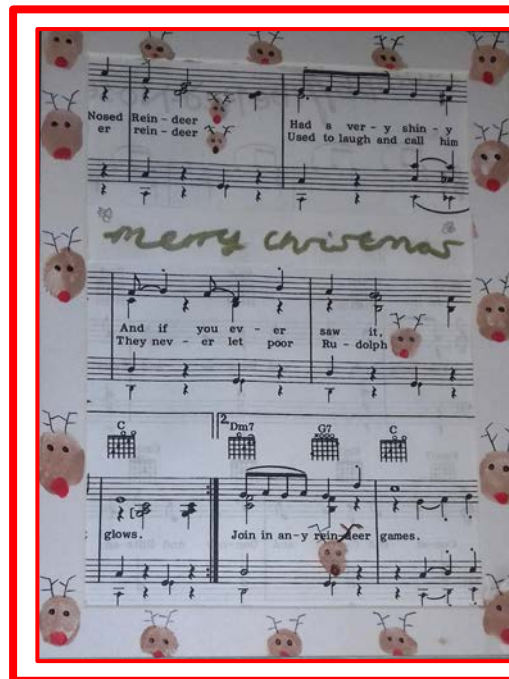


Design-A-Christmas-Card Santa Sack Competition Winners



**KS3 Winner
Tabitha Prince 9T** - all the judges agreed that fun and creativity combined to produce a fabulous Christmas card - well done Tabby!

**KS4 Winner
Lottie Keefe 11B** - congratulations for your sophisticated yet humorous design incorporating your own interests
Lottie!



Dear Santa,
Sorry about your death.
But never fear, we have a replacement. :)
Spaceship tree MKI keys.

Special mention to **Tom Newton 8B** for alternative transport for Santa's deliveries on Christmas Eve.

**Thank you to everyone who entered.
Look for our other competitions for another chance to win!**



A DCGS Christmas Tale



Jamie 'The Raven' strikes again with a wondrous tale of the Dane Court spirit!

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the school, not a creature was stirring, not even a... mule.

The worksheets were hung on displays without care, with staples in the hopes that the sheets wouldn't tear.

The textbooks were nestled all snug in their trays, 'respiration', or 'lipids' or 'je suis désolés'. And **cleaners with vacuums** and I with my broom had resigned ourselves to our immaculate doom.

When out **from the field there arose such a clatter**, I sprang from my job to see what was the matter.

Away to the doors I flew like a hare, ran my way up the path and what I saw there Was the moon on the puddles of the soft-falling sleet, giving the lustre of midday to the ground at my feet.

When what to my wondering eyes should appear but a miniature tricycle and twelve teachers, right here!

With a little old leader, on her two little legs, I knew in a moment it must be **Miss Greig**. More **rapid than eagles her colleagues they came** and she whistled and shouted and called them by name.

"On **Luxmoore**, and **Hale**, and **Wood** and **Sunderland!** On **Forward** and **Towse**, **Razzaq** and then **Rye** and:

On **Stivarius** and **Alderson**, **Blanden** and **Rolls**, now dash away, dash away, dash away all!"

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly, when they met with an obstacle, **a tree in front of Mr Rye**,

So round to the **long-jump pit** the staff they all rode, with their **bags full of marking**, their most recent workload.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard by the door the **prancing of feet on the hard concrete floor**.

As I drew in my hand and was turning around, **through the gates came Miss Greig, with a leap and a bound**.

She was dressed up as Santa, so red my eyes hurt, and her clothes were all tarnished with mud and with dirt.

A bundle of books she had flung on her back and **she looked like a student with a fashionable backpack**.

Her eyes how they twinkled, her dimples how merry! **Her cheeks were like roses, her nose like a cherry**.

She was happy and kind, **a right jolly old elf**, and I laughed when I saw her, in spite of myself.

A wink of her eye and a twist of her head soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.

