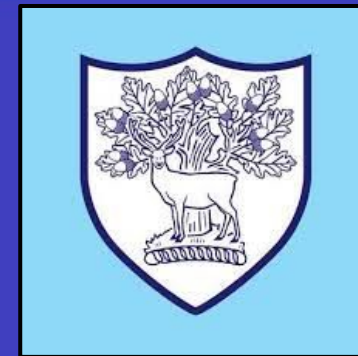


Park Life

Christmas Edition



It's not about your Vorsprung durch Technik

A Right Flap!

Students under attack

By Amelie Jaggard

Students have found themselves under attack after a squadron of squawking seagulls recently took a shine to the school. Pupils have reported having their bags and coats plopped on during line up and their lunch under observation in the playground after the gulls arrived en masse after the October holiday.

It is believed that the gulls had previously been long term residents of the nearby Household Waste Recycling Centre in Newtown Road but then suddenly took a shine to the school.

The seagulls have become such a feature that some students have even started naming them.

"The other day we had to hide under umbrellas to protect ourselves from the splatter," a year 9 student reported.

"I've even seen teachers running away from seagulls swooping over them."

Mr Bouzida, deputy head of year 9, said that part of the issue was that some students were feeding the birds.

"The gulls, whilst delightfully beautiful creatures, are causing great distress amongst students, particularly year 9s. The whole school must pull together, work hard, and take responsibility for food to take back control of our playgrounds from the scourge of the skies. Also, the collective noun for gulls is a screech of gulls. Isn't that nice?"

Another teacher thought that the squirrels and the crows might be adding to the issue as they were entering the bins, pulling out rubbish and leaving it on the floor for the seagulls to eat.

"The squirrels are doing it on purpose," Ms Meyer, an English teacher, added. "Not content with jumping out of the bins and scaring the teachers, they have decided to get the gulls involved to attack the students. They've a lot to answer for."



School show

High kicking into Christmas

Written by Staff Reporter



Naughty children, witches and a bunch of whos (or rather whats) took over the school on the final day of term for this year's Christmas Revue.

The ever-popular event returned this year during periods 3, 4 and 5 on Friday the 15th of December to the sound of Christmas classics and high energy electro pop thanks to entries from across the school departments, including the English department which put on it's first show for the first time in a decade.

The sports department, known for their energetic and well-choreographed routines, opted for 'naughty children' from

Christmas Revue



the musical Matilda while the art and DT department decided on a Christmas classic from The Grinch. Maths put on an amusing performance of Aqua's Barbie Girl which involved Mr Finch revealing his muscular t-shirt, while the sixth form presented a dance number.

A year 9 student said that it was the best show he'd seen during his time at the school.

"I was actually really impressed at how well some of the teachers could dance. I knew PE would be athletic but I was really surprised at how energetic the English department was."

The English department opted for a modern telling of the Shakespearean classic Macbeth but included an unexpected twist when the titular character (Ms Meyer wearing a very fetching beard) threatened to take over the school. Happily those ambitions were thwarted by the ever loyal school hound, Buddy, who won a stare off with Macbeth and sent him into exile. Mr Gianakakis and Mr Bouzida seemed to win particular applause for taking their acting roles very seriously and opting to wear kilts so as to fit in with the Scottish theme of the play.

Event organiser Mr Sutton said that he was extremely pleased with all the effort the departments had put into their performances.

"Everyone really put their heart and soul into it and I think that really showed. The students were also great as well. Everyone really bought into it and it was difficult to hear sometimes for all the cheering."

Computer Science

Puzzle solving pupils

Written by Rueben Jaggard



Six puzzle solving Park House students have stormed their way into the next stage of a global computing competition.

The Computing Club took part in the Bebras Computing Challenge which is designed to introduce students to 'computational thinking'. The competition, which tests logical thinking and problem-solving skills, is hugely popular and this November more than 3 million students took part, including 360000 from the UK.

Mr Phillips, our resident computer expert, said he was extremely proud of the students who entered, as all six scored in the top 13% of the country, including one who was in the top 3%.

"I've just heard that all six are going forward to the second round. We had hoped that would be in Oxford but this year they've decided to add an extra online round."

The students who excelled, reaching the top 10% nationally or higher, were...

- Freya C (Y8) secured a position in the top 3%.
- Imogen C (Y8) achieved the top 7%.
- Ada L (Y8) performed exceptionally well, reaching the top 7%.
- Ashley M (Y11) earned a spot in the top 9%.

