

# INSIDE

# ALEX

A JUNIOR SCHOOL PUBLICATION

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Special  
Christmas  
edition



ALEXANDRA COLLEGE  
DUBLIN

Cover Illustration by : Niamh Carty, J6R Masthead: Salla Kirk, J6R

# INSIDE ALEX

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## Message from the News Committee



Welcome to the second edition of *Inside Alex*! We hope you enjoyed reading our first issue and got to see what we do in Alexandra College Junior School. This edition is our special Christmas issue where we feature our regular stories, interviews, book & film reviews, cooking along with some very special Christmas stories and giving you our readers a taste of life inside Alex.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to this edition. A special thank you to Mrs. Lamplugh for her support, to Ms. Gorry for kindly taking the time to edit this edition, to our class teacher Ms. Byrnes for her assistance and to Ms. Smith for guiding us and putting this newsletter together.

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

Happy Christmas and all the best for 2021 from the News Committee

Emma, Salla, Emily, Lauren, Maddy, Aisling, Niamh & Eva.

**PS:** We would love to hear from you for our next edition which is at Easter.

**The News Committee Team 2020/21**



# #Be Kind

T O E V E R Y O N E

t h i s s e a s o n



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## A Message from Mrs. Lamplugh

Christmas is such an exciting time for all of us in the Junior School. We have come to the end of our first term in school and we are ready for a nice break with our families. Well done to our fabulous J6 News Committee and Ms. Smith as they have once again put together another terrific edition of INSIDE ALEX. 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:

- Preschool saw a great panto: *Sammy Snowflake's Christmas Catastrophe*.
- KGS and J1 watched a live streaming of the popular musical *Annie*.
- A special Advent assembly was led by Rev'd Gyles.
- The JACA Christmas Raffle was run by the J6 girls.
- Every class group made a creative Christmas Post box.
- We had a Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Laura Lynn and Dublin Zoo.
- *One Starry Night* was performed by students from Preschool to J6.
- The annual Christmas Carol Service was watched by the whole College today.

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 George and our traffic personnel as they all have worked tirelessly every day 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 "One Starry Night" and what a beautiful carol service we had today on our last day of the term.

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 on January 6th!







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# Festivities 2020

*By Lauren Rea & Maddy O' Donohoe, J6R*

We are all so excited about the festive season this year, although there are some rules we need to follow. COVID-19 has changed how we celebrate the festive season in school this year but we are very fortunate and happy to be at school.

This year Christmas will be a little bit different. But we can still have a great time with the people in our own household.

This also could be a very lonely time for people that live by themselves or the elderly.

In school we usually would put on school plays but as we can not gather in large groups each class has made a video which will be sent out to everyone.

Christmas is a time for giving. In J6 we are doing a Kris Kindle where each girl will bring

in a gift and put it in a black bag which we will quarantine. Then J6W will switch gifts with J6R and vice versa.

This year we will not be doing charity hampers because of COVID-19. We collected hundreds of food vouchers for Ms. Carr's Home instead.

The past few months have been hard on everybody so on behalf of the Newsletter Committee we wish you a Merry Christmas.



## SOCIAL DISTANCING

# Top Alex Christmas Gifts

*By Emily De Marco and Aisling Doyle, J6R*

Emily tells us all about the most popular toys in Alexandra College Junior School.



# Thanksgiving Celebrations

**By Niamh Carty, J6R**

*Niamh gives us a sneak peak into her family celebrations for Thanksgiving Day with her sister Aisling (J3W).*



# My COVID Christmas Plans

**By Salla Kirk, J6R**



**Salla with her sisters Penelope (J3R) and Alexandra**

Christmas 2020 will be a special one and I am looking forward to it even if we have to rethink how we can make it as magical as possible.

I truly hope the government relaxes the lockdown rules so I can spend time with my grandparents and cousins. Ideally we could have Christmas dinner all together and in the New Year go to Co. Sligo and surf with my cousins at Strandhill Beach and afterwards eat lots of Mammy Johnson's ice-creams even if the weather is freezing.

It all depends on the government's advice but if we are not supposed to meet indoors we'll try to get creative. Outdoor fun with hot chocolates, mince pies and caroling wouldn't be so bad if we get to see our loved ones.

# Hopes and dreams for



**By Aisling Doyle, J6R**

*Aisling tells about her hopes and dreams for 2021*

I'm sure a lot of us had hoped for a great year this year, though that wasn't really the case, but because 2020 was a tough year, 2021 can hopefully only be better.

Lots of people are hoping that soon we will have a COVID-19 vaccination in Ireland. This would mean that we would be able to meet friends and family, go to parties and we wouldn't have to follow the COVID-19 restrictions. This would also mean we wouldn't have to wear masks everywhere we go. This vaccine is probably our biggest goal for 2021, as it would solve

the global pandemic.

Other goals might not seem so urgent for now but are still important, like reducing plastic and litter or for some adults political things in the government which kids probably don't understand (I'm not going to explain that because I can't). All of these are important, and lots of people will also have their own hopes and dreams for 2021. I'm sure lots of us are looking forward to 2021 as it will be better than this year.

Wishing you all a happy 2021.



# Carol

**Short Story written by Emma Butcher, J6R**



Carol laid down her book - A Christmas Carol - with a sigh. She had just got to the bit where the Ghost of Christmas Present shows Scrooge the Cratchits - and poor dear little Tiny Tim! How desperately she hoped he wouldn't die.

She blew out her candle and snuggled down amongst the covers. She did feel sorry for all the people who were as poor as the Cratchits - all the time, of course, but on Christmas Eve it was so much more acute, when you were looking forward to a fine Christmas dinner, and they were just hoping that they could have an even slightly better meal than usual.

Was there anything an ordinary ten-year-old could do to help? Carol didn't think so, other than putting money in charity boxes. But when she was big - you just wait! She would do all sorts of things. But she would have to be big. When you were ten and a half, you couldn't do much.

But - even though she was still very sorry for the poor - Carol's thoughts drifted from them to what lay in her stocking. Sweets, she hoped. And more books by Mr. Dickens. And some things for her dolls.

