

Alex

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Special
Christmas
edition



ALEXANDRA COLLEGE
DUBLIN

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Message from the News Committee

Welcome to our special Christmas issue of *Inside Alex*. We have a bumper edition packed with books to read over Christmas, festive recipes, our favourite movies and lots more. We have included a review of the amazing Toy and Book Fair and our special performances from 'A Cosy Christmas at Alex' along with news from class and specialist teachers.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to this edition. We appreciate Mrs. Lamplugh's support for this publication. We value our class teachers; Ms. Walsh and Mr. O'Connor for their advice and guidance. Thank you to Ms. Smith for helping us to put

it all together. A special thank you to Ms. Gorry for taking the time to edit each edition. The next edition of *Inside Alex* will be published at Easter

We really hope you enjoy reading it as much as we did putting it together.

The News Committee

PS: *We would love to hear from you for our next edition!*



#Be Kind

T O E V E R Y O N E

t h i s s e a s o n



ALEXANDRA COLLEGE
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A Message from Mrs. Lamplugh

It is Christmas time! I know you are all looking forward to the break from school to spend time with your family and friends and most importantly – to await the visit from Santa Claus.

The J6 students on the News Committee and Ms. Smith have produced another super edition of INSIDE ALEX for you to read. It is packed with interesting articles and features that you will all enjoy reading.

Over the last few weeks, we got into the Christmas spirit and enjoyed lots of different activities

- Having lots of fun and shopping at the JACA Christmas Toy and Book Fair
- Watching the Christmas panto: Sammy Snowflake's Christmas Catastrophe.
- Taking part in a special Advent assembly led by Rev'd Gyles.
- Winning prizes at the JACA Christmas Raffle
- Creating and making a special Christmas Post box.
- Wearing a Christmas jumper in aid of Barretstown
- Watching 'A Cosy Christmas at Alex' - a wonderful evening of music and dance performed by students from Preschool to J6.

Having all these great activities as well as keeping up with all of your regular curricular work is thanks to your fantastic teachers. We are very grateful too for all the work done by Ms Higgins, our cleaning staff, in particular Catherine, the catering staff led by Bill and our traffic personnel as they all have worked hard to make sure that everyone in the Junior School has continued to learn in a safe, caring and nurturing environment.

I was so proud of each and every one of you last night as you performed in "A Cosy Christmas at Alex" – you were all amazing!

Stay safe over the Christmas break and have a wonderful time with your friends and families.

I hope Santa Claus is very good to all of you because you have been great girls this term. Always remember to "Choose Kind" every time.

See you all in January,

Mrs Lamplugh





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Thank you for reading and supporting Inside Alex.
Seasons Greetings from all the News Committee Team.



Winter Celebrations around the world

By *Maryam Khan, J6W* and *Sophie Mahon, J6R*



The Gavle Goat

The Gavle Goat

In northern European countries, a goat would be a symbol of Christmas. It is known as the Yule goat. This goat would help deliver presents and Santa would sometimes ride on one instead of a sleigh. So in 1966, the town of Gavle decided to put up a big, straw Yule goat for Christmas. However the goat was burned down on New Year's Eve. It has become a tradition for the goat to be put up every year. Unfortunately, most years it has also been burned down. To protect the goat the town has put up security cameras and stationed guards around the goat. It would also be sprayed with water and flameproof chemicals. Sadly, this hasn't been very effective. One year, hackers hacked the cameras and then burned down the goat. The Yule goat is an amazing tourist attraction around this time of year. The fact that it has been burnt most years probably attracts more visitors. Some people even bet on how long it will last. Luckily the goat hasn't been set on fire since 2016 so there is a chance that it won't burn this year.

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a North American holiday celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November. On Thanksgiving everyone gets a day off and families gather to eat a magnificent meal while saying what they're thankful for. Thanksgiving is thought to have originated from a meal between Europeans and Native Americans. In 1620, a boat called the Mayflower brought mainly English people to Massachusetts. The people on board were known as Pilgrims. The Native Americans who they shared the meal with were called the Wampanoag tribe. It is unknown what they had in that meal but modern Thanksgiving dinners would usually include stuffing, mashed potato, cran-

berry sauce and pumpkin pie. Like Christmas dinners, a turkey would normally be the main part of the meal. Thanksgiving is now a widely known holiday and is celebrated by the USA, Canada, St Lucia, Grenada and even Liberia. It's a day for gratitude and a day to appreciate what we have.

Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa is an African American celebration which is celebrated annually between the 26th of December and the 1st of January. It was created by Dr. Maulana Karenga in 1966 to celebrate African culture in America. This would not be celebrated in Africa nor is it a religious celebration. There are seven principles of Kwanzaa: unite, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith. These principles are represented by candles of the colours red (self-determination, cooperative economics, collective work and responsibility), green (purpose, creativity, faith) and black (unity). One candle would be lit every day. Red, green and black were the colours of the flag of the African liberation movement. This was the movement of African independence which took place between 1957 and 1993. Nearly 50 African states achieved independence during the period. Some other traditions on Kwanzaa would include gift giving, a banquet on the 31st of December and reflecting on the principle of the day. The last day of Kwanzaa is called the day of meditation. Participants would ask themselves three questions: Who am I? Am I who I say I am? Am I who I ought to be?

Hanukkah

Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, is a Jewish celebration Kislev 25 (Around



December). It is celebrated for 8 days, and each day Jewish people light a candle in the Second Temple of Jerusalem. Hanukkah celebrates the Maccabean victories over the forces of the King Antiochus IV Epiphanes. They were the first Jewish people to fight for their religion instead of their lives. According to I Maccabees, Antiochus had invaded Judea, tried to Hellenize the Jews and destroyed the Second Temple. The most important of all Hanukkah traditions is the lighting of the menorah each evening. Also known as the Hanukkah lamp, the menorah is the Temple lamp stand with eight branches plus a holder for the shammash ("servant") candle that is used to light the other eight candles. One candle is lit on the first evening, and an additional candle is lit on each subsequent evening until eight candles are burning on the last evening. Olive oil was traditionally used for lighting the menorah, but it was replaced by candles, which are inserted in the menorah each night of the festival from right to left but are lit from left to right. A blessing is also offered while the candles are lit each night. The menorah was originally kindled outside the home, but it was brought inside in ancient times to guard against offending neighbours.

The Yule Lads

In the 13 days leading to Christmas, 13 troll-like people visit kids in Iceland. They are known as the Yule Lads. Every night kids leave their best shoes outside, and various Yule Lads leave gifts for nice kids and rotten potatoes for

the naughty kids, Their names are:
Stekkjastaur | Sheep Cote Clod.
Giljagaur | Gully Gawkw.
Stufur | Stubby.
Thvorusleikir | Spoon-Licker.
Pottaskefill | Pot-Scraper.
Askasleikir | Bowl-Licker.
Hurdaskellir | Door-Slammer.
Skyrgamur | Skyr-Gobbler.

Toronto Lights

In Toronto the annual Cavalcade of Lights marks the official start to the holiday season. The first Cavalcade took place in 1967 to show Toronto's newly constructed City Hall and Nathan Phillips Square. The Square and Christmas tree are illuminated by more than 300,000 energy-efficient LED lights that shine from dusk until 11 pm until the New Year. On top of that, you'll get to witness spectacular fireworks shows and engage in some outdoor ice skating.



