



'Chatter'-ing at Number 10.....OMG!

On the Thursday that school ended, instead of doing lessons, we went up to London to visit number 10 Downing Street, the 'home' of the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson (as you do). Originally, we were going to interview him but he had to go to Brussels at short notice, so instead we went to interview the Secretary of Education, Gavin Williamson. Mr Williamson explained and answered our questions and also talked to us about his work rehoming hedgehogs which he does whilst he's not being important.

We were given a tour around the main rooms at number 10, including the cabinet room, the staircase and Margaret Thatcher's office. We also went into a room where we were served drinks and got to sit in a set of sofas and chairs worth £100,000 a piece. We tried really hard not to spill our tea on the chairs or it would have been a really expensive trip. Number 10, for a start was absolutely huge in size, with tons of staff and a door you can't open from the outside - slightly impractical but very cool all the same. The spiral staircase looks the same as you thought it would, it has all the pictures of the Prime Ministers going up until there was a picture of David Cameron at the top. **Continued on page 3.**



Festive delights featured in this edition....

It's panto season..... Or is it??? Mother Goose Review, Act 1 Cinderella Cast interviews.

Year 7 International Food Evening

Year 8's Annual Christmas Cake Competition

Christmas Myths & The BIG Christmas Debate

Winner of our Christmas Competition is revealed!!!



Wow, what a
busy term!!!

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Words from the Editor

Well, the holidays are coming up and we're here to celebrate! We have, as always, so many delightful articles within this edition so we hope you have as much fun reading as we have had putting this edition together for you - and trust me, the fun we had putting it together is going to be pretty hard to outdo.

In others news, we recently held our termly bake sale in support of **The Thanet Autistic Society** and raised a whopping £121! The Chatterers love cake almost as much as the biscuit tin, so look out for our next Charity Bake Sale the 1st week back in 2020 raising money for **TAG Pet Rescue!**

Enjoy this edition over the festive period and we will see you all back in school on Monday 6th January 2020... A new year, a new decade!

Contact us at Chatter@danecourt.kent.sch.uk
The Ed.

This Chatter Team...

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MERRY
CHRISTMAS



Number 10 Downing Street



Joe Baker 9D & Erica Cousins 9D

The trip to N° 10 Downing Street was a once in a lifetime experience. The decoration was exquisite and the history of the building and this country's politics was fascinating. Not only did we get the opportunity to have a tour of N° 10 and speak to the Minister of Education, but I also got to write a piece for First News! The people at N° 10, the First News team and Gavin Williamson were all so kind and informative. I asked Gavin, "What systems are in place to keep students safe outside of school?" He told me about scouts and out of school clubs. I really liked Gavin and most of his answers, however I felt that perhaps this answer was non inclusive of children in vulnerable situations who are unable to attend out-of-school activities. I loved the trip and really hope I can go back someday. - Erica Cousins 9D

Below is Erica's article as featured in First News....

Erica Cousins, Year 9, DCGS Chatter asked: "What policies are in place to support children outside of school?"

I think it's very easy for politicians to simply give responsibility for student welfare to schools, without a thought for the quality of life for students outside of school. Mr Williamson responded: "It's all about creating a sense of belonging," and that out-of-school activities such as sport and Scouts are brilliant. While I do agree with that, I think there is still more that needs to be done. Some children's families can't afford extra-curricular activities, or may not have access to them. However, steps are being taken in the right direction.

Raja Rattan, Year 9, Stretford Chronicle asked: "Do you think that the Government spends the national school budget on an adequate amount of equipment and resources?"

I don't feel like schools are receiving enough funding. Mr Williamson agreed that money has been tight in schools in recent years. He explained that Boris Johnson has agreed to three years' worth of additional education funding for all schools and told us that Brexit won't affect the education budget. I personally think that three years of additional guaranteed funding for schools is not enough, as it won't help children who are currently in primary school, or Year 7 students at Stretford High School, through to the end of their education.





Chatter visit Downing Street



Mrs Finlay

On Thursday 17th October First News invited two students from Chatter to a press conference and a tour of Downing Street, and I was lucky enough to accompany them! We were invited because we won First News Editorial Team of the Year. As we had to be there for 8.45am, it was a very early 5am start, however the Newspaper of the Year group had come all the way from Manchester! There were also a few primary school groups and a couple of other secondary schools from London, who had been invited. On the train from Broadstairs, Erica and Joe prepared their questions for the press conference - they had each been asked to think of three questions. With the news that the Extinction Rebellion were taking over the London Underground we opted for the bus from Kings Cross, which got us to Downing Street in good time.

Before going through the gates our names and ID were taken, and we had to have our bags checked, and be scanned - a bit like being at the airport. Then we had lots of time to take photos outside the famous Number 10 door. It felt very exciting to be standing outside such an iconic front door. We were very lucky with the weather. Whilst we were there Jacob Rees-Mogg walked in, and the press outside the side gates started calling out and snapping photos.

When all the group had assembled we were ushered in and immediately had to hand in our phones, so no more photo-taking. Then the tour began, starting with the famous Cabinet Room, where we all got a turn sitting in the PM's chair! There were bookshelves containing books donated by past Prime Ministers - Margaret Thatcher had added her photo to the spines so that she would always be a part of meetings. Also, Tony Blair had added plaster bees to the top of the cabinets, one for every member of his family.

The building feels a bit like a tardis as it is much bigger on the inside than you expect. My favourite thing was that it felt like walking around an art gallery - there were Lowry's and Turner's on the walls, amongst other more contemporary artwork, like a neon sign from Tracey Emin saying 'more passion' which she gave to David Cameron, because she felt that there needed to be more passion in politics! Margaret Thatcher had made the rooms more palatial, so there was a lot more gold and glamour than I had expected. She had asked for a figure of a thatcher to be added to the cornicing in one room so that there would always be a Thatcher in Downing Street!

We stood on the famous staircase (as recreated in the Love Actually film when Hugh Grant dances down the stairs), with the yellow walls and photographic portraits of every Prime Minister. Winston Churchill is the only one who has two portraits - he looks a bit grumpy in one of them, because the photographer had temporarily removed his beloved cigar!

Erica was very happy that we were given biscuits, and we tried not to spill our tea on the £50,000 chairs - some of which are in the V&A museum. After our coffee break we were ushered into a large conference room, where the 18 children were seated around a huge table to await Gavin Williamson, the Secretary of State for Education. We were originally going to be meeting Boris Johnson, but he was rather busy in Brussels that day.

