



Welcome!

Welcome to the first edition of SPS News – a newspaper by pupils, for pupils. Back in October, all of our current Year 5 and Year 6 pupils were invited to apply to join the School Newspaper. After a written application, a team of fantastic, creative writers were appointed by Mrs O'Brian and Mrs Dillingham.

Every team member has contributed to the first issue, and we are very proud to present it to you here. We hope you enjoy it!

From Mrs O'Brian and Mrs Dillingham

Meet the Team!



Honey



Ayla



Star



Tuuli



Emily



Lyra



Astrid



Freya



Soriya



Coco

The Interview

In this issue, I decided that we would interview Mrs Ridley ,who is Stoats' teaching assistant (Year 6). Here is some more interesting and fun information about her.

Mrs Ridley illustrated by
Tabby from Stoats.



What is your favourite colour?

Green

What is your favourite animal?

A dog.

Do you like working in Year 6?

Yes, I have worked here for 7 years. I love the age and interaction with the children in Year 6.

If you could be a potato what type would it be?

Jacket potato, because it's my favourite.

What is your favourite subject in school or to teach?

Science and I like teaching maths.

What is your favourite sport?

Running I love the freedom, space and time to think.

Do you like geography? Why? Or why not?

I didn't like geography when I was at school because I didn't think it was important but as an adult I realise the significance.

What years have you worked in?

I worked in year 2 for 2 months and Year 6 for 7 years.

If you had one wish what would you use it for?

That's a difficult question, probably something on the lines of a cure for cancer or something like that.

And finally, what is your favourite book?

As a child, I loved Stig of the Dump by Clive King but I now, as an adult, like historical fiction.

Reported by Soriya Allen



THE HISTORY OF STEYNING



This is an article about our beautiful Steyning that brings us lots of joy and happiness. Steyning became a flourishing town due to its harbour that was located near St Andrew's Church. The port was a massive part in exploring a variety of goods. By AD 858 records show that Steyning was under the rule of the Royal House of Wessex and King Ethelwulf was buried here in the same year. King Alfred the Great's father, Ethelwulf of Wessex, dead body was transferred to Winchester but his grave slab still remains. Our lovely Steyning has been around since Anglo-Saxon times. Legend has it that St Cuthman built a church which he named after himself, however in the later days it was changed to St Andrew's.



Many famous people have lived in Steyning. Peter Carter-Ruck who was born here in 1914, Julia Donaldson who is a bestselling author, E.M Delafeild another author was born and grew up here, Sally Gunell former British athlete and gold-medal winner in 1992 Summer Olympics. Antony Webb was raised and born here; he is known as being an actor for Doctor Who (1963).

There is a charity fund named Wilson Charitable Trust. It all started when a wealthy man named Edward Wilson thought of Steyning's welfare and spent lots of money on our town. Though he died, his money and heart still lives on. Half of our running track's money was funded by his company.

The old core of Steyning has lots of historic buildings, including many of the Medieval and Tudor times. Among the historical buildings is the Old Grammar School founded in 1614 by William Holland.

"The Stonehouse prison and later a local cloth market. The site was used as the Town's Saxon Mint."

"Steyning Grammar School on Church Street was founded as a school in 1614 by William Holland."

A couple of Steyning folk were interviewed and asked 1 question. See their responses on the next page.

What is your favourite part of Steyning and why?

Me - I like the running rivers of Steyning because they are so soothing and calm to listen to.

Newspaper co worker - Bookshop because it is independent and everyone who works there is lovely.

Teacher - The sweet shop because I like all the sweets in the jars and sweets.

Steyning resident 1 - for me it would be Steyning High St, Bank Passage and the Old Courts with the Stone House opposite.

Steyning resident 2 - Church Street with the history of smugglers hiding in houses.

Parent - I like the horseshoe because it is really picturesque and nice to walk in

Year 3 Student - I like parks in Steyning because they are fun.

Anonymous child - I like the High Street because it has great cafes and parks.

Reported by Coco Webb



PERSON OF THE WEEK

Julia Donaldson



Born - September 16th 1948
Job - Author of picture books



Interview with House Captain Leonie!

Do you enjoy your job as a house captain? And why?

Yes! And I get to announce the winners on the stage every term. I love spending my time with my peers.

Is it fun being a house captain?

Yes definitely, it is very enjoyable and makes me feel quite satisfied when our team wins; since we get the opportunity to wear our own clothes from home and express our creativity.

Is it hard for you to count all of the tokens?