Thanksgiving



Hanukkah



Kwanzaa



The Yule Lads

A Cosy Christmas at Alex

Thank you for watching our *A Cosy Christmas at Alex* performance. We would like to thank everyone who worked tirelessly to make this a great production this year. We would especially like to thank Ms. Fitzgerald, Ms. Crowley and Ms. Nordon. We would also like to thank Ms. Smith, Ms. Boyd, the Transition Year students and all the Junior School Drama Captains. We know that this year is very different from other years and we missed performing in front of a live audience but we had fun creating each class production. We hope you enjoyed watching it as much as we did.

Set design



Video image design



By Emily Dempsey and Robyn Sharpe, J3W

By Saoirse Jones and Emily Sexton, J6R





A Cosy Christmas at Alex

By Claudia Kelly and Holly Kinsella, J6W

This year we are doing an online Christmas play because of COVID. The drama captains; Josephine Nell, Jessica O'Sullivan, Katie Smith and Ella Glynn have been busy preparing the set for the play and the classes have been preparing their performances. We have interviewed a couple of students to see what they think of the play.

Jessica O' Sullivan (Drama Captain)

What went into the making of the Christmas set?

We had to decorate the school hall. Ms. Smith was very helpful with letting us use her Christmas decorations and Ms. Boyd let us use her tinsel! We had to wrap a lot of presents to then put on the set.

How long did it take?

It took about a week for all the decorations to be put together and another week for the recordings to be made. All together it took about two weeks for it to be complete.

Josephine Nell (Drama Captain)

Are you excited to see your work being presented in the Christmas plays?

Yes. I'm excited for everyone to see the hard work we put into it as it took a long time to prepare everything but in the end I'm sure it will be worth it.

Darcy Carlin: (pupil)

What's your favourite part about the Christmas play?

I like working with my group and being a part of the rehearsals.

Did you enjoy working with the others?

Yes, I enjoyed it as I got to work with others and come up with the script and costumes!

Toy and Book Fair

By Clara Galvin and Sophie Butcher, J6W



Interview

Clara and Sophie interviewed Claudia Kelly (J6W) about her experience of the Toy and Book Fair

Would you change anything about the Toy and Book Fair?

It was really good but I would change the amount of toys because some classes didn't get as much choice on the toys.

What was your favourite stall at the Toy and Book Fair?

I liked the games and puzzles.

What was your favourite item you got at the Toy and Book Fair?

My favourite item I got from the toy and book fair was the Late Late Toy Show bags or the puzzle I got.

Would you go back to the Toy and Book Fair?

Yes I would.

Did you get everything you wanted?

Yes I did.

Rate the Toy and Book Fair out of ten!

9/10 because some people didn't get as many choices as others.



INSIDE Preschool Lower

Preschool Lower are very excited about Christmas. We decorated the tree in our classroom and have enjoyed lots of Christmas art and crafts. We recorded some Christmas songs and dances for the Mums and Dads and the girls loved wearing their festive jumpers. They are writing their letters to Santa Claus and counting down the sleeps till his arrival.

Merry Christmas everyone,
Ms. Brandon & Ms. Malseed



Tree Time



INSIDE J1



The girls in J1 have really been looking forward to Christmas. We have enjoyed getting into the festive spirit in lots of different ways. It started with the Toy and Book Fair. The girls got their Toy Show goodie bags and they were delighted to go home, cuddle up on the couch and watch the show. Then there was great excitement when Sammy Snowflake came to visit. The girls helped Sammy solve his Christmas crisis and we all enjoyed singing songs together.

In class, the girls loved listening to the poem 'Twas the Night Before Christmas' and drawing pictures of all the lovely things they saw in their imagination. I hope the J1 girls and their families have a wonderful Christmas and I can't wait to see them all back in class in the New Year.

Merry Christmas
Ms. Martin

INSIDE J3W

How to Make Melting Snowman Cookies

By Robyn Sharpe & Emme Ridge, J3W

Ingredients:

Chocolate and vanilla icing
Pretzel sticks
Plain biscuits
Large marshmallows
Smarties
Toothpicks

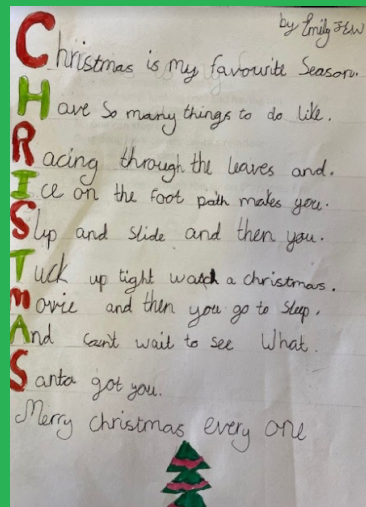
Steps:

- Take one biscuit and put it on a plate
- Get the vanilla icing and spread it with a knife on the cookie.
- Put the marshmallow on the iced cookie.
- Get a toothpick and dip it into the chocolate icing and make a face on the marshmallow.
- Get 3 Smarties and line them up in front of the marshmallow face.
- Break the pretzel into smaller pieces and put them onto the sides of the marshmallows for the arms.

Enjoy!



By Annabelle Power, J3W



By Emily Dempsey, J3W

INSIDE J3W

The Christmas Tree

By Llanka Martin, J3W

One night, I was awoken by a rustling sound coming from my Christmas tree. I went downstairs and decided to look in my tree. Inside I saw an 'Elf on the Shelf.' He said 'Hi' to me and I shot my head out of the tree in shock. I put my head back in and the elf was not there, but I did see a whole town. I put my body into the tree and then I turned into an elf. I was so happy.

Then I saw a boy, an elf boy and I said, "Hi! Do you want to have a coffee with me?" He said, "Yes!" and so off we went. We fell in love.

We decided to go back to our homes but I did not know where my house was, so I went and followed some signs. Suddenly I saw a house; it was abandoned and it was dirty and old.

I needed some money, so I decided to search 'how to be a billionaire' on my elf phone. It said you need three things: Pretend to have no home. Be very filthy. If you are lucky, you'll become a billionaire.

So that is what I did and it worked! I bought a mansion and soon enough I was a queen. Life was great, but then I remembered that I also lived outside the Christmas tree and my family was there so I decided to sneak out.

I managed to sneak out of the tree and see my family. When I came back I had a meeting with the elves and told them that sometimes I needed to go in and out of the Christmas tree to see my family and the elves were happy with that.

Then I saw the boy elf again and we decided to get married. I found out his name was Michael and I told him my name was Joanna. We lived together in the Christmas tree and we were very happy.

The End



INSIDE J3W

Once Upon a Christmas

By Lila McElligott, J3W

One day, Cecilia Hatchit was walking down the misty street. As the mist curled around each tree and building, Cecilia's feet slowly thumped on the ground, making small, crunchy noises through the snow. Cecilia's deep breaths flowed through the air. As Cecilia walked past all the houses, she could see families getting ready for Christmas. Cecilia sighed and continued walking.

After a few minutes, she came to a dark alley way with dark walls, bins and rats. Cecilia made her way through the alley way and sobbed, "Why did Ma and Pa have to die?"

