

Alma Matters

Christmas

By Blu

Alma Matters

Volume 3, Issue 2

Autumn Term

What Is Christmas?

Christmas is the name to describe the annual winter festival Christians hold on 25th December each year to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Billions of people celebrate it, and hundreds of films, books, poems and songs have been made, such as *Arthur Christmas*, *A Christmas Prince*, *The Princess Switch* and *The Night Before*. Books include *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, *A Boy Called Christmas* by Matt Haig, and *The Polar Express* by Chris Van Allsburg. Christmas is celebrated in December so it is coming up soon.

angels flew to where some shepherds were sleeping nearby, and told them a miracle had happened. The shepherds were astonished and went to pay their respects.



tury, when he was known as Saint Nicholas, Kris Kringle or Santa. The poem, 'A Visit From St. Nicholas,' raised the character's popularity. Pictures of him show a jolly, fat man with a bushy white beard, dressed in a red fur coat with white edging, and a circus hat with a white bobble on top, sitting in a brown sled driven by reindeer, carrying a big sack in which he carries children's presents, assisted by little elves, or dwarfs. It is said he flies around the world on the night before Christmas Day, delivering gifts.

Christmas This Year

Christmas Day 2019 is Wednesday 25th December, Christmas Eve is for Tuesday, 24th December and Boxing Day is for Thursday 26th December. Boxing Day is the day after Christmas, despite its name. Last year Donald Trump declared Christmas Day an official holiday for workers. There are lots of fun things you can do - if it snows you can have a snowball fight, go sledging or make a snowman. If it's dry you could make mince pies, watch the Queen's speech or have a Christmas dinner.



The Story Of Christmas

According to the New Testament, Jesus's parents, Mary and Joseph (a carpenter) had travelled from Nazareth, their hometown, to Bethlehem. Mary was heavily pregnant and expecting her baby at any minute. However, all the inns were packed full, so they begged at one inn for a room. The rooms were all full, but the inn owner took pity on them and said they could sleep in the stable. They thanked him and in the stable manger, Jesus Christ was born. He and his parents fell asleep and some

What Are Some Customs And Traditions?

The tradition of taking a fir tree into the home and decorating it with candy canes and lights goes back many years. Prince Albert brought the idea to England when he married Queen Victoria and introduced the German tradition to his wife. There is also the tradition of hanging up stockings in front of the fireplace and expecting it to be filled with gifts. Originally children used normal stockings but eventually began to make special ones for the occasion. They are hung up on Christmas Eve and on the morning of Christmas Day Father Christmas (or 'Santa Claus') has filled them with presents. It is also customary to leave out a biscuit and some milk for Father Christmas, and some carrots for his reindeer.

Father Christmas

Father Christmas, also known as Santa Claus, dates back to the sixteenth cen-

***Merry Christmas to all
our families and staff who
celebrate.***

Meet the New Team

by Leila S, Olivia G and Talya S

Our writers from Year 4 are:

Leila, Talya.S, Talya.F, Olivia, Liya, Noam, Nathan, Georgie, Carla and Alex

From Year 5 we have:

Blu

From year 6 we have:

Zach D and Nathan S

The teachers supporting us are Mrs Goldman and Mrs Simons Rose.

Q. Georgie, if you had £10,000 what would you do with it?

A. Buy a mansion

Q. Talya F, if you could go to any restaurant where would you go?

A. Crayons

Q. Alex, if you could have any pet in the world what would it be?

A. A meerkat

Q. Carla, if you could go any where in the world where would it be?

A. Barbados

Q. If Noam had £2000 what would he do with it?

A. Get season tickets for Man United.



Book Review: Skulduggery Pleasant

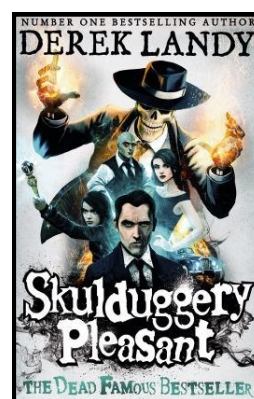
By Noam P

Skulduggery Pleasant kicks off when Uncle Gordon (who is a horror writer) suddenly dies. His niece, Stephanie finds out that his horror book is not all fiction.

Stephanie meets people from Gordon's books including Skulduggery (the main character). They look for crimes and investigate things together. During the story you meet characters like Ghastly The Spoke Taylor and Security Vampires.

If you are aged 9 or older and enjoy horror or adventure fiction then you might enjoy this book. This is the first book of a 13 part series.

5 out of 5 stars from this reader.



Sudoku

By Nathan O

Sudoku is a Japanese puzzle that is fun but tricky!

How do you play?