It takes a lot of experience to finally get used to the tons of house points that our fellow students have earnt, but after a while you will get used to it and enjoy the job that you are currently doing. Especially when there are more tokens at the end of term because everyone is very determined to win!

Why did you apply for the role?

Because I am extremely passionate about my house team and love sports day.

What is the most satisfying part of being a house captain?

I obviously love winning! And pouring the amount of house tokens into the very large tubes.

Why is your house team important to you?

Because I have been in it since reception and it means a lot to me personally.



Reported by Honey



THE AURORA BOREALIS



Also known as the Northern Lights, the Aurora Borealis lights up the sky over the North Pole. The name originates from the Roman goddess of dawn (Aurora) and the Greek term for the north wind (Boreas), hence the name Aurora Borealis. The Aurora Borealis is a natural occurrence caused by particles from the sun mixing gases in the Earth's atmosphere to form beautiful colours. The most common colours for Northern Lights are pink, green, red, yellow, blue, orange and white. The best place to spot the Aurora Borealis is the Northern countries including Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Finland, which lie within or near the Arctic Circle. Sometimes you can even see it in Scotland, Northern Ireland, Northern England and Wales. You will have to stay up late if you are hoping to catch a glimpse of the Northern Lights.

If you wrap up warm on a mid-winter's night and make sure to have a camera at hand from 9pm-2am (maybe don't stay up for too long!) you might catch a glimpse. If you are interested here is a link which might be useful to know when to stay up: <https://aurorawatch.lancs.ac.uk/>



Reported by Astrid

Science+Nature

ANIMAL OF THE MONTH

AMUR LEOPARD

Habitat: forests of far eastern Russia.

Diet: meats including deer, boar, and rodents.

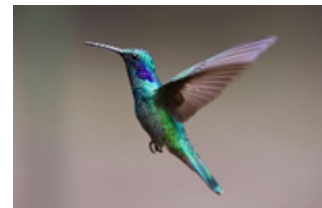
Lifespan: 10 – 15 years.

Population: Only 100 remaining in the wild!



FUNNY ANIMAL FACTS

- Hummingbirds are the only birds that can fly backwards
- Crocodiles can't stick their tongues out
- Starfish do not have a brain
- Slugs have 4 noses
- The loudest animal in the world is a mere 2cm long prawn
- Otters “hold hands” while sleeping, so they don't float away from each other
- Rats are ticklish, and they laugh when they are tickled
- Dogs and cats have unique nose prints, just like human fingerprints
- The laziest animal in the world is the koala
- A tricolour (or calico) cat is almost always female
- Cockroaches have been around for a very long time – even before the dinosaurs!
- Flying forwards and backwards – that's no problem for honeybees and bumblebees



Reported by Astrid

Story Time



Our value this half term is 'Happy'! Here is a story written by Ayla.

Once upon a time, a little girl called Ella was not happy. However hard she tried she just could not feel it. Even on her birthday she did not smile.

One Monday, Ella woke up with a yawn but not a smile. She got dressed, had breakfast, brushed her teeth and went to school. On the walk to school, a group of girls came up to Ella and started calling her names. "Miserable come over here!"

"Um...um well that's not my name" timidly replied Ella.

"Oh yes because you're so miserable I just guessed it was." snapped the main bully.

In the distance, the bell rang so the girls ran quickly to get to school.

In class, there was a new girl called Penelope who kept smiling at Ella, but Ella just looked back gloomily. The first lesson was maths then it was break time. At break, Ella sat in the corner eating an apple. Then, Penelope came over and tried to talk to Ella.

"Um so I'm Penelope and you are?" Ella didn't answer but Penelope kept trying.

"What's your name? I'm Penelope"

Ella was thinking if she should say her name. She decided that she did need a friend after the bullies were so mean to her so she plucked up the courage to say her name.

"Well... My name is Ella."

Penelope beamed with joy. "That's a nice name."

All of a sudden, the bullies from earlier came over and started calling Ella names just like before. "Miserable stand up and face me."

"That's not very kind." said Penelope. "You're being really mean. How would you like it if someone said that to you?" The other girls stopped smirking and looked sheepish. Penelope continued, "It's not fair that Ella is being made to feel sad everyday because of you. If you keep doing it I'm going to tell a teacher."

"No, no, you don't need to do that. We didn't mean it. We'll stop. Sorry Ella." and for the first time, in a long time, Ella smiled. Her world instantly became brighter and she felt lighter inside. She realised that she wasn't alone.

The moral of this story is if you see someone sad like Ella, you should stand up for them, just like Penelope did, so everyone can be happy.