On the other side of the alley way was Mrs. Humberg's Orphanage, which was where Cecilia lived. She pushed open the door and immediately got hit hard with a wooden ruler. Her hand started throbbing, growing red.

"Hello," said Cecilia clenching her hand as tears poured down her face.

"YOU'RE LATE!" bellowed Mrs. Humberg, staring into Cecilia's soul with her wide, beady eyes.

"But..." Cecilia stuttered. "NO BUTS!!!" Mrs. Humberg bellowed again and sent her to bed without any supper.

The next day, Cecilia flew down the stairs fully dressed and ready. She flung open the door, gliding away into a sea of people. That day was

Christmas Eve and Cecilia loved it. Cecilia ran past carol singers and people with cartons of baubles.

Hundreds upon hundreds of people helped decorate the central Christmas tree. Baubles were hung up by the second, glittering non-stop as the wind washed up upon each one. Bunches of flowers were put on to remember loved ones and small and big boxes were wrapped slowly being put under the tree.

Cecilia went to visit her favourite lake, Chusifer's Lake. When she went there, she saw the lake had frozen over, just thick enough to skate on. Cecilia went to get Jenny, Lauren, Florence and Quinn.

She burst into the orphanage ignoring Mrs. Humberg and running upstairs, calling her friends. They peered over the banister saying, "Yes?" "The lake is all frozen over!" Cecilia called, jumping around. "Really?" they said, excitement gleaming in their eyes. Cecilia, Jenny, Lauren, Florence and Quinn all burst out the door in excitement, heading toward the shiny lake.

On the way, Quinn grabbed some old flats from a closed shoe stall and Jenny grabbed pieces of metal from a bin before spilling it everywhere. Cecilia, Lauren and Florence attached the pieces of metal to the shoes with tree sap. They all slipped on the shoes and before they knew it, they were swirling around

INSIDE J3W



on the frozen lake.

Soon everybody in town was skating around and the girls couldn't move. They took off the metal pieces scraping the ice. "Forty-five minutes has gone by fast and Mrs. Humberg is gonna be angry if we don't hurry!" replied Lauren. "You're right, replied the others.

They ran back to the orphanage and burst in the door and all but Cecilia went upstairs. She went into the living room and stared into the fire and in the fire she saw her parents' faces. They slipped away. "MA! PA!" she screamed into the fire and fell into unconsciousness.

Cecilia woke up on the couch covered in a blanket thick enough to drown a horse. Jenny and Quinn were beside her and Lauren and Florence came in carrying tea.

Suddenly Mrs. Humberg came in, her heavy boots thumping on the ground as she walked towards Cecilia. Florence nodded and they pulled out loads of fruit- oranges, apples, pears, dragon fruit and the rottenest tomatoes they could find and started throwing them at Mrs. Humberg.

At first she was surprised, but then she ran, her shrill screams filling the air. All the girls laughed and laughed until they caught their breath.

A couple of hours later, a man and a woman came in looking very smart. "Children," said the man, "This is Miss Gordon." All the children said, "Hello," and when the man closed the door, Miss Gordon took off her coat revealing a dress and she said, "Children, let's have some fun."

They went outside and built a snowman, they had a snowball fight and made snow angels. They had so much fun and went inside, water dripping from their noses onto the floor.

Miss Gordon made hot chocolate for everyone and then they took turns telling Christmas stories and making each other laugh. At bedtime, Cecilia looked out the window and smiled because she knew Mrs. Humberg wouldn't be back for a long time.

The End

INSIDE J3W

An Spideog

Tá nead aici. Tugann sí aire do na héiníní. Itheann an spideog an péist. Tá sí ag canadh. Tá spideog ag eitilt ar chúl an tí. Is maith liom an spideog. Tá an spideog ar an gcrann. Tá a cleití donn, bolg bán agus brollach dearg. Slán spideog! Slán Cadhla!

By Cadhla Hardy, J3W



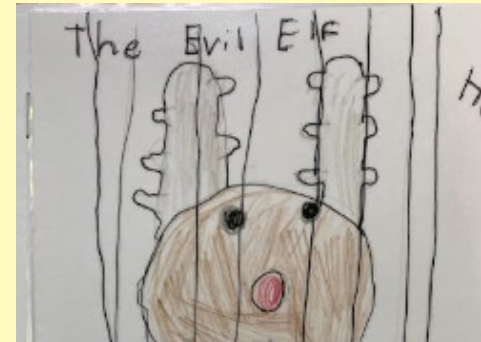
Thuas ar an gcrann. Tá a brollach dearg. Tá an spideog gleoite. Is breá léi péist. Tá an spideog ag eitilt.

By Élise Waché, J3W



Tá a cleití donn. Tá a brollach dearg. Tá a gob buí. Tá an spideog sa nead le na héiníní. Tugann sí péist do na héiníní.

By Isabella O'Neill, J3W

INSIDE J3W

The Evil Elf

By Kalyssa Poynton Monteiro, J3W

One day, an evil elf came to Santa Land. The elf wanted presents but Santa didn't give him any because he was meant to be working. He decided it wasn't fair that children got presents instead of him, so he decided to ruin Christmas.

The elf stole Rudolph. "Help! Help!" said Rudolph. "I've got you," said the evil elf. The evil elf has powers and decided to turn Rudolph evil, but Rudolph didn't turn evil. Rudolph just pretended to be evil. He had a good plan.

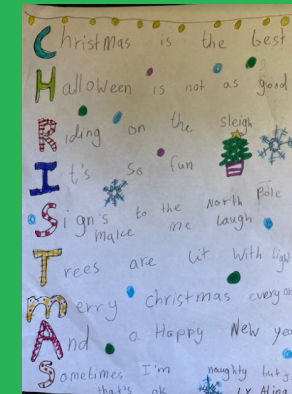
The elf said, "I want you to give me presents NOW! If you don't, I'm going to lock you in a cage."

Rudolph cried so much, but then he had an idea. He was very, very quiet. He wanted to make a special Christmas potion, but he needed Santa's help, so he snuck away when the evil elf was asleep.

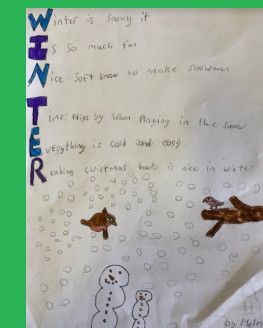
"Santa, I need your help," said Rudolph, "There is an evil elf who is trying to ruin Christmas!"

Santa made the potion and put it in the evil elf's water bottle while he was sleeping. The elf woke up and drank the water and he was good. He helped Santa bring the presents to all the kids.

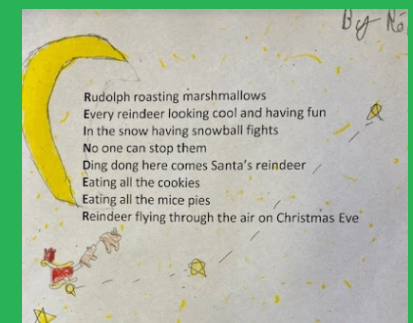
The End



By Alina O'Connor, J3W



By Helen Schuster, J3W



By Roisin McCaffrey, J3W

INSIDE J2R

J2R Christmas and New Year Wishes Poem



Merry Christmas,
Everyone in the world.
Remember your family,
Remember your friends,
You should help others in need.