It was very interesting to hear all the questions the various children had prepared - every student was so impressive, and Gavin Williamson answered all their questions thoroughly. There were questions that ranged from 'do you need to be rich to be in politics' to 'climate change' and 'what is in place for those with disabilities in the future'. One boy asked 'how different would politics be if under 18's had been allowed to vote'.

Joe was the only student who mentioned Brexit! Erica was sitting next to the politician but had the short straw of being asked her question last - luckily she had prepared five though! I was really proud of Erica and Joe for their intelligent questions and great behaviour throughout the trip - they were a real credit to Dane Court. What an amazing opportunity for all the students (and staff) involved!





Part 1 - DREAMS



Written and drawn by Erica Cousins 9D



“It’s funny how sometimes the universe just puts you in the right place at the right time.”



Or just so happens to project that all-important image into your mind at the right moment. Some people call this a prophecy, a prediction, they go by many names. But for most people, we call them - ***dreams***.

It was a beautiful summer day and Adeline was laying on the warm grass; it was so soft it felt as though she was lying on feathers and the **sun looked like melted gold**. To her left was a small terrier called Stanley, and to her right was a tall, wax candle glowing with green light. On a summer’s day it might seem more than a little odd to have a candle burning, especially outside. And quite simply, that’s because it is. However, it was not a summer’s day, Adeline was not outside and there was no candle. This was her dream, on the 10 November, somewhere between 10 pm and 6 am, in her bed. **But that is all far less interesting than what was happening in her mind.**

Adeline slowly stood up, not wanting to leave her position under the sun. She picked up the candle, **wax immediately spilling over her hand**. In shock from the burn she jumped backwards and dropped it. The green flame started spreading and growing taller. The flame rose and rose, until it was just shorter than Adeline, and then began to flow and mould into what seemed to be the shape of a young woman. In the blink of an eye the flame died out and there stood **Jade**.

Would you like to read on?

If you would like to read on then email me, Erica, at Chatter@danecourt.kent.sch.uk and the story will continue in the next issue with part 2!





The Christmas Debate



Does Christmas start too early???

On Friday 15th November, the Chatter team held a debate in the conservatory... Well, I say a debate, there were debates within the debate - which ended up with a very confused bunch of people wondering what the original debate was actually about!

Those for the motion that Christmas starts too early started the debate with the point that you wouldn't celebrate Halloween in August so why do shops start celebrating or advertising Christmas as early as October!

The response from those believing that it is never too early to start celebrating Christmas said "If Christmas celebrations started closer to Christmas day there would be no festive spirit."

"But surely 12 days before is enough time to build up festive spirit, we don't need it to overtake halloween! People start too early, this ruins the whole point of advent & advent calendars" claimed LK & GH. "It should start at advent as that is what Christmas is about - Jesus and the Bible" said JR from Year 10. This prompted a response of "there is no proof Jesus was born in December!" from HM in Year 7 and "It's not just Christians that celebrate Christmas though" pointed out SW Year 9.

"Exactly our point," said JC & JR (on team too early). "There are more important events celebrated in the run up to Christmas such as Remembrance Day, Thanksgiving and Diwali, these all get overshadowed by Christmas!" JR also added "And how do you think it feels to have a birthday in mid-December?"

"No, Christmas should be all year round! A whole year is far too long to wait for Christmas and New Year to be over in a week! I love Christmas so much it's hard not to celebrate early," said GR from Yr 7 said that the lights go up far too early and are a distraction to drivers especially the blue flashing ones, not forgetting what an impact it has on people's bank accounts due to high energy bill. And, how about the carbon footprint! However, as it was pointed out, money is saved by starting Christmas earlier as the shops inflate their prices closer to Christmas, lights don't have to be on all the time, and by starting it earlier, the present buying doesn't have to be rushed. Christmas eve shoppers leave it far too late to buy thought out gifts! However, if Christmas started too early the meaning is lost and the focus is on presents - December becomes annoying and repetitive rather than the boring and unspecial time it should be.

Or, you could always take the neutral standpoint:

"It doesn't matter when you start to prepare, as long as it makes you happy. If you start it early, you can build excitement or if you start it late and prefer to rush it then that's up to you."

Election- General and @ Dane Court

By George Randall 7

And the conservatives have won the election. In South Thanet the conservatives were victorious again with Craig McKinlay winning by getting 27,084 votes; while Dr Rebecca Gordon-Nesbitt (the Labour candidate for Thanet South) came in second with 16,947 votes. So as you can see it was quite a comfortable just over 10,000 vote majority for the conservatives in Thanet South. If you would like to know the plans of the conservative majority government you can easily access it on the BBC's website.

Dane court had their own election leading up to the 12th December 2019...Each candidate had a manifesto, they presented a debate in assembly and then each house had a polling station, where they could vote only once. The results were that **Labour** won with 41% of the votes, **Green Party** 23%, **Lib Dem** 15%, **Conservatives** 13% and **Brexit party** 7%.





Anti-Bullying Week



By Skye West 9T

Anti-Bullying Week 2019 was between the 11th and 15th of November. During this week, we try to show people that if you are bullied, it is not your fault. It helps raise awareness on bullying as well allowing some people to feel that they can talk to people about it.

The definition of bullying is “to seek to harm, intimidate, or coerce (someone perceived as vulnerable). There are multiple different versions of bullying such as physical, verbal, cyber or emotional bullying.

- Physical bullying: when someone physically hurts you.
- Verbal bullying: when someone uses words to hurt you and cause you to feel upset because of it.
- Emotional bullying: when someone attacks your emotional level like spreading rumours.
- Cyber bullying: using the internet to cause bullying.



There are many celebrities who have been bullied in the past but they have successfully overcome it and became famous partially because of the bullying. For example, Daniel Radcliffe was bullied while he was at school but he then went on to star in the Harry Potter films. This shows that you can overcome bullying and it certainly does not last forever especially if you talk to people about it. If you speak about it, you are the one who benefits from it eventually even if you have difficulty discussing it at first.



Bullying can **affect everyone** and is linked to both short-term and long-term **negative effects** including mental health issues and substance abuse.

- Those who **experience bullying** have a higher risk of decreased academic achievement, health issues along with increased emotions of depression and anxiety.
- Those who **bully others** could get into fights, vandalize property and drop out of school.
- **Bystanders** of bullying could even miss school or have mental health problems themselves.



Everyone is unique and everyone makes mistakes. Many people are bullied. You just have to make sure that you remember to be yourself by not changing for other people. You are your own person and you can't change that





Reviews



By Grace Williams



FILM

Frozen 2

I have been incredibly fortunate to have the ability to watch Frozen two twice since it's release, both times at the Carlton Cinema (learn more about the carlton cinema next edition of Chatter!)