Carol fell asleep to a glorious dream that her sugar mice came alive, and she was allowed to keep them as pets, and they shed lovely flakes of sugar-mouse everywhere they went, that she could eat.

~~~

"Carol..."

Carol sat up with a yawn, her eyes bleary. She was still half asleep, really - and she could hear the clock chiming midnight. Midnight! But

that voice...  
"Carol."

It was the most beautiful thing Carol had ever heard. She had always liked her name, but for the first time, she loved it. It didn't just mean the word carol. It was a carol in its own right. "Me?"

There came a laugh - and oh, such a beautiful one! "Yes, you. Who else?"

"I don't know." Carol rubbed her eyes and looked around her room, a sudden fear filling her. "W-who are you? Where are you?"

"I'm your robin, and I'm here on your window-sill."

Last Christmas, Carol had been given a small model robin, and she loved it very much - it looked so pretty on her windowsill, so bright and lovely. "But robins don't talk. Especially not wooden ones." But, as she looked about the room, the voice did seem to be coming from around there - and was it her imagination, or was the robin facing her?

"Yes, that is true for most of the year. But the clock has just struck twelve on Christmas Eve, and such things are changed for this hour." And then! The bird ruffled its wings - yes, it did! - and flew across the room perching beside Carol.

Carol, rather understandably, gave a small yelp. "What... what?"

"I told you that things change." The robin said. "Now, come with me. I'll show you something else that's changed.



Carol stood up, and the robin guided her across the room.

“Now, stand on the windowsill.”

Carol stood, rather worried, for the window was wide open.

“Jump!”

Carol stared at him. “No! Are you trying to kill me?”

But as she protested, her legs shook, and Carol slipped, plummeting down, down, down, like Alice, only it was the hard, cold street that awaited her from her high windowsill, not Wonderland.

But then, Carol stopped falling. She floated, halfway to the ground. She wriggled her legs as one might while swimming, and felt herself propelled in that direction. “I’m...” She turned to the robin, who had followed her, “I’m flying.”

The robin gave another laugh. “Yes. But, Carol, now we must move onto more serious things.”

“Like what?”

“You expressed a desire to help the poor, did you not?”

“I mean... I wanted to.”

“Good. For I would like to show you a household, not far from here, in sore need of your help.”



Carol gasped. “Oh! Surely not near here? It’s so nice here.”

The robin looked sober. “Yes, Carol, near here. In the boarding house just down the street, in fact.”

“But, that’s quite expensive...”

“A woman who works there, Mrs. Carr, her nine children, and her husband, who lost his job in a factory accident, are given a free room there.”

“Oh.”

“Come, and I will show you.” The robin said.

Carol followed him through the air - she was getting quite a good flyer - until they reached the boarding house. The robin flew in through an open window, and Carol followed suit.

“They won’t see or hear us, so don’t worry,” The robin said, and Carol nodded, looking around.

It was not a particularly large room, but all eleven members of the family were in it. Nine children, ranging in age from about fifteen to about four, were squeezed together in a bed which, though double, was made for no more than two people. A man and woman lay together on a sofa, the man pressed against the wall, the woman hanging off the edge.

“Oh,” Carol said. “How... how awful.”

The robin nodded. “Very. Do you see that girl?”

He made a gesture to one of the children on the bed, this one a dark-haired girl who looked about Carol’s age.

“Yes?”

“She is very like you, you know. Your age. Your passions.”

“But not my opportunities?”

“Exactly.”

For a moment, there was silence, then Carol asked, “What can I do to help her, and her family?”

The robin looked at her, long and hard. “Tomorrow, when you are finished with most of the festivities, carry down some little bits and pieces - presents, food, anything - for them. And, Carol, be sure to go yourself, not send someone.”

~~~

Carol had a very happy Christmas, with many lovely presents, a beautiful dinner, and piles of fun as well. But, despite this, she did not forget the robin’s words, and told her parents what she had to do.

They permitted her to take some things, and let her go alone, for it was just down the road, and they knew the owner of the boarding house well.

Carol skipped down the road, singing her heart out. Of course, it wasn’t as fun as flying, but it was very pleasant all the same. She could hardly wait to actually meet them all, particularly the dark-haired girl who was apparently so like her.

Carol slipped up the stairs and to the room, where she gave a knock. “Hello?”

The door opened, to a girl, older than Carol. “Good afternoon, Miss. How can we help you?”

“Oh, I’m not a Miss!” Carol said, “I’m just Carol. I’ve come to see you, you know.”

The girl blinked. “Really?”

“Oh, yes.”

Carol entered the room, and found the family in the midst of a little party. Of course, they did not have the same resources as she and her family did, but they seemed to be having a lot of fun.

“This is Carol, Mother,” the girl said. “She wants to see us.”

“Hello!” Carol said. “Might I join your games?”

She was permitted, and though at first Carol was shy, and the family formal, both parties soon relaxed and had a great deal of fun, Carol tipping out what she brought that it may have enjoyed before her eyes while they played and laughed.

She and the girl, who she soon learnt was called Mary-Jane, struck up a great friendship almost immediately, just as the robin had thought, and both were in seventh heaven - for, despite all her advantages, Carol had never had such a true, wonderful friend as Jane, nor Jane one like Carol.

Oh, what a merry Christmas that was! It was plainer than any Carol had ever seen, but just as much fun, if not more, for she was able to see the family enjoy what luxuries she had brought, in a way that made her overjoyed that she had made someone so happy. She left early, but with promises to come again - promises which were most certainly kept!



# Solo Singing Choir

By Niamh Carty and the Solo Singing Choir, J6R



Front row: Julia Dunleavy, Lucy Maher, Iseult Clarke, Claudia McEnroe, Niamh Carty, Emelie Galvin and Emilia Kravetz  
Back row: Lauren Rea, Ciara Halpin and Ms. Fetherston. Absent: India Heffron.

The Solo Singing Choir is a group of singers from Ms. Fetherston's solo singing classes who come together a few times a week to learn and sing songs. The girls range from J4, J5 and J6 at Alexandra College Junior School. Currently, there are seven girls who have joined the Solo Singing Choir.

Although we practise throughout the school year, Christmas time is particularly special because we learn and perform beautiful and traditional Christmas songs. This year we have learned 'Lullaby' by Colin Mawby, which is a particularly beautiful song about a lullaby for Baby Jesus. We have also enjoyed learning two pieces from Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Coat, including 'Any Dream Will Do'. And

one of the songs that all the girls have loved performing is 'Ring Christmas Bells'.

Singing allows us to join together and express ourselves in a unique way. There is something special about hearing all of the different voices come together in Ms. Fetherston's choir. Although this year we are not able to perform our pieces in front of a live audience, we have recorded our Christmas songs, and our families will be able to share in our love for the music. In the choir, we believe that everyone carries a song in their heart. We hope that you all carry a song in your heart this Christmas that you can share with your own friends and families.

## Advent



By Maddy Donohoe, J6R

Advent is a very special time of the year. Everybody is preparing for Christmas and decorating their Christmas trees.

Advent is the time when we await and prepare for the birth of Jesus. We celebrate Jesus in a couple of ways, bake a cake and eat it after Christmas dinner or exchange gifts with the ones you love.

Advent starts on the 29th of November and ends on the 24th of December.

### My Advent Acrostic Poem

- A. An exciting time of the year!
- D. Decorating Christmas trees
- V. Variety of special options for presents
- E. Everyone is gathering for a family reunion
- N Nearly everyone is preparing for Christmas
- T. Treasuring the birth of Jesus

## A Christmas Limerick

By Elsa Allen, J6W

There once was an elf called Fred,  
He always wore a coat which was red,  
He climbed up a tree,  
Where everybody could see,  
"Merry Christmas everyone!" he said.



# Our Passions

## I ♥ O r f f

*By Claudia McEnroe, J6R*

Photo: Aisling Doyle and Claudia McEnroe, J6R



In Orff, we learn about musical instruments, music theory, and using the Orff instruments. We use the instruments to play music, learn songs, and try out new note combinations to make music together. Orff is fun, and we learn a lot from it. We have one class a week, every Tuesday morning, and we split into two groups within the class (two pods in each group). The class enjoys Orff and we all find it interesting. I think everyone's favourite part of Orff is learning the songs and playing them on the instruments. Thank you Ms. Fitzgerald for these great classes.