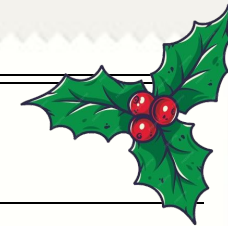
Freya said that it came as a massive surprise to have done so well in the competition.

"I really enjoyed the competition and hoped that I might come in the top 10% but I had no idea that I'd do quite so well. We did get the opportunity to practice but the puzzles are different every year so we didn't know exactly what they were going to ask.

"I'll definitely be practicing for the next stage as it's going to be more coding based. I'm a bit nervous because I only started coding when I started at the school but we'll see."

This presents an excellent opportunity for them to showcase the talent we have here at Park House. If you're interested in participating in similar events in the future, you can join the Computing Club on Wednesdays during Week B in CR1.

Festive frolics



Completely stuffed

Written by Alex Cruickshank



Twas' the eve of Christmas. Well, it wasn't, but it's a good starting point to what I want to tell you about. On the 7th of December Park House School students had a delicious treat! They had been offered a full Christmas dinner including golden brown roast potatoes, tender turkey, green peas, leafy brussels and delectable little pigs-in-blankets.

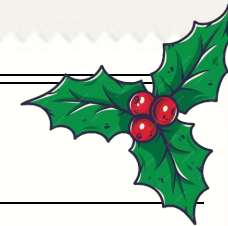
Students had a fun time opening crackers, telling jokes, and one student even stacked 6 paper crowns on their head.

Over 1000 meals were served by the canteen and Mr Bale did an amazing job of sourcing Christmas crackers for the event (so if you can't find one for Christmas day you know who to blame!).

Much fun was had, memories were made, bellies were filled and music was played. At the end of their time there, the students were sad to find how quickly the hour had passed. With heavy hearts, the students dragged their feet on the floor as they made their way out, the fun memories fresh in their minds.



Carol Concert



Hitting the high note

Written by Staff Reporter



The Park House Choir recently won rave reviews for their performance at The Greenshaw Trusts annual carol concert.

On Monday 4th of December, a group of 18 students from the school travelled to St John the Baptist church in Cirencester Cathedral to sing in front of parents and representatives from across the Greenshaw community.

The concert was a first for students of Park House but made sure their presence was noticed with powerful renditions of 'Still, Still, Still', a traditional Austrian carol, and Angels Among us.

The concert also featured performances from choirs and musicians from Five Acres, Yate Academy, Blaise, Gloucester Academy, Henley Park and Holmleigh Park.

Head of Performing Arts, Mrs Cooper, said that she was incredibly proud of the choir.

"They were so professional and polished. They took everything in their stride and all the hard work they had put in paid off. They literally sang like Angels. We look forward to our next performance."

Mr King, headteacher, said that there had been numerous compliments about the performance.

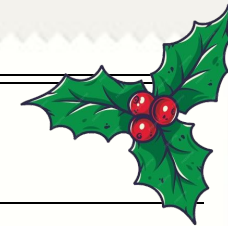
"I was really impressed at how well they performed. They did the school proud."

Choir member, Ada L said it had been a wonderful experience.

"We all really enjoyed it. It was a bit nerve wracking getting up there in front of all those people. The architecture was really amazing and it was such a different experience singing in the church, it felt really special".

Choir club takes place every Monday lunch in **music** and is open to all. For further information please contact Mrs Cooper.

Festive frolics



Jolly Jumpers

Written by Adam Markiewicz



The school became a sea of festive fair isle, scarlett and tinsel recently in aid of the annual Christmas jumper day. On Thursday 7th of December, the standard blue was shed in favour of all things fun with the aim of raising money for charity and bringing a bit of festive fun to the Christmas dinner. The day has become so popular that even the school dog, Buddy, got in on the act and spent the day showing off his new wardrobe.

The event was so popular that the school managed to raise £374 which will go to Save The Children.

Ms Spaak, main cover supervisor, who wore her own rather fetching jumper featuring a turkey with the words 'vote chicken' emblazoned across the front, said that she had been impressed with the variety of jumpers on display.

"It was a really fun event that is help raise some money for a worthwhile event.

"I think my jumper was particularly good," she added.

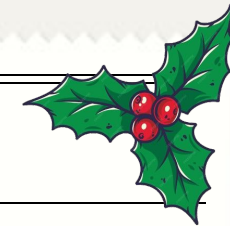
A student said that he had spotted some amazing jumpers.