I absolutely love animation, especially animation this truly stunning, and my jaw genuinely dropped at a few of the scenes in the film.



In particular the lighting in Atohoun and the enchanted forest were breathtaking. Anna's hair moved incredibly realistically and the mud on the trail that Sven was riding across on the way to the enchanted forest was stunning. I also really liked the way that the characters emoted, especially Anna.

The soundtrack was once again amazing, especially "Show Yourself" and "Into The Unknown". Once again, all of the songs were absolute earworms and showed off the voice actor's ability expertly (although they may not be the easiest for young children to sing). And the scene where Elsa is crossing the sea was some of the best animation released this year so far!

However, with all this being said, Frozen 2 was by no means a perfect film. The pacing felt quite jarring at points, and Olaf's maturity arc felt quite forced and out of character, whilst Kristoph also felt a little under utilised. I would definitely recommend this film as an example of beautiful animation and a gorgeous soundtrack, and it is definitely worth watching.



Book Buzz- Review



By Lydia Jones 7D

In one of my english lessons, my class watched a video that showcased authors talking about their books. In total there were twelve authors describing and telling us information about their novel. We got given a voting form sheet. It had a picture of each front cover of each book with a space next to it, to give the book a rate out of ten.

We had 12 choices:

Still Water, Who Killed Darius Drake, Doctor Who: The Secret Of Vault 13, Football School: Season 3, The Last Zoo, Girls Can Vlog, Lucy Locket Online Disaster, Jelly, Armistice Runner, Cyborg Cat, Rise Of The Parsons Road Gang, Drone Racer, When The Mountains Roared and Crossover.

My highest scoring book was Armistice Runner, joint with Football School: Season 3. In the end, I chose Football School: Season 3 because it appeared more comical and entertaining than Armistice Runner.

The front cover drew me in more than the other eleven novels and watching the video convinced me to choose it as I like reading books such as the Diary Of A Wimpy Kid series.

Football School: Season 3 doesn't really have a story. It is very factual but a humorous book at the same time. There are 'lessons' throughout the book about how to be one of the best football commentators and footballers, even how to keep your dribbling football feet in top condition. There is also cartoon illustrations, quizzes, a comic for each 'lesson' in football school and much more exciting features.



The UK Drum Show



Graceful Ellie Golding 9H

On the 21st of September, my parents and I had the pleasure of seeing the Uk Drum Show. We left for Manchester the moment I got home from school on the Friday and arrived at our hotel at around 12:00. The next day started with a few episodes of the Simpsons, before heading off into Manchester Central. When we arrived, we were very excited! It was my dad's cousin that invited us to the show in the first place, meaning we had VIP access! Skipping the queue, we rushed straight to get our staff passes and extra cool T-Shirts FOR FREE from our cousin. Then we headed on upstairs for our first experience. The day included: Playing on an invisible drum kit, buying lots of drum accessories , watching famous drummers perform and practising on electric kits. There were around 50 kits in one room (It was very noisy so we had to buy earplugs.). Our staff passes allowed us to access anywhere in the building and we even got the chance to take a selfie with a very famous drummer called Chris Coleman. My dad loved the day so much, he booked our steel band to play there next year!



Mother Goose @ the Marlowe

It's panto time!! Oh no it isn't!! Oh yes it is!!! Mother goose at the Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury was a fantastic pantomime to watch with all the family. It had everything perfect from the very first opening scene right up until the spectacular ending.

The cast consisting of Dr Ranj, Jenna Russell, Ben Roddy (in his tenth Marlowe pantomime!),Lloyd Hollett, and Marc Pickering had the children and adults fixated throughout by their facial expressions,the mirror sequence, the usual pantomime jokes and the songs to sing along to everyone was entertained. Beautimatic 3000 was by far my favourite part of the show.. I won't elaborate as don't want to ruin it for anyone going to see the show!

This years panto was a double celebration as it was Chris Wong- Marlowe Theatre's musical director 25 year anniversary & Ben Roddy's 10th Pantomime there!

Congratulations to them both!





Being a part of Act 1



By Dylan 7H and Ella 7N

Act One Theatre Group is a theatre group for people from the age of 6 and above. Every year there is a musical performance for both ages and then at Christmas they do a pantomime!



Dylan and Ella's Act 1 Time

Dylan: I joined Act 1 in March 2018 when they were doing 'Seussical Jr', which was based on the film 'Horton Hears a Who'. As I joined halfway through rehearsals I joined as an ensemble member. Next was Aladdin and I was a cheeky panda called Typhoo, I enjoyed playing a role this time. After that, I did '15 Years On'. This show was based on the acting groups pat shows all mixed together to make one show. I was the Tin Man and ensemble. Now I am part of the ensemble in 'Cinderella'.

Ella: I have only just joined Act 1 and I have loved it so far. I was originally doing dance at my old school and a dance club at my new school then I thought I could do something bigger, and audition for a part in Cinderella. I am now a featured dancer in Cinderella and I enjoy working with Act 1.

Cheyenne's Interview 8D

1. **What do you enjoy most about performing with Act 1? Why?** I enjoy Act 1 because it's somewhere I can feel free to enjoy my acting and to help me with my confidence.
2. **What is your favourite pantomime that you have performed in with Act 1? Why?** My favorite pantomime that I have performed in is 'Dick Whittington' because at the side of the stage I could see them fighting with toilet brushes.
3. **What inspiration did you get to become an actor?** My inspiration was Morgan (my sister), because I could help her learn her lines and I felt like I could do more than that.
4. **Who is the best character you have ever played? Why?** The best character I have played is The Scarecrow in 'Fairy Tales' because I had my own song to sing and I could roam free and do whatever.
5. **Who are you in 'Cinderella' and do you like your role? Why?** I am a featured vocalist and I enjoy it because where I can express my feelings by singing and I enjoy singing.
6. **If you could, would you play another role in 'Cinderella'? What would it be and why?** I would like to be Cinderella because I feel like I can do more acting and if I could have been Cinderella it would mean I would have a big challenge to remember the lines and that would help me with my facial expressions so I can be a signer for deaf people when I am older.



Interview with “That Guy”



By Michaela 7N, Ella 7N and Enya 7N



I: What do you do?

TG: What do you mean what do I do? I do everything I can to make sure that you are behaving and getting your articles out on time so all the wonderful readers have some good content to enjoy.

I: Are you in charge of the Chatter?

