

# Christmas Reading Newsletter



Welcome to the Christmas Reading Newsletter. The excitement has been building in school for the festive season, from our new Advent Book Tree, sharing Christmas class reading books and a very successful book fair, our ethos of Coppice Academy being a Reading School has been in full force.

As we move towards the start of the National Year of Reading we are also turning our focus to our wider school community's reading habits. We will be sending out a survey in January and we need as many of you as possible to let us know about your reading preferences and habits. There will also be a survey carried out in school so that we have a really clear understanding of reading trends across the whole school community and discovering areas we can focus on developing in 2026. This issue is packed with lots of ideas for new festive reads and lots of competitions to enter. As always, we have our recommended reads and Christmas themed puzzle pages.

Wishing you a fantastic, fun-filled Christmas break, with lots of time to snuggle up with a good book!

THE  
READING  
AGENCY

Winter Mini Challenge

## Story Garden



### Are you ready for a Reading Challenge?

The Reading Agency have created a Winter Reading Challenge that runs from 1<sup>st</sup> December until 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026. It allows you to log your reading and share your views about the fantastic books you have read and enjoyed.

We are hoping lots of you will get involved, especially as we will be awarding certificates and prizes to every pupil that brings in their certificate of completion.

#### How it works

Welcome to the Winter Mini Challenge - an online reading challenge you can join from 1 December 2025 to 20 February 2026! Are you ready to take it on?



#### 1. Sign up

Click 'Join now' to create your account.



#### 2. Read books

Read 3 books or more! When you finish a book, add it to your profile and leave a review



#### 3. Earn digital rewards

Unlock rewards including a new online badge and a certificate when you complete the Challenge!

## Top 3 Reading Classes in Autumn 2 are:

**1<sup>st</sup> Place – 5W**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place – 6D**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place – 6S**



# Little Wandle..

Using the Little Wandle Books with your child at home is incredibly important to ensure that your child makes the best progress possible.

However, we know it can be challenging to know what to do to support your child and so that is why there is a specific "For Parents" area on the Little Wandle website. Check it out for more information.

<https://www.littlewandle.org.uk/resources/for-parents/and-sounds>



We're teaching every child to read with Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised  
A complete SSP validated by the Department for Education



literature, we have a book club through Love Reading.

If you would like to buy books for your child and support us here at Coppice Academy, while doing so, we would greatly appreciate your contribution.

When you make your purchase on the site, please select Coppice Academy as your chosen school.

A reminder that as part of ensuring our school remains up to date with best of children's

Gift Extra this

# Christmas

with LoveReading4Kids

A massive "Thank you" to everyone who came to our Scholastic Book Fair, not only did you get to take home some fantastic books to enjoy reading but you helped us to add over £200 of books to our school library.

FREE books for your school when you buy at the Book Fair!

SCHOLASTIC TRAVELLING BOOKS

# COME to the BOOK FAIR

A pop-up book-store with hundreds of books from just £2.99



# Library Updates...

Our library has been added to yet again with books from our book fair and generous donations from many of you. We really do appreciate every book that we can add to our reading stock! During the upcoming year we will be focusing on adding new non-fiction books to our collection to enable us to promote reading on a wide range of books about the world we live in.

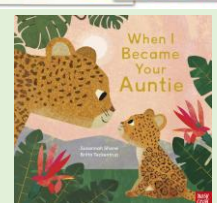
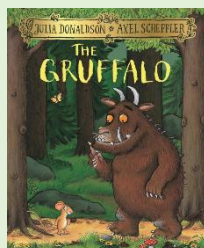
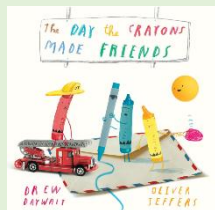
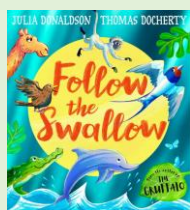


*Remember when you are having a clear out of books that your children may have outgrown or are simply making room for new favourites, we would be very appreciative of any, pre-loved but still in good condition, books that you would be willing to donate to us.*



We have been really pleased with the response to the opening of our Community Reading Library for parents and the wider school community. It is located at the front of the school building (next to the gate onto the playground). The sign for the community box that matches the main school library will go up early in the new year (production had to pause whilst our Advent Book Tree was under construction!) Any donations for the library would be much appreciated. So, if you have books you have read that you would be willing to donate, or swap for a new read, please drop them into reception or pop them into the box.

