

Alma Matters

December 2022

Cost of Living Crisis

By Hannah and Annabel

Some of you may have heard that some people don't have enough money these days and it is all because of the cost of living crisis. The cost of living crisis is when there's more inflation in bigger countries, for example, UK has bigger inflation. On 30th July 2022 the railway workers went on strike. Some people don't have enough money to pay their bills and rents so they



are having to move out of their homes on to the cold and hard streets without basic essentials like food, water and money.

If you are moved by this story, consider donating to Shelter or Crisis.

Black History Month



By Ava, Danielle and Teva

Black History Month was established in 1976 when US president Gerald Ford extended the recognition to "honour the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans". In February 1926, Carter G. Woodson (who was an author and a journalist at the time) sent out a press release announcing the first "Negro History Week".

Why is Black History Month so important?

It is important to focus attention on the contributions of African Americans; it honours all Black people from all periods of history, from the enslaved people first brought over from Africa in the early 17th century.

This national celebration aims to promote and celebrate Black contributions to British society, and to foster an understanding of Black history in whole.

In the US, it is celebrated every February, and here in the UK, we celebrate in October. Every October, we do special BHM activities across school.

King Charles III

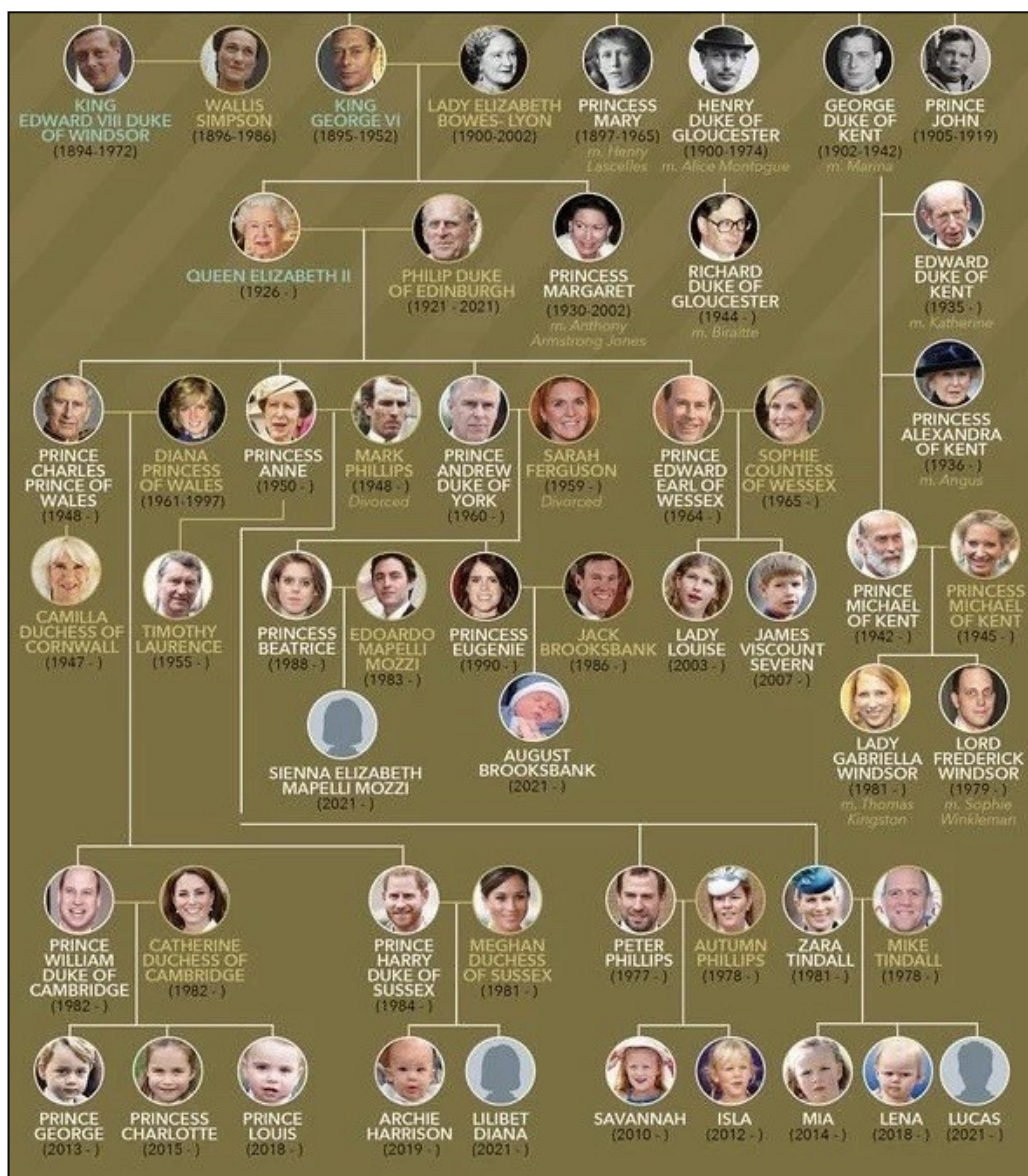
By Annabel

Recently, her majesty the Queen died and she left the crown to her eldest son, King Charles III. Lots of things will change like money because it will have the King's head on it; stamps will also change to King Charles' head. The Queen died on the 8th September (Thursday). His full name is 'Charles (III) Phillip Arthur George Mountbatten-Windsor'. His last name did change

when the queen died, you might have noticed that when you read his full name.



Here is a picture below of the family tree. If you look through it you can look at when everyone was born and some died.



Bonfire Night

By Annabel and Hannah

As most of you know on the 5th of November is bonfire night. Bonfire night is a celebration where people light fireworks for their friends, family and community to remember Guy Fawkes and the houses of parliament. The history of it is Guy Fawkes got angry with the king and he decided to try to blow up the houses of parliament with barrels of gunpowder but luckily the guards