"Someone had one featuring dogs with reindeers bells that rattled as they walk. I'm going to have to get one like that for next year.

"I'm really impressed with the staff as well. They really made an effort."



House Art



House Christmas Card Competition

Written by Rueben Jaggard



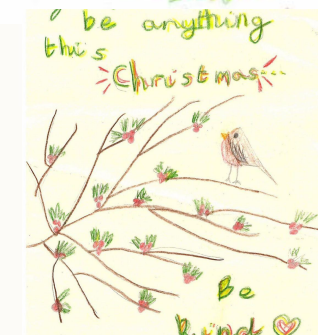
On the week commencing the 20th of November, run by Ms Suchanova and the Art Department, it was the House Art competition, and with it being so close to December, they decided that for this years house art competition, it would be Christmas Cards! Many entries were received, either via email, or students designing them during lunch in the orangery, so it was a hard choice to pick the top five. In the images above, it shows the five winning christmas card designs They are from:

Agnes B (Croft) who scored an amazing 1st place, Isaac D (Joseph) who scored second, Tabatha D (Chaffey) scored third, Elsie P (Croft) scored fourth, and Eva H (Albert) scored fifth.

A massive congratulations to them, and everyone who got involved and submitted a christmas card.

Ms Suchanova said that she had been impressed by quantity and quality of this year's entries.

"It was nice to see some real enthusiasm for the competition. There were some real creativity on show."



House Sports

Sporting success for Chaffey

Written by Rueben Jaggard



House sports have been going on during the run up to Christmas, and boy was it a tough game. With house football for the girls and house rugby for the boys, every year from 6th Form to Year 7 has put up an amazing effort for their houses in their respective sport. House sports is an excellent way to show the talent that each house from each year group has in either football or rugby. So congratulations to everyone who played a part for their house in the sporting activities. Let's see what house sports brings next term!

We have the winning houses for each year, they are listed below. A massive congratulations to **Chaffey** for winning most of their house sports matches.

The results were:

Year 7 : 1st - **Albert**, 2nd - **Chaffey**, 3rd - **Joseph**, 4th - **Croft**

Year 8 : 1st - **Chaffey**, 2nd - **Joseph**, 3rd - **Croft**, 3rd - **Albert**

Year 9: 1st - **Chaffey**, 2nd - **Albert**, 3rd - **Croft**, 3rd - **Joseph**

Year 10: 1st - **Chaffey**, 1st - **Albert**, 3rd - **Croft**, 3rd - **Joseph**

6th Form: 1st - **Joseph**, 2nd - **Croft**, 3rd - **Albert**, 4th - **Chaffey**



Out and about

DofE awards: a new hope

Written by Rueben Jaggard



(Ready to roll: participants from last years DOE preparing for a hike.)

This year, the Year 9's are partaking in the Duke of Edinburgh Award, which includes two group walks and an overnight camp coming up in September.

This is an excellent opportunity for the Year 9 students to step out of their comfort zone and gain life and teamworking skills.

Of course the hikes and camp aren't just the only part of the DofE award, students need to complete either 6 months of a skill, volunteering or a physical activity and 3 months of the other two, to achieve their Bronze award.

One of the students participating in DofE is year, who is also the writer of this article and many other stories in the school newspaper, is Rueben Jaggard who was quoted, "DofE is an excellent chance for me and other students alike to step out of their comfort zone to complete one of the three activities for 6 months and the other two for three."

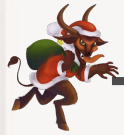
Coincidentally, just as I was writing this article the Year 10 Bronze DofE celebration assembly happened. This was an assembly celebrating all of those students who have completed their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award. Ninety of our Year 10 cohort collected their award and had the opportunity to showcase what they'd achieved through their involvement.

I also spoke to Miss Rowland about DofE, and she spoke to some Year 10 and their parents about their child's DofE journey.

Me and the other Year 9 students have already had our first DofE assembly to make sure everyone can get logged in to the app, and to explain the different things you can do for each category. This is just the start of our DofE journey!

Students Short Stories

By Alex Cruickshank



Krampus



The Christmas Horror

Bang! The Christmas cracker exploded in my hand as I squealed in delight, and my brother and I fought over whose it was.

“Oh, just let him, have it,” Mum groaned.

