



THE TORCH

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Able, Active and Qualified
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The Student Newspaper of Wath Comprehensive School: A Language College

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS ALL AROUND THE WORLD

By Lauren Williams, Year 8

Every year, billions of people around the world all celebrate one special time: Christmas. In the UK, many people celebrate Christmas the same way. We have Christmas trees and presents, and generally celebrate as a family, watching each other open our presents. It is mainly regarded as a time of giving and appreciation for what we have, though Christmas actually commemorates the birth of Jesus.

However, not all people around the world celebrate this festive time of year in the same way. Here are how some other countries celebrate this special time.

Christmas in Zimbabwe

Christmas in Zimbabwe usually begins with a church service. Afterwards, people have parties in their homes, going from house to house and visiting their families on their way home. In every house they visit, they have something to eat and exchange presents.

Children in Zimbabwe believe that Santa brings them their presents early Christmas morning, so they can show their presents to their friends. Typically, people in Zimbabwe wear their best clothes for Christmas, as for

some families, the only new clothes they get are at Christmastime. People decorate their homes, sometimes with Christmas trees, but mainly with plants like ivy (they usually only decorate one room). The main Christmas meal is chicken and rice, as chicken is extremely expensive and considered a Christmas treat.

Christmas in Finland

Finnish people believe that Father Christmas lives in the north of Finland in Korvatunturi (Lapland), north of the Arctic Circle.

In Finland, Christmas Eve is considered to be the most important day of Christmastime. It is traditional to eat rice porridge and plum juice for breakfast, and then the tree is bought and decorated. At midday, the 'peace of Christmas' is broadcasted on the radio and TV by the City Mayor of Turku (which is in the south of Finland).

The main Christmas meal is eaten in the early evening. The traditional starter is lutefish (salt fish), but it is not so common now. The meal consists of a leg of pork served with mashed potatoes, traditionally baked slowly in birch-bark boxes in the oven. However, casseroles (salmon and even turkey) are also common meals.

Christmas Challenge

Father Christmas had an accident and his presents have become lost in THE TORCH this month!

The word 'present' or 'presents' has appeared in five different places within this issue (**not** including this page!). Can you help us to locate them all?

Have a good look through the issue and bring your copy to Miss Taylor if you find them all. The first five winners will receive a small prize; others will receive e-Praise points.

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Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parent / Carer,

As I write, we are looking forward to the third of four performances of the school pantomime, *Dick Whittington, his Cat and the Mysterious Case of the Three Little Pigs*. As usual, it is immensely entertaining and I am very grateful to all the parents, students and staff that come along to support all the hard work and preparation that goes into putting on such a grand event. The first performance is a matinee, performed for future students from local feeder primary schools. All the usual booing of the baddies and shouts of 'Oh no it isn't!' and 'He's behind you!' are beginning to leave me quite hoarse.

On 6 December, the Year 11 football team were playing in the Rotherham Schools' final. Unfortunately we lost 2 -1 but dominated the second half and, if we'd scored our goal just a few minutes earlier then... However, the students did very well to get so far in the competition and are now in action again in the South Yorkshire Cup – we wish them well.

As the end of term approaches, it is very busy for students and staff alike. Year 11 students have recently completed their GCSE Preliminary Examinations. This is good practice for the external exams that begin after the Easter break. It is a very important time for Year 11 as they prepare for exams that will determine what options are open to them post-16. We hope as many as possible will be successful and will be able to take advantage of the courses that we offer in our own Sixth Form. Following the Christmas holiday, Year 12 and Year 13 students will have their own Preliminary Exams – clearly these students will have revision to do over



the holiday period in preparation for these important exams. Results from these Preliminary Exams will inform the entry decisions for their summer exams.

The Main Hall was packed on 15 November for our 'New Sixth Evening'; where

prospective students came to hear about the opportunities on offer for next year's Year 12. It was very encouraging to see the number of students that had been attracted from other, neighbouring schools across the region. It is very pleasing to note that the Sixth Form at Wath is still held in such high regard. Later that week we had our 'Year 11 Presentation Evening' where certificates, prizes and awards were made to last year's Year 11 students. I wrote in the last issue about their very pleasing exam results. It was lovely to welcome them back together again as a year group, with students pursuing training and courses at local colleges joining with those who had moved into our own sixth form.

Next week we look forward to our annual Christmas Concert, where many of our gifted musicians and singers will perform a range of traditional and more contemporary music, joined on occasions by those of us not quite so gifted in the audience, especially to the rousing traditional finale of 'Twelve Days of Christmas', complete with actions. The staff of the Performing Arts faculty are particularly busy at this time of year and we are grateful for all their efforts.

Individual tutor groups are currently busy putting together the final touches to their hampers for our annual Christmas Hamper competition. Once the judging has taken place, the hampers will be distributed to senior citizens living in the local area and to a few residential centres. Thank you if you have been able to support this by sending in such as a tin of food, bottle of drink or book. There will be a prize for the best hamper in each year group and a trophy for 'best in school'.

Your continued support of the school is very much appreciated. May I please take this opportunity to wish you a very enjoyable Christmas holiday and a happy New Year.

Please note that the school reopens for students on Wednesday 4 January.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Taylor
Headteacher

News in Brief

Book Café

Book Café is back! All students in Y7 are invited to the Book Café in F29 on Monday lunchtimes. Bring your lunch and a book and we can have a relaxing read!

Art Christmas Competition

Here are the winner of this year's Christmas competition, please congratulate the following if you see them today or this week! Overall, it was an excellent year for the Christmas Competition!