found him and arrested him just in time. The celebration of bonfire night is to remember about Guy Fawkes. It is so much fun!!

Children's Committees

By Annabel

What are School council, Chesed committee and Eco-warriors?

School council is when two children from each class go to meetings with Ms Raymond to discuss things about how we can improve the school. The children can make suggestions such as about the playground or lunches.

Congratulations to our new School council members: Dan, Ezra, Betsy, Maya S, Theo, Zoe, Annabel, Woody, Oli D and Lyla!

Chesed means 'kindness' in Hebrew. On chesed committee you have meetings with Morah Jeanie and help organise fundraising charities that are important to you.

Mazal tov to our new Chesed committee: Milo, Charlottle, Eli, Emily, Olivia C, Livi, Miri, Eva K, Liora, Raphael, Ari & Talia

Eco-warriors is when you have meetings with Mrs Ardeman to think about how to make the school a greener

Well done to our new Eco-warriors: Gabriel, Isla, Matilda, Negev, Phoebe, Josh, Pendar, Michael, Stella, Hannah, Artie and Ethan!

All names are written from Year 1 up to Year 6.



Hanukkah...or Chanukkah...or Chanukka Facts

By Teva and Danielle

Chanukah lasts for eight nights to commemorate how long the oil light burned

Chanukah is not the most 'important' Jewish holiday, but it is certainly a fun one that we enjoy!

The festival is observed by lighting the candles of a candelabrum with nine branches, one is for the 'Shamash'.

Chanukah lasts for eight nights and days starting of 25th day of Kislev according to the Hebrew calendar which many happen anytime between late November to early December

Traditions during this time include eat-



ing doughnuts. Latkez and other oily foods.

We celebrate the victory of the Maccabees fixing the Temple

The word Chanukah means 'dedication'.

We play the dreidel game, which has Hebrew letters on (Gimmel, Shin, Hey and Num).

The dreidel is based on a German gambling game.

Interview of Miss Alex

By Annabel and Hannah

Q. Why did you want to work in school?

A. I think child education is a very important way of paving the future. Additionally, I struggled in primary school so I wanted to help children have a better experience than me.

Q. What classes do you help teach?

A. I teach year 2, year 4 and occasionally reception.

Q. What was your dream job as a child?



A. I wanted to be many different things, from a soldier to a politician.

Q. Did you or did you not have a pet as a child?

A. I had a cat when I was a child named Olly, he is still alive today and lives at my parents' house. He is a very old cat at 16 years of age.

