

# The WLD Echo

Friday 20th of December 2024

Issue #3

Walton-Le-Dale High School

## Christmas at Walton-le-Dale High

Pictured right, these incredible festive wooden trees are on display at the front of our school. They were created by our wonderful and talented site team by using pallets, lights and baubles!



Merry Christmas  
&  
Happy Holidays

## Recent School Events

### Year 11 Parents Evening

We had year 11 Parents Evening on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December, where parents had the chance to come in and discuss their child's progress, predicted exam results and future goals.

Parents also had the chance to come and meet our new Headteacher: Mr. Lamoury! Who was based in the library to meet and greet.

### Welcome to the Library Year 7's!

Most of the Year 7s have now had their 'Welcome to the Library' lesson, where the books they chose during the Book Buzz lesson were given to them and they had the chance to play WLD Book Bingo and get to know their library!

### School Term

School closes at 1pm on the 20<sup>th</sup> of December and will reopen on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January! We wish everyone a wonderful break and a Happy Christmas.

### Trips and Rewards

During the week beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> December, the Year 7s went on a trip to Lancaster Castle [Pictured below] organised by the History team. This gave the pupils the fantastic opportunity to see one of the last working castles in the country, to learn about the administration of the law throughout the last 1,000 years and to experience, for themselves, what it meant to be imprisoned there.

If you get the chance to visit, we highly recommend going to see this living piece of history! See more here:

<https://www.lancastercastle.com/>



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Weather Today  
High 6 °C, Low 4 °C



• Ready • Respect. Safe. •



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• The WLD Echo



# Recent School Events



## Careers Festival Week!

Our Careers Festival Week ran from the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> December and was a fantastic success. Pupils were given the opportunity to meet with representatives from 14 colleges, collecting brochures and information to help them decide where to continue their learning journey, post Walton-le-Dale High.

We also had several visitors from multiple career paths join us throughout the week, such as The Army, nurses, tradesmen, Hundreds of pupils saw over 40 businesses, apprenticeship providers and colleges over the course of the week.

Culminating in interviews on the Friday, Year 11s sat with representatives from 12 of different colleges and familiarised themselves with the interview process, presenting their pre-prepared personal statements and CV's. They were asked the 5 following questions about their future:

1. What job do you want to do in the future and why?
2. Why is it important to work hard in your chosen job?
3. Can you describe a time when you worked as part of a team? How did you get on with others in your team?
4. What skills or qualities do you think are important for success?
5. How would you handle a situation where you were unsure how to complete a task?

This was a brilliant opportunity for the year 9, 10 and 11s. Barnardos said our pupils were very polite and inquisitive, Nelson & Colne College said the pupils were a credit to our school and BAE said our pupils were great!

-Mr Turner



## **Festive Cheer is Back in style at Walton-le-Dale High!**

Christmas has hit Walton-le-Dale High, and it's looking more festive than ever! The halls are decked out, the Christmas jumpers are out in full force, and the excitement is everywhere.

This year's got it all – an epic Christmas raffle and loads of holiday fun in every class. From singing carols to crafting decorations, everyone's getting in the festive mood. Walton-le-Dale is buzzing with Christmas cheer, and it's the best way to end the term!

### Unwrapping the Magic of Christmas 2024

The spirit of Christmas is forever, it's not just one day for loving. Sharing and giving are not to be put away like bells, lights and tinsel in some box above a shelf. The good you do for others is the good you do for yourself.

-Dominic M



# Poetry & Prose

## Poetry in Urdu language

جب اس کی تصویر بنایا کرتا تھا  
کمر رنگوں سے بھر جایا کرتا تھا

پیڑ مجھے حسرت سے دیکھا کرتے تھے  
میں جنگل میں پانی لایا کرتا تھا

تھک جاتا تھا بادل سایہ کرتے کرتے  
اور پھر میں بادل پہ سایہ کرتا تھا

بیٹھا رہتا تھا ساحل پہ سارا دن  
دریا مجھ سے جان چھڑایا کرتا تھا

بنت صحرا روٹھا کرتی تھی مجھ سے  
میں صحرا سے ریت چرایا کرتا تھا

-Bakhtawar G

“ Words, without power, is mere philosophy.