Year 7

1ST PLACE: Maxwell Hole 7GS **Rome**

2ND PLACE: Leila Wood 7TT **Carthage**

3RD PLACE: Lydia Harrison 7 **Carthage**

Year 8

1ST PLACE: Ava Cotton 8DV **Rome**

2ND PLACE: Kirin Howat 8CD **Athens**

3RD PLACE: Caitie Swallow 8KT **Sparta**

International School Award

We've been reaccredited with the International School Award until 2019! We've held the award continuously since it was introduced in 2001.



Achieving the award has required the embedding of an international aspect and global outlook within a range of subject areas. For example, Geography (who worked with Food Technology to deliver a cookery session on Asian cuisine, supporting their classroom work), Food Technology (who are preparing an international food module), Dance (who have been planning work with an African theme in the build up to their African dance workshop), Drama (using languages in a communications project), History, German and PSE's projects on the Holocaust, WWII and tolerance and understanding (including visits from a Holocaust survivor, Syrian and Iraqi refugees and visits to local retirement homes). And of course, we must not forget the wonderful MFL faculty who work tirelessly to teach

not only the languages of other countries but also their culture, traditions and an understanding of the people, bringing to life a wider world and opening our students' eyes to opportunities beyond Wath. Arguing an opinion on the refugee situation or the benefits of social media can be difficult in English, never mind in French, German or Spanish but our students are able to do this thanks to our wonderful teachers and Foreign Language Assistants!

We could not have achieved this award without the support of so many members of dedicated staff who recognise the benefits of these projects to our students.

Our Deputy Head, Mr Rick Powell said, "The school has a strong international dimension, with a commitment to Modern Foreign Languages and engaging students in wider issues to create global citizens."

Christmas Hampers

Tutors and tutees fully embraced the spirit of hampers this year, which are sent out to elderly residents in our local community. These delightful hampers will really be appreciated by their recipients and judging was very difficult. The overall winning tutor group was 9EV. Then, the winners of each year group were: 7MY, 8KS, 9PM, 10DC, 11JE, 12TM, 13HK. And, highly commended in each year group: 7CP, 8DT, 9SG, 10MB, 11CN, 12JTP, 13OC. Well done all!

Correction to *The Torch*

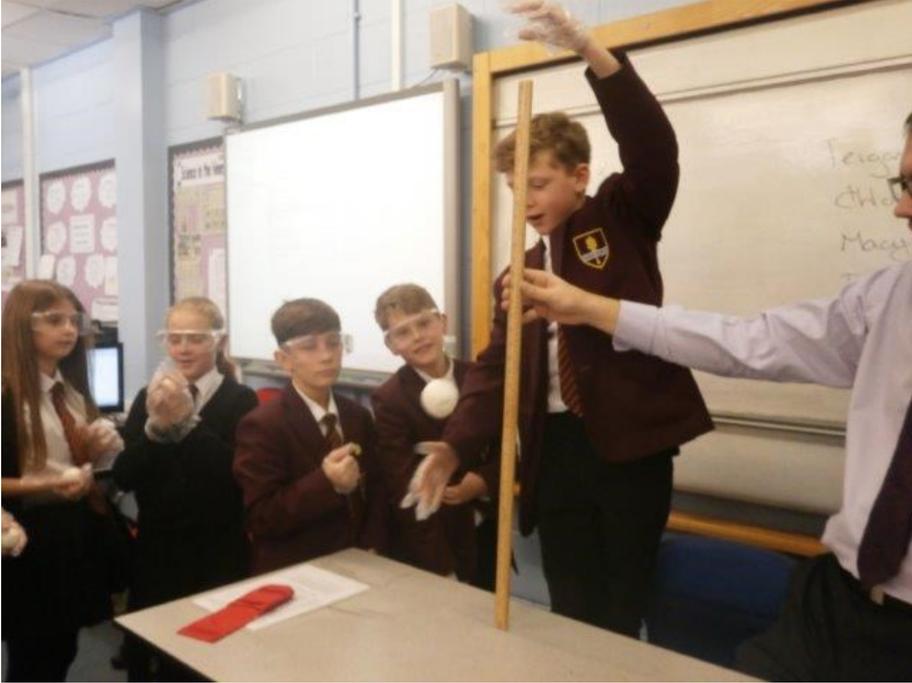
Every now and then, *The Torch* (like all other newspapers) makes mistakes. We would like to apologise to Ms Sibanda for the errors in her new staff interview in the previous edition. Here is the corrected version:

Ms Sibanda

Ms Sibanda trained here and found it warm and friendly when she returned after many years! She loves RE because she finds learning about different religions fascinating. RE is education for global citizenship. When she was growing up, she thought that Christianity was the only religion but learning about various religions at school was intriguing, and that's why she became an RE teacher. Her favourite kinds of TV include documentaries, competition shows such as *X-Factor* and *Britain's Got Talent*, and she enjoys watching the news. She enjoys reading because it is relaxing and broadens awareness.



Latest News and Updates from



Science Club

By Grace Smallman, Year 7

In Year 7 with nothing to do on a Monday?

At Science Club, you do all sorts of things like experiments and testing new things. So far this term, we have done sparklers, Slime, Rainbows and Microscopes.

Come down to F42 straight after school until half past three and join in on the fun.

There will be a variety of teachers there and a different one who teaches every week. You will learn as well as



THE TORCH Journalists

This edition was produced by Jacob Linney, Ellie-May Beaumont, Lauren Clack, Emily Aston, Savanna Davies, Carys Garner, Caitie Swallow, Daniel Nutley, Ethan Corbett, Olivia Storey, Lauren Williams, Emily Balais, Lewis Dockray, Molly Hammerton-Woodhouse, Emily Holcroft, Alex Law, Josie Law, Callam Manton, Abbie Lewis, Poppy Muffett, Amy Renwick, Mya Taylor, Nemesha Nelson (proofreading), Eleanor Eagleton and Miss Taylor. Thanks also to Ethan Gray, Sam Ford, Sophie Cook, Grace Smallman, Present, Mr Bishop and Miss Perry.