TG: Me, Mrs Finlay and Mrs Cronin run the Chatter equally together. We all have our own different roles in the Chatter and together we make sure that the Chatter runs smoothly and efficiently.

I: What do you want to do and why?

TG: I want to become a maths teacher for secondary schools. This is because I find maths interesting and I enjoy the intellectual conversations.

I: What's your favorite trait about yourself?

TG: My loyalty to my friends

I: What's your favourite subject?

TG: Maths. What else would it be?

I: Have you won any awards?

TG: Yes, the Chatter won Editorial Team of the Year Award from First News.

I: Why are you called That Guy?

TG: In the first edition, the founders decided that people should get given certain nicknames. People like Jamie were given the Ravenmeister. While when it came to me, they asked what my name should be. When I said “I don't know, I'm just that guy,” they decided that it was perfect because I really was just That Guy and it has stuck ever since.

I: Who's your favourite year 7 in the Chatter?

TG: I could not possibly say as you are all so annoying and needy. Especially Murph.



Sailing Season Ends

By Joe Baker 8D & Izzy Denby 8N

In the winter, the sailing season is coming to the end, with only a few more races to go and no more trophies to win. We finally, after a year, take our boats back home for storage in the winter. We have recently been to the prize giving at the sailing club, where various people have won different prizes. Even though we have been sailing for 6 years, prizes are relatively hard to get, and we don't exactly have 6 years worth of prizes to show, so it was great to hear that this year, both of us won trophies and plates!

However, if you don't want to wait till at least the end of January to sail again, there is some other ways to keep sailing in the Winter. Annoyingly, Broadstairs Sailing Club doesn't offer any Winter sailing opportunities so we have to reach further out to enjoy more sailing in the year. For the past couple of Sunday's I have been going with my dad and uncle to Westbere Frostbite Sailing Association on Westbere marshes near Surrey.





Building a PC 101



By Joe Baker 8D

Building your own PC is like grinding your own coffee - as in as long as you don't muck it up it tastes much better.

While most of us can't be bothered and opt for a pre-made one instead, if you do decide to make the effort and you don't muck it up, this is an incredibly worthwhile project that sets you apart from the competition. It also happens to be very attractive looking compared to the other stuff you try and make yourself.

Before you go ahead with this, be warned, this is not a cheap project, £450 is the bare minimum you must spend on this, not counting all of the peripherals (screens and stuff), you should probably start saving up. You should probably make sure you know what you're doing as well. One mistake can bring your whole build to a grinding halt.

Don't think you can cut corners either. Every part of this has to be thought through thoroughly for it to work together in cohesion. Unlike a laptop or a pre-built desktop, the starting price is a lot higher as all of the parts need to be high quality and of respectable brands for everything to function properly. You get what you pay for!



To be honest, it was easier than I thought as there were less components and the assembly was straightforward. Now don't get me wrong, you still have to be dedicated to complete your build. Don't go off for a cup of tea halfway through. This requires your full attention. What's nice about building your own is that you have lots of choice on what components to acquire. It was really fun choosing all of the different parts to put together. Naturally, I went for the ones that lit up the most as I'm an incredibly shallow person.

On the outside, your build should look fairly good looking assuming you did a good job (More on that later). Behind the scenes, it's a different matter entirely, as there are a mish-mash of unorganised cables and weird colours. The box hides the internals through a piece of metal panel, while the circuits and good looking bits are behind a piece of tempered glass.

One of the best parts about building it yourself is the modularity of the components, as in you can easily swap out a certain element of it without having to unscrew too many screws, or unplug too many cables. Everything is built to be taken out and put back in numerous times. For me personally, it is much quicker than my five year old laptop I used to use.

Before you even think about building your PC, you have to obtain the parts, there are seven components you need to get for the main build to work. I will cover all of these and their purpose to give you a decent idea of what they do, to increase your understanding of how this machine works.

The CPU - This is the brain of your PC. Without this your PC won't work. There are two main manufacturers of CPU, Intel and AMD. Be careful when choosing these to make sure they fit with your budget and are the correct type of CPU, choose your motherboard to fit your CPU, not the other way round.

The Motherboard - So you have your Brain, and now you need a body. This is where the Motherboard comes in. Make sure your Motherboard fits your CPU and your case. Motherboards come in different sizes, ranging from M-ATX down to Mini-ITX. Most Motherboards are just standard ATX

The Graphics Card - Essentially the eyes of your PC and are made by AMD or Nvidia. Nvidia and AMD get other companies to make their cards for them as they are lazy so they might not actually say Nvidia or AMD on them. Have a look at the power of the card and make sure its in proportion to the other parts of your PC. You don't want a bottleneck do you?

Case & Power Supply- With your case, simply choose the one that you think looks the best, while making sure it has lots of room for fans and supports your Motherboard. Make sure your Power Supply gives out enough energy to power your PC. 500W should be more than enough for most PCs.

Storage and Ram- with storage, you need lots of it, and it needs to be fast. If you want fast storage, get an SSD (Solid State Drive), if you want lots of storage get a big fast hard drive for all of your games and music and other things. With Ram, about 8GB should be enough, but if you are a Gamer, it would be wise to get 16GB instead. Also make sure it is DDR4 not DDR3 Ram, DDR3 is way too slow.



Children's Showtime 2019!



Ellie Golding 9H

In half term, I had the pleasure to take part in the Thanet Stage School Of Performing Arts dance show! I have been with TSS since 2015 (I have also danced with Star Stage School for a number of years). Every show I have performed in has dazzled, excited and amazed me! But there is something about this one show that made it like no other. I was one set below the seniors, meaning I had to wear a few very painful head dresses. However it was my dream to wear one. On the Monday of half term until the end of the last show on Sunday, we worked our socks off dancing for hours on end - very tiring but the most incredible experience! Some of the numbers I was in included: Rhythm Is Gonna Get You by Gloria Estefan, One Jump from Aladdin, One from A Chorus Line and ect. My favourite costume was from the Chicago section. The best number in the show was Friend Like Me (Performed by the seniors). In the dressing room, we made an awful mess.. Feathers and sequins all over the place; grips and pins laying on the floor; costumes flung everywhere, there was never a dull moment! I was very lucky to have my mum chaperoning me! Everyone keeps saying how much I look like her on stage. Here are some pictures:





Guinness World Records



By Hadley Morris 7H



Guinness World Records

The Guinness Book of World Records has and always will be one of the greatest books in the modern world. It is amazing because it shows just how great and stupid humans can be. Weird and crazy records including juggling samurai swords and axes. One of the craziest world records ever (in my opinion) is held by Dude Perfect where he threw a basketball off a skyscraper and put it through a hoop. I also really like the design of the certificate that they give you when you get the award.