She spoke not a word but got straight to her work, and **signed all the paperwork**: then turned with a jerk

And laying a finger on her nose by the side, she gave a nod and out through the doorway she did stride.

She sprang to her bike, to her team gave a whistle and away they all rode like the down of a thistle.

But I heard her exclaim as she rode out of sight, "**Oh no! I forgot to turn out all the lights!**"





Y8 Christmas Cakes



Mrs Baker, Head of Food Technology, shares the Y8 Christmas cake magic!



“Shiny tinsel, baubles and silver Christmas trees and with Christmas music playing the atmosphere was enchanting”

Year 8 produced some wonderful Christmas cakes this year and **the standard was really high**. Parents were invited in to view the display in C4, which was **magical**. The room was decked in white cloth, **shiny tinsel, baubles and silver Christmas trees** and with **Christmas music** playing the atmosphere was **enchanting**.



The visitors commented on the originality - every cake was different and so **cleverly designed and beautifully finished**. The Food teachers were thrilled with the results.

“Well done Year Eight! You have worked very hard on this project and you have done the department proud.” Mrs Baker.



I was very lucky to see all the beautiful Christmas cakes on display in the Food Tech department. It was literally like walking into a magical winter wonderland. The detail and work that had gone into each and every cake was incredible, and every Year 8 student should be very proud of their work.

All the cakes were beautifully displayed. There were snow globes, Christmas trees, holly wreaths, penguins, polar bears, snowflakes, decorations and even a snowy fox.

I think that **my favourite had to be the bed full of elves** - the bed had been made with gingerbread, and the **elves made of icing were adorable!**

I wonder if the cakes will last until Christmas day?!

Well done to Mrs Baker and the Food Tech team, and all the Year 8 students.

Mrs Finlay





Y8 Christmas Cakes





DIY Christmas Cake



Star baker, Tasneem Daud 8H, shows you how to 'Do It Yours~elf'

Inspired by the Y8s? Why don't you bake a cake and impress everyone this year?

Get yourself prepared to bake!

1. The day before your BIG Christmas cake bake off, soak your fruit and cherries in juice or sherry.
2. Grease and line a large baked bean or soup tin, or a cake tin with a double layer of greaseproof paper. Lightly grease with oil.
3. Tie a double band of brown paper or newspaper round the outside.
4. Light the oven, gas mark 1-2. 150 C to warm up whilst you prepare your cake batter.



What you will need:

175g mixed dried fruit
25g glace cherries, washed and chopped
1 tablespoon orange juice or sherry (to soak your fruit in the day before)

50g margarine
50g muscovado sugar
50g plain flour
Quarter of a level teaspoon nutmeg
Quarter of a teaspoon ground cinnamon
OR use half a teaspoon mixed spice
1 large beaten egg
1 teaspoon black treacle

Now to get mixing!

1. In another bowl, cream the margarine and muscovado sugar together with a wooden spoon.
2. Beat the egg and treacle together and beat into the mixture thoroughly.
3. Sieve the flour with the spices and fold into the beaten mixture using a metal spoon.
4. Stir in the dried fruit mixture.
5. Tip the mixture into the tin and smooth out.
6. Make a deep hole in the centre with the back of a wet dessert spoon to stop the cake rising to a peak.
7. Stand the tin on a baking tray and bake for two to two and a half hours.
8. Test with a skewer to see if the cake is cooked in the centre (the skewer should come out of the cake clean).
9. Leave the cake to cool in the tin.
10. Once cool you can thinly spread with apricot jam and Then cover with rolled marzipan. Dry thoroughly.
11. Ice your cake using royal icing and, then decorate!



Take a look at Jenny Allan's round cake above. She has a smooth base of icing on top of which she has used more icing, some dyed with food colouring, to make a delightful winter wonderland. For more cake inspiration, take a look at the magical display of Y8 Christmas cakes on the previous page.



Ffion's Festive Funnies!