The development of our new library space in school for our younger learners is going really well and will be completed in the Spring Term during the Spring Term. We can't wait for everyone to be able to see the finished space and enjoy reading there. It will also be fantastic to be able to focus on books for younger audiences. Any book recommendations and donations of preloved books for younger readers would also be welcomed with gratitude.



## Advent Book Tree

This years Christmas themed book event has been a massive success and created a real buzz around school! Welcome to our new Advent Book Tree.

Each morning in assembly, during December saw us spin the wheel of names and select a child to win that days Advent, Christmas themed, book. All the children all got involved producing a drum roll as the wheel is spun, before we announced the winner and asked them to come up to the front to find their book on the Advent Tree.

It will most definitely be back again next year! We really hope the winners enjoy reading, or having their book read to them, over the Christmas break, hopefully with a nice hot chocolate and a mince pie or something else festive to nibble.



**GO  
ALL  
IN.**

National  
Year of  
Reading  
2026

# National Year of Reading 2026

National  
Literacy  
Trust

Change your story

## The aim for 2026: Help us shift the focus on reading

In 2026, the government and all its campaign ambassadors are inviting the nation to **Go All In** and discover how reading in all its forms can unlock more of what we love. Together, we'll re-engage one of the most powerful tools for equity and opportunity: a lifelong love of reading.

We will be engaging new audiences in reading, encouraging reading for pleasure and changing, not just school children, but the entire nation's reading culture now and for all future generations.

Reading is central to the Government's Plan for Change: it supports success in school, work and in life, boosts wellbeing, brings people together and expands our knowledge about the world.

In a fast-moving, AI-powered world, the campaign will reimagine what reading means, making it modern, meaningful, and relevant.

Reading unlocks potential, boosts wellbeing, builds skills, and brings us together.

There will be a wide range of events to engage and promote reading for pleasure in the Spring Term. Starting with the launch of the new

## "Coppice 100 Bookworm Challenge"



We also want to promote reading for the whole of our Coppice Community. We will be hosting some Book Club events for our wider community members and looking to set up shared reading events for you, and your child, to explore some new books and enjoy reading together. More information will be sent with all the details nearer the time but it will definitely be an event to remember.



**COPPICE  
ACADEMY**  
WE ARE A  
**READING SCHOOL**



We are planning on **World Book Day** being an extra special event, as part of our year of celebrating reading for pleasure. Keep an eye out for more information on that nearer the time!

We will be keeping you all updated throughout the year, and will give you lots of opportunities to learn more about how we develop, support our readers and how you can help your child to be the best reader they can. Make sure to check out the Home Reading pages in this newsletter, where we provide you with questions stems, based on each of the key areas of reading, so you can encourage book talk and deeper understanding of the books your child is reading.



***"Reading not only shapes a child's educational journey and future career prospects – it also has a profound impact on their mental wellbeing, building confidence, self-esteem, and a sense of connection to the world around them."***

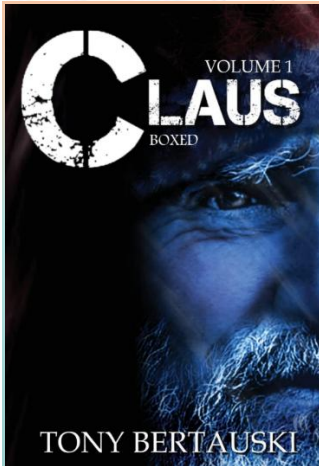
# What Should I Read Next?