If you are interested in helping to produce THE TORCH, come along to F24 on Thursday afternoons, 3-4 pm, or see Miss Taylor for more information.

having so much fun. It doesn't cost anything either and you will get an ePraise point every week for coming.

So what are you waiting for? See you there next Monday!

Science Club Poem

Science is fun for all
Contagious laughter, having a ball
Investigating the world around us
Experimenting on what ever found is
Never a dull moment, no club can beat this
Courageous teacher that never give it a miss
Excellent exciting fun with your friends.

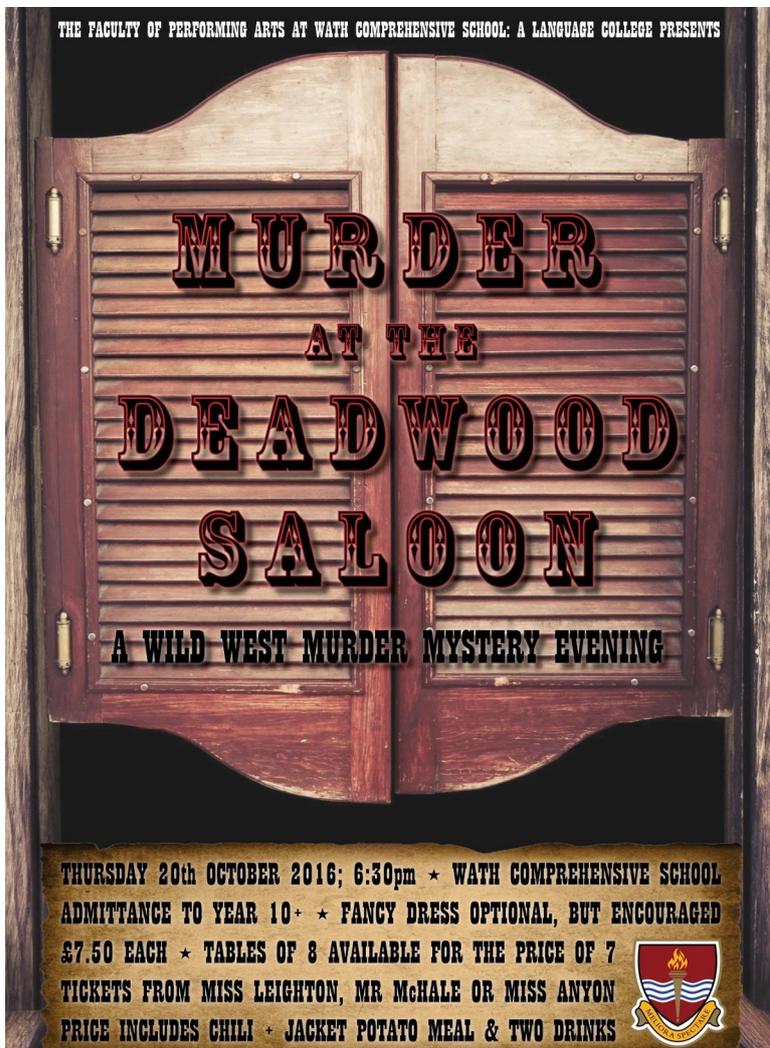
Wath Comprehensive School

Murder Mystery Evening

Buckle up your boots and get your cowboy hats on! For one night only (Thursday 20 October), this show-stopping event transformed the hall at Wath Comprehensive School into the dangerous Wild West.

The story followed the successful pattern of its predecessor: a group of clashing personalities are thrown together at the Deadwood Saloon, each with vested interests, loyalties, strong affections and rivalries... Throw in the mysterious murder of the owner of a railway track about to controversially cut across the Deadwood Saloon, and the stage is set for an exhilarating evening of suspense and intrigue.

Add to all this a delicious meal of baked potatoes and chilli, and the chance to interact directly with the suspects, and you start to build up an impression of this fantastic night. Didn't secure a ticket this time? Don't make the same mistake next year!



Seasonal Search

Can you find all ten hidden words? Hand in your completed word search to Miss Taylor to receive an ePraise point.

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

Crackers
Eggnog
Holly
Mistletoe
Presents

Pudding
Santa
Tinsel
Tree
Yule

Christmas Chuckles

By Ethan Corbett, Year 8

Question: Why doesn't Santa go down the chimney?

Answer: He is **clausetrophobic**!

Question: Why did the elf need therapy?

Answer: He had low **elf** esteem!

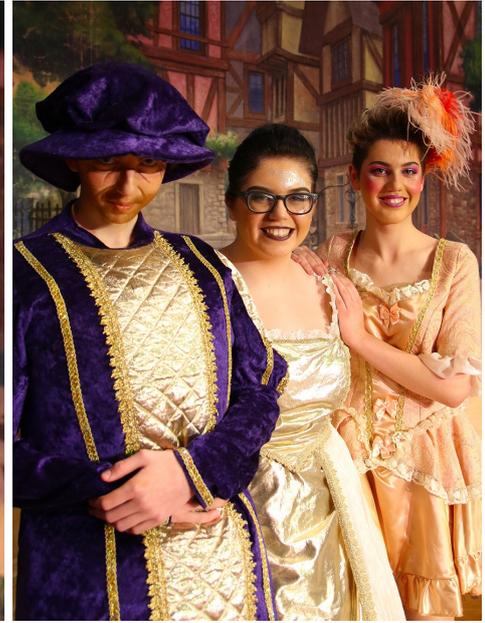
Question: What says Oh Oh Oh?