They'll bring a smile to any humbug's face!



Q: What's the best ever Christmas present?
A: A broken drum. You can't beat it!

Knock knock.
Who's there?
Snow.
Snow who?
Snow use -
I've forgotten
my name!

Q: What happened to the man who stole a calendar at Christmas?
A: He got twelve months

Q: What kind of music do elves listen to?
A: Wrap.



Knock knock.
Who's there?
Mary.
Mary who?
Merry
Christmas.

Q: What happens to elves when they behave naughty?
A: Santa gives them the sack

Q: What does Santa use to weed his garden?
A: A hoe-hoe-hoe

Q: What do you get if you swallow christmas decorations?
A: Tinselitus

Q: What's Santa's favorite cereal?
A: Hoho Pops

Q: Why is a Christmas tree like a bad tailor?
A: They both keep dropping their needles



Q: Which of Santa's reindeer has bad manners?
A: "Rude"-olph!



Knock knock.
Who's there?
Hannah.
Hannah who?
Hannah partridge in
a pear tree!

Q: Why does Santa go down chimneys?
A: It soots him

Q: What did the cheese say to the almonds?
A: You're nuts and we're crackers!

Q: What do you call a secret agent in a bakery at Christmas?
A: A mince spy

Q: What is a snowman's favourite breakfast?
A: Ice Crispies.



Q: What is the best thing to put into Christmas cake?
A: Your teeth





Y7s go International



International reporters Thomas Cadby 7N and Oscar Whitehall 7S

'The most fabulous opportunity to show all of their amazing work.'



On Thursday 6 December, the Dane Court Year 7s ran their International Food evening which was just the Best. From the **colourful stands** to the **fabulous music**, it was just amazing. **It was loud and buzzing with excitement, and that's saying the least!**

It was a chance for the Y7s to **show off their newly acquired cooking skills** to many, many pleased visitors and excited students. After all, they had worked very hard and after many weeks of preparation for the evening, they had finally finished it. The brief was to choose a country and make a display, with the aim of informing people about their culture and heritage, and to give them an opportunity to taste a dish from that country.

From the first **Food and Nutrition** lesson of gathering ideas, to the last lesson practicing their recipes, it is fair to say the Yr 7 students and the Food and Nutrition staff have worked very hard for the event. **I really hope the Yr 7s cherish this event and hold the memory for the rest of their years here at Dane Court.**

It was literally the most **fabulous opportunity to show off all of their amazing work** that they had done in class. The evening showcased food from many countries around the world and was all about the students going **out of their comfort zone** and **trying new things**.



Hanro & Evie 7N
go to South African

Kalista & Daisy 7N
go to Morocco

Izzy 7N goes
to Philippines

There were **many different, amazing countries** there - from South Africa to Romania. All the relatives and friends who had been invited had the most delicious foods to taste, from **Welsh cakes from Wales**, to **Greek salad from Greece**. **Switzerland was probably the most popular as they served chocolate!**

As well as all the **delicious food**, there was a **cocktail bar**, a **raffle**, an **auction** and a **tea bar**, plus **music by Michael Chesters** from 8D. So, whether young or old, there really was something that everyone could enjoy.

The event was also about **raising money for the food department** here to carry on the amazing things they do for us. A massive **£600 was raised so thank you to everyone who donated or brought things**; it really does make a difference. Also, **well done and thank you to all of the Food staff** and of course the Y7s for putting this event together and making it happen. **This money will benefit the Dane Court students and help them continue to excel in the subject!**

Some of the countries represented were:

Australia * China * Denmark * France * Germany * Greece * Holland * Israel * Italy * Japan
Malta * Mexico * Morocco * Peru * Philippines * Russia * South Africa * Spain
Switzerland * Vietnam * Wales * USA



Naughty or Nice?