-Allama Iqbal



The poem below is by Allama Iqbal, a national poet of Pakistan and chosen by Bakhtawar G

ستاروں سے آگے جہاں اور بھی ہیں  
ابھی عشق کے امتحاں اور بھی ہیں

تہی زندگی سے نہیں یہ فضائیں  
یہاں سیکڑوں کارواں اور بھی ہیں

قناعت نہ کر عالم رنگ و بو پر  
چمن اور بھی آشیاں اور بھی ہیں

اگر کھو گیا اک نشیمن تو کیا غم  
مقامات آہ و فغاں اور بھی ہیں

تو شاہیں بے پرواز بے کام تیرا  
ترے سامنے آسماں اور بھی ہیں

اسی روز و شب میں الجھ کر نہ رہ جا  
کہ تیرے زمان و مکاں اور بھی ہیں

گئے دن کہ تنہا تھا میں انجمن میں  
یہاں اب مرے رازداں اور بھی ہیں



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# Poetry & Prose

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## Brittle Bones

Your lingering for a winter frost and sounds of old music share a taste.

The first man to feel snow on his fingertips believed that God's trumpets would sing soon.

Everything you have waited for is now within reach, but not so long ago your arms grew sore from trying to hold onto the moments filled with dark afternoons and golden stars.

The strange tenderness is so soft it causes pain to the brittle bones of those who miss the warmth of the summer,

but soon the growth of flowers will be long overdue and the air will taste sweet once again.

-Arabella R

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## Shallow Depth

*Continuing to swallow your anger  
will cause it to eventually choke you.*

*Lie with wide eyes to the sailors and  
dip your skin into a body of water,*

*where the shallow depth connects to  
your yearning to be whole.*

*Don't perform for the people  
surrounding you,*

*allow yourself to wallow under a  
blanket and let the lights beam.*

- Arabella R



## Books Rust

Books rust but your knowledge never rats.

You are half the dreamer you once were.

The stained-glass windows shatter around you because  
your arms were aching from the constant protection you  
held over yourself.

Listen to the music a little louder; let the words flow  
through your veins and hold onto that yearning.

Carry yourself outside of the hospital room and lay with  
feet bare on the tiled ground.

Trust yourself instead of letting it consume you.

- Arabella R



# FAREWELL TO SOME FAMILIAR FACES!

On Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> of December, we say goodbye to two wonderful members of staff as they leave Walton-le-Dale and begin their adventures somewhere new! 5 students have interviewed Mrs Yaqub and Mrs Ardern to give them the chance to pass on memories, advice and say goodbye for now.

On behalf on the whole of Walton-le-Dale, we want to say thank you for giving some of your years to this school.

We wish you good luck for wherever you go, for your next chapter and adventure.

## FAREWELL TO MRS YAQUB



### **How long have you worked here?**

I started in 2019! So, I've been here for 5 years.

### **What are you going to miss?**

I will miss the whole of Walton-le-Dale and talking to the students.

### **What was your favourite moment at Walton-le-Dale?**

I enjoyed the Banana Man Karaoke and the Prom.

### **What do you feel like you've learnt from your time here?**

I believe I have gained skills and become a better teacher from my time here, I've developed a stronger passion for teaching and become an even more patient person.

### **What advice do you have for students who are about to graduate?**

My advice is to believe in yourself, to try your hardest and make sure you get your revision done.

### **What advice do you have for all the students at Walton-le-Dale?**

Be amazing and reach for the stars!

- Amy R, Noah P & Logan M



## FAREWELL TO MRS ARDERN



### **What was your favourite moment during your time at Walton-le-Dale?**

My favourite moments were when everyone was able to get together, at end of term assemblies, awards evenings, Summer Sounds and the Masked Singer!

### **What are you going to miss the most?**

All the students and the staff, the people are the most important thing and make the school an enjoyable place to be.

### **How long have you worked here?**

From April 2022 to December 2024

### **What are you not going to miss?**

Asking the students to leave the toilets during lessons.

### **What did you learn while you were here?**

I learned how to make quick decisions on the spot, how to go easy on myself and accept that people can make mistakes and that's okay. We also had a staff training session on trauma informed practice, how to work through trauma and support students that have experienced it.

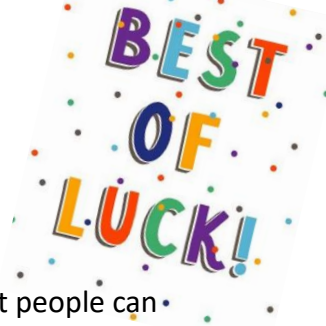
### **What advice do you have for all the pupils at Walton-le-Dale High School?**

Believe in your own abilities! And remember when a member of staff tells you off, they are only trying to help you be the best person you can be. Believe that you can be anybody/anyone you want.