However It does have its flaws. If you are not famous or do not have money you have to wait AT THE MINIMUM 6 MONTHS. Sometimes it can even take A YEAR TO EVEN GET RESPONDED TO. Multiple people have been declined of the record even though they surpassed the record by far. They were declined because it took too long for the company to respond. That is why it is my belief that Guinness World Records isn't a record company anymore even though it started that way. It is now an advertising company for young people who want to be known. Guinness World Records is good place to advertise with 15,000 people getting records EVERY WEEK. It has been partially rigged to make money as to speed up the process of getting the record cost over £2000 just to reduce time to 5 working days rather than 12 usual weeks. Despite its flaws, I do think it's still a good book to read. I just think that it isn't fair that you have to pay over £10,000 just to APPLY AND GET NOTICED BY GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS IN A WEEK OR TWO which leaves people who despite being the very best at something they just cannot afford to pay the price of getting the record. However you can make some money by appearing on some shows to demonstrate your skill.

Some websites don't cost money to get the records unlike Guinness World Records.



Creative Students



The Rusty Crown By Michaela Murphy 7N

Far away from the rest of the world, there was a village called Mercon. The sky was blue and bright, the market was filled with joyful shouts and everything was peaceful and perfect, it was a utopia, a paradise. Until he came! And everything changed. The sky turned a pitch-black colour, a silence so loud fell over the placid village. The once euphoric village fell into despair. So the three omens (the village leaders) decide every year one hero to go forth to fix what has been done but, two have become drunk with power and have lost faith and reason. As a prophecy states "only one will be able to save this doomed village. Only one will be able to save humanity."

Chapter one: The crimson crown

The night air was brisk and cold. The sky was an ocean of jet-black, diamonds dotted the sky and the moon was a silvery ball of light that shone down on the land below. A gust of wind swept into the vacant hallway through the open window and into the unsuspecting patrol guards face.

The patrol guard was young around seventeen, he was quite tall for his age and had maroon curly hair and hazel eyes. He had been standing outside of the King Arionan's throne room for roughly five hours. When he noticed the gust of air he walked over to shut the ajar window. He drew his sabre because he was anxious, he was sure he had shut all the windows. He was tired so he quickly dismissed the feeling of uneasiness but still was tense and ready for an attack. He sheathed his sabre but kept his hand on the hilt.

The Pegasus, unicorns and the horses.....Part 1

By Kylie Wang 7B

10 years ago:

The pegasuses, horses and the unicorns have lived peacefully for many centuries. Then, one day, something terrible happened. And it all happened with Queen Libby Of All Horses (note from author: I know that being Queen of Horses doesn't seem like much, so I am making them extremely clever), Queen Laksija Of All Unicorns and Queen Sky Of All Pegasi.

It occurred when Queen Sky, Queen Laksija and Queen Libby met up to discuss if they wanted to add more hoomans (as they called us) stuff to their Universe, like cutlery and potatoes. They also met up to have lunch. While they were discussing, they discovered an alarming problem, so *alarming*, so *terrifying*, and so *teeth-chattering*; there was only one piece of chocolate cake left. They didn't want to split it up, because they didn't want to destroy its pristineness. It was so pristine, so luscious, so... so, *perfect*, they drooled. They fought over it. Legend says that no one ever remembers what happened to it (even though it was just ten years ago).

Now:

Erin, heir to Queen Laksija of Unicorns, slipped into an abandoned stable. Cherry, heir to Queen Sky of Pegasi, Laksija heir to Queen Libby of Horses, and Kylie (the only known member of the alicorns) were waiting for her. Their parents were rivals. They were secretly friends. o:

To be continued DUN DUN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



What's been going on??



Our fantastic Bake Sale raised a huge £121 for Thanet Autistic Society. Thankyou!!

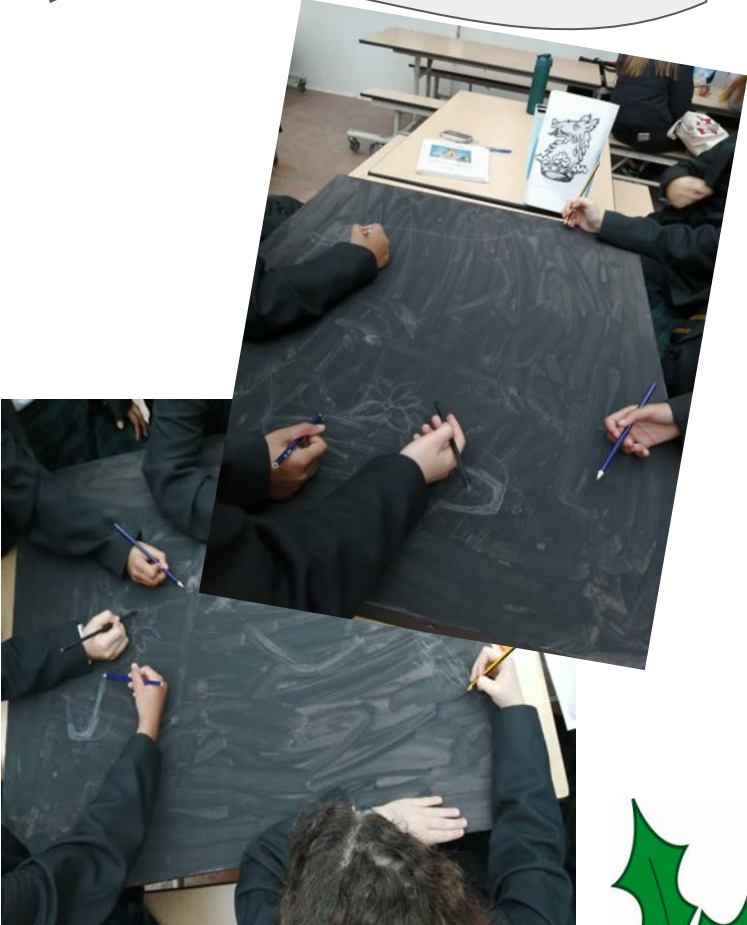


Next bake sale for TAG pet rescue is on 9th January 2020

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Recycling Club have started their new eco friendly creation!

Thank you to all the students and staff who came along and supported the Scholastic half-price book fair. We made an amazing £475.85 which meant that we were able to get £90.50 in free books! Here are some of the books that we have chosen for the library:



I hope that you all get a chance to read lots of fantastic books over the Christmas holidays. Maybe you could write a book review to recommend something for a friend?