## Reading Genre Focus



This reading newsletter we are diving into all things festive. So if you're fond of stories that need hot cocoa and a cookie or two, tucked up somewhere cosy – these reads are for you! However, if adventures with a Christmas twist is more your thing we have something to get your pulse rising to!



The holiday stories you never heard...

In the early 1800s, Nicholas Santa discovered an ancient race of elven. Short, fat and hairy, they have lived peacefully on the North Pole since the Ice Age but Nicholas is quickly swept into the colony's first and only fracture. The elven known as the Cold One has divided his people. His name is Jack. And Jack's tired of hiding. Why should they live in a shrinking ice cap when humans occupy the rest of the world? It's just not fair.

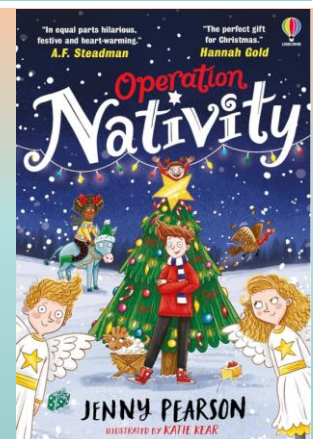
There's no stopping Jack from world domination until Nicholas Santa, the only human to enter the elven colony, joins helium-bladder reindeer, artificially-intelligent snowmen, and a merry band of big-footed elven to bring peace back to the North Pole. And becomes a legend.

When Oscar and Molly rush outside to investigate a crash in the night, they're not expecting to find a dazed Angel Gabriel wandering around their grandparents' back garden. And they're certainly not expecting to find themselves in a race to save Christmas.

But if they don't track down a missing shepherd, wise man, donkey and the actual Mary and Joseph, who've all crash-landed in Chipping Bottom, not only will Christmas cease to exist, but they will too. Operation Nativity is on.

Featuring fun festive activities to try with your family!

Winner of the Laugh Out Loud Book Award and shortlisted in the Waterstones Children's Book Prize, Branford Boase Award.



Discover the Magic of Christmas with the Hollyville Sleuths!

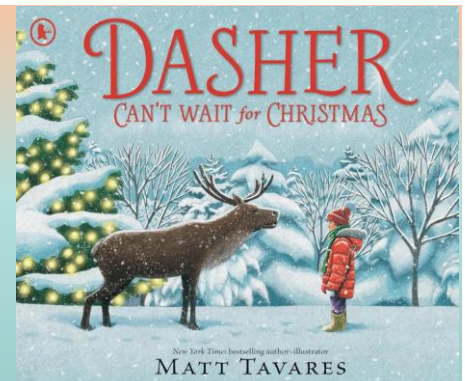
Welcome to Hollyville, a charming little town where Christmas magic comes to life and mysteries await at every corner! Cookies, Cocoa, and Christmas Mysteries is a delightful collection of Christmas chapter books for kids 8-12 old, perfect for young readers who love festive adventures, clever characters, and heartwarming stories.

In this captivating holiday series, join best friends Ellie, Max, and Ruby—the Hollyville Sleuths—as they dive into a world of Christmas capers. From solving the mystery of vanishing cookies at the annual swap to uncovering the truth about magical reindeer tracks, every chapter is filled with laughter, surprises, and a sprinkle of holiday wonder.

In Dasher's excitement for the approaching Christmas season, she takes a quick flight in search of festive cheer – she just couldn't wait. But when Dasher gets lost and is unable to use the North Star as a guide home, she meets a young child whose kindness and a gift helps her find her way back to the North Pole just in time for Christmas Eve.

"This story of dreams, wishes and empathy — paired with gorgeous artwork — bursts with emotion and the magic of Christmas."

"Dasher is sure to join the stacks of enduring Christmas favorites read by families, year after year."



# Other festive books to...



...explore and enjoy!

## Home Reading Reminder...

Just a quick reminder that in order to maximise the impact our reading curriculum has on your child's progress. **We ask that:**

- **You listen to your child read each evening and sign their planner.** Each day in school your child will get up to 2 ticks – one for having their planner and the other for it being signed to prove they have read. If they manage this at least 3 times a week, they are in with a chance of winning Reading Champion – where they are gifted a book, to keep and enjoy, from our fantastic vending machine!
- **You ensure your child has their home reading book in school every day,** along with their planner, to enable us to ensure that they are being suitably challenged and supported in their reading progress.