Each row, each column, and each square must have the digits 1-9 once each.

Level 1

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

Level 2

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



Current Affairs

Currently in Parliament By Zach D

Recently, Parliament voted to have a General Election. There has been a poll and the poll suggested that the result of the election could be a "hung parliament". Many questions have been raised as to who will win and if the elected party will be able to carry out what the Conservatives have been attempting to do for three and a half years. At the moment it looks like there could be a coalition between the Labour Party and the SNP (Scottish National Party). If that happens, and they win, there will be a Scottish independence referendum and it is predicted that many Europeans and Jews will leave the country.

The issue with this is that, if Labour win and this does happen, there will a huge number of open jobs that Europeans won't be able to fill. If that happens it could mean Brexit will have an even more devastating effect than expected. But this is

not necessarily our future.

It looks like the Liberal Democrats are growing in popularity and could, even though it is unlikely, win the election. If so, it is possible that there could be a different outcome for the country, even no Brexit but it all depends on what the Liberal Democrats see fit for the country at the time.

Next we will discuss what the different parties say about worries for the country, such as the NHS. Labour is stating that if they are elected they will invest a hefty sum in the NHS. The Conservative Party is also saying there will be more investment in the NHS but they are proposing a smaller sum of money than their opposition.

How will the different issues faced by the country and how the different parties propose to fix them influence the result of the election? We will see in our next issue which is after the election.

Interview of our new Shinshiniot: Mishel & Yael

By Liya S & Talya F

Q: Where were you born?

A: Mishel Tel Aviv, Israel

A: Yael Haifa, Israel

Q: Do you play any instruments ?

A: Mishel Piano

A: Yael no.

Q: What's your favourite colour ?

A: Mishel yellow

A: Yael white

Q: What is your favourite song ?

A: Mishel Here comes the sun

A: Yael Sofia

Q: If you were not a teacher what would you be?

A: Mishel doctor

A: Yael artist

Q: What do you want to do in the army?

A: Mishel intelligence

A: Yael air force

Q: If you had £100, 000,000 what would you do with it?

A: Mishel donate half

A: Yael sky dive and donate

Q: What is your favourite thing to do?

A: Mishel travel with family

A: Yael crafts and music



Interview of Ms Pinchover

By Emily & Miri

Q: Have you always lived in England?

A: No I lived in Netanya in Israel and I moved to London when I was 7 years old.

Q: Do you have siblings?

A: Yes I have 7 brothers and 1 sister.

Q: Do you have a pet or what pet would you like?

A: I do not have a pet but I would like a talking parrot or a husky.

Q: What school did you go to for a primary school?

Yesoday Hatorah Girls' School.

Q: What 5 words would your friends use to describe you?

A: 1.funny

2.supportive

3.dedicated

4.positive

5.creative



Interview of Ms Rosehill

By Miri & Emily

Q. Do you speak any other languages?

A. No but I know a bit of Hebrew and I can order food and that's the most important thing!

Q. What is your favourite food?

A. Hummus and lots and lots of vegetables and fruit and avocados.

Q. What is your favourite colour?

A. My favourite colour is blue

Q. What is your favourite song?

A. Any song from the little mermaid and most Disney movies!

Q. What is your favourite animal?

A. Elephants because I love bathing them and feeding them.

Q. If you could live in any part of the world what would it be and why?

A. I would live in New Zealand because I have travelled all over the country doing fun activities like bungee jumping and sky diving and I absolutely loved it! I even hiked up an active volcano.

Q. What 3 words would your friends describe you as?

A. Loving

Funny



Hanukkah

by Noam P

Hanukkah is the Jewish festival of light, celebrated every December. We light the menorah once every night for 8 nights. This year (2019) the Hanukkah and Christmas dates will cross over. Hanukkah will start this year on Sunday 22nd December and ends Monday 30 December. Hanukkah known as the Festival of Lights has gone over 98 years its one of the oldest festivals in the Jewish religion.

Every year Hanukkah's dates changes. Hanukkah has a lot of festive fun like eating doughnuts and spinning the sevivon. In my opinion, Hanukkah is my favourite Jewish festival.



Darwin Day

By Blu

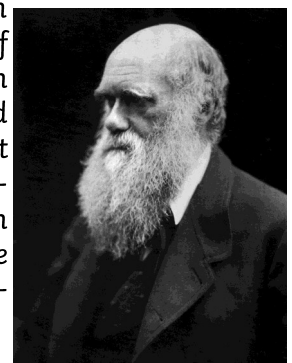
On 12th February each year, Darwin Day is celebrated to mark the achievements of Charles Darwin, a celebrated scientist who was particularly interested in evolution and focused on biology and transformation.

Who Was Charles Darwin?