Happy reading and Happy Christmas!

Mrs Finlay (Librarian)





International Food Evening

By Year 7's in the Chatter



The country that I chose for the International Food Evening was **Libya**. Myself and my group did 5 slightly different dishes. We cooked Libyan Shakshuka, grilled salad, libyan couscous, burrek and gluten free bureek. My team and I made posters and info sheets for our display.

Lydia Jones 7D.



The country that I chose for the International Food Evening was: The **Philippines**.

Michaela and I did a dish each. One named Butter Biscuits and one was named Lumpia, which included pork as its main meat and lots of different veg.

We created our huge poster to put up on our board and made many leaflets and feedback sheets for it.

We enjoyed International Food Evening and loved trying new food that we can cook at home.

Ella Healy 7N



The country I chose was **Poland**. I chose this Country because I am from Poland.

My group and I made 5 dishes. My two dishes were Oponki (Polish Cottage cheese doughnuts) and pierogi (Polish dumplings with either meat or mushrooms).

Oliver made mazurek and sernik (Polish cheesecake).

Cameron made Polish cookie balls. This was one of

the best days this term, and I am hoping the future

Year 7's enjoy it too when they do this event. As

well as this, I hope we can do more of these types of events!

Jan Malczenko 7N



The country that I chose for the International Food Evening was **Mexico**. I

made salsa and served it with tortillas. The night was amazing. Me and my two other

friends worked together. We made a poster, a big display, recipe sheets and

review slips. **Dylan 7H**



The country that I chose for the IFE was the **USA**. I made Whoopie pie (chocolate cookies with marshmallow inside). It was brilliant. **Gabriel 7N**

The night was amazing. Shout out to the people running the mocktail bar they were lit and Timmy the tiny turtle approved of them. Apart from that, it was pretty fun. **DC 7H**



Inter-house Drama Competition



By Liam Goldfinch 7S

On Friday 15th November I participated in the Inter-House Drama Competition (where we were doing the story of Icarus and Daedalus). I didn't anticipate how high we would place, coming 1st in year 7.

How does this competition work?

We had 5 lessons to practice and 10 to 20 minutes to recap before performing each time. We thought our plan of perfecting each bit in one at a time was genius. In the first lesson, we thought of how to start it and we did it with suspense, mime and soundscaping while also perfecting the opening. In the second lesson we practiced the problem in the story using flashbacks and no-one speaking apart from the narrator. In the third lesson we practiced how they attempted to solve the problem while using way more speech, a narrator and a bit more mime. In the fourth lesson we practiced the ending with the death of Icarus and a funeral using even more mime. And in the final lesson we perfected everything we had done including timing, emphasis and movement.

On the day as soon as we got into school we had to collect everyone and make sure they were ready to perform. Once we got into the theatre, it was crazy. The teacher came in and told us we had 20 minutes to prepare. Since it was so crazy in the theatre, we practiced our positioning and lines outside in the Heart.

The performances in 1st period were great and when it was our go I was very confident in my group. Once all the performances were done, we were told that the teachers would tally scores and announce the winner soon.

The funniest moment was when we were showing the class our piece in lessons leading up to the day, so we could vote on the best one. It was while Joe's group performed and in their piece they sang "Row row row your boat" three or four times in a really silly voice. I'm not sure if anyone else saw it but while we were waiting on the next group to go on stage one of the performers nearly fell off stage.

What went well?

I think myself and my group performed very well and were very confident when speaking and performing. We also worked very well as a group and had no arguments.

What we could have done better?

Although we did very well there are some things we could have done better. Just like when Jake (who was playing the minotaur) fell the wrong way which wasn't very bad and didn't hurt us much but it meant we couldn't set up props later on that easy because we were on the wrong side and also when we didn't say the end line in sync.

Winners!!!

The year group winners were announced during period 4 and it was very tense in the big room! But they soon announced that we had beaten the rest of Year 7 and had to perform again in order to see who wins the trophy. So, all the winners performed. I wasn't there the next day so I don't know who won overall but I know that we didn't because we didn't get the trophy.





Ellie's Kitchen



Mince Pies- For Vegetarians

You Will Need:

- 100g Butter
- 175g Plain Flour
- 75g Icing Sugar
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 tbsp Cold Water
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- ½ an eating apple
- 50g Brown Sugar
- 150g Mixed Dry Fruit
- 50g Chopped Glazed Cherries
- 25g Vegetarian Suet
- 3 tbsp Ruby Port
- ½ large orange - finely grated and juiced



Method:

Put the plain flour, icing sugar and chilled and cubed butter into a food processor and pulse until mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs
Add 1 egg yolk (reserve the white), 1 tbsp cold water and 1 tsp vanilla extract and pulse again until pastry just comes together. Tip on to a surface, shape into a disc, then wrap in clingfilm and chill for 30 minutes.
Meanwhile, coarsely grate 1/2 an eating apple and put in a bowl with the dark brown soft sugar, vegetarian suet, mixed dried fruit, chopped glacé cherries, finely grated zest and juice of 1/2 a large orange and Ruby Port. Stir together and set aside.

Roll chilled pastry out on a lightly floured surface until 3mm (1/8in) thick, then stamp out 12 rounds with a fluted or plain 8cm (3 1/4in) cutter (re-rolling trimmings as necessary). Use rounds to line a 12-hole bun tin and fill cases with the mincemeat (including any liquid). Re-roll pastry trimmings and stamp out a smaller shape (stars or holly leaves are nice) to lay on top of each pie. Brush a little reserved egg white over top of pastry to glaze.

Bake at 190°C (170°C fan) mark 5 for 18-20 minutes until golden. Leave pies to cool in tin for a few min to set pastry, then carefully transfer to wire rack to cool. Serve warm or at room temperature. They can also be frozen for up to 2 months



Year 8 Christmas Cakes



Year 8 Annual Christmas cake competition
Well done to all students involved.
All of you did amazing jobs, these
are just a few
examples!!





Christmas Myths



-The Ravenmeister-

Santa vs. Father Christmas

Okay, say it with me now - Santa and Father Christmas are not the same person. They may have been kinda merged into one person, but they are different. Santa was the Turkish priest St Nicholas (yeah, that one) who gained a reputation for giving out presents and got his name from his Dutch name, Sinterklaas. Father Christmas was a mixture of several winter gods who spread Christianity and told people to eat and eventually become popular when Cromwell banned Christmas. They are not the same. They are also not the same as Pere Noel or Ded Moroz or Kris Kringle. Different.