## I ♥ O r c h e s t r a



*By Aisling Doyle, J6R*

This year I have joined the Junior School orchestra. Though I was not in it last year, I know things have changed due to COVID-19. This year we can't practise all together, we just practise with the people from our class. Instead of doing a concert this year we'll be doing a recording of each musician by themselves and editing them all together to make one video. As Music Captains - Eva, Claudia, Kate and I will be helping with the recordings, making our December very busy!

*By Eva Phillis Mouallem, J6R*

This year I also joined the Junior School orchestra. We love helping out with the orchestra and playing our instruments, but this year we have to wear masks and sanitize every stand and every instrument that we have used. Even with these hard times we are still finding ways to show our performances to everyone! We are not sure when we will be getting back to our normal live performances and we are trying our best to cope, but the show must go on!



# TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

*By Eva Phillis Mouallem & Maddy O' Donohoe, J6R*



Ms. Fitzgerald

Eva and Maddy interview Ms. Fitzgerald on her role as a music teacher and what she enjoys most about music.



## 1. How is Covid-19 effecting your music lessons?

For the most part I have been able to work as normal. We have all become very accustomed to keeping some distance from each other. I do spend a lot of time sanitising materials, and the hall is kept well ventilated (cold!!!). I thought Covid-19 would put much more restrictions on what I could do, but I find with a little bit of thought I can run most lessons without too much change. I do miss the fact that we cannot have Choir this year and I look forward to a time when we can. Our Christmas performance will be different this year as a result of Covid-19 but different is exciting too.

## 2. What is your favourite instrument to play?

I play piano and violin and I love both. If I really had to pick one I would say the violin. I love the tone the violin makes and I think it is a really versatile instrument. There are some beautiful melodies written for violin, but also very exciting music. I really enjoy playing music with other people and playing the violin has given me opportunities to play in orchestras and chamber music groups my whole life.

## 3. Do you enjoy teaching music?

I really enjoy teaching music. I trained to be a Montessori teacher when I left school so I have always had a love of teaching. Put that with my love for music and I feel I have the perfect job .

## 4. How do you feel when you play music?

What a great question. It depends on what I am playing. For example I love to start the day sitting at the piano in the Junior School hall just playing random chords. This relaxes me. I am struggling to put into words how I feel when I play the violin or sing. I suppose it really depends on the piece I am performing, sometimes music can put me into a thoughtful mood, at other times it fills me with joy.

## 5. What does music mean to you?

Music is a huge part of my life. I have lifelong friends that I have met through music. In my spare time I play in an Orchestra, I often get together with friends to play Chamber Music and I sing in a choir. I love passing on my passion for music to all of you in Alex and you constantly amaze me with your ideas and how you respond to music.

# INSIDE INTERVIEW

*Interview by Niamh Carty & Salla Kirk, J6R*

**Niamh and Salla interview Ms. Higgins on her important role as school secretary in Alexandra College Junior School and about her life outside of school.**



**Ms. Higgins**

**How has COVID-19 affected your job?**

I think I'm lucky that a lot of my job has stayed the same! I still get to come in everyday and see all of the teachers and students. I do wear a mask now (although that's become normal for everyone!) and I

miss having people coming to my office to say hello and have a chat.

**Do you have any plans for Christmas?**

I'm hoping that I will be able to spend Christmas with my family. I haven't seen

some of my brothers and sisters for a few months now and I miss them a lot! We have a very relaxed Christmas, I usually stay with my mam and dad, and all of my brothers and sisters and nieces and nephews come over on Christmas Day. We may not be able to all be together at the same time this year, but I'm hoping that I will get to see them all over the Christmas break and have some good quality family time with lots of yummy food!

**What are your interests and hobbies?**

Reading is something that I've enjoyed as long as I can remember! There is nothing nicer than snuggling up in a blanket with a good book. Another thing that I really enjoy doing is crocheting, (you may have seen some of the things I've made in my office!) Over the summer I learned how to crochet dolls too so I've been busy making lots of things. I love going to the theatre to see musicals and plays, and I'm very excited for when I can do that again! This year I picked up some new hobbies like running, and I also learned how to play the ukulele.

**What is the highlight of your job?**

That's a hard question! There are so many things that I love about my job. I enjoy being able to help others. That if someone gets hurt I can help them to feel better, or if a teacher

needs something I can assist them. It's so wonderful to be part of a school community where everyone works together so that everything runs smoothly each day. But probably my No. 1 favourite thing, is that I can get to know all of the girls in the school. From Preschool all the way up to J6 I can see so many different personalities, and I feel that it is such a privilege to be able to see them grow up into such lovely young women as they progress through the school.

**What are you looking forward to in 2021?**

There's always something exciting about the start of a new year isn't there! I think this past year made me realise what things are actually important to me. Things that maybe I took for granted a little bit, like spending time with my family, having sleepovers with my nieces and nephews, going to the cinema with friends. I think what I'm looking forward to next year is having the opportunity to make those things, and the people I care about, more of a priority.

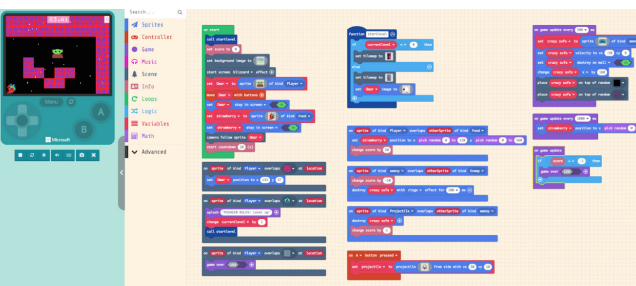
**Can you tell us anything about yourself?**

This year I became a student again! I decided to go to college to study something that I've always wanted to learn more about, which is Psychology. I love to learn, and it's something that I never want to stop doing, whether I'm in school or not!



# INSIDE STEAM

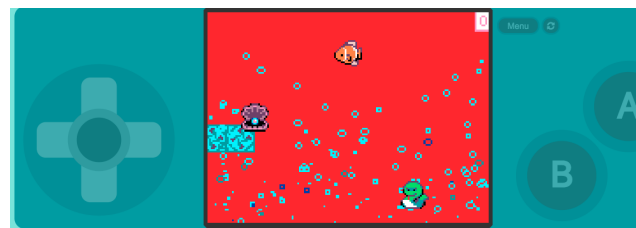
## J5/J6 Makerspace Class



Maryam had to write A LOT of code to construct her retro computer game!



A close up of Maryam's final retro computer game. Maryam worked very hard to design the background and all the sprites in the game.



Clara also worked very hard to code her game and came up with an exciting underwater theme.

<https://sites.google.com/alexandracollege.ie/steam/steam-alexjs>

**By Maryam F. Khan & Clara Galvin, J5W**

### What are we learning in Makerspace at the moment?

In Makerspace, we are learning how to make retro games. Retro games are like the first computer games and they are pixelated. Without them, you wouldn't have any modern games.