Charles Robert Darwin, born 12th February, was an English scientist who focused on biology, geology, and nature, meaning he was a naturalist. Born in 1809 to Robert and Susannah Darwin, the fifth of six children. When he was eight he joined school, already interested in natural history. His mother died in 1817. He attended with his brother the Anglican school nearby as a boarder, and in 1825 he became an apprentice doctor to his father. His father sent him to Christ College, Cambridge, and he came tenth of 178 candidates. On 10th December 1831 Darwin set sail on the HMS Beagle, a voyage lasting almost five years. He made scientific discov-

eries, collected natural specimens and plants, as well as beetles, for he was a keen beetle collector. On the Galápagos Islands Darwin made discoveries that secured him a household name. When he returned to England he wrote a book about evolution called The Origin Of The Species. It expressed his theory that animals can give birth to animals who look different. He married his cousin, Emma Wedgwood, and they had ten children: Francis, Anne, George, William, Leonard, Henrietta, Horace, Charles and Mary.

Charles Darwin Day: Every year on twelfth February, which will be Wednesday this year, and is to celebrate his scientific ideas and to promote science in general. There have been many celebrations - in 2009, which marked the publication of Origin Of The Species, in 1997, when scholars and professors and important people got together to discuss; and this year, when many Christians will be celebrating his achievements and discoveries.



Sudoku: Answers

Level 1

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

Level 2

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

Halloween

Halloween by Liya and Talya F

This year Halloween was on Thursday 31st October 2019. Some people went to a party and some people went trick or treating. At Halloween people decorate their house and carve pumpkins to put outside.

Sometimes you fill a bucket full of sweets and sometimes you just get a few. Halloween is actually hallow's eve and is called hallowmas. Hallowmas is a pagan tradition dedicated to remembering the dead, and also coincides with the end of the harvest.

Today, Halloween is a popular celebration in America, Canada, Ireland and the United Kingdom. People celebrate by dressing up in costume. Children will visit houses in the neighbourhood asking "trick or treat" and hoping to receive sweets. This began in the UK and Ireland. Poor people went to houses and asked for bread called soul cake. This was exchange for prayer.

Did you know the first jack o lanterns were made

from turnips? Did you know the largest pumpkin weighed 2323 lb? Pumpkins are normally orange but they can also be white, green, red and grey.

People used to wear animal skins as costumes. In America, Halloween was once called Cabbage Night. The fear of Halloween is called samhainophobia.

Who Wore What This Year...