### **What advice do you have for leavers?**

Although you're about to leave, you're always going to be learning new things, never be afraid of anything and continue to grow!

-Chloe R & Noah P & Ethan R



On Saturday, I saw a blind man win a dance competition. Like many watching the Strictly Come Dancing final, with tears in my eyes, I watched in awe as Chris McCausland and his dance partner and teacher, Dianne Buswell, were announced winners and lifted the glitterball trophy.

I had followed Chris's journey over the weeks since September and it had never failed to astonish me that this man, who could not see, could dance so confidently on a stage and make improvements to his practice week on week. But it was also the teacher, Dianne, who I was in awe of. This dance teacher, who was accustomed to using mirrors to help demonstrate precision in practice with her students, had now to find a new way of teaching. I found myself considering how carefully she must have planned the language of their sessions. How much more she must have had to explain every detail of their dance and movements, and how she would be learning new skills as a teacher. Here we had a student who was determined and resilient, who would not let his disability hold him back, and a teacher who had ultimate faith and belief, who would find new ways to support her student in overcoming his barriers to learning. It was a beautiful journey, which clearly captured the hearts of the nation.

Was Chris the best dancer in the competition? Obviously not, he was after all, blind. But that didn't matter, he didn't enter the competition with the expectation that he could ever be the best dancer, but he wanted to do the best job he could. Not to be the best, but to be his best. And that won him the competition!

There is a lesson here for us all. There are no barriers we cannot overcome; we just need to find the right ways to overcome them. We can't do that alone, we all need people around us to help us, to coach us, to guide us. And when this all comes together, we can accomplish extraordinary things, which we perhaps didn't think possible. So, my final words to the students of Walton Le Dale are dream big! Have faith and believe in yourselves. Don't compare yourself to others, we are all unique. Ultimately, it's not about being **the** best, it's about being **your** best.

-Mrs. V Ardern

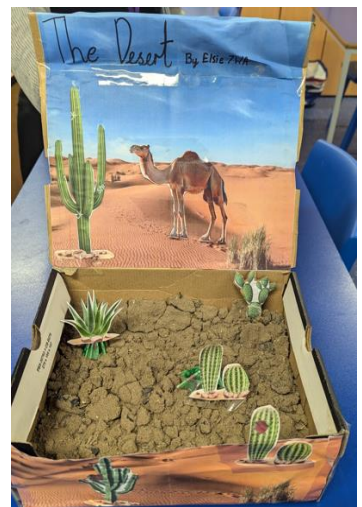
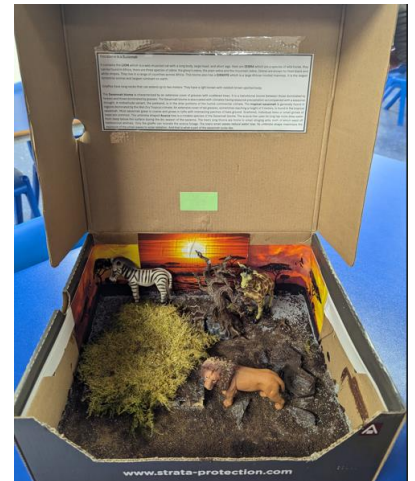


# Geography Biomes!



This term in Geography, Year 7 were asked to create their own 'biome in a box' as they have been learning about ecosystems. The projects submitted by the pupils were fantastic and all have put in a commendable effort.

-Miss Bryan



# Technology

With Christmas on the horizon, many gifts tend to be technology based, with phones a frequent request. I covered the pros and cons of purchasing an Apple device in the last two editions of the school paper, this time I've decided to cover an android.

This month's piece is going to be on the S25. Samsung's next big flagship, the Galaxy S25 Ultra, is expected to hit the shelves in early 2025. As a successor to one of the best Android phones currently available, the S25 Ultra will need to carefully fine-tune its design and features to maintain the winning formula while introducing meaningful upgrades. Samsung's upcoming Galaxy S25 Ultra could be available in Titanium Gray, Titanium Black, Titanium Blue, and Titanium Silver. You can look at the nearly final colourways of the next Ultra flagship in the image pictured right.

-Kamsi O








## Galaxy S25 Ultra

Galaxy AI  is here



### Samsung Galaxy S25 Specs (Rumored)



 <b>Not announced</b> No information	 <b>Storage</b> 128GB
 <b>Display</b> 6.2-inch 2340 x 1080 px	 <b>Hardware</b> Qualcomm Snapdragon 8 Gen 4 8GB RAM
 <b>Camera</b> 50 MP Main 12 MP Selfie	 <b>OS</b> Android 14
 <b>Battery</b> 4000 mAh	



## Mental Health and Positivity



Eshaal Z and Bakhtawar G have created a list of golden rules to live by, to help you keep believing in yourself and stay strong throughout the more difficult times.