Looking inside the cardboard tube, I felt a look of confusion pass over my face. Inside, it was empty, except for a single slip of paper. Intrigued, I pulled it out.

“Well, what does it say?” Mum said, straining to see.

Inside were three words.

Beware the Krampus.

Frowning, I showed it to Mum. She shrugged and gave me her paper crown. For the rest of teatime, I forgot all about the strange message in my cracker.

After Christmas Dinner, I went up to my room and opened up my computer. I went into google and looked up ‘Krampus’.

Krampus: A half goat, half man monster who snatches up naughty children at Christmas. I looked at some images and saw something that... disturbed me. I closed the computer just as Mum yelled “Bedtime!” up the stairs.

At 11 ‘o’clock, on the dot, the alarm in my room went off with a *beep! beep! beep!*

I hit snooze on my alarm, and slowly opened my eyes. Turned on the light, looked, at the clock and- wait. That wasn’t right. I had my alarm set for 9 am. Huh. I wondered how that happened, when I heard a shuffling outside, and a knocking on the window. Terrifying images flashed through my head, and I tentatively made my way over to the window. Plucking up my courage, I, slowly reached for the curtains, pulled them open and...

Darkness. Then, just as I thought it was just my imagination playing tricks, I heard a scraping at the door. All my senses were screaming at me to ignore it, but there was still that one voice in the back of my head whispering to me: “*Go and check*”. It became louder and louder “*Check, check, check*”, until silence. I succumbed to that voice, and with a racing heart, I sneaked down to the front door, opened it and-

ROOOAAARRR!

I fell back in the face of the thing that had haunted my mind. Krampus! I looked up into the terrifying face, my eyes passing over it’s hairy torso and down to the hooved feet, except...

Trainers! This Krampus was wearing trainers! Looking back at the face, I saw the badly held on mask fall off my older brother’s face, his whole body shaking with laughter.

“Got you!” he yelled. “If only you could see the look on your face!”

Creature Feature

70+ Guinea Pigs!!

Written by Rueben Jaggard



Introducing Miles from Year 7, the guy with a whopping 72 guinea pigs. Not your typical pet owner, he's gone the extra mile by building custom houses for each of them. In this article, we'll take a peek into Miles' world of guinea pig chaos, exploring how his place has turned into a full-blown guinea pig village. No fluff, just the real deal on this animal enthusiast's unique hobby.

Guinea Pigs

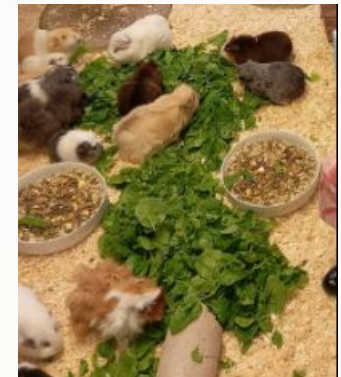
We spoke to Miles's Mum, Helen...

Firstly, what ?

It all began when one of our sons wanted a guinea pig during COVID. We were unable to buy any pets as that was a rule from many stores due to close contact with others. So my son patiently waited! He felt he was responsible enough to own his own pet. When the time was okay to go out and purchase a new pet, around August 2022, we brought our very own Rodney, our first guinea pig! He is such a friendly and tame guinea pig. He even lets himself out of his cage and waits at the top of the stairs for his food or hugs. We absolutely adored him, but we thought he needed a friend!

So, is this what started the guinea pig scandal?

Yes. We went looking for a friend because he was the last one in the store, on his own, so we took him home.



Creature Feature

We then fell in love with a girl that a lady was selling. But the rule is you can only buy them in pairs, so we got two girls! So then, we acquired another lonely boy from a local pet store as he was on his own! Then we decided they should have a family!

How did that turn out?

We ended up with six babies, which then meant we had ten! Over time, I decided to rescue and have a few litters of our own because they are great and wonderful pets to have. We sold a few to loving homes who wanted a pet that was friendly and could be raised around noise and children.

So how many do you have currently?

We currently have 72, and we built a home for them for my birthday as they needed space to themselves.

Overall, what would you say about your guinea pig collection?

They are wonderful little darlings and love their greens and salads every day. They even enjoy blueberries when they are from your hand. They are cleaned out every three days, which takes three hours in total! Lots of sawdust, hay, and treats are involved.

Guinea Pigs

There is always one to cuddle and hold if you're feeling down. They're so good to cuddle and love. We don't have any other pets currently, but are always willing to take unwanted rescued piggies on board!