**Note:** *If your child has finished their Home Reading Book or has accidentally left it at school, please do still hear them read a book of their, or your, choice and still note it in their planner so that teachers can gain an insight into book tastes and interests across the class and school.*



**BIG CAT**

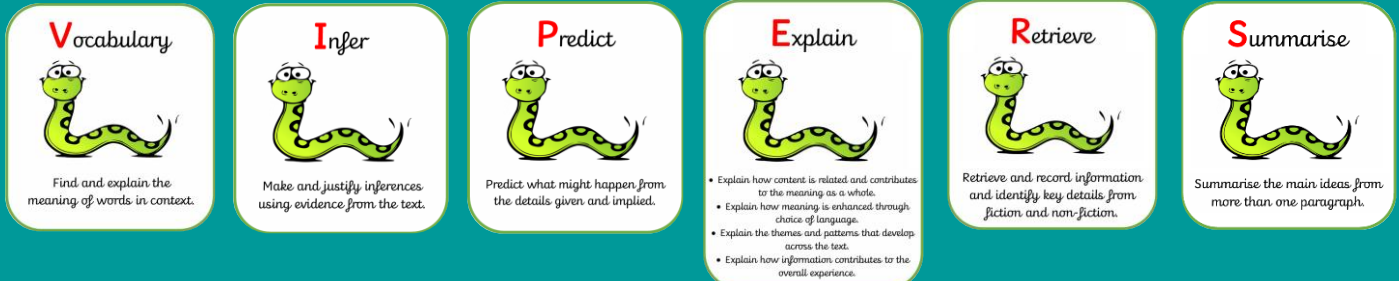


Home Reading support places a vital role in helping consolidate the learning that goes on in school and so we want to support and enable you to have meaningful conversations with your child about what they have read. This embeds and extends vocabulary and comprehension skills that will be essential for their education and later in life.

# What are VIPERS?

VIPERS is an acronym to aid the recall of the 6 reading domains as part of the UK's reading curriculum. They are the key areas which we feel children need to know and understand in order to improve their comprehension of texts.

VIPERS stands for:



The 6 domains focus on the comprehension aspect of reading and not the mechanics: decoding, fluency, prosody etc. As such, VIPERS is not a reading scheme but rather a method of ensuring that teachers ask, and pupils are familiar with, a wide range of questions and questions types. They allow your child's teacher to track the type of questions asked and their responses to these which allows for appropriate and specific targeted questioning to further understanding about a range of texts.

Below you will find some example question stems for each VIPERS area. You can use these to discuss what your child is reading and to help you understand, based on their answers, what areas they need to explore in more depth, in order to keep progressing their skills.

## Vocabulary

### Example Question Stems:

- What do the words ..... and ..... suggest about the character, setting and mood?
- Which word tells you that....?
- Which keyword tells you about the character/setting/mood?
- Find one word in the text which means...
- Find and highlight the word that is closest in meaning to...
- Find a word or phrase which shows/suggests that...

## Infer

### Example Question Stems:

- Find and copy a group of words which show that...
- How do these words make the reader feel? How does this paragraph suggest this?
- How do the descriptions of ..... show that they are ...
- How can you tell that.....
- What impression of ..... do you get from these paragraphs?
- What voice might these characters' use?
- What was .... thinking when...
- Who is telling the story?

## Predict

### Example Question Stems:

- From the cover what do you think this text is going to be about?
- What is happening now? What happened before this? What will happen after?
- What does this paragraph suggest will happen next? What makes you think this?
- Do you think the choice of setting will influence how the plot develops?
- Do you think... will happen? Yes, no or maybe? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.

