

The December issue was written by Alfred, Oliver D, Zuzanna, Oliver M, Daniel, Fletcher, Blake, Ella, Lola and the KS1 writing club!

The Finlay Flyer...

Miss Livermore and Miss Jones both joined the school in September 2023. We have interviewed these new teachers to hear what they have to say!

What is your favourite subject to teach?

Miss Livermore - Science

Miss Jones - Maths

When you were young, what was your dream?

Miss Livermore– I always wanted to be a teacher.

Miss Jones – I dreamt to be involved in musical theatre.

What is your favourite Christmas movie?

Miss Livermore - Grinch (the original!)

Miss Jones - Polar Express

What is your favourite Christmas snack?

Miss Livermore - pigs in blankets (made by my Grandma!)

Miss Jones - Strawberry Quality Streets!

Interviewed by Ella and Lola.



Our December issue is showcasing Christmas and how it is celebrated throughout the world and how it has been celebrated throughout history. We will give you ideas of recipes to try and tell you the amazing historical stories of how Christmas was celebrated in the Anglo-Saxon era and in the trenches of the First World War!



Finlay Community School

ASPIRE

BELONG

ACHIEVE



AN ANGLO SAXON CHRISTMAS

This page will tell you about what an Anglo Saxon Christmas would be like (if you had a time machine!)

Why is it celebrated on the 25th December?

The precise date of Christ's birth was decided as 25th December by Pope Julius in the fourth century, long before the Anglo Saxon invasion. The original Anglo Saxons invaders were not Christians and believed in many gods: they were pagans. When Christianity began to grow popularity in Britain, Christmas began to be celebrated on the 25th December.

Yuletide

On 25th December, the Anglo Saxons celebrated a mid-winter festival known as Yuletide and they were visited by the Yule Father. They had feasts, told stories and drank around a large fire. They would also sacrifice animals as part of a ritual.

Cristesmæsse

The word is Anglo Saxon and was first recorded in 1038– Cristesmæsse. The English people became accustomed to going to church on Christmas Day to pray and give alms over the twelve days of Christmas.



THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE

OF 1914

Late on Christmas Eve 1914, men of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) heard German troops in the trenches opposite them singing carols and patriotic songs and saw lanterns and small fir trees along their trenches. Messages began to be shouted between the trenches.

The following day, British and German soldiers met in No Man's Land and exchanged gifts, took photographs and some played impromptu games of football. They also buried casualties and repaired trenches and dugouts. After Boxing Day, meetings in No Man's Land dwindled out.

The truce was not observed everywhere along the Western Front. Elsewhere, the fighting continued and casualties did occur on Christmas Day. Some of the troops were unhappy at the truce and worried that it would undermine fighting spirit.



THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE

OF 1914

After 1914, the High Commands on both sides tried to prevent any truces on a similar scale happening again. Despite this, there were some isolated incidents of soldiers holding brief truces later in the war, and not only at Christmas.



In what was known as the 'Live and Let Live' system, in quiet sectors of the front line, brief pauses in the hostilities were sometimes tacitly agreed, allowing both sides to repair their trenches or gather their dead.

This true piece of history has captivated millions of football players and historians, so much so there have been films and books written about it.



WINTER SPORTS

There are lots of interesting sports which are played on ice or snow. We have shown you some of our favourite wintery sports which are competitively played in the Winter Olympics.

Skeleton: plummeting head first down a steep and treacherous ice track, it is considered the world's first sliding sport. There have been descriptions of the sport as far back as the 16th Century!



Ice Hockey: a fast, fluid and

exciting team sport featuring two teams of six players. It is extremely popular in Canada as it was invented there by two university students in 1879 and it is still Canada's national sport today! You can play it at most permanent ice skating rinks in the UK.



Snowboarding: developed in the United States in the 1960s as people across the country began to seek out new winter activities. It is similar to surfing and skateboarding, so lots of people could join in. It first joined the Olympics in 1998.



Luge: riders hurtle down a slippery ice track on their backs on a tiny sled with their feet stretched out in front of them, reaching crazy speeds, without brakes! Would you be brave enough to try it?



Written by Fletcher.

Pickle in the Tree | Germany



What is the Christmas Pickle?

The Christmas tree tradition embraced around the world today is believed to have started in Germany back in the 16th Century, so it comes as no surprise that our continental cousins still have some unique customs relating to the festive conifers. One of these is to hide a pickle somewhere within the branches of the tree, and give a gift to whichever child in the household finds it.

Is it even German?



Some claim that the tradition may not be German after all. One legend says that the Christmas pickle originated in Spain, when two young boys were held as prisoners inside a pickle barrel. The heroic Saint Nicholas rescued the boys and brought them back to life. Either way, a pickle on the Christmas tree is a tradition we can totally get behind.

Written by Ella.



Evil Santa — Austria



Who is Evil Santa?

British kids are well acquainted with Father Christmas, Santa Claus or Saint Nick, but will find something a little more sinister lurking around Austria. That's because it's here that a ghoulish creature called 'Krampus', the evil accomplice of St Nicholas, is said to wander the streets in search of badly behaved children.