Christmas is a special time of year,
Happiness is wished for you.
Reindeer will pull the sleigh
In the sky.
Santa's elves are busy making
Toys for all the girls and boys.
Magical toys
Are on their way from
Santa's workshop.

A happy New Year!
Nearly time for 2022.
Dream of ..

A New Year filled with..

Health and happiness.
A new beginning for
People.

Pick a New Year's resolution
You can do it!

New possibilities lie ahead.
Each person has a chance to make a
difference to the
World.

You can make a change.
Every good deed and kind word is
An important gift to others all year
Round.

INSIDE J2W

From maths to poetry, S.T.E.A.M. to history we have enjoyed another wonderful term working together in J2W. After the Mid-Term break we presented our assembly on kindness, coming up with lots of different ideas on how to be kind as well as creating beautiful collaborative artwork in pairs. We have continued to hone our writing skills with poetry and spooky Halloween stories too. During Science Week we learned about plant transpiration and enjoyed using our scientific investi-

gation skills to carry out an experiment to watch transpiration in action. In history we learned all about pirates and our very own Granuaile, and discovered that perhaps a pirate's life was not for us! Lastly, we were delighted to be chosen along with J2R to learn and perform a dance with Ms Lyons for our special school Christmas video, stay tuned! We wish everyone a very happy Christmas from all in J2W.

Ms Murray



INSIDE Preschool Upper

The girls in Preschool Upper have been learning all about their eight planets and the facts associated with each of them. They were fascinated with the planet Mars and discovered that long ago, the air on Mars was thicker and there were valleys filled with water. Thus there may have been life on the red planet. In 2004 Spirit landed on Mars after a seven-month journey through space. It sent pictures of Mars back to Earth, and

studied the soil and rocks there.

Until quite recently, people thought that there might be human-like creatures on Mars. We now know that this is not true, but film makers often show martians as strange green men. The girls loved doing their alien hand prints. Well done girls on your beautiful handprints.

Ms Murphy/Ms Moran



Greetings From America



**This term we welcomed two teachers from America.
We will miss them when they leave us to go back home.**

Hello!

My name is Mary Miller, but you know me as Ms. Miller. I am a Visual Arts Education major at Saginaw Valley State University in Michigan. I live about 15 minutes south of Detroit, Michigan.

I am in my final part of my teaching, which is student teaching. I started my student teaching in September in Michigan and will finish it here with you. My last day is December 22nd.

This is my first time in Ireland, but not my first time leaving the United States. I grew up visiting Canada all the time because my grandma and aunt live there. I also went to England for 2 weeks in the summer of 2017 with my Girl Scouts USA unit.

I am so excited to be here and to have the opportunity to work with you all!

Have a Happy Christmas!
Ms. Miller

Dia duit! Hello friends!

My name is Caitlin Bahr. You can call me Ms Bahr. I am student teacher from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

I will be at Alexandra Junior College for the month of December. I am so excited to be here and I look forward to meeting all of you!

I have taught all around the world, such as Indonesia, Thailand, and Japan. I'm so excited that Ireland is my newest experience!

I always learning about different ways to view the world and how we exist in it together. I want my students to see the connections between each other and the world around them. I want them to be lifelong learners, long after I'm done teaching them. Go raibh maith agat!

Thank you!

Kindly,
Ms Bahr

INSIDE STEAM

Over the last academic term, the girls in Alex JS have been enjoying their new creative technology classes with Ms. McGarry. There has been great excitement as the girls experimented with different coding environments, circuit boards, construction kits and robotic devices!

KGs/J1

STEAM Lego challenges and a Christmas themed STEAM lesson

The KGs enjoyed a sea-themed Lego STEAM challenge and had great fun creating a hermit crab from Lego blocks, pipe cleaners and other recycled bits. In the run up to Christmas, both KG classes and J1 students are looking forward to their Christmas themed mini STEAM challenge!



J2

Block based coding in Scratch Junior

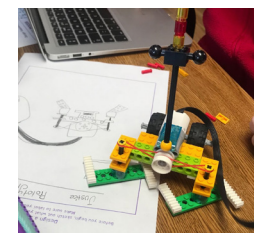
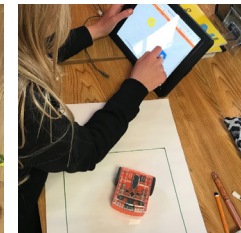
Both J2 classes have been working on mastering basic coding principles in Scratch Junior, using the wonderful picture book “Don’t Worry Little Crab” as a stimulus to code their animations. The girls have been very creative with their Scratch Junior animations and will continue to work on this theme after Christmas.



J3/J4

Block based coding using the EdScratch App and the Edison robot

J3 and J4 students have been seeing the effects of their code on a little orange robotic device called Edison. They have been working hard to get to know how Edison works - which requires a lot of problem solving and team skills! At the moment, they have been focused on coding the features of a variety of 2D shapes, working from a structured coding environment towards a more exploratory one as their skills develop.



J5

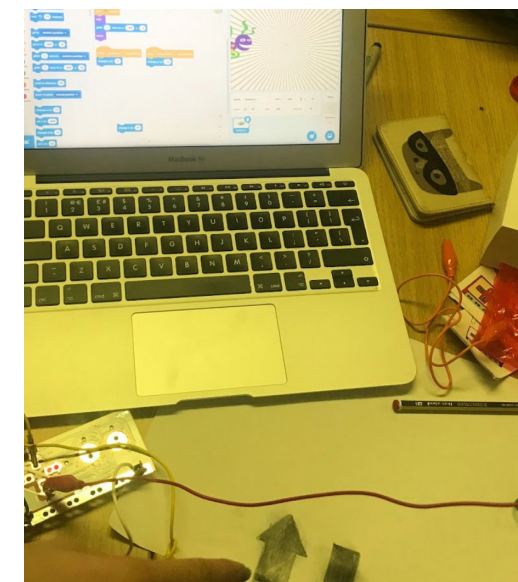
Block based coding using Microsoft’s MakeCode Arcade and Lego WeDo kits

One class of J5 students has been working hard building retro arcade games in MakeCode Arcade whilst the other class has been working on building working Lego robots with the “Lego WeDo” kits, which are on loan from DCU as part of a project.

J6

Interactive coding using the block based coding environment “Scratch” and a printed circuit board

J6 students are incorporating the coding skills learned in coding class with Mr. LaCumber with the Makey Makey, a printed circuit board that allows the girls to create interactive art pieces. The Makey Makey works by creating a simple circuit. An alligator clip is attached to an object (in this case, the student’s artwork). When the students touch their graphite drawings, the computer thinks you’re pressing the keyboard. By mimicking a keyboard and mouse the Makey Makey lets the students control any computer program with everyday objects.



INSIDE J5

Cycling workshops



On the 5th and 11th of November, J5R and J5W both did cycling workshops, as part of the Travel Flag for our Green Schools programme. These were facilitated by Laura, our Green Schools Travel Officer and her colleague, Sarah.

Laura, who showed us how to perform a safety check on our bikes, taught us how to turn right in traffic and how to cycle

safely beside another cyclist. We also played some cycling games to test our stability and balance.