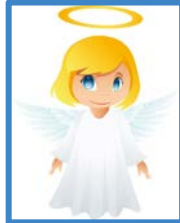


'I'm on the Nice list!' Ffion Cousins 6D2

Take our Naughty or Nice quiz to see what Santa will fill your stocking with this year!

1. How often did you lie this year?

- a. Lying is bad, I never lie.
- b. Not often, only white lies.
- c. I lied about a few things.
- d. I lie all the time.



2. Did you make anyone cry this year?

- a. Only out of joy.
- b. I don't think so.
- c. Sounds like something I would do.
- d. Of course!

4. Did you ignore people to go on your phone?

- a. Why would I do that? I like talking with my friends.
- b. Nope.
- c. That's probably something I would do.
- d. Yes, why would I talk to people?

5. How good do you think you have been this year?

- a. I belong on the top of the Christmas tree.
- b. My halo is only a little bent.
- c. I think I made it on the good list... Just.
- d. I can't wait to meet Krampus!

3. Did you talk about anyone behind their back?

- a. Never!
- b. Only nice things?
- c. I would die without gossip.
- d. What else would I do?!



Check here to see what you will be getting for Christmas!

Mostly A - You will be getting the best gifts available. Maybe even a unicorn!

Mostly B - Well you can have most of what you asked for and maybe a few other things.

Mostly C - Try harder next year - you almost made it. Santa might forgive you and give you a couple of coals

Mostly D - It's coal for the rest of your life, if you even deserve that!





Christmas Tales



Santa Short Stories from Jenny and Erica from 8D

Yikes!

Santa Saws

“Ho,ho,ho, the last house then I can go home,” said Santa cheerfully.

As Santa landed lightly on the house roof, he could hear a dull hum from down the chimney. **Huh, probably an animal or something**, he thought as he jumped into the chimney. The noise got louder and **he saw a flashing object** as he shot down the chimney.

Before he could scream, **his body was chopped into tiny little bits** and his blood flooded everywhere. Worried that Santa was in trouble, his helper elf jumped down the chimney and like his boss, **he was minced.**

“Hee, hee, hee,” laughed the evil child as blood squirted over the Christmas tree. **“Santa burger for breakfast, see.”**

At that very point **Rudolf stuck his nose down the chimney** and a squirt of blood hit it and that’s why he has a red nose; Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer!



Jenny Allan 8D

A Dane Court Christmas Story



“Twas the lunch before the holidays, when all through the place

Not a student was quiet, not even Grace!
*The test papers were placed on a desk with care,
In hopes that a good mark soon would be there;*

*The children were sitting all eating their food,
While visions of holidays put them in a good mood;
And Mr Howard in his lab, doing paperwork,
Had just settled down for a long hour’s work,*

*When out on the field there arose such a clatter,
The teachers went out to see what was the matter.
Right through the window a ball flew like a flash,
And landed on a desk with an almighty crash.*

*In the place of the suspect, there stood a deer,
And with big, confused smiles we all gave a cheer!*

*No one was sure why the creature was there,
But Dane Court students enjoyed the sight, so rare.*

*The deer turned on its heel and ran through the grass,
And on its feet were curved shoes of brass.
It left our school and as it ran out of the way,
It said “neigh, neigh, nneeeiiiighhh”
(which is reindeerish for “MERRY CHRISTMAS
TO ALL AND TO ALL A GOOD DAY!”)*

Erica Cousins 8D



Christmas Calamities!



Jolly Jenny Allan 8D

Christmas is a jolly time but there are dangers everywhere...