Leila: Yr4 vampire

Olivia Yr4: viscous cat

Talya S Yr4: zombie cheerleader

Nathan Yr6: pumpkin

Carla Yr4: zombie bride

Georgie Yr4: witch

Zach Yr6: Harry Potter

Miri Yr4: ghost

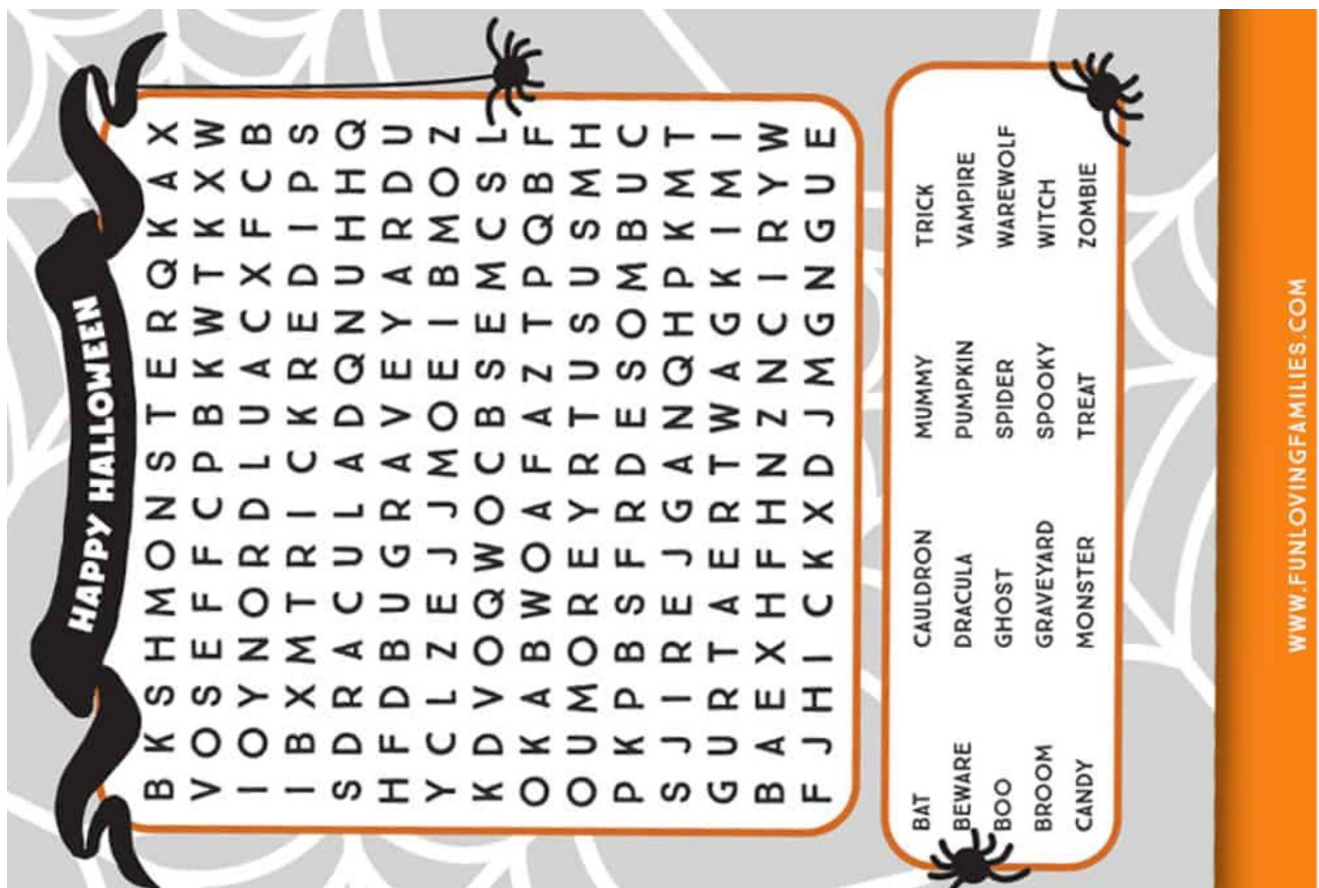
Nathan Yr4: bionic space pirate skeleton

Noam Yr4: werewolf

Blu Yr5: ghost

Liya Yr4: witch

Talya Yr4: skeleton



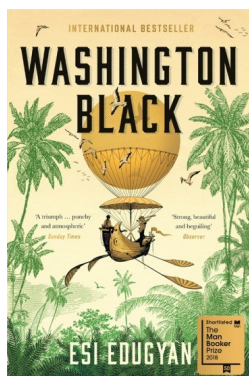
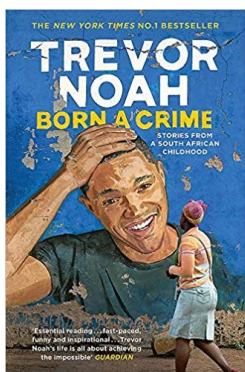
Staff Book Corner

By Alex and Carla

This is a new feature for every issue!

First, we asked Mrs Fine about what she was reading. She is reading *Born a crime* by Trevor Noah. We asked her "How would you describe this book?" She replied that this book is a "mixture of history, humour and a few sad parts." "What is your book about?" "It is about how Trevor Noah, a comedian, grew up during Apartheid South Africa." "What age group do you think this book is for?" "This book is for adults but he also wrote a children's version."

Next we asked Mrs Simons Rose about her book. She is reading *Washington Black* by Esi Edugyan. How many stars would you rate your book out of ten? "I rate my book 8 out of 10" "What is your book about?" "My book is about slavery in a sugar plantation in Barbados." "When did you start reading your book?" "In the summer holidays."



Best Smartphones of 2019

By Nathan S

Nathan's opinion on comparing smartphones in 2019:

1 iPhone 11pro max

Ram:4

Storage: 512

The iPhone 11 pro max has 3 back cameras: telephoto, wide, ultra wide. It also has a Single front camera. It's very powerful with an a 13 bionic processor chip. It has a big battery which can last up to 20 hours.

Disney's Descendants

By Emily and Miri

Descendants is a movie with lots of fairy tales which are put together but the fairy tales go a bit wrong. We asked different children in the playground about the film.

Q. Who is your favourite character and why?

A. Noam said Jay is his favourite character because he is cool.

A. Layla said Evie is her favourite character because Evie is very stylish.

A. Dora said Mal because she just goes with the flow.

Q. What did you like?

A. Ava said I like it because it is very creative.

Q. What did you like?

A. Grace she liked the talking dog.



2 Samsung Galaxy note 10 plus

Ram: 12

Storage: 512

The Samsung no 10 plus has three cameras telephoto ultrawide and wide. The processor is very good and can match the A13 bionic but it is not good because it's cameras cannot match the iPhone 11 and you might want a protective case.