Miles, year 8, said that it was nice to have so many guinea pigs.

"Sometimes they'll swarm you, which is fun. There are so many that when they come running you don't know which is which."



Well Miles, if you are reading this, your guinea pig collection sounds amazing, and the house you had built for them looks spectacular. Keep looking after those guinea pigs!

Student Feature

A sharp shooter

Written by Amelie



I interviewed Charlie Faulds asking him a couple of questions about his shooting career and here are his answers:

- When did you start getting into it ?

Shooting has been in my family for many years with my grandad owning a farm and game shoot. I shot my first clay when I was 6 years old at our own shooting ground, Owls lodge shooting school. I started competitively shooting sporting clays in 2021 after the christmas lockdown.

- Have you got any medals from it and how many?

I have many of achievements in clay shooting, the highlight of my first year was winning the title 'Emerging shooter of the year' I learned this title off of a voting system where members of the CPSA (Clay Pigeon Shooting Association) are able to vote for who they think deserves a certain award, this was held at the CPSA annual award ceremony. More recently I have brought home countless medals from this year's US open and National Sporting clays championship held in the USA.

Student sport

My greatest achievement this year has got to be winning the European compack sporting championship in the junior category (U21) after shooting 188/200 targets (tying with my dad) and getting into a shoot off for 1st place and shooting another 21/25 targets to bring home the gold and become the youngest person to win a European championship in clay shooting. With some of the best shooters in history watching it all unfold.

- How long have you been doing it for? Just 3 years competitively.

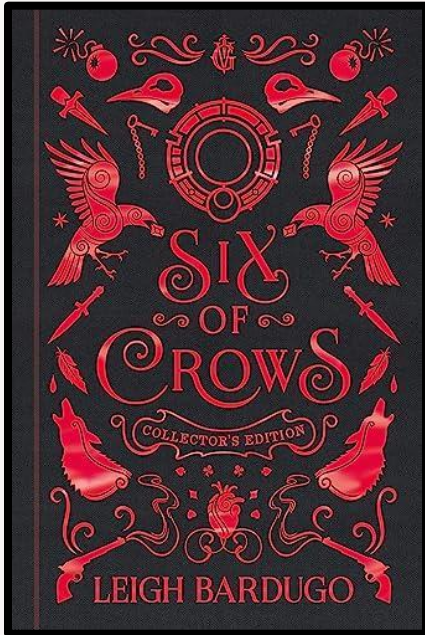
- What got you into your hobby? I grew up going game shooting with my dad and occasionally shooting clays. After covid in 2021 outdoor sports could continue and he booked me into the english open sporting clays shoot. After placing 5th in the U16 category I realised I was hungry for a medal at a big shoot so I continued to shoot more and more and eventually came across a few medals in my first year.

- What did your dad get an Olympic gold medal for? My dad got into his first Olympic Games for clay target shooting (Double Trap) in 1996, he finished in 5th place. He then qualified to continue with his career for the next Olympic Games in Sydney Australia in 2000. After the 3 qualifying rounds (150 targets) the top 6 competitors qualify for the final (another 50 targets). At the end of the final my dad had tied with the defending champion from 1996 Russel Mark on 187/200 targets, Russell was a favourite as he was competing in front of a home crowd in Australia. They then had a sudden death shoot off (each shooter taking turns shooting 1 pair of targets until a winner is decided in a miss and out scenario) this lasted 2 pairs with both Richard and Russell hitting 1/2 in the first pair then Russel was up first for the second pair only hitting 1/2 again, to be followed by my dad (Richard Faulds) who then hit the pair to win the Olympic Games double trap in 2000 at just 23 years of age. He continued after 2000 competing up to London 2012 and was 12th in 2004, 4th in 2008, and 10th in 2012. He then retired from his Olympic career but continues competing in the sporting clays category to this day alongside his wife and me, and will do so for the foreseeable future. He is Known as 'the best shot in the world' winning multiple World and European championships, also with a bronze medal for Double trap in the 2002 Commonwealth Games. He was awarded a MBE in 2001 new years honours list by the Queen for 'Services to sport'.

Book review

SIX of CROWS

Written by Freya



Six dangerous outcasts. One impossible heist. Together they might just be unstoppable – if they don't kill each other first.

Criminal prodigy Kaz Brekker is given the opportunity to undertake an impossible heist with a just as unbelievable reward. He must find and rescue a hostage from an impenetrable military stronghold but he can't pull it off alone. It's a race against time where no one is your friend and one wrong move could prove deadly.