♥ TRUST IN YOURSELF.

♥ DON'T BELIEVE IN NEGATIVE COMMENTS FROM OTHERS.

♥ BE KIND AND POSITIVE.

♥ BELIEVE IN ACHIEVING YOUR DREAMS AND GOALS.

♥ REMEMBER THAT SUCCESS IS NOT ACCIDENTAL.

♥ TAKE SMALL STEPS TOWARDS YOUR GOALS EVERY DAY.

♥ YOU CAN ONLY START FROM WHERE YOU ARE RIGHT NOW.

♥ PUSH AND ENCOURAGE YOURSELF, NO ONE ELSE WILL DO IT FOR YOU.





# SPORTS – F1

## Qatar Grand Prix

From the 29<sup>th</sup> of November to the 1<sup>st</sup> of December, we had the Qatar Grand Prix. This weekend the sprint to do as well.

### Sprint Qualifying

Lando Norris got sprint pole, topping SQ1, SQ2 and SQ3 with Oscar Piastri alongside him on the front row.

### Sprint

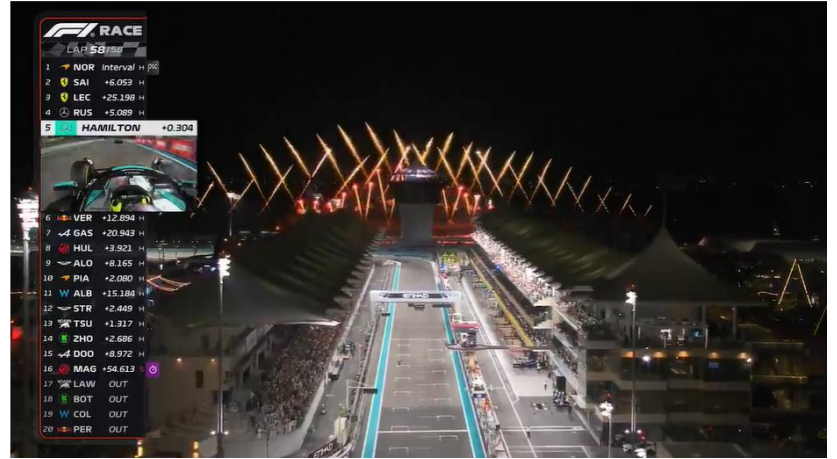
Oscar Piastri was gifted the win by Lando Norris after Lando had dominated the sprint. This was the first time that a constructor has had a 1, 2 finish in a sprint.

### Qualifying

Max Verstappen and George Russell were battling for pole position, but Max pipped him to the post. Later, Max was stripped of pole due to impeding George on his outlap, he got a 1 place grid penalty for the race.

### Race

Max Verstappen won with a six second gap to Charles Leclerc in P2. There was a 6 second back to Oscar Piastri in P3.



## Abu Dhabi Grand Prix

From the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> of December, we had the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. This was the last race of this record-breaking long calendar.

### Qualifying

Both McLaren's locked out the front row with Lando Norris on pole ahead of Oscar Piastri. Lewis Hamilton had a shocking qualifying on his last race at Mercedes ahead of his move to Ferrari next season. He started from P18.

### Race

The Drivers World Championship had already been decided at Las Vegas 3 weeks before, but the constructors had not been decided between Redbull, Ferrari, and McLaren. Lando Norris won sealing the Constructors Championship for the first time in 26 years. The Ferraris put up a good fight all race but could not beat McLaren. They finished 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**The champions have been crowned!!**

Max Verstappen seals his 4<sup>th</sup> Drivers Championship and McLaren win the Constructors Championship for the first time in 26 years.





# SCHOOL SPORTS



5-1

## Walton-le-Dale vs Wellfield!



**Match Report: Walton Le Dale vs Wellfield**

**Final Score: Walton Le Dale 5 - 1 Wellfield**

**Venue: Walton Le Dale**

Walton Le Dale's Year 7 football team delivered a brilliant performance on home turf, securing a commanding 5-1 victory over Wellfield. With excellent teamwork and clinical finishing, the home side dominated the game from start to finish.

The match started brightly for Walton Le Dale, with **Luca G** breaking the deadlock early in the first half. Luca slotted the ball past the goalkeeper with precision after a perfectly weighted pass from **Harry C**, setting the tone for the rest of the match.