Santa Equivalents

Santa has different versions, so this is nothing to do with that. Instead, this bit is all about other characters who give out presents in winter:

- La Befana, an Italian witch who drinks wine and sweeps your floor for you.
- Joulupukki, a Finnish goat who dances for his dinner and terrifies your children.
- The Seven Lucky Gods, who sail their treasure ship over the sky at New Year.
- The Three Kings in basically every Central and South American country.
- Jultomten, the Swedish Christmas Gnome who eats lots of porridge.
- Snegurochka, Santa's (or rather, Ded Moroz's) Russian granddaughter.
- Baboushka, a Russian granny who leaves presents in case you're Jesus.
- Zwarte Piet, a Moorish man who accompanies Santa in Dutch folklore.
- Knecht Ruprecht, Krampus and Belsnickel accompany the German Santa, Nikolaus, and punish bad kids.
- And my favourite, Perchta, an Austrian goose-footed spinster, who leaves coins for good kids, tramples the flax of naughty ones (weird flax but okay) and for the really naughty ones rips out their intestines and stuffs their bodies with pebbles and straw.



Incredible. I actually managed to create a meme about this.

Krampus

Fine, I'll do Krampus...

Krampus is a goat demon who punishes naughty German children, often by dragging them to hell, whipping them or drowning them in ink. He's older than Jesus and whenever kids stop believing in him, the townspeople all dress up as Krampus to torture the child. Krampus was so terrifying that the Austrian minister for schools hated him, the Spanish Inquisition hated him and even the Nazis called him a Socialist construction and ordered his arrest. However, it didn't work, and in the 60s, he even somehow briefly became a really fetishised sex symbol.





Christmas Myths continued.



-The Ravenmeister-

Just... Iceland.

Dear God, Iceland has a lot of Christmas Monsters.

Among these several Christmas monsters are Gryla and Leppalúðir, a couple who eat naughty children, their giant cat Jólakötturinn who eats kids who aren't wearing new clothes because it proves you didn't help with the harvest and their sons named the Yule Lads, 13 troll brothers who visit on each of the 13 nights before Christmas and leave either presents or potatoes and annoy you. Their names are: Stúfur, Stekkjarstaur, Giljagaur, Þvörusleikir, Pottaskefill, Ketkrókur, Askasleikir, Hurðaskellir, Skyrgámur, Bjúgnakrækir, Gluggagægir, Gáttapefur and Kertasníkir, who eat pie crusts, harass sheep, steal milk, lick spoons, eat leftovers, steal meat, lick bowls, slam doors, eat yoghurt, snatch sausages, look through windows, sniff doors in search of bread and steal candles respectively.



Mari Lwyd

Every year in South Wales, the village rascalion will decorate a horse's skull, stick in on a pole and drape it and themselves in a white cloak to become Mari Lwyd, a personification of famine. Mari Lwyd and its attendants then go door to door singing about why it should be let in, and the houses's inhabitants must sing excuses for not letting it in. If the inhabitants give up, Mari Lwyd is let in and may raid your larder. For the price of £5, I will happily carry out this service for your benefit.



Hogwarts at Christmas

Cameron Melloy 7N

As a Potterhead (a big fan of Harry Potter) I decided to do a Christmas special, about the mysticality of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry in the festive season. The professors' table is in front of 3 large Christmas trees. These trees are amazingly decorated. As the ceiling is bewitched to look like the sky, it is like you are open to snow falling gracefully down. The Hogwarts choir sings carols. Many students are at home so the Great Hall is not as crowded as when all the students are there. Christmas at Hogwarts is a time of festivity and celebration.





Did Aliens exist on Earth?

Hadley Morris 7H



I personally believe that there are real aliens out there, not just bacteria but multi-celled organisms that once helped us build; build almost everything that was built a long time ago. This includes: StoneHenge, The pyramids of ancient egypt and the easter island statues.

The evidence to support this theory is that the rocks that made Stonehenge come from Scotland and It was impossible to transport all those rocks from Scotland to Wiltshire 3000 years ago. However, aliens with advanced technology could have transported all the rocks which weigh around 25 tons each!

In Egypt, the pyramids are amazing architectural wonders so it is a small wonder that they are standing to this day is amazing condition. Many ancient astronaut theorists say that it would be impossible to build them and have then stay up all this time. They say that without modern technology it would be impossible for the tallest pyramid at a whopping 456 ft, (though it is thought that one time a long time ago it was 26 ft taller though has eroded over time.) to have survived all this time.

An advanced civilization would of been able to do it though, and in many religions there are many occasions where divine spirits would come from above. The easter island statues could have been created by aliens with lasers to create the perfect stone faces to impress the inhabitants of the island at the time or teach them how to impress future generations, this would explain why there are quite a few unfinished or terrible ones which could be the people trying to recreate what they saw the aliens create, yielding poor and shoddy results.

UFOs have been reported throughout history. A very famous case comes from Alexander the great who reported hours of strange fire patterns in the sky of purple swirls and zigzag lines. These could be UFOs as all the shapes he and his team reported are shapes that UFOs are known to be like, cylinders in the sky.

I sincerely hope that this article has convinced you that there are aliens out there or at the very least believe that some otherworldly forces helped humans build the wonders the world.





Stroke First Aid



Skye West 9T

You may have seen the FAST advertisements on buses or online for strokes, which tell you how you are able to recognise a stroke. A stroke is a serious medical condition which can be life-threatening as it happens when the blood supply to part of the brain is cut off. Like all organs, the brain requires oxygen and nutrients to function correctly which is provided by blood. Brain cells will start to die if the blood supply to the brain is restricted or stops. There are two main causes of a stroke:

- Ischaemic - This is where the blood supply stops due to a blood clot. This happens in 85% of strokes.
- Haemorrhagic - This is where a weakened blood vessel supplying the brain bursts.

There are certain conditions which may increase the risk of having a stroke, which include high blood pressure (hypertension), high cholesterol, irregular heart beats or diabetes.

FAST

F - Facial Weakness. Are they unable to smile? Do they have a droopy mouth or eye?

A - Arm weakness. Are they unable to lift arm(s) or leg(s)?

S - Speech problems. Are they unable to speak clearly or understand?

T - Time to call 999/112. Is a stroke suspected?



Other symptoms are unequal pupils or confusion.

How to treat if they are responsive:

- 1 Keep the casualty in a comfortable, supported position. Even help them to lie down
- 2 Dial [999](tel:999)/112 for the emergency services 📞
- 3 Loosen any tight clothing and continue to reassure the casualty
- 4 Monitor and record the casualty's level of response, pulse and breathing
- 5 Do not give the casualty anything to eat or drink, as they may have difficulty swallowing.