### What do you think is challenging about it?

The most challenging thing is when we are making the functions. A function is an advanced code block that has lots of different pieces of code in it. These different pieces of code make up the different levels on it.

### What did you like the most about it?

The best thing is when you are coding the game and testing it out when you play it.

Check out our new and fabulous website for all your STEAM news

## J3/J4 Makerspace Class

**By Natasha Nangle, J4W**

### What we are doing in Makerspace?

In Makerspace, we are using Scratch which is a coding website. We use MakeyMakeys to help us move our sprites in Scratch. A MakeyMakey is a fun small computer.

### What do I like best about Makerspace?

I love making different things do different things. For example, you can make parrots fly and tigers leap! It is so much fun.

**By Sophie Pye, J3R**

### What we are learning in CodeClub?

We code stories and we use CS First to help us to understand how to use the code to code our stories.

### What do I like best about CodeClub?

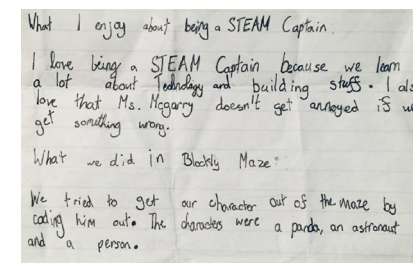
I love Code Club because we make fun stories. I like Makerspace too because I had so much fun making the games.



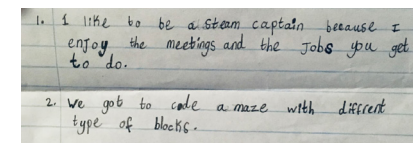
Emily Mullan and Emily Richardson draw their Christmas themed interactive drawings for their MakeyMakeys in the J3/J4 Makerspace Class.

## STEAM Captains!

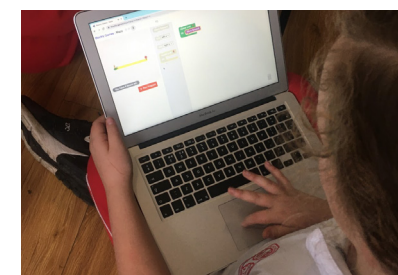
Belén (J4R) and Cayetana (J3W), two of our STEAM Captains here in Alex JS, told us what they enjoyed about being STEAM Captains and how they enjoyed testing the "Blockly" Coding Programme game.



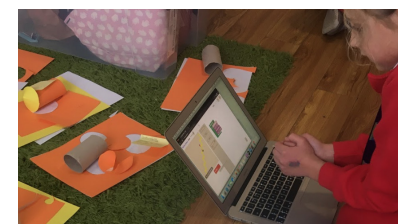
**Belén McKeagney, J4R**



**Cayetana Kelly, J3W**



Belén McKeagney tests out some code during a STEAM Captains meeting...



While Cayetana Kelly also helps out with figuring out the code in the STEAM Captains' meeting.

## INSIDE Preschool Lower

# The Elf on the Shelf is back...

Preschool Lower have been getting in the Christmas spirit. We decorated our Christmas tree and hung up lots of decorations. We have created some beautiful art work by hand printing Christmas trees, robins and baubles hanging from branches. We were all very excited to find an elf in our classroom this morning and look forward to seeing what he gets up to over the coming weeks.



**Preschool Lower**

### Sparkle Time



The girls in Preschool Lower have been busy making reindeer food. They will sprinkle it on their lawns on Christmas Eve and the sparkles will guide Santa to their homes.

## INSIDE Kg Upper

Bhí rang na Naíonáin Shinsearacha ag foghlaim amhrán Nollaig darbh ainm 'An Drumadóirín (The Little Drummer Boy). Múineann an t-amhráin an scéal faoin leanbh íosa agus an lá speisialta a rugadh é, Lá Nollag. Canaigí an t-amhráin linn! Tá súil againn go mbeidh Nollaig deas ag gach duine!

**Kg Upper**



### An Drumadóirín

Tar, a deir siad pá-rum pum pum pum  
Go bhfeicimid an Rí pá-rum pum pum pum  
ár dtogha's ár rogha againn pá-rum pum pum pum  
Le cur i lámh; an Rí pá-rum pum pum pum,  
rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum  
ómós cuí dár Rí pá-rum pum pum pum

Ar ár son.

Naíon bheag ghléigeal, pá-rum pum pum pum  
Is buachaill bocht mé féin, pá-rum pum pum pum  
Níl féirín ceart agam, pá-rum pum pum pum  
Is fiú a thabhairt dár Rí, pá-rum pum pum pum,  
rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum  
Déanfad ceolta Duit, pá-rum pum pum pum  
Ar an drum?

D'umhlaigh Muire, pá-rum pum pum pum  
Bhuail Bó is Uan an t-am, pá-rum pum pum pum  
Bhuaileas mo bhodhrán Dhó, pá-rum pum pum pum  
Bhuaileas go cumasach, pá-rum pum pum pum,  
rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum  
Gháir Sé liom fé rún, pá-rum pum pum pum  
Is lem dhrum!

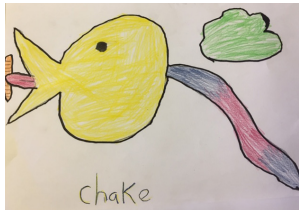


# INSIDE J2R

## J2R Create Crazy-Combo Creatures

In J2R we created Crazy-Combo Creatures as part of our Weaving Well-Being programme. We were exploring the character strength of creativity by designing a new creature which was a combination of two or three other animals. The girls enjoyed this fun activity. We hope you like our creations and the names we invented for each of our imaginative creatures!

By Aisling Gorry, J2R Class Teacher



Shiking-snake and a chicken



Finnacorn-fish and a unicorn



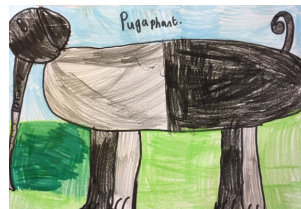
Dogot-dog and a goat



Habucorn-hamster, bunny and a unicorn



Dofant-dolphin and an elephant



Pugaphant-pug and an elephant



Zeborse-zebra and a horse



Demake-demiguise and a snake



Unadrag-unicorn and a dragon



Dofant-dolphin and an elephant



Chake-chicken and a snake

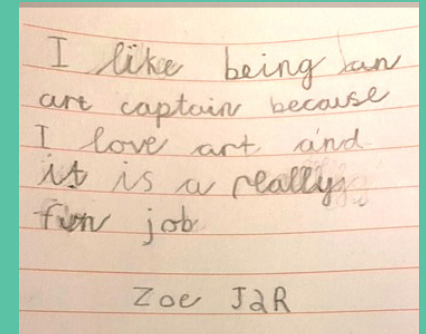
## Our roles as Art Captains

By Millie Hartwell, J6W

The Art Captain's job is to help Ms Smith to do everything from hanging artwork to brainstorming ideas for the new school gallery.