Before the halftime whistle, Walton Le Dale doubled their lead through **Dexter R**, who finished expertly after being set up by **Mason N**. The home side entered the break with a deserved 2-0 advantage and plenty of momentum.

In the second half, Walton Le Dale continued their relentless attacking play. **Archie H** scored the team's third goal with a confident strike, assisted by a clever through ball from **Luca G**, showcasing their seamless link-up play.

Shortly after, **Dexter R** bagged his second goal of the match, finishing clinically after a well-timed assist from **Thomas H**.

Luca G then completed his brace, adding Walton Le Dale's fifth goal with a composed finish, demonstrating his sharp eye for goal. Wellfield managed to pull one back late in the game, capitalizing on a rare defensive misstep, but it was too little, too late.

This superb display highlights the growing confidence and cohesion of Walton Le Dale's Year 7 team.

Congratulations to the entire squad on a fantastic result!

- Mr Charles



3-0

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On the 25<sup>th</sup> of November, Walton Le Dale's Year 8 football team put in an outstanding performance, winning 3-0 against Wellfield in a match played in challenging conditions.

A hailstorm midway through the game made things difficult for both teams, but Walton-le-Dale showed composure and skill to secure the win.

**Frankie S** was the star of the show, scoring two goals, while **Keyarni I** added a brilliant free-kick, and **Vinny R** contributed with two key assists.

-Mr Charles

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### Elf on the Shelf

Where in the WLD is Elf! Throughout December we've had an interhouse competition to see how many times you can find this cheeky and mischievous Elf, clues in each picture of him up to mischief have been left every day in student messages to help us find him!

### Name that Santa!

Another interhouse competition was launched this month! Below is a photo of all the HALs dressed up like Santa around the school, did you guess who was who behind the festive disguise?



# MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE HALS



1 

2 

3 

4 

5 

**HAL LA LA LA LA  
LA LA LA LA**

**Merry Christmas from the HALs**



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# WLD COME DANCING

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## WLD Comes Dancing!

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December, WLD hosted its very own Strictly Come Dancing.

5 dance groups entered the competition and performed to over 100 pupils. All pupils involved showed true bravery to stand up in front of their peers and put on a fantastic show.

## **Well done to Elsie who won the competition!**

- Miss Bryan





# Festive Traditions From Around The World



**France:** Celebrations have usually started by December 5th, but Christmas Eve is the most special day in France. A large feast Le Réveillon De Noël is held, for close friends and family. The feast is usually after midnight mass and will include seafood, turkey, goose, lobster, and The Yule log or Buche de Noel as the dessert.

**Nordic Regions:** Sweden, Finland, and Norway start their Christmas festivities early in December with St Lucia's Day. This holiday is to remember St Lucia (one of the earliest Christian martyrs) Public processions are a significant part of the celebration, where children dress in white and sing traditional songs. The eldest daughter of each family also serves coffee and baked goods like saffron bread and ginger biscuits.

**Japan:** Christmas is not a religious holiday in Japan, but people have been celebrating it for the past few decades. Many Japanese associate romance with Christmas and often go out on cosy dinner dates. Instead of cooking at home, some people choose to go out to eat at or even order fried chicken for dinner. This tradition started in the 1970s, when a fast-food chain launched a countrywide campaign for its infamous fried chicken menu.

**Australia:** Christmas is usually a summery affair Down Under, so barbecue parties at home, in the park, and on the beach are a common sight. It's also the time when summer vacations begin. Those who are devout visit the church to pay their respects.

**Spain:** Even though Santa Claus is most associated with Christmas, in Spain, it is believed it's Reyes Magos or the Three Wise Men who deliver presents to children. Christmas (Navidad in Spanish) begins on December 24 and until January 6. Many families recreate the nativity scene, recalling a tradition that has been around since the 18th century in the country. Desserts are of prime importance as well, each full of sugary, nougaty goodness. Christmas Eve is also one of the only times in the country when the streets, shops, bars, and restaurants are empty, as everything shuts down. Christmas in Spain is about family, and people strongly believe in spending this time with their loved ones.

Traditions for Christmas vary from country to country, but a main theme runs through of family and friends coming together, spending time with each other and enjoying basic comforts of food, company and kindness.



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# Christmas in the Trenches

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## Christmas in the Trenches

The Germans placed candles in their trenches and on Christmas trees, then continued the celebration by singing Christmas carols. The British responded by singing one of their own. The two sides continued by shouting Christmas greetings to one another.