Answer: Santa walking backwards!

Question: Why did the Rudolph cross the road?

Answer: Because he was tied to the chicken!

It's Panto-Time! Oh no, it isn't...



Clockwise from top left: a scary wolf; princesses; Fitzwilliam the Cat; Paul the horse; the poster; a Guard; Vlad and the wolf, a trio of Guards; the villains.

By Emily Balaiss, Year 9

Once again, the Drama Department have pulled off one off their brilliant pantomimes. From the costumes to the set designs, everything was amazing as it normally is. I think it was one of the funniest pantos that I have ever seen and more than five hundred audience members seemed to agree.



It all starts with three 'little' pigs going off to build their houses. Then, in the village, four villagers are talking about Christmas when the Whittingtons (Dame, Dom and Dick) come and join them with their horse, Paul, then a Russian person called Carlov Cochoski comes and threatens to take the Whittingtons' business. There is also a king and queen who are 'skint'. There are of course, the villains, who do their best to thwart the plans of the heroes, but it all finishes as usual with an army coming to take the bad people away—phew!



With an amazing script crammed full with hilarious jokes (no guessing where most of the humour was derived), truly spectacular acting and some gorgeous costumes and background artwork (see the surrounding photographs), it truly was an amazing panto, which helped us all to get into the Christmas spirit.

Well done to the Drama Department, and all the students who were involved. If you weren't lucky enough to attend, make sure to grab your tickets next year!

Oh yes, it is!



Creative Corner

Untitled... (continued)

By Olivia Storey and Lauren Clack, Year 8

Last time, we were introduced to Lorena and Libby, two best friends who have got themselves into a rather explosive situation...

(Libby's point of view) *same day*

"It was just self-defence. I mean, it was kill or be killed. Anyway, she was trying to kill us and there was no other option." Lorena just burst into a flood of tears.

"Quick!" Lorena shouted. "We'd better go, I think I can hear someone." So we fled for the fire escape when...

(Lorena's point of view) *same day*

As we escaped, it dawned on me that not only did we (I) just murder someone, but we just left the beginning of a CRIME SCENE!!!

Read on in the next edition to find out what happens next!

Christmas Poem

By Caitie Swallow, Year 8

You can tell Christmas has come
When there is a smell of buns
Robins fly into your garden
And tweet for a pardon
When he has eaten all the seed
Greedy!

Sing lots of songs
Have lots of fun
Christmas bells go BONG!
Spread the Christmas cheer
But don't get drunk on beer!

Don't be mardy
It's Christmas for goodness sake!

THE FACULTY OF PERFORMING ARTS AT WATH COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL: A LANGUAGE COLLEGE PRESENTS

Dick  **Whittington, HIS CAT** AND THE MYSTERIOUS CASE OF THE THREE LITTLE PIGS



THE SCHOOL'S ANNUAL PANTO IS BACK!

WEDNESDAY 7TH, THURSDAY 8TH & FRIDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2016 AT 7:00 PM
WATH COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL
£5 ADULTS / £3 CONCESSIONS

TICKETS: THE LIBRARY, RECEPTION, MISS LEIGHTON OR ANY DRAMA TEACHER



How to Make the Most of the

Christmas Fun

By Savanna Davies, Year 8

Christmas time is so much fun; if it snows, you can go sledding or build a snowman! It will be cold, but please don't sing *Frozen* songs. Even if it doesn't snow, you can still have fun getting gifts for friends, or even holding a Secret Santa with your friends and family, but everyone's favourite thing to do is open lots of presents on Christmas day. I hope you have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

'Tis the Season... For Shopping

By Ellie May Beaumont, Year 8

As you may know, the choice of gifts has been increasing due to advancements in technology, so kids are wanting more and more, such as make-up, teddies, phones, toiletries, cosmetics, nail products & chocolate.

These are some of the classic things that kids would want. However, advances in technology have made it possible to have lots more things:

- iWatches
- iPads
- XBoxes
- Playstations
- iPods
- Smart Phones
- Laptops
- Chocolate
- Make-up
- Wii-U
- Headphones

Of course, if you're on a budget, look to the right for advice about how to have a happy Christmas without breaking the bank!

Christmas Gifts Under £15

By Poppy Muffett, Year 10

Seeing as Christmas is just around the corner, it's getting closer and closer to that time when you're rushing around your local supermarket and looking for a last minute present for that one person you probably forgot to buy for (unless you're organised). This article is going to come in handy for finding affordable gifts for someone you care about.

**Baylis & Harding
Beautology Soldier Hot
Water Bottle Gift Set**

£10 at ASDA

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

Charlie Red Set

£5 at ASDA

Cadbury's Fingers Star

£4 at Morrisons

Image removed due to licensing restrictions



The Ultimate Christmas Playlist

By Lauren Clack, Year 8



This is a list of carefully picked Christmas songs and jingles for your pleasure...