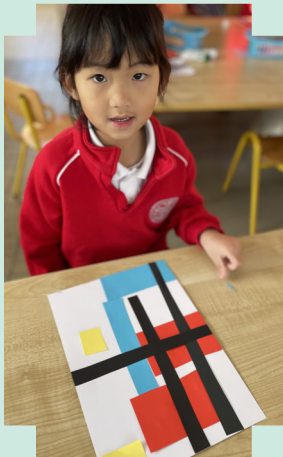
Before she left, Laura kindly gave us some safety equipment, including hi-vis jackets, bells and bicycle lights. J5 will now be cycling to school with confidence on our Walk on Wednesdays!



INSIDE ART

CREATIVITY FROM KG LOWER TO J6

Over the last term the girls learnt new skills with the focus on clay art, still life, collage, embroidery, weaving, felting and tonal techniques exploring all media from soft and oil pastels, painting techniques, and much more. It has been a busy and fun term and we look forward to next term in 2022 full of creativity.



Mondrian art
Kg Lower



Notan Art
Kg Upper



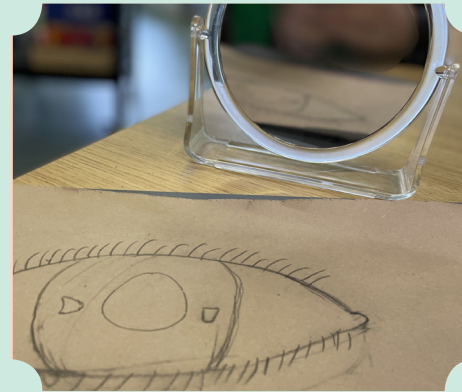
Fish bowl collage
J1



Eye art
J2R



Clay pinch pot
J2W



Eye self portrait
J3R



Pastel weaving
J3W



Mixed media
J4R



Weaving
J4W



Felting
J6R



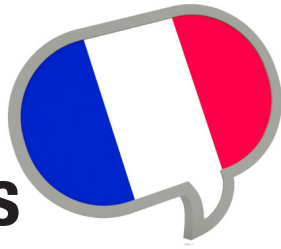
Still life
J5R



Collage Art
J5W



Tonal drawing using soft pastel
J6W



INSIDE Les Nouvelles

During the month of November and December, the girls have been learning different topics using the seasonal Halloween (Kg Lower - J2) and Christmas themes.

KgUpper discovered the autumn season through animals hiding in the forest bringing in to play the game "Cache Cache" with le Père Noël (Hide and seek with Father Christmas). They have been great at putting together a story book based on the traditional song "l'as-tu vu ce petit bonhomme?" ("have you seen this little man"? ... Santa).

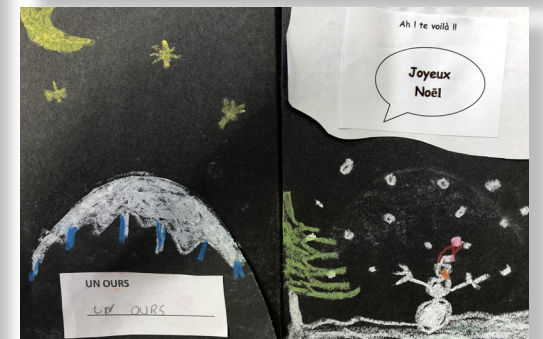
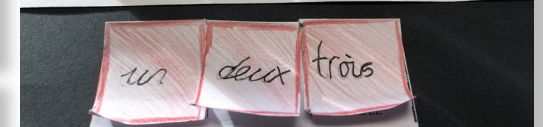
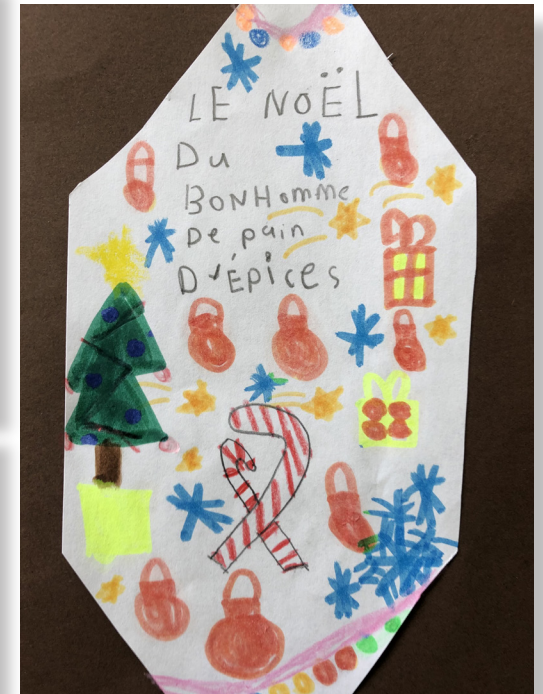
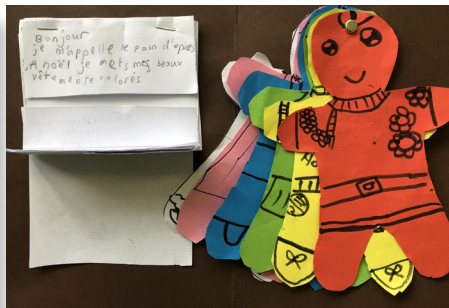
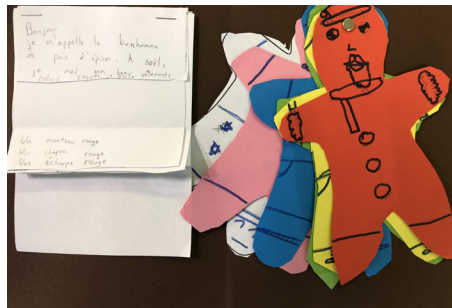
The J3 girls learnt from their French book Zig Zag a chapter all about clothes and they have been busy dressing up "Le Bonhomme

de pain d'épices" pour Noël (The Ginger bread man for Christmas).

Finally while the J6 girls are studying a story on "Noël sous les étoiles" (Christmas beneath the stars), or the J4 taking daily note of the behaviour of the Lutin (Elf), the J5 girls took a break from learning to read the time and express a daily routine with a "Calendrier de l'Avent" (Advent Calendar) associated with actions.

Nous vous souhaitons un très joyeux Noël et le meilleur à venir pour l'année 2022.

By Madame Conan



Christmas Baking

Gingerbread Cookies

By Genevieve Daunt Brennan, J6R



Ingredients

100g salted butter
3 tbsp golden syrup
100g dark muscovado sugar
½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
1 tbsp ground ginger
1 tsp ground cinnamon
225g plain flour.

Recipe

Step 1

Heat the butter, syrup and sugar together in a small pan until melted (make sure not to touch the mixture as it gets very hot.) Once done, let cool for a bit.

Step 2

Mix together the bicarbonate of soda, ginger, cinnamon and flour in a large bowl. Pour in the buttery syrup mixture and stir to combine, then use your hands to bring together to form a dough. The dough will be soft at this point, but it'll firm up in the fridge.

Step 3

Put the dough on a sheet of baking parchment, shape into a rectangle, and lay another sheet of parchment on top of it. Roll the dough out to a thickness of about ½ cm. Transfer to a baking sheet to keep it flat, leaving the parchment in place, then chill in the fridge for around 30 minutes.