What does Krampus do?

During the month of December, you can expect to see terrifying masked figures out and about scaring kids and adults alike with ghastly pranks. If this holiday tradition sounds like your kind of thing, be sure to check out the annual Krampus parade in Vienna.

Traditional Christmas Food

All over the world, people celebrate Christmas Day with a range of wonderful and special dishes. Some of them are already really popular here but you may also learn about a new dish that you'd like to try.

Polish Christmas Food

Zuzanna's family enjoy red borscht (soup) with dumplings, cabbage, herring and vegetable mayonnaise salad.

French Christmas Food

Some families in France traditionally eat goose, venison and a selection of cheeses on Christmas Day. They would follow this with "Buche de Noel," which is similar to a Yule Log.



These are Pigs in Blankets, which are some of Finlay Flyer's favourites.



This is Red Borscht, a Christmas favourite for Zuzanna's family.

Finlay Flyer's British Christmas Dinner Favourites

Mr Rickett's favourite part of Christmas dinner is Pigs in Blankets.

Daniel's favourites are roast turkey and Brussels sprouts.

Oliver's favourites are stuffing and roast turkey.

Mr Delaney always has loads of bacon and Brussels sprouts!

Miss Hill loves mince pies with brandy butter!

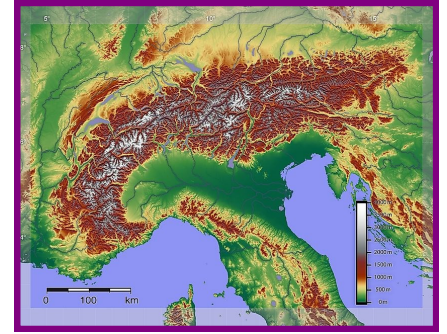
Mrs Smith's favourites are bread sauce, stuffing and Christmas pudding.

Let us know what your favourite parts of Christmas dinner are!

Written by Zuzanna.

AROUND THE WORLD WITH ALFRED:

THE ALPS



Around the World with Alfred is our regular segment where our journalist Alfred showcases an area of our amazing planet with everyone. This edition focuses on the Alps, as it is a popular Christmas destination!

The majestic Alps are the most extensive and highest mountain range purely in Europe, stretching 1200km from France in the east to Slovenia in the west. They pass through eight countries: France, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Slovenia and Italy. Have you been to any of them?

What to do in the Alps?

Hiking and skiing are very popular in the Alps due to the height, snow and gorgeous views. There are many other activities in the alps, which include; paragliding, travelling by mountain railways, biking, and rock climbing.



Quick facts

HIGHEST PEAK: 4804m (MONT. BLANC, FRANCE)

LOWEST PEAK: 1064m (PFANDER, AUSTRIA)

LONGEST RIVER: 1232km (R. RHINE)

WORD ORIGIN: ALBUS (LATIN FOR WHITE)

The Bear and the Hare

Once upon a time, a bear and a hare were walking along together in the forest. It was snowing and a snowflake landed on the bear's nose. The bear started to yawn, it was time to hibernate. The Hare put his ears down because he was sad that his friend would go to sleep for the winter and miss Christmas!



All the animals gathered together to decorate the huge Christmas tree in the centre of the forest. They decorated it with tangerines and acorns. It was absolutely amazing. It looked stunning. Hare realised his friend Bear would miss Christmas and not get any presents.

Hare crossed the icy, snowy bridge to give Bear a surprise present. He carried it carefully and left it outside the cave.

When it was Christmas Day, the present rang loudly and woke the hibernating bear up! It was a very loud, grey, metal alarm clock. Bear woke up yawning and stretching. He could hear his animal friends talking and laughing so he went to see what was happening. That was when he saw the gigantic, magnificent, huge tree. Bear was happy and astonished, he had never seen such a beautiful tree! Bear hugged Hare. Bear won't miss Christmas ever again!



Written by the members of the Key
Stage One Writing Club: Dawson,
Camilla, Jenna, George, Averie, Henry
and Amanda.

Christmas Crafts!



Santa Bookmark!

You will need a lolly pop stick, some cotton wool, a thin paintbrush and a selection of paint colours.

Firstly, you need to paint the lolly pop stick red (like Santa's coat). After that, paint the top third pink (for Santa's skin) and a thin black stripe through the middle of the stick (for Santa's belt).

Stick a small blob of cotton wool on the bottom of his face. It should stick because of the wet paint and let everything dry.

Next, twist a red pipe cleaner around the top for the hat.

Finally, draw on the final details, like his eyes, buttons and smiles!

Snowman Paper Plate!

To make a snowman paper plate, you will need a paper plate, paint brush, black paint, scissors, glue and orange and black paper.

First, you must grab your paper plate and start to paint the black pebbles to make the eyes and smiley mouth.

Then, cut a hat shape out of black paper and stick it to the top of the paper plate.

Afterwards, cut out a triangle of orange paper and glue it onto the middle of the plate in between the eyes and the mouth.