10. 'Winter Wonderland' by Pentatonix
9. 'White Christmas' by Bing Crosby
8. 'Last Christmas' by Wham!
7. 'Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree' by Brenda Lee
6. 'Jingle Bell Rock' by Bobby Helm
5. 'Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow' by Dean Martin
4. 'Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas' by Michael Buble
3. 'It's The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year' by Andy Williams
2. 'It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas' by Michael Buble
1. 'All I Want For Christmas Is You' by Mariah Carey

Festive Season

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Adidas Uefa No.3 Duo Gift Set
£5 at Morrisons

The Beauty Parlour Manicure Set
The Beauty Parlour Nail Polish Gift Set
£5 each at Morrisons

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Image removed due to licensing restrictions

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

Lynx Peace Duo Gift Set
£6 at Sainsbury's

Now That's What I Call Music 95
£13 at Tesco

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

Dan and Phil Go Outside
£9 at Tesco

Pranks Kit
£10 at M&S

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

Top Five Festive Films



By Ellie-May Beaumont, Year 8
and Lewis Dockray, Year 9



Christmas is practically here, and what's better than settling down on the sofa with a cup of hot chocolate and watching a Christmas movie? So at *The Torch*, we've made a list of some of the best Christmas classics:

5. *Elf* – 2003 brought us this hilarious movie, starring Will Ferrell as the main character, Buddy the Elf. In the movie, we see Buddy set out to find his real father, who turns out to be an ungrateful businessman in New York.



4. *The Muppets Christmas Carol* – 149 years after the classic novel was written in 1843, the muppets put their own twist on the novel. With Michael Caine as Scrooge, this amazing festive film is just both marvellous and wonderful.



3. *Grinch* – The amazing tale of the Grinch was brought to film in 2000. Originally written by the one and only Dr Seuss, we were given a new spin on the cartoon, now starring the amazing Jim Carrey. I think that this was a great idea for an awesome movie.



2. *Home Alone* – This incredible Christmas film, released in 1990, smashed the box office, with tickets still being sold out in July. It was so successful, it got a four sequels. Unfortunately, most people thought they were terrible.



1. *The Nightmare Before Christmas* – The amazing 1993 Halloween/Christmas film, *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, is obviously the best festive film. It can be very scary for younger viewers – but what do you expect from a Tim Burton movie?



Despite the original theme, we saw a lighter side to the film when we were introduced to great characters such as Jack Skellington and the villain Oogie Boogie.

News and Current Affairs:

What is going wrong with English football?

By Daniel Nutley, Year 8

The Premier League is one of the most exciting leagues in the world, if not the most exciting. Goals, drama and big money, moves—it has it all. However, English International football – well, it isn't so good. Since one famous triumph (winning the 1966 World Cup), it has been a question on the minds of many for years.

England are always consistent in qualifying for tournaments with good results on the road to international competitions. All fans become excited and always think this year is “England's year”. But it never comes. Take Euro 2016: England played ten group games on the road to France and won all ten. Then came the tournament and you guessed it, they flopped. Yes, standards will always be set high for England but losing to Iceland in the round of 16? No offence to Iceland, either, the little known team added an extra element of excitement to the competition, the underdog that progressed to the quarter finals, but come on; surely we should have beaten them!

So what's going wrong with the Three Lions' international team? With such a good top flight English division, why aren't the national team so amazing? Only 36% of players who started their team's opening game of the 2016/17 season were “home grown”. That figure is down by 35% since last year. So is it the players from abroad making the Premier League so good or a combination of both?

However, there could be hope for the future of English football. Gareth Southgate, 46, has recently been appointed as England coach after a successful but short three year stint as England Under 21s' manager, guiding them to the Euro 2015 final. Speaking of the Under 21s, lots of English potential stars have been climbing the ranks to stardom with the likes of Deli Alli, Harry Kane and Jack Butland coming through the youth team's development system recently. These players have all been playing well for their respective clubs and have been making the English team more exciting.

So maybe youth players are the future of English success and if Southgate can nurture the likes of Marcus Rashford and Jese Lingard right, then maybe English football could be on the rise. In any case, it can't get any worse, so the only way is up.

The New Toblerone

By Carys Garner, Year 8

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As you may know, the Toblerone has adopted a slightly different shape. The gaps between the chocolate triangles have got slightly bigger. They are still charging the same price for them, but as a small bit of chocolate is being taken out of it, it has suddenly become a lot cheaper to make. Some people might think this is alright, that all chocolate will change eventually, not the end of the world, etc. But some people, quite simply, that it's a MAJOR DISASTER! But it actually isn't too bad. In a couple of years, we'll probably completely forget it ever changed. So don't panic Britain – all is good!

The X-cellent X-Factor... or so you think!

By Sam Ford and Sophie Cook, Year 8

The talent show extravaganza! The show that's sweeping the globe: an entertaining jackpot that the whole family will enjoy.

The show has its ups and downs. The show is very funny and there are great record deals and a quarter of a million pounds for one lucky contestant. But if all goes wrong, it can be a total nightmare of heart-breaking humiliation.

However, did you know that some of these reality TV shows are fake? Well, you might be thinking what do you mean by fake? Well, it's not really talent that's needed: sing a bad song, look funny and have the worst vocab ever, as it might take you to the semi-finals. In fact, it's not to do with the judges at all; it's all to do with the producers. Yes, that's right: you see Simon

Wath Students Speak Out

Cowell looking like he is having a hard time picking who's going through? It's all a scam.

All the show is bothered about is making money, not the whole point of the show, which is about turning deserving people, who once worked at Aldi, into millionaires—for us to witness. When you see real talent walk through the door and onto the stage, you can just see Simon Cowell's eyes light up as the pound signs shine in his eyes.

Overall, we think this show is a complete scam! They are not bothered about finding real talent, their only concern is if the show is bringing in enough money to pay for Simon Cowell's yacht!

The Note 7 Meltdown

By Caitie Swallow, Year 8

Samsung has recalled the Note 7 after its second meltdown.