Pine needles stabbing your eyes, falling trees, exploding presents and much, much more. However, we have even more little known facts about Christmas dangers:

* Around 350 people are hurt by Christmas tree lights every year in the UK - don't let kids swallow them! *

* 80,000 people are hurt every year by falling while decorating a Christmas tree! *

* Romantic mistletoe - not so as they are toxic, can slow your heart and cause hallucinations! *

* Did you know that 15 people die from falling icicles in the USA every year? *

* Don't trip over wrapping paper and ribbon or cut yourself when open presents! *

* People are 50% more likely to die in house fires so keep candles away from Christmas trees and pets! *



*** More people are killed by falling icicles, and Christmas decorations and trees than sharks every year! ***

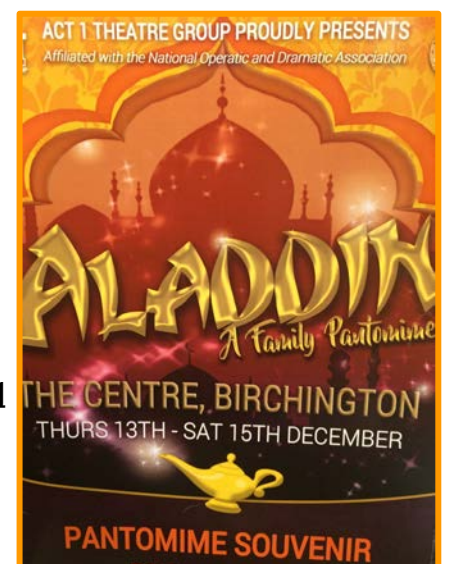
So be careful this Christmas or you could be the next victim of the Christmas tree...

“It's behind you!”

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without the opportunity to heckle a cast on stage with chants of “It's behind you!” and “Oh yes it is!” so well done to **Louise (Y12), Lily (Y12), Georgia (Y12), Holly (Y10), Aiden (Y8)** and **Cheyenne (Y7)** who transported audiences to Old Peking for the **Act 1 Theatre Group** pantomime, **Aladdin**, held at **The Centre in Birchington**.

Our **Dane Court students** entertained four audiences, young and old, in their annual festive performance with an evening of **dance, song, silly jokes** and predictable plot - perfect to kick start the silly-season!

Louise deserves a special mention for her amazing command of the lead role, and both Georgia and Holly were the glamorous genies of the ring and lamp. Cheyenne played the role of a handmaiden, while Lily and Aiden supported our superstars in the chorus. **Well done, everyone involved!**



Mrs Holmes



It's Pantomime Time

Our very own Snoozy, Oscar Whitehall 7S



Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

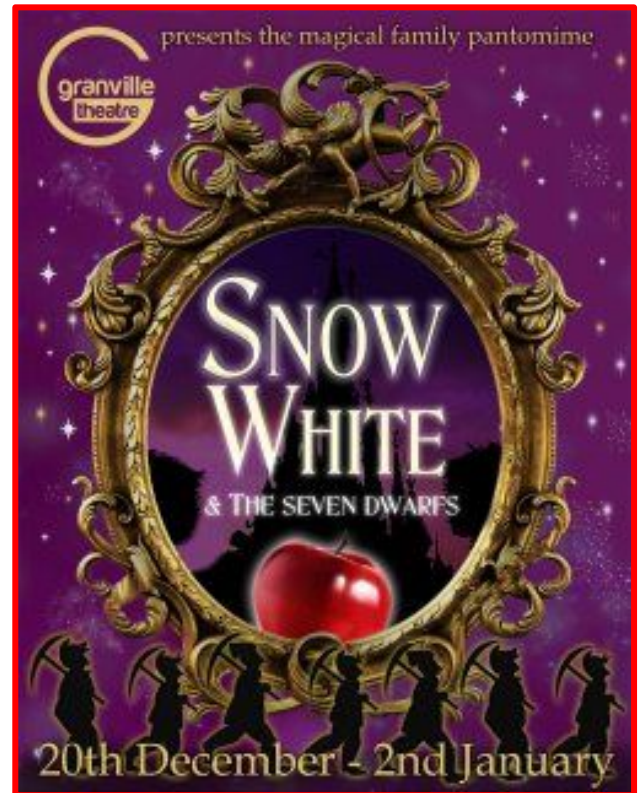
Panto season is well and truly underway! I am currently in rehearsals for the part

of **Snoozy**, one of the seven dwarfs in the story of **Snow White**.