What I thought of the book:

The book is an amazing read and how I got into the GrishaVerse. Leigh Bardugo is a literary genius and the characters, while hard to relate to, make the whole story. One of my favourite things about this book is how Kaz is incapable of putting even the tiniest faith in anybody which makes the relationship between the characters very tense which shows more and more throughout the duology. Another one of my favourite things about the book is how no matter the flawlessness of the plan, chaos always seems to be the answer when, inevitably, things go wrong.

No matter how many times I read the book it never loses its magic. Speaking of magic, this book is full of it. There are many types of magic that you learn about and it is really enjoyable to see how it affects the environment, the characters desires and the relationships between them.

"He'd heard other members of the gang say she moved like a cat, but he suspected cats would sit attentively at her feet to learn her methods."

Inej Ghafa is my favourite character and I don't need to explain why if you read the book. Coming in a close second is Jesper because he provides some well needed gay representation which really makes this book, no, the whole series in fact, all inclusive.

This book is recommended for ages 12+ but you could read it sooner if you feel you're up to the challenge or aren't bothered by violence. If you have read Inheritance Games or, of course, Shadow and Bone this will be a good book for you [you will probably also like it if you have read any murder / heist book ever. It is that good]

Pictures and puzzles

Sudoku

WARNING! answers on the next page!

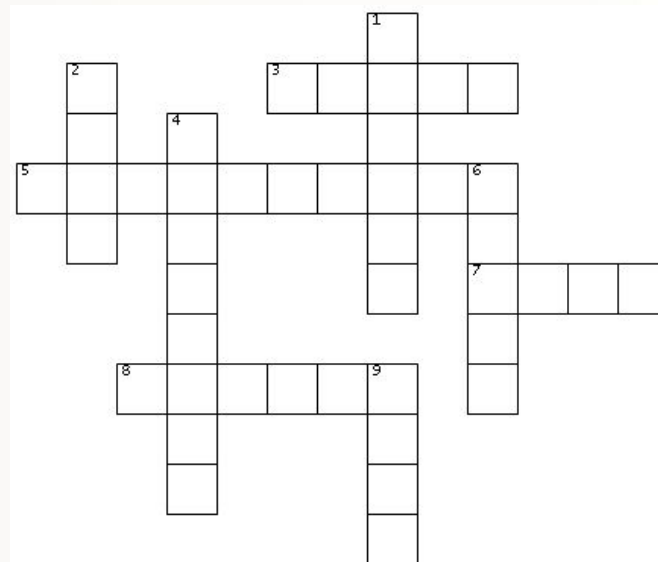
| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2 | | 9 | | | | | |
| | | | | 4 | 8 | 6 | | |
| 7 | | | | | | 9 | 4 | |
| | 9 | 7 | | | 3 | | 2 | |
| | 1 | | | 2 | | | | |
| 5 | 4 | 2 | | | | 3 | | |
| | | | | 1 | | | | |
| | | | 3 | | | 2 | | 4 |
| 3 | | | 5 | | | 1 | 8 | |

Word Search *Eleven words to find. All christmas themed.*

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

Winter warmers

Crossword

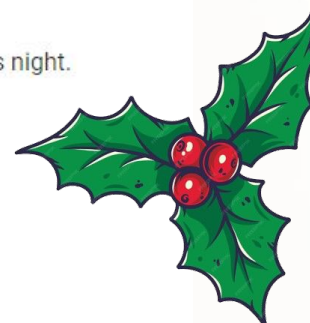


ACROSS

- Another word for song.
- The jolly fat man.
- For naughty children.
- First word of the song whose second word is night.

DOWN

- You hang it on the door during Christmas.
- Short name for Christmas.
- You put presents in it.
- The worst Christmas gift.
- You put presents under it.



Pictures and puzzles

Winter warmers

Sudoku answers

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 8 |
| 9 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 2 |
| 7 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 5 |
| 8 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| 6 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 7 |
| 5 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 6 |
| 2 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 3 |
| 1 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 4 |
| 3 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 9 |

Word Search Answers.

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

Crossword answers.

Crossword answers.



Credits:

Zach Cruickshank
 Alex Cruickshank
 Rueben Jaggard
 Amelie Jaggard
 Phoebe Gittins
 Ada Liang
 Freya Clarke
 Adam Markiewicz