By Ayla

Book Reviews

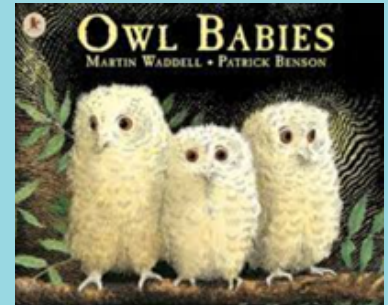


Owl Babies

by Martin Waddell



Owl Babies is a wonderful book for 4-5 year olds but lots of older readers will enjoy it too. This was the ultimate favourite story in my house when I was little. I had to have it read to me every night before bed. It has a lovely storyline about three baby owls who wake up and find their mummy gone. Sarah thinks Mummy has gone hunting, Percy really hopes she'll be back soon and Bill, the youngest, just wants his mummy. Will she ever come home? This is the perfect book for parents to read to their children at bedtime.



Santa Claude

by Alex T. Smith



This hilarious series features the intrepid (but accident-prone) dog, Claude, and his trusty sidekick Sir Bobblysock (who is a bobbly sock as his name suggests). When Claude mistakes Santa for a robber on Christmas Eve and locks him in handcuffs, disaster strikes as he can't find the key. Will Claude release Santa and help him deliver everyone's presents before the night is out? If you are in Years 1 and 2, then Santa Claude is the book for you. It is completely full of laughs and covered in beautiful pictures. A jolly, Christmassy favourite in my household.

The Caravan at the Edge of Doom

by Jim Beckett



Four exploding grandparents. Twenty four hours in the land of the dead. One EPIC adventure. When Harley's grandparents accidentally take her little brother Malcolm to the land of the dead before his time, she must go on a dangerous quest to rescue him; she must travel along the dangerous path of heroes avoiding temptation from a floating pizza whilst pushing her baby brother in a shopping trolley with her slightly too trusty, wheeler-dealer sidekick, Olly. A beautifully written story about friendship, family and heroism for ages 8-12. Harley must face some very horrible people and incredibly quirky monsters like the ultra cute beast guardian of the first task, the timid stick insect monster, Colin, and the terrifying Many-Limbed Optimugoon. This spectacular novel is full of amazingly detailed illustrations in which you can lose yourself. Will she manage to save Malcolm before eternal damnation strikes?



By Tuuli

The Big Debate

Should children be allowed to manage their own meals?

Normally parents are in charge and decide what their children eat. Alternatively, it could be argued that involving children in cooking and their diet at an early stage in their lives can help them with their future independence with food. It has been proven that cooking can reduce illnesses such as heart disease, cancer, high blood pressure, and diabetes. In this debate, we will go through the different sides of whether children should be given a chance to cook or whether the adults should handle it all. What do you think?

Yes – your opinion matters

It will help children to be more independent and express their opinion in the future. They will learn about cooking and perhaps inspire other children to start their adventures in the kitchen. Young people would learn about all of the variety of foods in the world and their many flavours and health benefits. If you want it to be an enjoyable experience for everyone, they should have a say and an opportunity to be involved and be a part of the process. In a recent survey commissioned by Barbie they found that 87 percent of parents admit it's important to learn to cook from a young age because it teaches kids to become independent in later life.

No – parents know best

Your parents should prepare your meals as they know what's healthy for you. It also would be easier and simpler if they cooked it for you as they have more experience with cooking and more advanced taste buds. As well as that, they are the ones who are paying for the food so it may just be fair that they choose what to get. Furthermore, children probably wouldn't eat anything good for them and parents might give them a varied diet that includes fruit and vegetables!



In conclusion, both sides have valid reasons. In my opinion I believe that children should be allowed to cook if they want to and that it is their decision.

Scan the QR code to vote and have your say! The results of this week's Big Debate will be published in our next issue!



Reported by Lyra



There are roughly 200 sports that have international recognition through a governing body of some sort. It is estimated that 8000 sports are played worldwide. November and December were busy months for sports with major events that have happened all over the world.

The ICC Cricket World Cup kicked off on November 3, with the final on November the 10th resulting in Australia winning it all.



Also the matches for TENNIS ATP Tour Finals were held from 12th to the 19th of November. Novak Djokovic won a record-breaking seventh ATP Finals title on the Sunday after beating local hero Jannik Sinner 6-3, 6-3 in Turin.



But it is not just November that was busy, this December was also the World Champions Cup. This is a golf competition that was the first of its kind: an annual three-team, three-day stroke play tournament that became the fourth global team competition on the worldwide golf calendar. This event bought together major champions, Hall of Famers and legends of golf. This event was held at The Concession Golf Club in Bradenton from the 7th to the 10th of December 2023.