Even though there have been huge battery recalls before, there has never been such a colossal worldwide recall before. "Stop using your device, back up your data and switch off," Samsung told Note 7 owners. There have been unfortunate incidents with the tablet where it has self-combusted. All of the evidence pointed to a "battery cell issue" being the cause. The issue was blamed on the components manufacturer – Samsung SDI – and was supposed to be fixed by placing batteries which were made by another company – ATL – in the replacements. "We are working with relevant regulatory bodies to investigate the recently reported cases involving the Galaxy Note 7."

Samsung has yet to reveal how many Note 7s they made. On 2nd September, the South Korean company said 2.5 million were recalled. On 27th September, it added that more than 60% of the Note 7 that had been sold in South Korea and in the US had been replaced with new devices. These two countries received more Note 7s than any other country. A man in Kentucky, USA, said that he woke up to a bedroom full of smoke from a replaced Note 7, just a couple of days after a domestic flight in the US was rapidly evacuated after a new device started to spew out smoke in the cabin.

Smartphones have lithium batteries, and there is a race to make them even smaller, more efficient and able to charge faster. In this case, it was the positive electrons (a conductor through which electricity enters or leaves an object, substance, or region) and negative electrodes coming together which created the short-circuits, overheating, and then the "explosions" and meltdowns of the phones. It affected 2.5 million devices. According to the company, 45,000 Note 7s have been sold across Europe through pre-ordering, mostly in the UK. More than 75% of the phones have been replaced with either another Note 7 or another Samsung handset.

In the wake of the disaster, Huawei has launched new large-screened smartphones. In some ways, it is the same. They have the same type of batteries and quite a lot of the other parts are the same as Samsung's Note 7. So, is this just an unforeseen incident, or have Samsung helped Huawei sell their brand new smart phone?

The Mosasaur

By Jacob Linney, Year 7

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

Believe me, it's much bigger than the picture!

It swims, it bites, it has a double hinged jaw... it's a mosasaur! The biggest skeleton ever found was 17 meters long—that's about 56ft long! They've got similar tails to ancient dolphins or ichthyosaur, oh and this titan was very much like a whale, so it breathed air and lived under water—however, it was a reptile unlike a whale. It was not able to walk on land so it spent its whole life under water (unless it somehow got washed on shore by a wave. But another interesting thing is that it did not live in the ocean; it lived in very big river so the way people found the skeletons is because most of the rivers dried up. The majority of the skeletons discoveries were in America but there were the few exceptions such as the Netherlands and Angola. Well, that's pretty much it but there's still a whole lot more information about it online if you are interested!

Global Politics: US Elections

Year 10 student Ethan Gray analyses the shock result in the American Presidential race and explores the reasons why voters rallied for Trump over Clinton...

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

Victorious: Donald Trump celebrates in Las Vegas after bitter battle with Hilary Clinton.

Apostrophe Crash Course

By Emily Aston, Carys Garner, Ellie-May Beaumont Y8

The sentences below have multiple mistakes. Correct them and return your sheet to Miss Taylor to receive an ePraise point.

1. Emilys cat ate flowers from the garden's.
2. Carys lollipop was purple with green dot's.
3. Walruses like to eat fish's bones.
4. Marshall couldnt find his pumpkin sock's.
5. Gerald decided to eat lot's of cheese's .
6. Ellies teacher gave her fraction's homework.
7. Bellas nanan's dog is actually a sheep.
8. Ned and Collin are bestes't friend's.
9. Helens book's were all about cat's.

By Ethan Gray, Year 10

After a controversial race for the White House, there came a very controversial win on 9th November, at 6 am. This election secured the presidency for the beloved, and hated, Donald Trump. This was a huge shock for many Americans, yet a historic win for many others. But why was President Elect Trump voted into Government? And what will happen next, according to experts?

Let's start from the beginning. On June 16th, 2016, soon-to-be President Elect Trump announced his participation on the race. His campaign's motto was 'make America great again'. The support culminated massively over his running, giving him a strong enough force to allow him the Republican nomination, and race against Hillary Clinton, a Democrat hated by many people.

Trump's debates consisted of mostly *ad hominem*, a term to describe one attacking the opponent, instead of focusing on the discussion at hand. But why? Well, according to experts, we can apply some of the reasoning for Brexit to this; the people were fed up. They saw Trump as a different type of politician to the ones that have failed them so many times before, and, thus, supported him. One could say they solved the corruption in politics with a new type of corruption. Ultimately, this led to his victory in the elections.

However, many Americans mourned that day instead of celebrated. There could have been many reasons for this, as they might have been supporting Hillary, the lesser of two evils, or completely disagreed with how Trump conducts himself. He may have good ideas, such as helping the veterans more than before in America, but at the same time, he's still quite old-fashioned. He used phrases such as 'sweat-heart' in the debates. He also threatened to build a wall along Mexico to keep the so called 'rapists' out. Recordings have been released of him from the past making lewd comments about women, revealing an apparent lack of respect for the opposite gender.

The future of America? Quite frankly, it's debatable. There are still those in certain states, dissatisfied with the results, who are calling for recounts of the votes, though this is unlikely to make a difference to the result—even if it goes ahead.

If Donald Trump accepts the guidance of other politicians, e.g. Obama, perhaps all may be well. It already seems that he has toned down his language and ideas, which has disappointed his supporters. However, if he decides to build a wall, and carry on being racist, America might go in a different direction.

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Defeated: Hillary Clinton, seen by many as simply an extension of the status quo.