Icing

50g icing sugar
½ tbsp water

Step 4

Heat the oven to 190c / 170c fan, and line a large baking sheet with more baking parchment. Remove the dough from the fridge and cut out shapes using a cookie cutter. I used a circle cut out, but you can use any shape.

Step 5

Place the shapes, spread apart, on the lined baking sheet, and bake for 10 -12 mins. (Depending on the size of the cutters you use, they might need a few minutes more or less cooking in the oven). Leave to cool completely on the baking sheet.

Step 6

Meanwhile, mix the icing sugar with ½ tbsp water, you want to create a consistency that's thick and pipeable, and not too thin or it will run. Decorate the cooled biscuits with the icing using a piping bag with a thin nozzle. (If you do not have a piping bag you can get a plastic bag and cut a small hole in the corner.)

And finally, enjoy!

Yule log

By Sofia Sambataro, J6R



For the chocolate marquise:

150g of egg white
80g of yolk
85g of sugar
68g of butter
145g of dark chocolate
Oven preheated at 180 degrees

Procedure:

- Beat the egg whites and half of the sugar
- In another bowl, beat the rest of the sugar with the yolks
- Melt the butter and chocolate in the microwave and mix them every 30 seconds until they melt
- Mix the yolks and the chocolate and butter together when the chocolate and butter have reached 30 degrees.
- Start beating them together, then take some of the dough and mix it to the egg whites
- Then add the rest of the dough and mix slowly
- Spread the dough on baking paper and put it in the oven for 15-18 minutes

For the cream:

300g of whipped cream
40g of yolk
200g of milk
40g of sugar
15g of cornstarch
7g of gelatin sheets
Vanilla essence

Procedure:

- First put a bowl in the freezer to make it cold
 - Put the gelatin sheets in cold water
 - In a pot, put the vanilla and milk and leave it until it starts boiling
 - Meanwhile, in another pot, put the sugar, the yolks and the cornstarch and mix with a whisk
 - When the milk starts boiling put $\frac{1}{3}$ of the milk in the other pot and mix
 - Pour in the rest of the milk, put the pot back on the stove and keep mixing for a few minutes until the cream becomes dense
 - Take the pot off the stove and mix energetically, until it looks shiny
 - Take the bowl out of the freezer and pour the cream inside it
 - Add the gelatin sheets and mix it until they melt
 - When the cream isn't hot anymore put it in the fridge
 - Meanwhile half-whip the cream and when it's ready take the cream out of the fridge and pour $\frac{1}{3}$ of the whipped cream in the cream
 - Then pour the rest of the whipped cream, mix them and put it in the fridge
- You can add raspberry or strawberry jam if you like!

For the chocolate ganache:

200g of dark chocolate
180g of whipped cream

Procedure:

- Pour the cream in a pot and wait until it boils
- As soon as it boils take it off the stove
- Add the dark chocolate and mix with a whisk until it becomes a smooth cream

Putting it together:

- On the marquise spread the the jam and cream
- Roll up the marquise and cover it with cling film
- Put it in the fridge and leave it for 2-3 hours
- Take off the cling film and cover the log with the rest of the ganache

Enjoy!

Chocolate Cookies

By Aoife Mitchell and Olivia Wilson, J6W

Ingredients

120g butter, softened
 75g light brown sugar
 75g golden caster sugar
 1 egg
 1 tsp vanilla extract
 180g plain flour
 ½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
 ¼ tsp of salt
 You need 150g of whatever chocolate chip you would like
 Method

STEP 1

Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4 and line two baking trays with parchment paper. Cream the butter and sugars together until very light and fluffy, then beat in the egg and vanilla. Once combined, stir in the flour, bicarbonate of soda, chocolate and ¼ tsp salt.

STEP 2

Scoop 10 large tbsps of the mixture onto the trays, leaving enough space between each to allow for spreading. Bake for 10-12 mins or until firm at the edges but still soft in the middle – they will harden a little as they cool. Leave to cool on the tray for a few minutes before decorating.



DECORATION

Ingredients

Milk chocolate
 A bag of hard pretzels
 Dark chocolate chips
 Red M&Ms

Decoration

- Cut the pretzels in half.
 - Melt the milk chocolate in a glass bowl with boiling water in a pot underneath it on a stove.
 - Dip half of the cookie in the melted chocolate and put the dark chocolate chips as eyes and the red M&Ms as a nose.
 - Then put half of a pretzel on each side of the cookie and let them set.
- Enjoy!



Peppermint Balls

By Aoife Mitchell and Olivia Wilson, J6W



Ingredients

227g heavy whipping cream
454g semi-sweet chocolate, finely chopped
78g unsalted butter, at room temperature
1 teaspoon peppermint extract

For the chocolate coating:

226g milk chocolate
Some crushed up candy canes for on top

Method

- In a small saucepan over low heat, heat the cream just until it comes to a boil
- Immediately remove cream from heat and add in chopped chocolate
- Allow the mixture to sit, untouched, for two minutes, then whisk smooth
- Stir in the butter and peppermint extract and vigorously whisk until smooth and shiny.
- Pour the mixture into a medium bowl and cool to room temperature
- Tightly cover the bowl with plastic wrap and refrigerate for 2 hours, or until firm enough to scoop.

For the chocolate coating:

Microwavable method

- Place your chocolate in a glass bowl, broken up into small chunks
- Put it into the microwave, in thirty second intervals
- Between intervals, make sure to stir your chocolate

Boiling method

- Get a medium sized saucepan and fill it one third full with water
- Place that on the hob and wait for it to boil
- While that is boiling, break your chocolate into pieces and put them into a glass bowl
- Once the water has started boiling, place the bowl into the pan, so it's not touching the water
- Wait for it to melt, whilst stirring continuously

- Before you start, make sure you have enough room in your fridge for both baking sheets. The truffles must chill before being dipped in the chocolate coating.
- Line two large baking sheets with parchment paper and set them aside.
- Measure 2 teaspoons of the truffle filling and quickly roll it between your hands to form a ball.
- Transfer to the prepared baking sheet, and repeat with all truffles. Refrigerate the rolled truffles for at least 15 minutes before dipping in the chocolate.
- Remove the chilled truffles from the fridge and begin dipping them into the chocolate using a small spoon or fork. Transfer the dipped truffles back onto the baking sheets and sprinkle with crushed candy canes.
- Allow truffles to sit at room temperature until set, about 1 hour.

Cake Pops

Ingredients

200g golden caster sugar
200g unsalted butter, softened plus extra for the tins
4 large eggs
200g self-raising flour
2 tbsp cocoa powder
1 tsp baking powder
½ tsp vanilla extract
2 tbsp milk

White chocolate
Big Oreos
Mini Oreos
Sprinkle

STEP 1

Heat oven to 190C/170C fan/gas 5. Butter the base and sides of two 20cm round tins and line the bases with baking parchment.

STEP 2

In a large bowl, beat together 200g golden caster sugar, 200g softened unsalted butter, 4 large eggs, 200g self-raising flour, 2 tbsp cocoa powder, 1 tsp baking powder, ½ tsp vanilla extract, 2 tbsp milk and a pinch of salt until pale.

STEP 3

Divide the mixture between the prepared tins. Bake for 20 mins or until a skewer inserted into the centre of the cake comes out clean.

STEP 4

Leave to cool in the tin for 3-5 mins.