I enjoy being Art Captain because it makes all of us feel like we have a responsibility to help out across the school. I also really enjoy art and the finished product so I love hanging pretty artworks around the school and seeing how they turn out.

By Zoe Mc Nally, J2R





# INSIDE ART

## CREATIVITY FROM KG LOWER TO J6

Over the last few weeks the girls learn new skills with the focus on clay, watercolour painting and canvas art.



Van Gogh Inspired 3D Art  
By Elodie Hope, Kg Lower



Notan Art  
By Holly McGuinness, Kg Upper



Hibernation Art  
By Ali Field, J1



Clay Tile  
By Ava Molloy, J2R



Clay Tile  
By Helen Schuster, J2W



Clay Fish  
By Sophie Pye, J3R



Clay Fish  
By Audrina Conlon, J3W



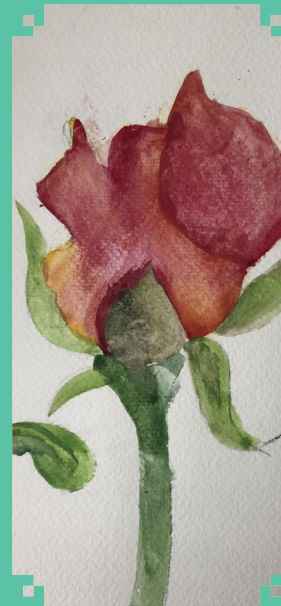
Watercolour  
By Caoimhe Hardy, J4R



Tote bag design  
By Mackenzie Gorman, J4W



Abstract Art  
By Caoimhe Davis, J6W



Watercolour  
By Ella Rose Mc Elligott, J5R



Bird Art  
By Molly O'Reilly, J5W



Watercolour  
By Olivia Nell, J6R



# INSIDE DRAMA

Our Drama reps treat us to some festive activities to enjoy with all the family

## CHRISTMAS CHARADES

*Written by Aoife O'Neill, J6W*



A great festive activity for you and all your family to join in on this year for Christmas!  
Act out these Christmas festive words and see if your family can crack them!

1. Santa
2. Reindeer
3. Turkey
4. Snowman
5. Christmas pudding
6. Presents
7. Santa's sleigh
8. Brussel sprouts
9. Carol singers
10. Elves working away
11. Christmas tree
12. Bauble on the tree

## CHRISTMAS SKIT

*Written by Sorchá Moran and Grace Brew, J6R*

**Laura:** Gets up, looks outside and cries out.  
Look! It's dad with a big Christmas tree!

**Ciara:** Looks up from their phone, irritated at Laura. What is it now?!  
Sees Christmas tree and rolls eyes

**Laura:** Let's go down and see if he needs help?

**Ciara:** Ha! No, you can go do that yourself. I'm staying here.

*Time passes to breakfast.*

**Mum:** Looks at the tree.  
Wow kids, the tree looks amazing. You did a great job.

**Dad:** I know, Laura helped me! It looks so festive, well done kids.

**Ciara:** I didn't notice. It looks okay, we could have just bought a fake one. I think it was a waste of time.

**Laura:** Thanks Mum and Dad! I think it looks good! We put a lot of work into it, but it was worth it!

**Dad:** You know, Ciara, you could be a little more light-hearted. Laura and I put a lot of effort into it and I think you should appreciate it.

**Ciara:** Stands up, still looking at their phone, and walks out of the room, looks up at the tree and cries out. Mum, Dad! The tree! It's....it's alive!

**Mum:** Honey, I doubt it.

**Ciara:** I swear! Look!

*Points at the tree.*

**Mum:** Frowns slightly.  
Are you sure you are alright?

*Ciara nods head defensively.*

*Time freezes and only Ciara and the tree are not frozen.*

**Ciara:** Why are you here, tree? How is this possible?

**Tree:** Dear child, we have to enjoy Christmas. It is a time of peace and love, spend it with your family! Decorate and bake with each other and enjoy family time on the days leading up to Christmas! You should learn to be more appreciative of this wonderful holiday, now, before it's too late, go decorate the rest of the house with your family. Good day and Merry Christmas!

**Ciara:** I-I will! M-Merry Christmas!  
*Everyone unfreezes.*  
Mum, Dad! Do you need any help with the decorating for the house?

**Dad:** Yes! I'm glad you came around, we were just going to go and decorate the garden, want to join us?

**Ciara:** Yes!

**Mum:** What made you change your mind?

**Ciara:** Smiles knowingly.  
Just some wise advice.

**We hope you enjoyed our Christmas skit!  
Have a merry Christmas all!**

# Christmas

**Written by**  
**Róisín O'Callaghan, J5R**

Tinsel is hung on the evergreen tree  
While bobbles and fairy lights shine red and green  
As sweet pudding smells fill the air,  
When the white snow softly glistens in  
The fairy lights glare.  
The Christmas jumper your granny knitted  
You last year  
Is just a little bit small but you'll wear it with cheer

# little reindeer

**Chosen by**  
**Aoife O'Neill, J6W**

I'm a little reindeer.  
Ready to fly.  
I'll pull Santa's sleigh  
Up in the sky  
Christmas is here  
We can't be late  
All the children  
They simply can't wait!

*-by Unknown Author*

*An extract from:*

# A Visit from St. Nicholas

**Chosen by Aoife O'Neill, J6W**

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house  
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;  
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care;  
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,  
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;  
And mama in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,  
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap,

When out on the lawn there arose a such a clatter,  
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.  
Away to the window I flew like a flash,  
Tore open the shutter and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow  
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below,  
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear ,  
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,

With a little old driver, so lively and quick  
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick!

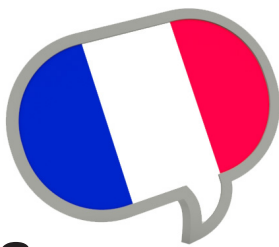
*By Clement Clarke Moore*

# 'Tis Christmas!

**Written by Clara Galvin, J5W**

Cousins and family together,  
Having fun all the time.  
Relaxing and chilling by the fire,  
In the house, nice and warm.  
Santa will be coming so don't forget the cookies and milk!  
The coldest season of the year so wrap up nice and warm,  
Missing your friends I bet.  
All the time having fun though,  
Singing Christmas carols.





# INSIDE Les Nouvelles

Voilà, during the last few weeks, en Français, we have been revisiting old favourite songs such as “L’araignée Gypsy”, “Tête-Epaule-Genoux-Pieds”, “Coucou le Hibou”, “J’ai faim - Je mange”, and “Aux Champs-Élysées”, as well as working on lots of new themes in our workbooks.

Kg Lower and Kg Upper discovered autumn through our new puppet “le Hibou” and her stories and song, as well as the season’s colours and weather with the likes of the song “L’araignée Gypsy”.

J1 with their new book, “Les Petits Loustics”, have been busy discovering feelings and anatomy with the character Léon le garçon, with the book “Le monstre des sentiments” and a

French reworking of the song “Head-shoulders-knees-and toes”.