## Explain

### Example Question Stems:

- Why is the text arranged in this way?
- What structures has the author used?
- What is the purpose of this text feature?
- Is the use of ..... effective?
- The mood of the character changes throughout the text. Find and copy the phrases which show this.
- What is the author's point of view?
- What affect does ..... have on the audience?
- How does the author engage the reader here?
- Which words and phrases did ..... effectively?
- Which section was the most interesting/exciting part?
- How are these sections linked?

## Retrieve

### Example Question Stems:

- How would you describe this story/text? What genre is it? How do you know?
- How did...?
- How often...?
- Who had...? Who is...? Who did...?
- What happened to...?
- What does.... do?
- How ..... is .....
- What can you learn from .....from this section?
- Give one example of.....
- The story is told from whose perspective?

## Summarise

### Example Question Stems:

- Can you number these events 1-5 in the order that they happened?
- What happened after .....
- What was the first thing that happened in the story?
- Can you summarise in a sentence the opening/middle/end of the story?
- In what order do these chapter headings come in the story?



Improves  
Language  
Skills



Boosts  
Concentration  
and Focus



Encourages  
Creativity and  
Imagination



Builds  
Empathy

# Reading at Home... The Key to Your Child's Success

## Tips for helping your child choose a book

- Take time to browse
- Find a front cover that grabs their attention
- Does the blurb on the back or inside the cover make them want to read on?
- Read a few pages together. Do they want to carry on?

Encourage your child to seek book recommendations from family, friends, teachers, librarians and make recommendations if they find a book their friend might like!

***Remember*** it's ok to change the book if it isn't the right book.

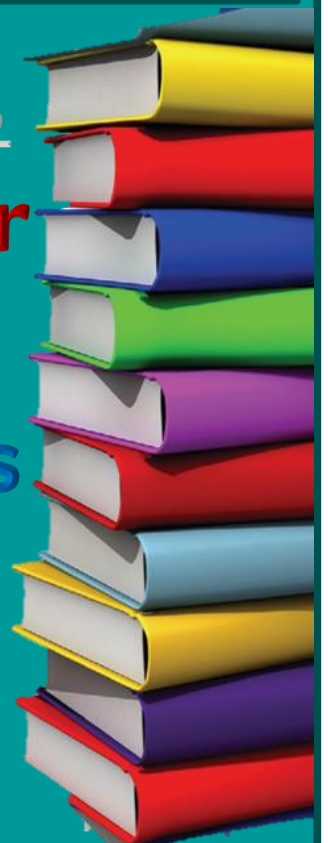
## Top Tips...

**Read together  
daily**

**Ask questions**

**Visit the library**

**Be a reading role model**



# National Book Token Competition and Give Away...

NATIONAL  
**BOOK**  
tokens

## Play the Hidden Books Game

Guess all 20 books depicted in our cosy scene and you could win a £500/€500 National Book Token. See [How to play](#) for hints and tips!



CLICK ON THE PICTURE TO SELECT A CLUE

What book is this?

Save

0/20

Guess

Ask a friend

Save your progress and win National Book Tokens to spend in your favourite bookshop!

This first competition is for the adults of the family. It's an online book themed quiz with a £500 Book Token as a prize! Why not have a go and see if your book knowledge can bag you a voucher to spend on some new exciting reads yourself and your younger readers!

[https://hiddenbooks.nationalbooktokens.com/?competition=22&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=nbt&utm\\_campaign=20251212-hbg&utm\\_content=play-game#](https://hiddenbooks.nationalbooktokens.com/?competition=22&utm_medium=email&utm_source=nbt&utm_campaign=20251212-hbg&utm_content=play-game#)

**Sprouts!** A fantastic, futuristic and fun-filled adventure where Christmas has snowballed and is celebrated every day!

In the year 4024, Christmas is everywhere. Santa Claus rules the world and the Big Day happens EVERY DAY! Not everyone gets to celebrate 24/7 though. Gryla Garland is a witch banished to the Mince Pie Isles, where Christmas comes but once a year. All she's ever wished for is to join the festive world.