Book of the Month

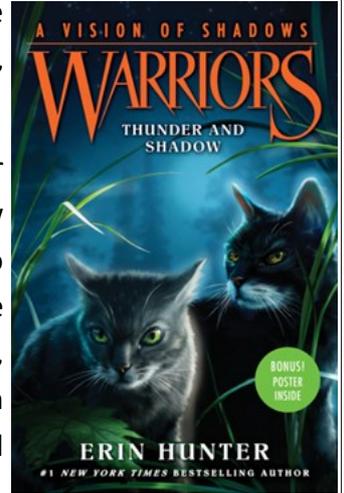
Warriors: A Vision of Shadows #2

Reviewed by Abbie Lewis, Year 10

WARNING: CONTAINS SPOILERS

This is the next book in the sixth series of *Warrior Cats*, written by Erin Hunter.

A moon has passed since our main character Alderpaw returned from his journey to find Skyclan. However, all he found was that their home, the Gorge, had been taken over by a group of rouges led by Darktail.



In this book, it is discovered that the Rouges have followed the clan cats back to their home around the lake and want the territory for themselves. The vicious cats attacked the leader of Windclan, costing the life of a Windclan warrior and costing Onestar another one of his nine lives.

This makes Onestar lose his trust for the clans, including his own, and he believes that Shadowclan is harbouring the Rouges, as they created a camp just outside of Shadowclan territory.

Later on in the book, Shadowclan is struck with a mysterious sickness called Yellowcough, and the only cure is Lungwort, a herb that grows on the moors. Onestar refuses to give Shadowclan the herb, and many cats die as a result, including the Deputy. Eventually the Windclan medicine cat goes against his leader's orders and gives some herbs to Shadowclan.

However, the suffering isn't over for Shadowclan, as their apprentices rebel and invite the rouges into the clan, kicking out the only the Shadowclan cats to refuse the rogue lifestyle, Rowanstar, Tigerheart and Tawnypelt.

Overall, I think this is a great continuation of the sixth series: fast-moving, compelling and totally immersive, it will delight readers, whether lovers of cats or not.

Now all we can do is wait for the third book in the series to be released in April!



Media and Review:

Johnny Depp Cast as Gellert Grindelwald: a Fantastic Mistake

By Ellie Eagleton, Year 13

The first film in the *Fantastic Beasts* series has barely started its run in cinemas, but its sequel has already garnered the series a whole load of criticism. I wonder how J.K. Rowling's feeling.

The news only broke on 2nd November, but according to a Warner Bros. associate, Johnny Depp is reported to have been cast as Dark Wizard Gellert Grindelwald in the sequel to the new blockbuster release, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, which stars Eddie Redmayne as magizoologist Newt Scamander (the eventual grandfather-in-law of everyone's favourite eccentric, Luna Lovegood). If you've seen all eight *Potter* films, you may remember that Grindelwald was played in a flashback by *Mortal Instruments* star Jamie Campbell Bower. Long story short, Grindelwald's dangerousness was rated second only to Voldemort himself.

So why are fans getting so worked up about Depp's casting? Well, earlier this year he was involved in the very messy, very public divorce with his wife, actress Amber Heard. Their divorce (the \$7 million proceeds of which Heard donated to charity) all came about because of Heard's allegation that Depp was abusive throughout their relationship, which eventually culminated in her accusation that he verbally and physically abused her and deliberately threw his phone at her face; photos then emerged of her with a bruised face to support her claim. While I won't say I 100% believe the rumours, surely if Amber Heard managed to win a divorce and a restraining order against her former husband, something significant must have happened for a judge in a court of law to take her side. Now again, we don't know the full story, and it's impossible to examine an incident like this without at least some of the evidence being biased (or indeed feeling biased yourself), but I think we can all agree that if our partners deliberately threw a piece of communication hardware at our faces, we'd most likely want to end it with them. I know I would.

Understandably, feminist fans, including me (yes, I said the F-word, boys, calm down), are upset with this. And I

mean very upset. To me, Depp's casting in a highly-anticipated and likely very successful film franchise just serves to highlight the double standards of gender which all too often arise from cases like his. They've had an incident from which it appears Depp is responsible for an act of violence, however severe it was or however much it may have been embellished. Despite this, his career clearly hasn't been damaged that much, as he's just received a part in *Fantastic Beasts*. Heard, however, now seems likely to have a ruined acting career and is being reviled as a liar by devoted Depp fans all over the world (although the fans blindly condemning Heard seem to be the irritatingly brainless sector that you find in every fandom, or indeed the entirety of the Justin Bieber fandom). These double standards seem to show that men can often still get by even if they're almost certainly proven to have done wrong, whereas women tend to expect the worst consequences possible whether they're guilty or not. It's unfair, it's disgustingly sexist and this culture of victim-blaming needs to be changed, whether someone really turns out to be a victim or not.

Let me be clear on this: I'm more than excited about the prequel series to my favourite book/film franchise of all time, and I do intend to see all the films in it. Call me a hypocrite if you want, but I'd rather not miss out on something I'll enjoy and treasure; I'd like to think that we should be encouraging fans not to let a bad casting choice ruin what we've been so excited about for a year. I also do still appreciate Depp as an actor, although I hope I've got across what I think of him as a person by now. However, I also want to be clear that I'm just as disappointed with the casting of Depp as everyone else with half a brain. Warner Bros. need to take a long hard look at how their image as a business has been affected by the decision, and it's worth noting that J.K. Rowling herself, who wrote the screenplay for the film, has been eerily silent on the issue.

I guess the only thing to do after weighing all the evidence up is be wary, but still hold out hope that Warner Bros. do the sensible thing and rethink their choice. I mean, it's their image that will be dented in the eyes of many for casting Depp, and we all know how important public image is to businesspeople. It'd also be interesting to see what J.K. Rowling has to say about it, given that she's a fervent advocate of children's rights

Films, Games and More

and publicly spoke out against Donald Trump for his deplorable treatment of women. I don't see how Depp is really that different to Trump in this respect.