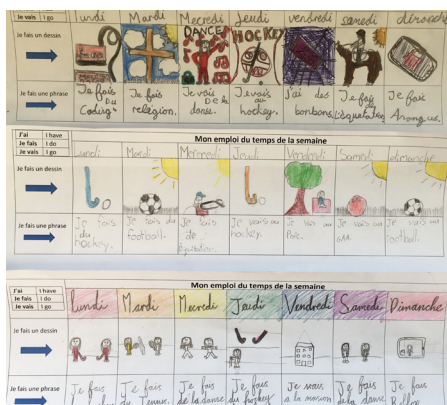
J3 have been working hard on food including using their olfactory senses in a game to identify sweet, sour and savoury food types.

J4 have been learning the poem for the days of the week and putting together their schedule of work and activities. They are busy bees!

J6 are continuing on the topic of family, time, school and nationalities.

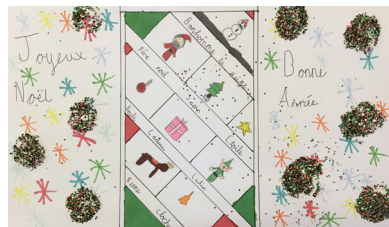
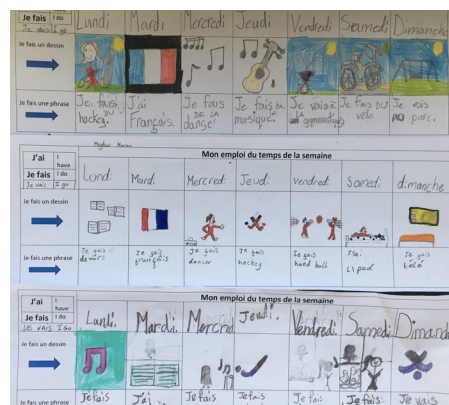
J2 and J5 along with all of the classes are working on a little surprise for Christmas which will mix French and Irish traditions. In the meantime I wish you all un Joyeux Noël en famille!

*By Madame Conan*



J4

J4



Christmas Crackers by J2 and J5



Kg Upper



J5



Kg Upper



Kg Lower discovering Autumn J6



J1



J3





# Exercise in Cold Conditions

Many young people are naturally active, enjoy movement, have fun jumping around and participating in playing sports in school and also in their spare time with their family and friends. Although some may choose not to do any team activities outside of the school environment, as everyone is different, they may have interests in hiking or cycling or walking their doggies! Any type of movement is important, no matter what you choose to do, but do make it fun and do this on a regular basis as this is the key ingredient to a healthy and balanced lifestyle. Here are a couple of things to consider when participating in exercise on a fresh, chilly winter's day.

- Always do a warm up with gentle stretching.
- Try to stay dry, as the wetter you are the colder you will become because your body heat will evaporate.
- Be aware of the windchill factor.
- Layer up on clothes, the first layer should be something that will wick moisture away from your skin and it is easier to remove as you get hotter. And avoid cotton as it tends to hold moisture.
- Wearing gloves and a beanie can be beneficial.
- Train or play during the brightest part of the day, as early morning or late at night are the cooler times of the day.
- Listening to some good tunes can get you moving to the beat and enhance your mood.
- Keep hydrated.
- You most likely will get a 'runny nose', but don't worry, this is a good sign! (to explain, inside our nose moistens to warm the air we inhale, and the excess fluids make our nose 'runny!').
- Remember to give some time over to cooling down and gentle stretching once again, to help you slow down your heart rate gradually and return your breathing to normal.

To conclude, give exercise a go even if it's cold outside! A brisk walk over the Christmas, on a bright crisp day, can enhance your wellbeing and give you that feel-good vibe! Try performing exercises regularly and having fun trying out new skills and sports challenges. You can absolutely achieve many of the benefits being active can bring, even in cold conditions.

So, get out there, enjoy your sports and exercises, whatever they may be! Keep moving and active but most of all enjoy what you do, get your whole family involved, have a laugh and fun :)

Wishing You All a Very Safe, Happy and Healthy Christmas time.

*From Miss T*



# INSIDE Kg Lower



Kg Lower's next 'Full STEAM Ahead' project, is Winter. Following great recordings of Winter Haiku poems in Drama, with Ms Crowley, great enthusiasm for our next season's theme continued! The girls were keen to investigate, learn, share and present their Wintry knowledge and ideas and get to work on varied creative Art. Their artistic talents included, painting snowy pictures, learning how to make snowflakes and then on to depicting imaginative scenes of birch trees and snowmen. The girls thoroughly enjoyed transforming our classroom's panes into creative Wintry windows..

Our Aistear play saw us creating all sorts too - from the busy Kg Lower 'Fine Dining' restaurant with Winter Warming menus to Christmas Play Mobil fun and inventive engi-

neering - 'Toy Shop' designs and productions. In role play, Santa's workshop was full of Christmassy activity and in attendance were very eager and helpful elves!

In assembly we enjoyed presenting our work and singing, "A Cold and Frosty Morning", followed by well wishes for everyone to keep 'warm and cosy' - this cooler weather..

Superb enthusiasm and interest shown as always Kg Lower, very well done to you all!

To further exploring, collaborative learning and our great FUN Kg Lower!

Wishing everyone a very happy and healthy 2021 ahead!

**Ms Boyd and the Kg Lower Winter Explorers!**



**Kg Lower**



**Advent Art**



# INSIDE STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council is a group of students who represent their class and bring forward ideas that their classmates have. Each class has at least one representative. This representative will go to the meetings and then bring back the information and share it with the class. It is chaired by Ms. Evans and we usually have at least one meeting a month. Recently we have been working on collecting food for the Capuchin Day Centre.

The Capuchin Day Centre gives food to the homeless and so much more, so it's really important to us that we help them. Each class has a box that they will fill with food, the more food we bring the better. Some classes needed to have two boxes, which is great as they are getting filled up as well. On the 27th of November the boxes were taken to the Capuchin Day Centre. Being homeless is always difficult but because of COVID-19 it is even more challenging. A lot of places that support homeless people are temporarily closed because of COVID-19, but the Capuchin Centre has stayed open through all of it and is helping the homeless through all of the lockdowns and restrictions.

At Halloween the student council decided to raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Everyone who dressed up brought a minimum of €2. In the end we managed to raise €800 which was fantastic.

The Student Council help make the school a happier and kinder place. We know whatever our ups and downs we're still very lucky children and we know that its important to help make a difference in someone else's life.

**By Ciara Halpin, J6R**



**Student Council with food items for the Capuchin Day Centre**



# INSIDE GREEN-SCHOOLS

The Green-Schools Committee has been working hard on our travel flag. We carried out a survey about how everyone came to school. The results were that most people drove (58.3%), while only 16.1% of people walked. 8.3% of people cycled and 4.1% scooted. We would like to decrease the number of people driving and suggest that they walk, if they can, instead. If people live far away, they could try park and stride (park and stride means driving part of the way and walking the rest of the way.) Even one day a week could make a big difference.