But when Santa's daughter, Merrilee Claus, comes crashing into her life, Gryla realises Christmas every day might not be such a good thing after all. With the real magic of Christmas long forgotten, it's up to Gryla, Merrilee and a lot of sprouts, to bring the magic back.

**This December, National Book Tokens are giving you the chance to win a signed copy of Sibéal Pounder's festive hits *Sprouts* and *Tinsel*, plus an M&S Christmas Sweet Selection Letterbox Gift Box. This includes a pack of Jolly Jellies, Cinnamon Bun Bites, Gold Chocolate Coins, Percy Pig Merry Percymas, and Colin and Connie Caterpillar Christmas Time. What a treat!**

**Entries for this competition close on 08/01/2026.**



Regular readers achieve up to 30% better results than non-readers.

Children who read for at least 20 minutes a day are exposed to 1.8 million words a year.



Reading for pleasure promotes positive mental health.

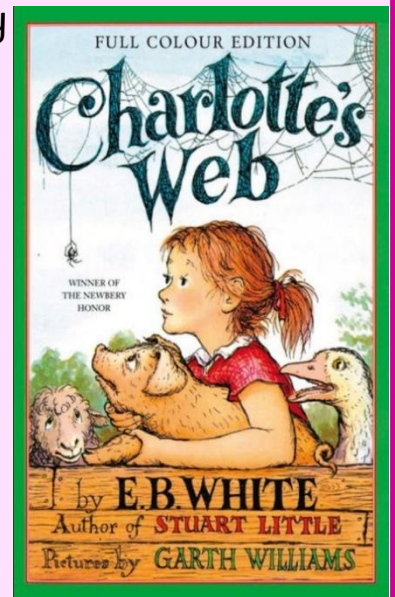
Regular reading can increase children's attention span by up to 5 times.



## Our recommendation comes from Miss Cooper...

The book I would recommend is "Charlotte's Web" because it shows that friendships can be built between anybody you don't have to be exactly the same as somebody else to find a good friend in them. It also encourages us to feel wonder, awe and the magic of everyday life.

I would recommend this to any young reader and give it 4 out of 5 stars!



## Book Traditions Around the World...

Imagine this: It's Christmas Eve and after receiving a brand-new book from your family, you cosy up in your favourite reading nook, the tree twinkling with light, candles flickering or maybe in front of a roaring fire with hot chocolate and the you spend the rest of the evening reading.

That's exactly how Icelandic people celebrate Christmas each year. This tradition is known as *Jolabokaflo*, which translates roughly to "Christmas book flood" in English.



### Luxury Hot Chocolate

#### Ingredients

- 50ml double cream
- 150ml whole milk
- 50g chopped milk chocolate
- 25g chopped dark chocolate
- Mini white chocolate buttons and marshmallows to decorate

#### Method

1. Whip the double cream until it holds its shape then set aside until needed.
2. Put the milk in a small saucepan and heat gently until simmering. Add the milk chocolate and dark chocolate, then stir until melted.
3. Pour into a mug and top with a dollop of the whipped double cream and scatter over a few mini white chocolate buttons and/or marshmallows to decorate.



*Jolabokaflo* started during World War II, when paper was one of the few things not rationed in Iceland. Because of this, Icelanders gave books as gifts while other gift items were in short supply, turning them into a country of bookaholics to this day.

So, why not try out this as a new tradition this year. There's a very decadent hot chocolate recipe included so you can add a luxury feel to your own family "Christmas Book Flood!"