Since mid November **every weekend and Thursday after school has been taken up with rehearsals**. There have been a lot of dances and songs to learn, and for the final week before the show opens, we will be rehearsing every day! It has been quite hard work, especially fitting in my schoolwork.

One of the highlights has been **turning on the Christmas lights in Ramsgate town centre** which I did with the comedy panto dame and the **Mayor, Trevor Shock**. It was exciting to see the **hundreds of people crowded around the stage**, eagerly waiting for the Mayor to turn on the lights!

As we are children, we can only legally perform in the pantomime every other night so there are two teams of performers - the Snowflakes and the Icicles. I am in the Snowflake team and am looking forward to the opening night, but I am quite nervous.



The Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs pantomime runs at the Granville Theatre in Ramsgate from the 20th of December until the 2nd of January.

For your chance to see Oscar as Snoozy Dwarf take a look at the website and book your tickets which start from £15.

<http://www.granvilletheatre.com/info/events>



Our Favourite Festive Tunes



Get in the mood with the top tunes from the Chatterers

'Who can truly resist a Christmas tune?'

Given that most stores began with their Christmas music back in October and November, no wonder we are fatigued already but who can truly resist a Christmas tune? We may complain but I bet **once that 'worm' gets inside your head**, you can't get it out. It wriggles around and **you find yourself 'singing' it in the shower**, on the bus, in the middle of the night, and **even in the the middle of the most riveting of Geography lessons!** Well we have **road tested those most loved or irritating of tunes** and have a definitive list of the **Chatter teams favourites** to remind you of them.



The Chatter Top 5 Tunes:

1. Rocking Around The Christmas Tree
2. Last Christmas
2. Do They Know It's Christmas
2. Jingle Bells
2. White Christmas
2. All I Want For Christmas
2. Frosty The Snowman
2. Jingle Bell Rock

Well, as you can see, we couldn't make our minds up either. Just don't blame us if you can't get them out of your head!



My Christmas Story by Faith Philpot 8T



"AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHH!" I awoke to hear the shrieking of my younger sister. **"It's CHRISTMAS!"** Blinking sleep from my eyes, I processed what she had said. It was...Christmas! Which meant that it could be the day I finally got what I wanted most; a **Nintendo Switch**. I leapt out of bed and shoved my feet into my slippers. It felt as if I was bubbling over with sheer excitement and joy.

I tore down the stairs, making an unnecessary amount of noise. My sister was still yelling at the top of her lungs. I raced to the living room and plonked myself down next to my sister in front of the tree. **I waited in anticipation** for our parents to arrive and let us open up our presents. My heart beat wildly as I thought of all the games that I could play on my new console...

My parents arrived. They handed us two neatly wrapped presents.

"Open them!" they prompted us. My little sister viciously ripped the shiny paper, to reveal a glamorously bejewelled box. It looked very expensive. She grinned and said it was what she had asked for. They all turned to me, expectantly. My hands shook as I tore away the paper. **I was so excited I could hardly breathe;** I was so happy I couldn't speak. The paper slid off to reveal...Oh. My face fell. I hadn't gotten what I'd asked for. I'd gotten a pair of socks. Thanks, Santa!





Keep Calm and Christmas On



Grace Williams 9S and Erica Cousins 8D



It's no surprise to anybody that Christmas is a stressful time of year, so we have made a Christmas survival guide; hope you enjoy!

1. Try to keep things in perspective. It's so much easier said than done but remembering that Christmas won't last forever really helps a lot, as it's very easy to get caught up in everything that happens during Christmas.

2. Make the most of spending time with family and friends. Too often people take their family for granted, Christmas is a really good time to tell someone that you care about them and that you are grateful to have them in your life.