The Green-Schools Committee did environmental reviews of the front and back entrances, to check if it safe for children to walk to school and to see if we could make them safer. At the back entrance, we think a pedestrian crossing at Temple Road and increased lighting would be helpful. At the front entrance, we found that the area was well-lit, with speed bumps and pedestrian crossings, but we recommend some signage to remind cars that pedestrians may cross the car entrance.

**Go Green!**

**By Charlotte Xia, J5W**



# Christmas Baking

By Emma Butcher, J6R

## Brioche Christmas Trees

Making brioche might seem daunting, but it's actually quite easy! They do take a long time, but very little of that is actual work. It's also easy to customise this recipe for any brioche - just omit the food colouring, add any extra flavourings, shape however you please, and there you go!

### Ingredients:

Two cups flour  
100 grams butter, melted  
A third of a cup milk  
Two eggs  
Two tablespoons honey  
1 teaspoon yeast  
A couple of drops of green food colouring.

### Method:

Combine the yeast and flour in a largish bowl. In a separate one, mix honey, eggs, milk and melted butter together, and add to the larger bowl.

Mix vigorously till well combined. Cover with

a cloth, and leave to rise for 2-3 hours in a warm place. Brioche needs longer proofing time, as things like butter slow the rise.

Remove the cloth and place in the fridge overnight, or for up to forty-eight hours. Unfortunately, this cannot be shortened.

Take the dough out of the fridge and add the green food colouring. Knead until it is fairly well incorporated, adding more colour if necessary. It's probably best not to do this if you are doing something that involves your hands being seen later - mine had green marks for several days later.

Cut into Christmas tree shapes - I used a biscuit cover.

Leave to rise for 2-3 hours again, preheating the oven to 190 degrees.

Cook for about fifteen minutes, or until golden brown.



## Gingerbread

This festive recipe (from the BBC Good Food website, a helpful resource if you want recipes) is easy and simple, while very fun to do, particularly with the decorating! This makes a lot of icing and biscuits, so you can easily half it, if you wish.

### Ingredients:

250g unsalted butter  
200g dark muscovado sugar  
7 tbsp golden syrup  
600g plain flour  
2 tsp bicarbonate of soda  
4 tsp ground ginger (You can customise this as you wish, though start with this and go up gradually if you want it more gingery)  
Royal icing:  
400 grams icing sugar (if you don't have it, you can grind up normal sugar to a powder in a blender)  
Two egg whites



### Method:

Melt butter, gingerbread, muscovado sugar and golden syrup in a large saucepan over low heat. Be careful! This will be hot, and supervision may be needed.

Mix together flour, bicarbonate of soda and ginger

Combine both mixtures into a stiff dough, and knead for a few minutes.

Roll out in sections, cutting them out into whatever shapes you please.

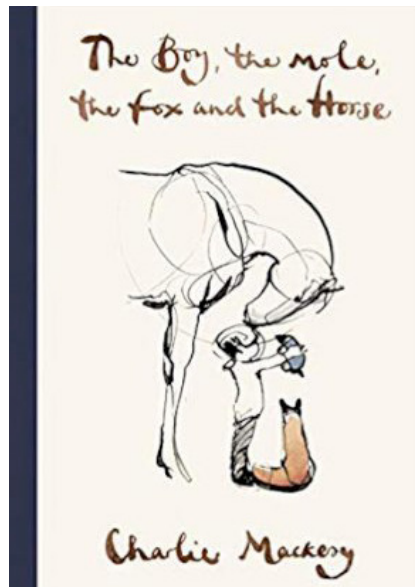
Cook for about twelve minutes, till darker and firmer on the edges, and leave to cool.

For the icing, pour the egg-whites into a bowl, and add the icing-sugar gradually, till you have reached the right consistency.

Now, you can decorate as you please! This could make a fun family project if you wish!



# BOOKMARKED



**Book:** *The Boy, The Mole, The Fox And The Horse*

**Reviewed by** *Emily De Marco, J6R*

**Author:** Charlie Mackesy.

**Genre:** Comics.

**Title:** *The Boy, The Mole, The Fox And The Horse* is a nice title because it includes all the characters' names.

**Book Cover:** The cover of the book shows a boy, a mole, a fox and a horse, so it fits in with the story and the title.

## Summary

A boy finds a mole while on a walk. In the middle of their walk they bump into a fox who decides to walk with them. A while later they all meet a horse who is very friendly. They all walk together. All of the animals teach the boy about kindness and friendship along their walk.

## Characters:

The boy, the mole, the fox and the horse. My favourite character is the mole because he says so many wise things like "What do you think success is?" asked the boy, "To love" said the mole.

## Adventures:

A boy is walking when he meets a mole and while they are walking together they meet a fox and while they all are walking they meet a horse. They all have adventures along the way.

## What I think

I really love this book. It taught me many life lessons and it is suitable for all ages. It is a wonderful book and I am very fond of it. The book is sweet, kind, loving and caring. This book has taught me not just how to be a better friend, but how to be a better me.

## MY FAVOURITE QUOTES

*"I'm so small." said the mole. "Yes," said the boy, "but you make a huge difference."*

*"What do you want to be when you grow up?" "Kind" said the boy.*

*"Imagine how we would be if we were less afraid"*

*"What is the bravest thing you've ever said?" asked the boy. "Help" said the horse.*

*"Sometimes just getting up and carrying on is brave and magnificent."*

# Book Recommendations

*Reviewed by Lauren Rea, J6R*



These are some books that we really like and would recommend to you.  
They might make a nice Christmas gift

*The Murder Most Unladylike series* by Robin Stevens.

*Harry Potter* by J. K. Rowling.

*Skulduggery Pleasant* by Derek Landy.

*Wonder* by R.J. Palacio.

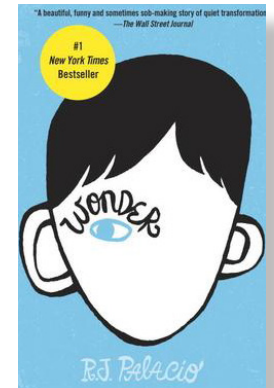
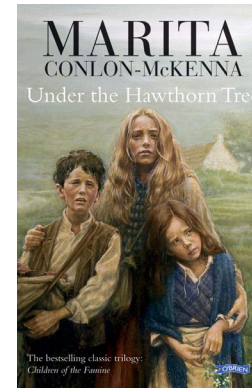
*Planet Earth is Blue* by Nicole Panteleakos.

*Under the Hawthorn Tree* by Marita Conlon McKenna.

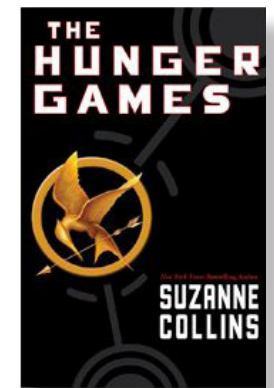
*Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins

*A Place Called Perfect* by Helen Duggan.

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



**STAR  
CHOICE**





# 10 BEST CHRISTMAS MOVIES EVER

*Reviewed by Niamh Carty, J6R*

**10. The Nightmare before Christmas** is a movie about when the King of Halloween tries to take over Christmas. I would recommend this for ages 7+.