# Christmas Puzzles













**Spot the Difference** - Try and find all 10

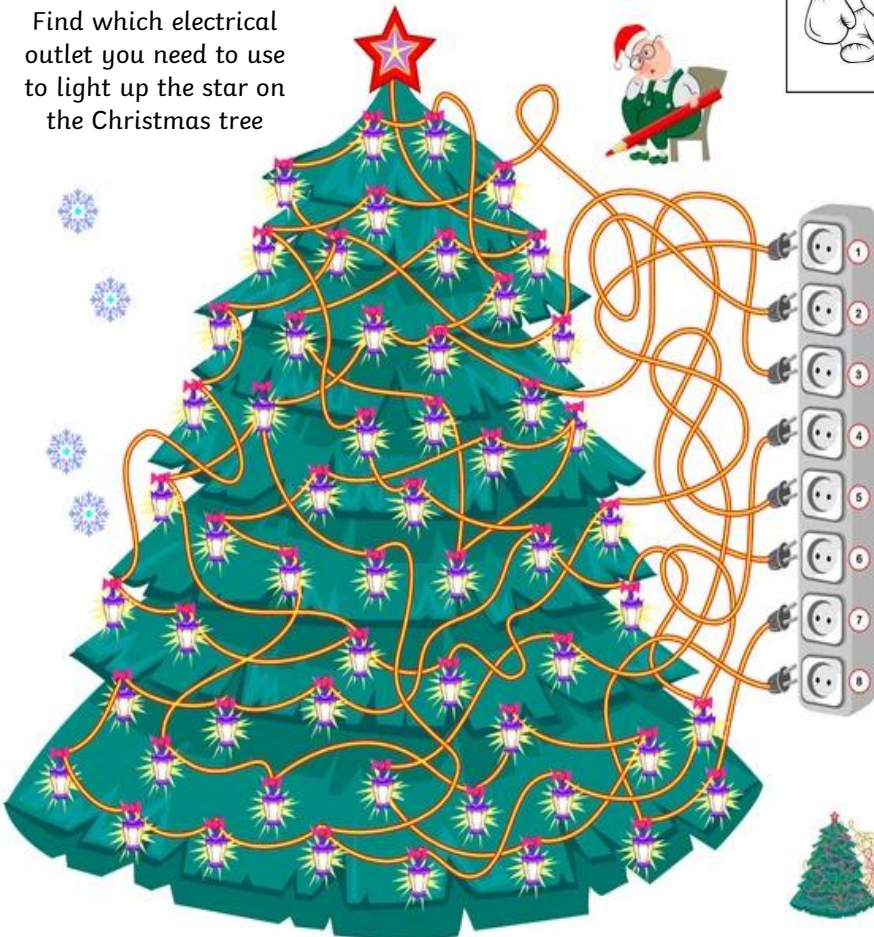


Who doesn't love a good puzzle! So here are some festive themed puzzles for you to have a go at!

## Christmas Dingbats

1 	2 	3 
4 HUMBUG HUMBUG 	5 Speedy Hooper Struts Harpy Meteorite Amor Thunder Lightning Raoul	6 
7 	8 	9 AU MyFrankincenserrh
10 	11 	12 

Find which electrical outlet you need to use to light up the star on the Christmas tree



Uncle David, who lived a long way away, sent his 3 nephews and 2 nieces £20 for Christmas, to be divided equally between them.

The boys hadn't bought their sisters any presents yet, so they decided to give half their share of Uncle David's gift to be equally divided by the girls.

How much did each sister receive altogether?



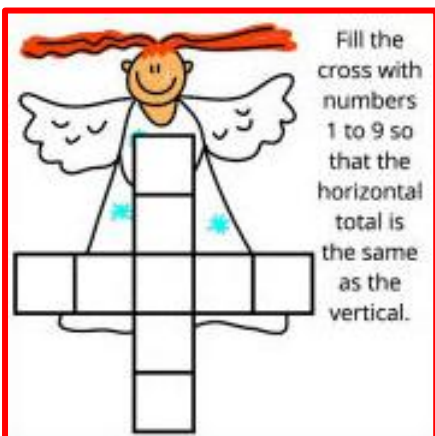


Can you find the route through the bauble maze to reach the present in the centre?