3. Try not to worry too much over the little things; the world won't end if Christmas doesn't go 100% to plan.

4. Money doesn't have to be an issue when buying Christmas gifts. You can support local charities and businesses by going to small/charity shops. If this won't work for you then you can even make gifts! And don't forget, it's the thought that counts.

5. Have fun with it. Christmas is unique to everyone. If you can't find decorations you like or you're not enjoying Christmas just remember you can do Christmas your way. It doesn't have to be conventional.



Take our free advice or buy this 'Keep Calm at Christmas' guide from Amazon for £4.99!
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Keep-Calm-Christmas-Carry/dp/0091945054>



Where is Albert Einswein?



Meet Albert Einswein
the Dane Court boar!

Find the one tiny boar hidden on a page in this edition of DCGS Chatter. It must be the **teeny tiny one** and not the others on each page!

Once you have found dear Albert, email us at Chatter@danecourt.kent.sch.uk with the page number to be in with a chance to win a box of chocolates

The winner will be chosen at random from emails received and we will email you let you know.

**Competition closes at 5 pm on
Friday 4 January 2019**

The hunt is on but will you WIN?!



Relieve the Boar-dom



Festive fun to keep your little grey cells working over the holiday!



CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH



Find the following words hidden in the grid below:

PRESENT

TREE

ELF

SNOW

MISTLETOE

CRACKER

SANTA

RUDOLPH

BAUBLE

COLD

SLEIGH

TINSEL

First completed word search returned to us in January wins a prize!

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



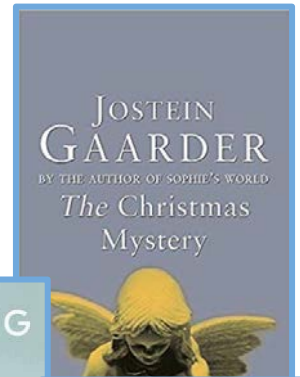
Cracking Christmas Reads



DCGS Librarian - Mrs Finlay

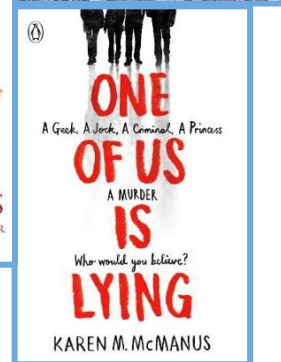
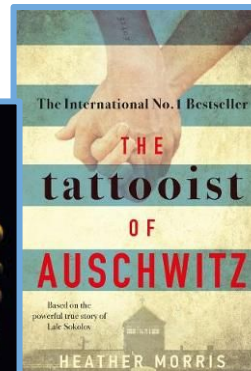
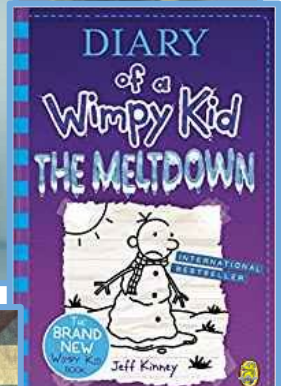
Don't be a Scrooge; get into the spirit of Christmas with these cracking reads!

- *A Christmas Carol* - Charles Dickens
- *The Christmas Mystery* - Jostein Gaarder
- *There May Be A Castle* - Piers Torday
- *Twelve Days of Christmas* - Trisha Ashley
- *Father Christmas and Me* - Matt Haig



2018 Bestsellers

- *Becoming* - Michelle Obama
- *The Crimes of Grindelwald* - JK Rowling
- *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Meltdown* - Jeff Kinney
- *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* - Heather Morris
- *Mortal Engines* - Philip Reeve
- *The Explorer* - Katherine Rundell
- *The Hate U Give* - Angie Thomas
- *The Ice Monster* - David Walliams
- *A Darkness of Dragons* - S. A. Patrick
- *Kingdom of Ash* - Sarah J. Maas
- *One of Us is Lying* - Karen M. McManus



Have a wonderful Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in the library in 2019!