STEP 5

Wash your hands!

STEP 6

Once the cake is not too hot to touch, start to mash it



up, until it forms a dough. You have to do this while it is hot, or else it will not stick together and form a dough.

STEP 7

After you have formed the dough, start to roll them into little balls. They should be about as big as a golf ball.

STEP 8

After you have made all the balls, put them in the freezer and let them harden for about 10-15 minutes.

STEP 9

While the cake pops are hardening, melt your white chocolate. It will be easiest to dip them if you do it in a microwave safe jug, but if you don't have a microwave, you can use a double boiler.

STEP 10

After the cake pops have hardened, you are ready to dip them into the chocolate. Make sure they are fully coated, and let the excess drip for a minute before doing the next one. If you have an old shoebox, you can poke holes in it to stand them up, but if not you can just put them on a plate.

STEP 11

Then, after you've dipped, you can put decorations of your choice. I put Oreos and sprinkles to make them look like snowmen.

STEP 12

Put them in the fridge to let the chocolate harden.

STEP 13

Dig in!

These cake pops are so tasty and Christmassy and I really recommend you make them!

Meg's Hot Chocolate Sticks

Servings: 12

When it comes to hot chocolate sticks, the possibilities are literally endless. Think of all the flavour combinations or toppings you could use! These hot chocolate stirrers are the most perfect homemade Christmas gift EVER!



Ingredients

- Flavourless oil (such as sunflower or vegetable), for greasing
- 500g (10.5 oz) milk chocolate pieces
- 3 tablespoons Cadbury hot chocolate powder
- 200ml pouring cream
- Mini marshmallows to decorate

Directions

You will need:

pastry brush, mini muffin tray or 12 empty 47g Fromage Frais pots (washed and dried), wooden lolly sticks

1. Dip the pastry brush in the sunflower oil and paint a very thin layer of oil over the insides of the Fromage Frais pots/mini muffin tray.
2. Put the chocolate in a bowl and heat in the microwave in 30-sec bursts until runny, stirring after each blast. Or melt it in a heatproof bowl set over a pan of simmering water (get an adult to help you).
3. Warm cream in pot just before boiling point add to hot chocolate mix.
4. Stir and add to the melted chocolate, mix together.
5. Carefully pour the melted chocolate into the pots. Set for 5 mins in the fridge.
6. Remove from fridge, add the marshmallows and the spoon then let set for further 2 hours.
7. These will easily last for 2 – 3 weeks once wrapped.



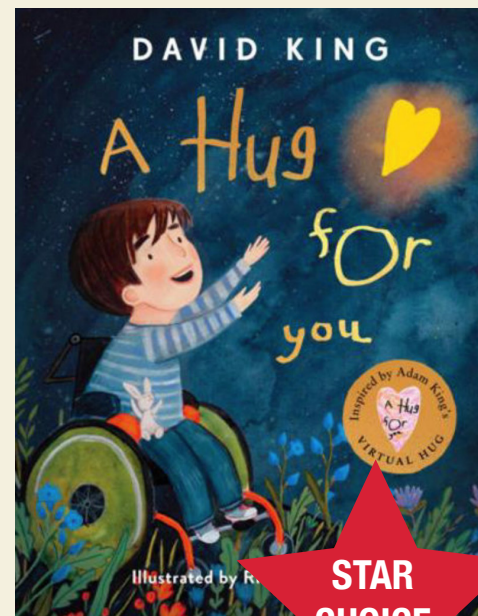
Book Recommendations



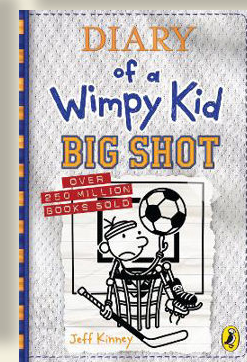
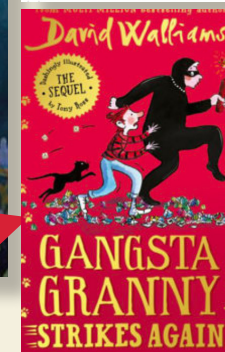
These are some books that we really like and would recommend to you.

They might make a nice Christmas gift

I hope you find something you'd like to read. Happy reading!



**STAR
CHOICE**



Book Review

Reviewed by Eva Duffy, J6R



Title:

The Girl who saved Christmas

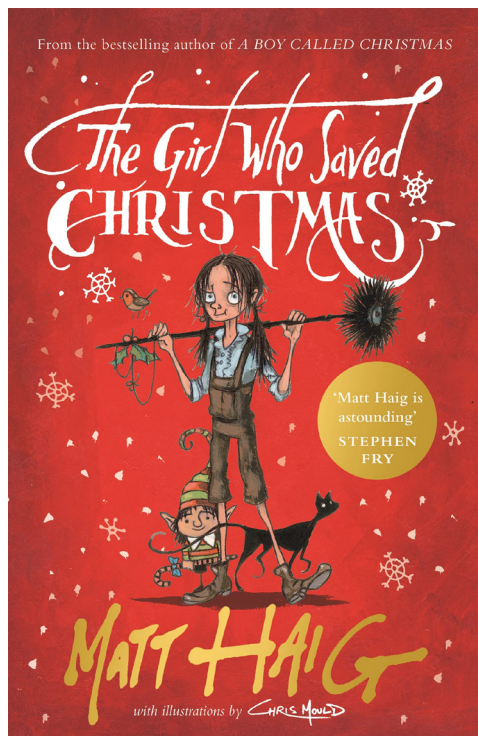
Setting:

Victorian London
between 1837-1901

Age:9+

Genre: Fiction, Fantasy

Summary: It's Christmas Eve and Amelia Wishart is trapped in Mr Creeper's workhouse and Christmas is in jeopardy. The magic of Christmas is fading and Santa knows he must find Amelia. With the help of some elves, eight reindeer, the Queen and a man called Charles Dickens, the search for a special girl and the secret of Christmas begins.



Book Review

Reviewed by Katie Smith, J6R



Title: All Wrapped Up

Author: Helen Orme

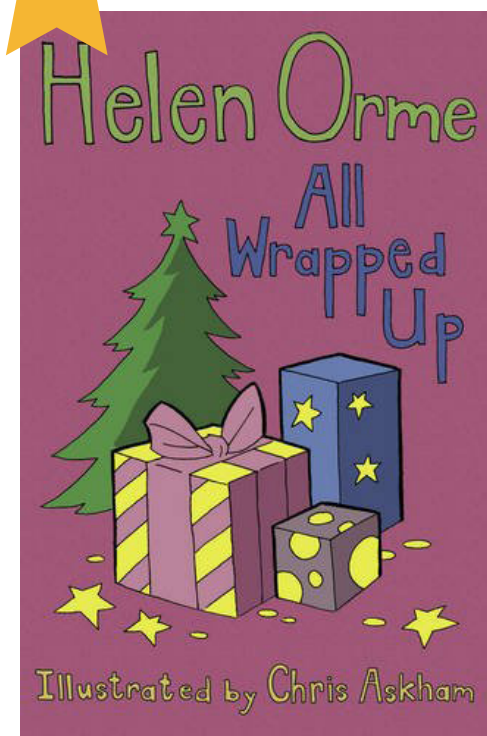
Characters: Donna, Siti, Kelly, Lu, Rachel and the teacher

Plot: Donna doesn't have that much money to buy Christmas presents and doesn't know what to do until one of her teachers offers to help. Donna comes up with a great idea of making presents for each of her friends.