## The Christmas Truce 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>

### December 1914

The most famous act of the war was the truce of 1914. Unofficial ceasefires between British and German soldiers took place along parts of the front. In the trenches on Christmas morning, carols were sung, and rations thrown across opposing lines.

73 people died on the Western Front on 25<sup>th</sup> December 1914, whilst 30 people died of wounds, 43 were killed in action, so the truce wasn't universal across the Western Front

- Chloe R



## The Christmas Football Match

A friendly football match is said to have been played between the soldiers in the British and German armies.

A story from the German side, suggests that a game was played between the 133<sup>rd</sup> Royal Saxon Regiment and the Scottish soldiers, which the Germans won 3 -2

- Chloe R

“It was a beautiful moonlit night, frost on the ground, white almost everywhere; and about seven or eight in the evening there was a lot of commotion in the German trenches and there were these lights – I don't know what they were. And then they sang ‘Silent Night’ – ‘Stille Nacht’. I shall never forget it, it was one of the highlights of my life. I thought, what a beautiful tune.”

- Private Albert Moren of the Second Queen's Regiment.





# POLITICS & WORLD NEWS



District councils could be abolished, and more elected mayors introduced across England under new plans for a major redesign of local government.

Ministers are set to publish a paper on Monday outlining plans for mergers in areas where there are currently two tiers of local authority - smaller district and larger county councils - in a bid to streamline services.

Elected metro mayors are also set to gain new powers over planning, in a bid to speed up the delivery of new housing and infrastructure.

But the body representing district councils has warned the plans could spark "turmoil" and argued "mega-councils" could undermine local decision-making.

- Taylor W

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of June, a woman threw a McDonald's milkshake over Reform UK leader Nigel Farage during the general election campaign.

It has now been confirmed that she must pay him compensation and carry out unpaid community work.

Nigel Farage was leaving a Wetherspoon's pub in Clacton-on-Sea when he had the drink flung in his face. He had just launched his candidacy for the Essex constituency.

The woman has been given a 13-week jail sentence, suspended for 12 months, must pay the MP £150 compensation, complete 120 hours of unpaid work and pay £450 in court costs.

-Taylor W

**UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy has said the British government has had "diplomatic contact" with the Syrian rebel group that toppled the Assad regime.**

Taylor W





# Amnesty



## Christmas Raffle!

From Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> of December we had a Christmas Raffle!

We sold tickets at 20p each to give you the chance win one of these amazing chocolate-filled hampers! Tickets were sold at break and lunch in the dining room, and during form time. Thank you for all the tickets bought. All the money we were able to raise through this raffle has been donated to St Aiden's Larder.

-Ethan R



Human Rights

## COMPETITION TIME

Ms Hill is running a competition to raise awareness of human rights. To enter this competition please either create a poem, picture, a piece of photography, or poster or something creative that encompasses the message of the Amnesty Club and submit it to Ms Hill.

Some brilliant poets to inspire you are the following: Adrian Mitchell, Amyra, Imtiaz Dhaker, Jim Ferris, Joseph Coelho, Oscar Wilde, Pat Parker, Suhaymah Mazoor-Khan, Sarah Crossan, Raymond Antrobus, Walt Whitman, Yala Korwin and Victoria Redel.

The winner will be featured in the School Newspaper!

- Ethan R



# Favourite Christmas Traditions



The pupils that visit the library have compiled a list of Christmas traditions and films that they enjoy at this time of year! Home Alone and Christmas Chronicles are the top of the film list, with spending time with family and decorating the tree being a top favourite tradition.



**Kara** – “My favourite Christmas film is Home Alone, and decorating the tree is my favourite tradition.”

**Taylor** – “Home Alone is my favourite Christmas film, and Christmas food is my favourite. My grandma coats the gammon in oranges and it’s delicious.

**Oliver** – “My favourite Christmas film Gremlins

**Noah** – “My favourite Christmas film is Christmas Chronicles! And the best tradition is decorating my tree with family and my cats.”

**Chloe** – “I chose National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation as my Christmas film and the best part about the holidays is spending time with my family.”

**Amy** – “I can’t pick just one Christmas film; I love all of them! The best part of the holidays for me is also spending time with my family.”

**Will** - “I don’t have a favourite Christmas film, but my favourite thing about this time of year is Christmas dinner, I love the turkey.”

**Arabella** – “I like watching Klaus at Christmas time.”

**Ethan** – “My favourite Christmas film is Home Alone, and I like decorating the Christmas tree.”

**Kamsi** – “Home Alone is my favourite Christmas film too, my favourite tradition is visiting my grandma, she makes an incredible feast.”