Doctor Strange Review

By Molly Hammerton, Year 9

Marvel has recently been spilling out film after film, and the creativity of the writers never ceases to amaze us. The most recent film to be released is the fantastic *Doctor Strange*, a creative extravaganza of visual effects that transport the viewer into Steven Strange's universe of magic and mayhem. Doctor Steven Strange, world-renowned neurosurgeon, is caught in a car accident (of his own doing) and is left with shaking hands – a thing a neurosurgeon can't have. Desperate to recover the use of his hands, he journeys to Nepal to search out a remedy – but he gets more than he bargained for. It is an amazing film with superb use of special effects and should be viewed by any Marvel fan.

The Bake Off Shall Make A Return

Lewis Dockray, Year 9

The BBC smash hit *The Great British Bake Off* will return for one last Christmas special for its grand finale. Over two weeks during this festive season, eight bakers will return for one last bow. The competitors are still not yet confirmed, but as fans prepare for the this final one of a kind series, hopes for the competitors include: Candice Brown (2016 winner), Nadiya Hussain (2015 winner) and the amazing Val Stones (2016 fan favourite). For now, we'll just have to wait.

Inferno

By Molly Hammerton, Year 9

Based on the phenomenal novel by Dan Brown, the third instalment of the popular film series that began with *The DaVinci Code* and *Angels and Demons* has come to cinemas. The series follows the life of Robert Langdon, a Harvard University professor of religious iconology and symbology, as he solves puzzles in ancient pieces of art. Previously, we witnessed him solve a gruesome murder at the Louvre, find a descendant of Christ in France, discover the resurgence of the notorious brotherhood, the Illuminati, and travel to Rome to sprint through its

streets. Now we have this amazing film...

Waking up in an Italian hospital with amnesia, Langdon finds clues through the works of Dante (hence the name *Inferno*), the first being a map of hell, and follows them to amazing locations. The trail leads through the twisting streets to blood red waters that reflect no stars, which converge on the climax, a horrible creation that threatens the lives of humans.

It is an awesome film that will have you trying to figure out the puzzles that plague him. I would recommend this to all as it is a complicated film with dashes of humour that lighten the mood. I hope you will enjoy.

Flash Update: Jesse Quick

By Alex Law and Josie Law, Year 9

Jesse Quick is the newest edition to the speedster group as she came speeding into our universe along with our friend Harry Wells. This is not the first time we've seen them as they featured in episode 17 of season 2, where they have a "fun" time trying to catch the menace Zoom. After her introduction to the team, we longed for her to stay but at the end of season 2, she returned to her Earth. She fortunately returned at the start of season 3!

Jesse comes back ready to defend the world by helping Barry Allen protect Central City. Her speed is impeccable but no match to the Flash, her father Harry is letting her save the day with one of the best heroes. Her story doesn't end with just being a hero; she has a blossoming romance with Wally West but can they manage the trouble of her coming from another Earth? With all the new meta humans, will Jesse get a happy ever after? Hopefully, we will see more of her soon!

The Vamps Tour

By Molly Hammerton, Year 9

As this year ends, we look forward to the oncoming new year, and a fantastic event for fans of the British pop band The Vamps will be arriving. They will be returning to Sheffield Arena for their UK and Ireland tour. They will feature many of their popular songs and some surprise new ones will be played. It will be an amazing night, and there will be merchandise available—though be careful as it will probably be crowded.

Sport and Music



Andy Murray: World Number One

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Clash of the Titans: Murray verse Djokovic.

By Daniel Nutley, Year 8

Great Britain's tennis star Andy Murray has recently become the first Britain to top the world tennis rankings, replacing Novak Djokovic as number one.

2016 has been a great success for Murray, winning an Olympic gold and the Wimbledon Championships. Winning six titles in five months, he is on amazing form, reaching eleven finals in twelve events this year.

However, few would have anticipated how he topped the rankings. He required just one win to reach the final of the Paris Masters to become number one and did so when Milos Raonic pulled out of their upcoming semi-final because of a torn thigh muscle.

He described feeling very proud to be the first Brit to

be number one and said, "The year I've had to have to barely get there has been unbelievably difficult. I've had to work extremely hard."

Some of Murray's major achievements include:

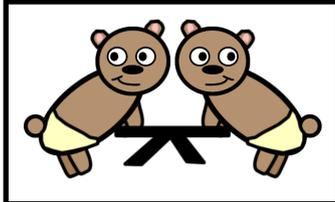
- 2 Olympic gold medals, 2012, 2016
- 2 Wimbledon championship titles 2013, 2016
- 2 BBC Sports personalities of the year 2013, 2015

Murray is the 26th man to reach the world top spot since the computerized rankings started in 1973. At the top prior to Murray was Novak Djokovic who was untouchable at the top for 122 consecutive weeks.

Murray is an inspiration to the nation and a genius at his sport who will hopefully continue to be a great success for team GB for many years to come.

WALLY THE WATH WOMBAT

Hubert and Pius had ruined Wisteria's party last half term, but let's ignore those horrible ones...

 <p>Wally had been dragged into playing football after school against Wickersley.</p>	<p>Match plan!</p>  <p>Wally trudged down to PE and got ready for the match.</p> 	 <p>Wally and the rest of the team went out to start the game. The team was very nervous.</p>
<p>On the Wickersley team was another wombat who looked creepily like Wally. They looked at each other and paused. And then:</p> 	<p>The other wombat said, "I'm Wilbert. I have been looking for a wombat named Wally who looks like me." He showed Wally a photo...</p> 	<p>Wally's mum confirmed it...they were long lost brothers! They could be together as a family for Christmas!</p> 