My opinion: I really liked this book because Donna made her Christmas presents instead of buying them. I like that making presents is just as nice as buying them, if not more special. I learnt you should always figure out a resolution to fixing things with your teachers and friends!

Recommend?

Yes I recommend this book because it's really easy to read, very good and interesting!





TOP 3 CHRISTMAS MOVIES EVER

Reviewed by Genevieve Graham, J6R

In first place is

Elf

Elf is just the type of movie that everyone likes no matter the age. Whether you are a child, teenager, adult or even a grandparent. Elf is about an “Elf” named Buddy, who secretly jumped into Santa’s sleigh while he visited the orphanage Buddy lived in at the time. Later on Buddy’s adoptive father adopted him. But Buddy had always wanted to meet his biological dad, so he travelled all the way to New York, but he didn’t expect his dad to act this way.

In second place is

Home Alone

Home Alone is about a little boy named Kevin. Kevin is sort of a misfit in his family. He is also

the youngest, and all of his siblings are close in age. His family decides to go on Christmas holidays. But they knew they forgot something. Kevin was left at home! Kevin faced multiple challenges.

In third place is

The Grinch

The Grinch is about a grumpy, old, mean person. He hates Christmas and will and has done anything and everything to keep kids/ adults miserable and sad at Christmas. He steals kids presents, tries to steal Christmas and more. But to his surprise he has his heart stolen by a small little girl with the spirit of a clown.





OUR Favourite Christmas Movies

By Aoife Mitchell and Olivia Wilson, J6W

The Grinch

The Grinch is about an alien who hates Christmas and tries to ruin Christmas for the village of Whoville. He and his loyal dog, Max, live a solitary existence inside a cave on Mount Crumpit. His main source of aggravation comes during Christmastime when his neighbours in Whoville celebrate the holidays with a bang. When the Whos decide to make Christmas bigger and brighter, the disgruntled Grinch realises there is one way to gain peace and quiet. With help from Max, the green grump hatches a scheme to pose as Santa Claus, steal Christmas and silence the Whos' holiday cheer once and for all. It is rated PG.

The Polar Express

On Christmas Eve, a young boy embarks on a magical adventure to the North Pole on the Polar Express, while learning about friendship, bravery, and the spirit of Christmas. This is the story of a young hero boy on Christmas Eve who boards a powerful magical train that's headed to the North Pole and Santa Claus's home. What unfolds is an adventure which follows a doubting boy, who takes an extraordinary train ride to the North Pole; during this ride, he embarks on an adventure, which shows him that magic never fades for those who believe. I love this movie and it is rated G, so it is good for kids of all ages!

Arthur Christmas

It is Christmas Eve. The big hi-tech sleigh, the S-1 is to deliver two billion presents on Santa's

seventieth mission. Meanwhile, Arthur gets a letter from a girl from 23 Mimosa Avenue, saying that she wants a Pink Twinkle Bike for Christmas. The S-1, which is the answer to every child's question: How does Santa deliver all those presents in just one night, travels seven million miles around the world delivering the gifts. However, during a delivery operation, when one child wakes up and almost sees Santa, an elf inadvertently presses a button, causing a present to fall off a conveyor and go unnoticed. A crazy wrapping elf called Bryony discovers the gift, and Arthur is alarmed to discover that it was the present for Gwen Hines, the Twinkle bike! Grandsanta proposes delivering the gift using Evie, his old wooden sleigh, and the descendants of the original eight reindeer, forcefully whisking away a reluctant Arthur and a stowaway Bryony. They get lost, lose reindeer, and land in danger several times, ultimately being mistaken for aliens and causing an international military incident. Can Arthur, with the help of Grandsanta and Bryony really be the heroes of the night and deliver the missing present before Gwen wakes up, thus saving Christmas?

The Nativity

The nativity is about children who have a teacher called Mr. Maddens. He is a grinch and he hates Christmas. A new teacher comes in called Mr. Poppy who is a literal child. They start rehearsing a play based on The Nativity. They go to a cathedral to perform their show. This movie is rated PG.



Happy Christmas

From Kg Upper



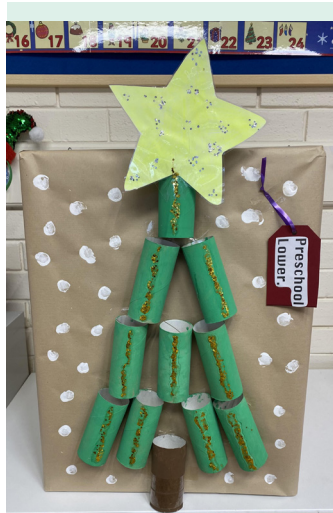
Top Alex Christmas Gifts

The News Committee tells us all about the most popular toys in Alexandra College Junior School.



Alex Christmas Postboxes

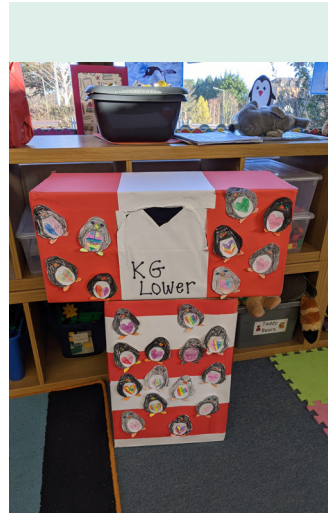
This very popular annual tradition in Alex allows us to send special cards to each other at Christmas. Here is a selection of our creative post boxes.



Preschool Lower



Preschool Upper



Kg Lower



Kg Upper



J1



J2R



J2W



J3R



J3W



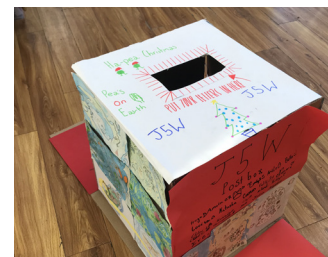
J4W



J4R



J5R



J5W



J6W



J6R

INSIDE Kg Lower

Birdwatching in Kg Lower

We have been fascinated by birds over the last few weeks in our class. We have a perfect view of the playground and get to see all different types of birds taking a rest and eating breadcrumbs each day. Over the course of 2 weeks we have learned about different types of birds from magpies to yellow wagtails, greenfinch to Santa's robin. We did little projects on each

bird and wrote a special fact about each one. We also got to make our very own bird feeders as we are worried there won't be a lot of food for the birds in the winter if the ground freezes over. We love going on our weekly bird walks now, trying to count all the birds we spot!

Ms Kenny & Kg Lower



The Elf at Alex

We wish our elf at Alex a safe trip back to the North Pole. Thanks for coming to Alexandra Junior School. We promise to be very good and always 'Choose Kind'.



Hello to all the Alexandra College Junior School girls,

Storm Barra blew me in from the North Pole!

I had a bumpy journey and met lots of people on the way,
so I'm going into my isolation bubble for a while.

But don't worry I'm going to have lots
fun here with glitter and balloons.

Don't forget to say hello when passing!

Love Elf Storm