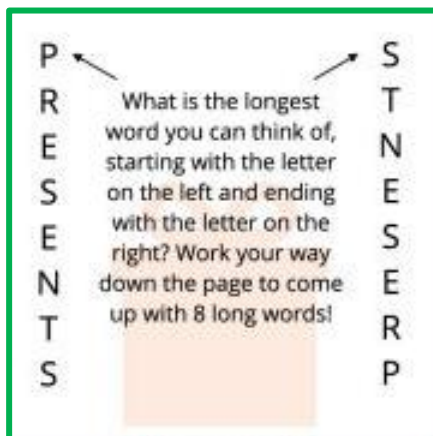


### Christmas Brainteasers

1. What do you call a toy train loaded with toffee?
2. What sort of wave only comes along at Christmas?
3. What do you call an obnoxious reindeer?
4. What do you call Santa when he stops moving?
5. What is Tarzan's favourite Christmas song?
6. What is Santa's favourite garden tool?
7. What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?
8. What type of photos do elves take?
9. What do you like to call a reindeer that likes to frighten people?
10. What athlete is the warmest in the winter?
11. What do you get if you cross a boiled sweet with a sheep?
12. What do you lift a frozen car with to change a tyre?
13. What do Santa's little helpers learn at school?
14. What does a reindeer hang on its Christmas tree?



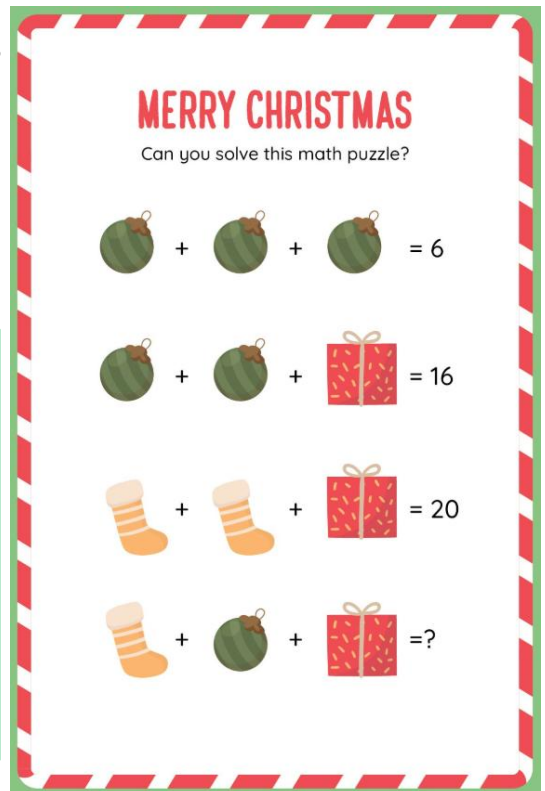
Fill the cross with numbers 1 to 9 so that the horizontal total is the same as the vertical.



P  
R  
E  
S  
E  
N  
T  
S

What is the longest word you can think of, starting with the letter on the left and ending with the letter on the right? Work your way down the page to come up with 8 long words!

S  
T  
N  
E  
S  
E  
R  
P



### MERRY CHRISTMAS

Can you solve this math puzzle?

$$3 \text{ gifts} + 3 \text{ gifts} = 6$$

$$2 \text{ gifts} + 1 \text{ gift} = 16$$

$$2 \text{ socks} + 1 \text{ gift} = 20$$

$$1 \text{ sock} + 1 \text{ gift} = ?$$

### Christmas Tongue Twisters

- Seven Santas sang silly songs.
- Tiny Timmy trims the tall tree with tinsel.
- Santa's sleigh slides on slick snow.
- Bobby brings bright bells.
- How many deer would a reindeer reign if a reindeer could reign deer?
- Running reindeer romp 'round red wreaths.



**Brainteaser Answers**  
 1. A chew-chew train 2. A Yule-tide 3. Rudolph 4. Santa Pause 5. Jungle Bells 6. A Hoi Hoi 7. Frostbite 8. Elfies 9. A carboo 10. A long jumper 11. A Bath 12. A Jack Frost 13. The Elf-abet 14. Horn-aments  
**Christmas Dingbats 1 Answers**  
 1. North Pole 2. Elf of the Shelf 3. Secret Santa 4. Mince Pies 5. Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen 6. Candy Cane 7. Jack Frost 8. Panto 9. Gold, Frankinsense and Myrrh 10. Boxing Day 11. Noel 12. Snowglobe