History of Christmas Traditions

By Teva and Danielle

Who started Christmas?

The Romans actually celebrated two holidays in the month of December. The first was Saturnalia which was a two week festival honouring their god of agriculture, Saturn. On December 25th they celebrated the birth of Mithra, their sun god.

Pagans also celebrate something in December, using candles and bonfires during the dark days. The Romans started to also use lights in their festivities.

Soon after, Christianity spread across Europe and Pagan and Roman traditions got swept into Christian traditions and this is how the celebrations of Jesus's birth date became Christmas day.

Crazy Corner

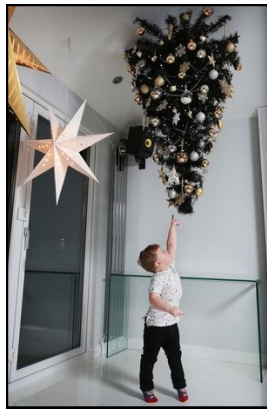
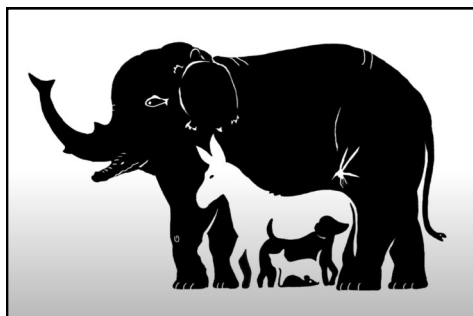
By Annabel

If you think you are weird, do not worry because that means you are unique!

Facts

- A shrimp's heart is in its head!
- It is physically impossible for a pig to look up into the sky!
- Baked beans aren't baked!

How many animals can you see in this illusion?



Christmas Trees

The tradition of bringing trees into the home for Christmas started in Germany in the 1500s. This also came from Roman and Pagan traditions of decorating evergreen trees to signal the coming of Spring. The Romans

decorated fir trees with bits of metal, and the Pagans decorated their trees with candles and dried fruit as an offering to their god Woden. Traditionally, these were hung upside down in the home.

These days, the Christian tradition is to decorate a tree with bells, sweets, ornaments and colourful decorations for Christmas.

Sourced from: Voiceandvisioninc.org

We wish everyone who celebrates it a Merry Christmas!

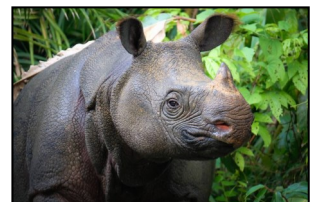
Animal Corner

By Hannah

Top five endangered animals that need to be saved:

- 1.Javan Rhinos
- 2.Amur Leopard
- 3.Sunda Island Tiger
- 4.Mountain Gorillas
- 5.Indian Elephants

You can check out the [WWF website](https://www.worldwildlife.org/) for more info.