**9. The Christmas Chronicles** is about brother and sister, Kate and Teddy, who try to capture Santa, but their plan doesn't go too well and they end up having to save Christmas. I would recommend this for ages 9+.

**8. Arthur Christmas** is about the life of Santa's son, Arthur. I would recommend this for all ages.

**7. The Polar Express** is about a boy who gets picked up by a magical train in the middle of the night, and taken to Santa's Village. I would recommend this for all ages.

**6. A Christmas Story** is Ralphie and his family finding ways to celebrate Christmas (and sometimes ruin it). I would recommend this for ages 10+.

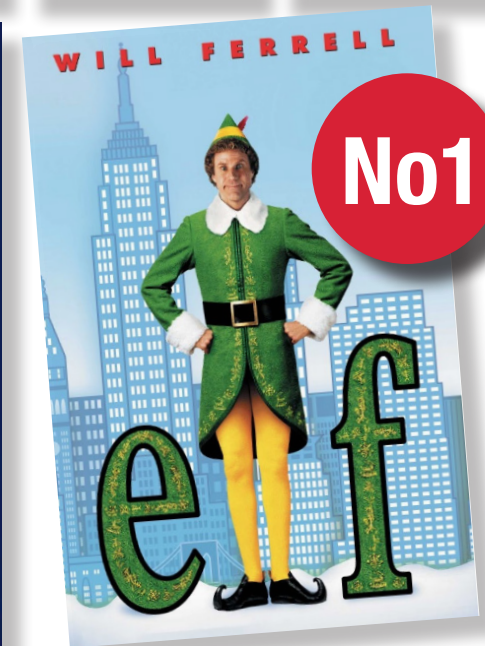
**5. A Christmas Carol** is a remake of the beloved Dickens tale about an old man who hates Christmas. I would recommend this for ages 9+.

**4. The Grinch** is about a mean, green monster (called the Grinch) who tries to ruin Christmas for the townspeople of Whoville. I would recommend this for all ages.

**3. Klaus** is about a postman (who is very bad at his job) who is sent to an icy island, where he finds Santa Claus hiding. I would recommend this for all ages.

**2. Home Alone** is about a boy who accidentally gets left at his house, while his family go on a Christmas holiday. I would recommend this for all ages.

**1. Elf** is a movie about a boy who grew up in Santa's village, and when he finds out he isn't an elf he goes in search of his real father. I would recommend this for all ages.



# CHRISTMAS STUFF

## Santa Word Search

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

Chimney	Rudolph
Elves	Sled
Fairies	Sleigh
Jolly	Sleigh Bells
North Pole	St. Nick
Reindeer	Toys



## CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

USE THE CLUES TO COMPLETE THE CROSSWORD PUZZLE.



### Across

1. One of Santa's Reindeer
3. Santa's Helpers
5. December 25th is \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Christmas Drink
10. The name of a popular snowman.

### Down

2. Christmas Month
4. He hates Christmas!
6. You hang them by the chimney.
8. On Christmas morning we unwrap our \_\_\_\_\_.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ to the world!

[WWW.THRIFTYMMMASTIPS.COM](http://WWW.THRIFTYMMMASTIPS.COM)





# Christmas Jumpers

In aid of Laura Lynn and Dublin Zoo, we all wore our Christmas Jumpers to raise money for these charities.



**Kg Lower**



**Kg Upper**



**J1**



**J2R**



**J2W**



**J3R**



**J4R**



**J5R**



**J3W**



**J4W**



**J5W**





J6R



J6W



Preschool Lower



Preschool Upper



# 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



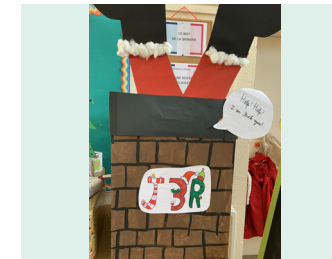
J1



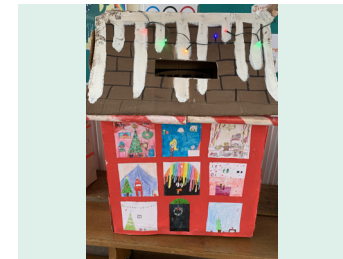
J2R



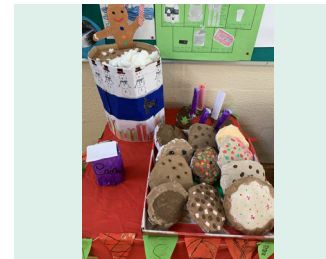
J2W



J3R



J3W



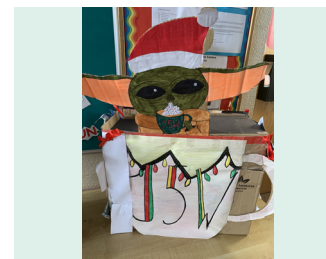
J4W



J4R



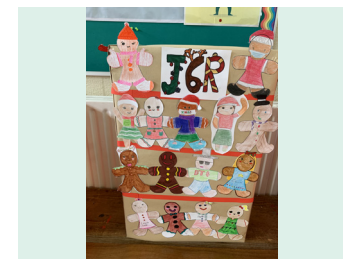
J5R



J5W



J6W



J6R

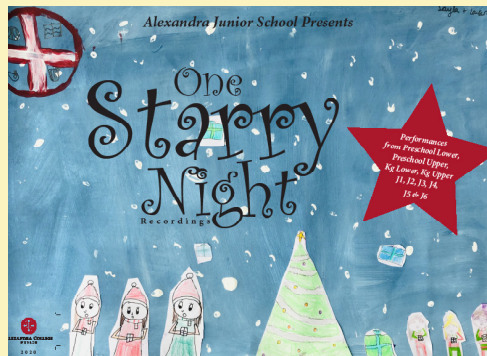
# One Starry Night

Thank you for watching our *One Starry Night* performance. We would like to thank everyone who worked tirelessly to make this a great production this year. 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.

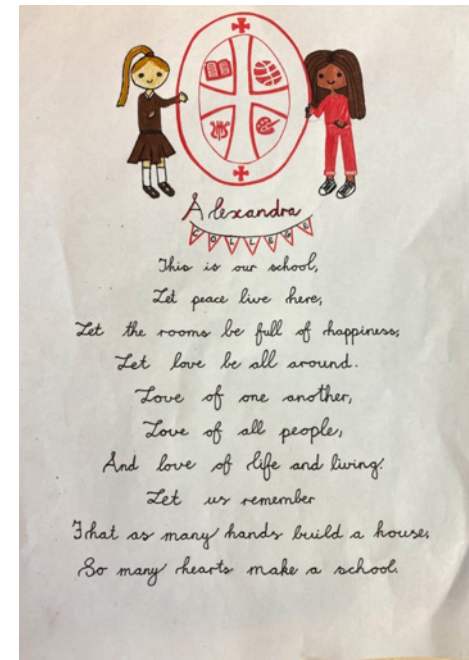
**By the News Committee**



Set design



Video image design



**By Claudia McEnroe, J6W**



**Our next edition is out in March 2021!**

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