**Josh** – “Home Alone is my favourite Christmas film and presents and Christmas dinner is the best tradition.”

**Oscar** – “Elf is my favourite Christmas film and the food is my favourite part of Christmas!”

**Annabelle** – “My favourite tradition is making mince pies with my grandma and Auntie.”

**Alissia** – “Christmas Chronicles 2 is my favourite Christmas film, but I love Scrooge too. Decorating the tree with my little sisters is my favourite tradition!”

**Dominic** – “My favourite Christmas film is Home Alone 2, my favourite tradition is leaving a mince pie, carrots and a glass of milk out on Christmas Eve.”

**Lacey** – “Home Alone is my favourite Christmas film, and my favourite tradition is opening my advent calendar and presents on Christmas Day!

**Rocco** - “Christmas Chronicles 2 is the best Christmas film. I love decorating the tree with my family and having hot chocolate and cookies in pyjamas with all the Christmas lights on is my favourite tradition.”

**Mrs Denwood** – “My favourite Christmas film is The Muppets Christmas Carol, and my favourite tradition is going for a hike on Christmas Eve.”



# RECIPE OF THE MONTH

## Ingredients

### Gingerbread biscuit

- 375g plain flour
- 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 3 tsps ground ginger
- 120g unsalted butter (cold & cubed)
- 175g light brown sugar
- 5 tbsps golden syrup
- 1 medium egg

### Decoration ideas (all optional and changeable)

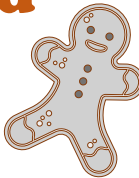
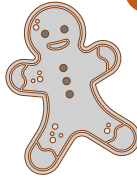
- Royal icing
- Sprinkles
- Smarties or jelly tots
- Edible glitter

“ I know it’s officially Christmas when the scent of fresh gingerbread lays evenly over the town. ”

### Method

1. Preheat your oven to 190C/180C Fan and line 3-4 baking trays with parchment paper (or do it in two batches if you only have two trays)
2. Add the flour, bicarbonate of soda, and ginger to a large bowl and add the cold, cubed butter to the bowl.
3. Rub together with your fingers until it resembles breadcrumbs.
4. Mix the sugar into the mix and combine, and then add the golden syrup and egg - beat with a spatula/your hands until it is a smooth dough.
5. Knead the biscuit dough, and then roll out onto a lightly floured work surface.
6. Roll it out to 1/2cm thickness and cut out your desired shapes.
7. Place them on the lined baking trays and bake in the oven for 10-11 minutes, cool on a wire rack fully, and then decorate how you wish! I like to add icing, smarties, and sprinkles!

## Gingerbread Men



A Christmas tradition for many households is the world is the baking, decorating and eating of gingerbread biscuits! You can make any shaped biscuit using any cutters, trees, stars, Santa etc!



Please enlist the help of an adult for all recipes containing an oven!

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# Creative Writing

The Curse of the Wendigo by Autumn T



## Chapter 3 - The Red eyes of Coyote's woe.

The Report.

Static rumbles through the old box TV. An older man, possibly mid-40s, speaks up in an unexpected breaking news report.

“Kyle Livson and Jackston River who have been reported missing for 12 weeks in Black-Fox Forest. In an unfortunate twist of events, Jackston has been found in a thawed cave in the heart of the forest. Kyle however... remains missing.”

The report ended abruptly, a suited man began talking about the heat and clear weather forecast. *But I'd think to myself, where is my brother Kyle? (Well... half-brother but he was still my brother.) Just... vanished? Like heck he did. I know what happened to him, but everyone thinks I'm crazy. I'm not crazy, and I know darn well he's still out there.*

I worried he'd become something else. I knew it was just stories but even so, I planned to prove his 'disappearance' was from a monster, not from darn kidnapping or a poorly planned adventure.

I gathered as much information as I could about where they had found Jackston, even going as far as to question the doctors.

The consensus seemed to be that Jackston and Kyle had gone on a late-night hunting trip and had an unfortunate run in with a bear. But I knew my brother, and none of that had felt like Kyle. The doctors wouldn't listen to me when I asked them about Jackston's injuries, to see if there had been anything unusual. Anything at all that would have given me the courage to look deeper at my outlandish and superstitious fear. That this was not a bear, mountain lion, wolf, or a coyote, or anything nature could explain.

It was while I was sat on a bench outside the hospital for what felt like the millionth time trying to get someone, anyone, to listen to me. That I heard a voice behind me say:

“Definitely not a bear...”