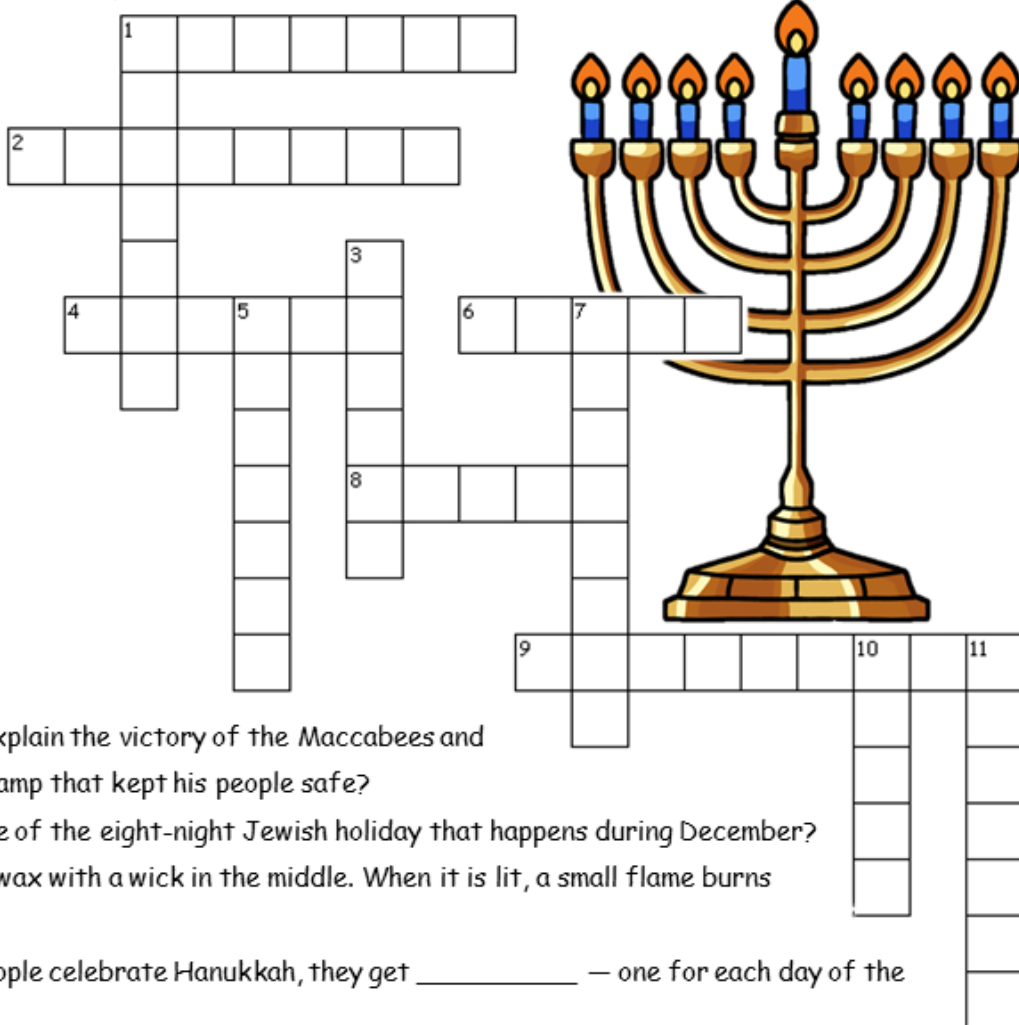
Hanukkah Crossword

From Teva, www.dltk-kids.com

The Story of Hanukkah Crossword

Word list:

candle,
dreidel,
eight,
festival,
gifts,
Hanukkah,
light,
Maccabees,
menorah,
miracle,
sundown,
temple



Across

1. How did Judah explain the victory of the Maccabees and the fire of the oil lamp that kept his people safe?
2. What is the name of the eight-night Jewish holiday that happens during December?
4. A stick made of wax with a wick in the middle. When it is lit, a small flame burns at the top.
6. When Jewish people celebrate Hanukkah, they get _____ — one for each day of the festival.
8. When they were sheltering in Jerusalem, the women and children used the _____ of the oil lamp fire to fix their temple and stay warm.
9. What was the name of the military group made up of Jewish men and led by Judah?

Down

1. What is the special Hanukkah candle holder called?
3. When the Maccabees left to fight the Greeks, the women and children sought shelter in a _____ in Jerusalem.
5. A small spinning top with four Hebrew letters on each side. It is a game played during Hanukkah.
7. Hanukkah is the Jewish _____ of lights.
10. When the Maccabees were fighting the Greeks, the women and children in the temple burned an oil lamp for _____ nights.
11. The desert starts to grow very cold at what time of day?

Meet the Team!

This December issue was brought to you by just these five hard working journalists from Years 4-6: Ava, Hannah, Annabel, Danielle and Teva, supported by Mrs Simons Rose.



Hanukkah Word Search



From Danielle,
www.puzzles-to-print.com

CANDELABRA
CANDLE
CELEBRATION
DREIDEL
FESTIVAL
GIMEL
HALLEL
HANUKKAH
HEBREW
JEWISH

KISLEV
KUGEL
LATKE
MENORAH
MIRACLE
SABBATH
SHIN
SUNDOWN
TEMPLE
TRADITION