Written by Oliver D.

Written by Oliver M.

All I Want is Christmas (Music!)

From traditional Christmas carols to classic Christmas pop music, this time of year would not be the same without music.

Finlay Flyer's Favourite Christmas Tunes

'Jingle Bells' - Oliver D and Lola

'Last Christmas' - Zuzanna and Blake

'Snowman' - Ella

'Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer' - Miss Hill

What is your favourite?

TOP 10 MOST STREAMED CHRISTMAS SONGS IN THE UK

'All I Want For Christmas Is You' by Mariah Carey

'Last Christmas' by Wham!

'Fairytale of New York' by The Progues featuring Kirsty MacColl

'Merry Christmas Everyone!' by Shakin' Stevens

'Do They Know It's Christmas?' by Band Aid

'It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like...' by Michael Buble

'Step Into Christmas' by Elton John

'Santa Tell Me' by Ariana Grande

'I Wish It Could Be Christmas Everyday' by Wizzard

'Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree' by Brenda Lee

Scratch Corner!

Daniel has designed some Christmas games for you to play. Check them out on the Finlay Flyer Scratch Account. Just follow the link below:

<https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/940278006/>

Excitingly, there are three games to choose from or play them all!

Game 1: Snowman Dress-up

How will you choose to dress-up your snowman?!

Game 2: Sticker Book

Use the stickers provided to create a cool image!

Game 3: Tell Santa what you want for Christmas.

Type what you would like!



Christmas mince pies!

Remember to get an adult to help you to make these delicious mince pies!



STEP 1

For the pastry, tip the flour, spices and butter into a large bowl with a large pinch of salt. Rub together with your fingertips until the mix resembles fine breadcrumbs. Stir in the sugar. Add the egg and use a cutlery knife to mix everything until the ingredients start to clump together. Tip out onto a lightly floured work surface and knead briefly until you have a smooth dough. Or, pulse the ingredients together in a food processor. Shape into a disc, then wrap and chill for at least 30 minutes. Will keep chilled for a day or frozen for three months.

STEP 2

Heat the oven to 190C/170C fan/gas mark 5. Mix the mincemeat with the ginger and syrup. Roll the pastry out on a lightly floured surface to a 3mm thickness. Stamp out 12 circles using an 8cm biscuit cutter and lightly press into a 12-hole cupcake tin.

Ingredients

- 400g mincemeat
- 50g stem ginger, chopped, plus 1 tbsp ginger syrup from the jar
- 250g plain flour, plus extra for dusting
- ¼ tsp ground cinnamon
- ½ tsp ground ginger
- 125g cold unsalted butter, cut into small pieces
- 3 tbsp golden caster sugar, plus extra for sprinkling
- 1 egg, beaten

You'll also need:

- 8cm round biscuit cutter
- mini gingerbread person biscuit cutter

STEP 3

Fill each pastry case with 1 tbsp of the mincemeat mixture. Re-roll the pastry scraps and stamp out 12 mini gingerbread people, then place one on top of each pie.

STEP 4

Bake for 20 mins, or 30 mins from frozen. Leave to cool in the tin for 5 mins, then lift out onto a wire rack to cool completely. Dust with icing sugar. Will keep in an airtight container for up to four days or frozen for up to two months.

Christmas Wordsearch

The Key Stage One Writing Club created a wonderful wordsearch for us all to enjoy! Can you spot them all?

Celebration	Present
Reindeer	Bauble
Shepherd	Stable
Wisemen	Sleigh
Donkey	Carol
Tinsel	Snowflake
Angel	Stocking
Baby	Pudding
Christmas	Manger
December	Turkey
Star	Santa
Tree	

s j d y b l l u b o i s b s z u v c t z
l x d e c e m b e r p s t u w i z p l u
e s s b a u b l e h i v t o y u j d k c
i n d v i w g k m p y j v a c s t a r s
g p s x t i f c y c p n p s b k k r t a
h o t g g n b w r e i s g b h l i g z n
y g r v g d a i w l x h p r e s e n t t
r b h l l f b s m e n e f t m h b d g a
j e a j s m y e a b m p m i a z m x s t
k j i p j z z m r r v h o n p b u t n z
m h v n l u l e n a k e u s d o n k e y
b n l b d h s n q t a r x e m t z n x d
f m a n g e r p j i h d d l s a r n w j
v i z i r u e a q o m q w i g t g e n c
s t d j j v d r h n t a i c a g d b e q
t u n z v s n o w f l a k e w f l w a s
i s t u r k e y f y s s e j a n g e l a
v n s p t n c h r i s t m a s h t r q n
n c c b u q c w w t o m x s b d s q d t
e p u d d i n g c a r o l o a a e x v a

Christmas Jokes!

What is an elf's favourite type of music? Wrap Music!

Why was Santa angry at one of his reindeer? Because he was Rude-olph!

What do snowmen eat for breakfast? Snowflakes!

Why does Santa go down the chimney? Because it soots him!



From all of us at the Finlay Flyer, we wish you the merriest of
Christmases and a very Happy New Year!