My head shot up; *someone believes me?! Turning around, I saw It was the last doctor I'd approached, near screaming at him to double check the evidence. Numb with disbelief I had blinked, processing. It was real, I can prove my theory!*

I'd pack a bag, leave my theories and evidence on the desk in my room, should anyone had bothered looking for me, they'd know I'd gone to Arizona, New Mexico. That I'd gone in search of my brother, to the home of the legendary Skin Walkers.

NEXT CHAPTER: Lone Island in the Lake

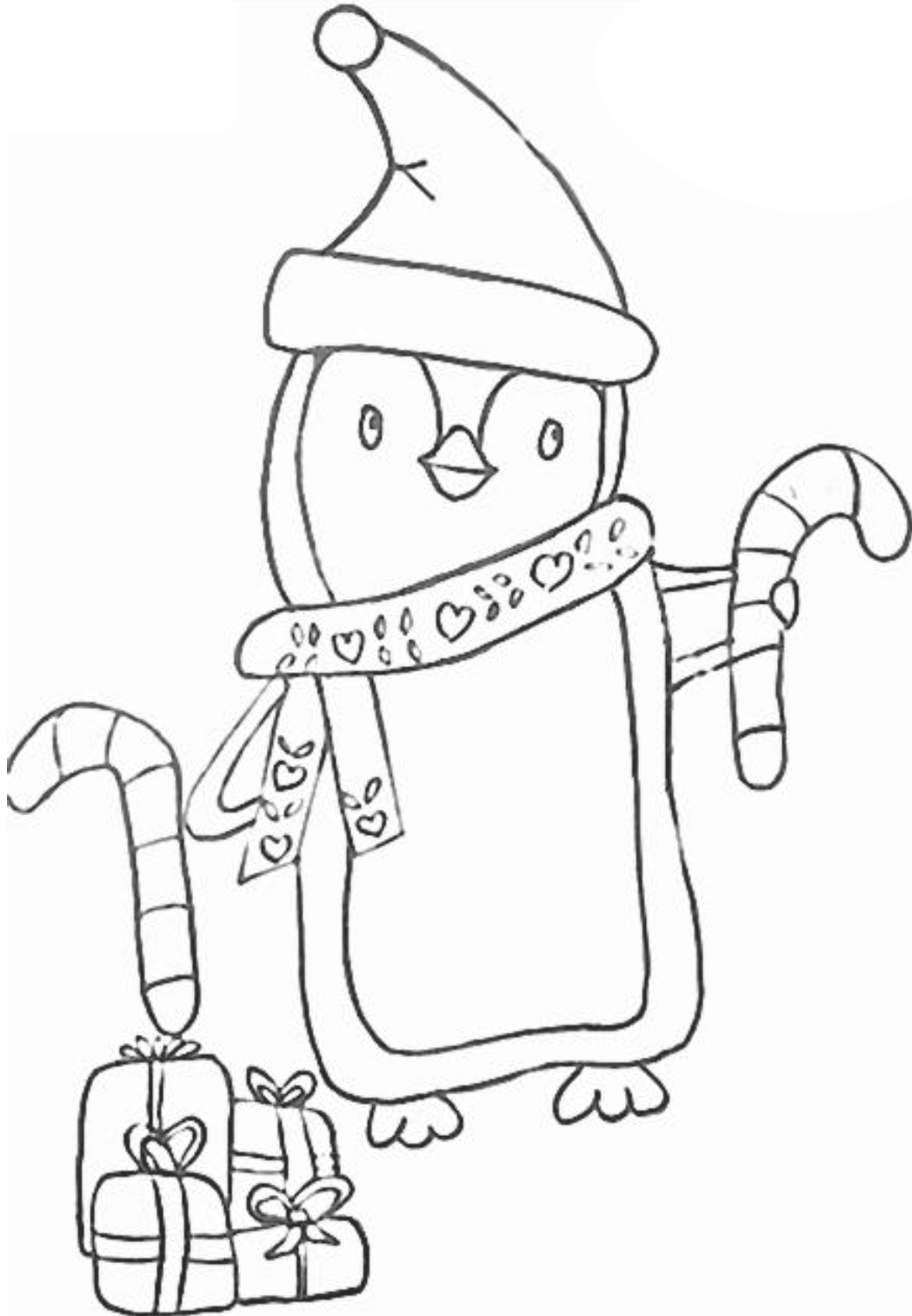
-Autumn T

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# CHRISTMAS COLOURING

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Picture above has been designed and drawn by Amy R

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