How to treat if they are not responsive

- 1 Open airway and check breathing:
 - If they are breathing, put them in the **recovery position**
 - If they are not breathing, be prepared to **resuscitate**
- 2 Dial [999](tel:999)/112 for the emergency services 📞
- 3 Monitor and record level of response, pulse and breathing
- 4 Be prepared to **resuscitate**.



Christmas Competition



Chatter's competition this edition was to write a Christmas themed poem or short story in no more than 150 words to win a £15 Vue Cinema Gift Card. There was also a runners up festive prize. Entries were voted on by students present in the conservatory Friday Lunchtime.

Thank you for all your entries, they were all very creative! The winning entry was from Ben Whiting 6T2 and the runner up was Macey Boulton 11B.



Winning entry ... Well done Ben!

Santa huffed at the lack of elves in the factory,
 "What's the meaning of this," Santa sighed, " without my elves they'll be no toys for the kids"
 Suddenly from outside the misty windows and beyond the bare conveyor belts, he noticed a luminescent colour.
 "Ho-wo, what's this"
 Santa trudged out the factory door and through the snow until coming across the muffled wub of music from behind the boiler room door.
 "Aha!"
 Santa bowled through the door to see the scene of all his elves vining to dubstep in a converted nightclub.
 Sudden silence.
 "You had a party instead of working hard in the factory."
 Another tense moment passed.
 "And didn't invite me! Come Horatio, turn those jams back on!"
 And for the rest of the night Santa boogied like there was no tomorrow.



A fantastic runner up entry... Well done Macey!

Crystal petals tumble from the heavens as the clock strikes twelve on a crisp winter's night. Over the rooftops and through the lanes, hundreds of restless children sleep - wrapped in a cocoon of duvets and dreams. Glassy eyes look out onto the bedecked street; hot chocolate in hand; trees adorned. Childish tales of santa claus wished upon and shut up in a fantasy. Slipped feet bounded down the stairs, eyes magnified at the sight of brightly wrapped presents. A warm, familiar feeling of pure content flooding the room as long lost families reunite and the feverish child ignited, like the stocking decked fireplace, within all. Meanwhile, under a frosted roof, St. Nick is sat, pondering his New Year's list and preparing to train new, rambunctious elves. Over the rooftops and through the lanes, Christmas time has come once again.



Feliz Navidad

عيد ميلاد سعيد



Christmas plants



By Grace Williams 10S

Holly/Llex

Did you know that some types of holly are used in tea?

Quite often holly is associated with robins. This is due to the holly plant being a very popular habitat for birds and small animals, as the plant produces food and protection due to the spiky leaves, sadly though many members of the holly plant family are at risk from deforestation which could badly affect the creatures that rely on it.



Mistletoe - *Viscum album*

Did you know that in Norse mythology, mistletoe is used as a weapon? Mistletoe is a type of parasite which connects to a tree and absorbs water and nutrients from its tree - don't worry though!

Often the mistletoe will not harm

the tree and it is always very easy to strike a healthy balance between the tree and the mistletoe and it is very rare that the tree will be harmed. The tradition of kissing under mistletoe started in ancient Greece during festivals and weddings, because of the plant's association with fertility.



Noble fir tree - *Abies procera*

Fir trees became associated with Christmas in the Victorian era, it was introduced by Prince Albert, one of Queen Victoria's most famous portraits is of her family decorating a fir tree. Fir trees can grow up to 55m in height and have a lovely smell.





Birds



-By Jenny Allen 9D-

Here are some facts about some birds:

Robins- The Robin, cute and cuddly, right? Think again, Robins are actually highly territorial and will fight to the death with other Robins over territory, food and mating rights! Robins are also one of the only birds that sing all year round and will even sing at night underneath street lamps. Robins diet consists of mainly berries, like many song birds.

Partridges- Partridges (red legged partridges) are non-native game birds from Asia and are released in their millions for the start of the shooting season, though less than 50% are actually caught/shot so they are left to breed/ live in British countryside. They live in open country with some wooded areas.

Turtle doves- Turtle doves are heading down to Southern Europe and Northern/Central Africa at this time of year, so you won't see '2 Turtle Doves' at Christmas, unless they are seriously lost. They eat seeds and fruit and are a declining species due to heavy hunting of them in the Mediterranean.

Bohemian Waxwings- Not a very well known bird, but still cool-. Waxwings are starting sized birds that breed in Northern Europe forests and are found in Britain and live in flocks. Waxwings have a highly impressive ability to find berries, like Rowan berries, their abilities so good that it's like having a berry Sat Nav!

Willow Warblers- Willow Warblers are a species of warblers found in Europe and Britain and are becoming more common and widespread. They are a species that eat seeds, berries and fruits. They are also a migratory species and travel from Britain/Europe to Africa (roughly 5000 miles) for the winter and migrate back again in time for spring.

Pied Avocets- Pied Avocets are a species of waders that can be found in the UK, but are quite rare. They are a black and white wader with long upturned beaks, which they use to sweep through water and pick up small sea creatures, like shrimp. They are also a migratory species and spend most of the winter in Africa, and some birds in more Southern Europe migrate to Asia and some migrate to Southern Britain or Spain.

Puffins- Puffins are an iconic species of seabirds and have a black and white bodies and large orange, yellow and black beaks.





It's Chriiiiistmasss!!



By Grace Williams 10S

Perfect Christmas Playlist

Christmas time... wrapping presents, decorating the tree, and laughing at the adults' attempt to dance to some Christmas songs! Here are a few songs that always get me in the Christmassy mood!

1. Feels like christmas - Alex Hill 2016
2. White wine in the sun - Tim Minchin 2009
3. It's the most wonderful time of the year - Andy Williams 1963
4. Driving home for christmas - Chris Rea 1986
5. It's beginning to look a lot like christmas - Michael Buble 2011
6. I saw Mommy kissing santa claus - The Jackson 5 1970
7. Last Christmas - Wham! 1984
8. All I want for christmas - Mariah Carey 2010
9. Have yourself a merry little christmas - Frank Sinatra 1944
10. Rockin' around the christmas tree - Brenda Lee 1960

Top Ten Christmas Films

1. Home alone
2. Nightmare before christmas
3. The holiday
4. Nativity
5. Elf
6. Polar express
7. White Christmas
8. A christmas Carol
9. Arthur Christmas
10. The snowman