INTERNATIONAL CAPTAIN:
Ernie Els



EUROPE CAPTAIN:
Darren Clarke



USA CAPTAIN:
Jim Furyk



Team USA won!



Reported by Freya



You may be wondering about what is happening in the school as well. The cross-country competition was on Wednesday 15th of November with our team coming second.



Now onto the football, both Year 6 girls and boys played so well that they both got to the area finals. The girls area finals were on the 28th of November and the boys were on the 12th of December.



We've also had the Year 6 girls and boys basketball.



Reported by Freya

Christmas Around the World

Here are three countries around the world that celebrate Christmas like we do, but how do they celebrate? Is it different to us? Let's find out!

EGYPT: In Egypt about 15% of people are Christians. Most Egyptian Christians belong to the Coptic Orthodox Church and they have some very unique traditions for Christmas. Christmas Day isn't celebrated on the 25th December but on 7th January. The Coptic month leading to Christmas is called Kiahk. People sing special praise songs on Saturday nights before the Sunday Service. For the 43 days before Christmas (Advent), from 25th November to 6th January, Coptic Orthodox Christians have a special fast where they basically eat a vegan diet. They don't eat anything containing products that come from animals (including chicken, beef, milk and eggs). This is called 'The Holy Nativity Fast'.

COLUMBIA: In Columbia, Christmas celebrations and preparations start on the evening of the 7th December which is known as 'Día de las Velitas' or 'Day of the little Candles'. Houses and streets are decorated with candles, lanterns and lots of lights. There are also big firework displays and music to dance to and foods like 'buñuelos' and 'empanadas'. This day is celebrated by Catholics around the world as The Feast of the Immaculate Conception but is especially popular in Colombia.



Costa Rica: Christmas in Costa Rica comes at the end of the school year and the start of the holidays - so people really look forward to getting to the beach! People like to decorate their houses with beautiful tropical flowers. A model of the nativity scene, called the Pasito or Portal, is the centre of the display. It's also decorated with flowers and sometimes fruit. Some of the scenes take a long time to make and all the family is involved. As well as the traditional figures, people add other models including houses and lots of different sorts of animals. Christmas wreaths are made of cypress branches and are decorated with red coffee berries and ribbons. Most homes, shops and important buildings are decorated with Christmas lights.



By Soriya



You may be seeing lots of Christmassy foods in shop windows and it is probably making you hungry. So that's what this article is all about: making a delicious dish! This is a simple recipe so it can be a fabulous one to bake with all the family!

Ingredients

25 g unsalted butter

50 g golden syrup

100 g white marshmallows

100 g crisped rice cereal, we used Rice Krispies

A topping of your choice!

Directions

1. Line a 12-hole muffin tin with paper muffin cases.
2. Melt the butter, golden syrup and marshmallows in a heatproof bowl set over a pan of barely simmering water, stirring occasionally until smooth and combined.
3. Remove bowl from heat and immediately stir in the rice cereal, mixing until coated.
4. Divide between the muffin cases and press mixture down gently with the back of the spoon. Chill for 1hr until firm.
5. Decorate how you like - we recommend glitter!
6. Serve and enjoy!



By Freya



FIND YOUR FUNNY ELF NAME!

Choose your name by using the first letter of your first name and then the month you were born in!

A: Starlight
B: Robin
C: Figgy
D: Red-nose
E: Sparkle
F: Bells
G: Christmas-Tree
H: Magic
I: Holly
J: Evergreen
K: Twinkle
L: Sparkling
M: Jolly
N: Rudolph
O: Merry
P: Mince-pie
Q: Stocking
R: Snowy
S: Frosty
T: Marshmallow
U: Angel
V: Glow
W: Ice-cube
X: Prancer
Y: Dancer
Z: Bubbles

January: Reindeer
February: Cupid
March: Jolly
April: Blinky
May: Twinkly-lights
June: Buddy
July: Cinnamon
August: Ice
September: Lucky
October: Lantern
November: Mistletoe
December: Snowflake

MEET MR FROSTY REINDEER



By Astrid, Ayla and Soriya

Crafts for Christmas

In this article we will talk about some fun Christmas crafts that you can do for fun and decorate your home! You'll learn how to make bunting and a Santa handprint!

Making bunting is fun if you know how!

- 1) Get some festive paper or decorate your own paper.
- 2) Cut them into equal strips.
- 3) Use tape/glue to make one into a circle.
- 4) Put a strip through the circle and glue that into a circle.
- 5) Repeat this process until you have got a lovely chain!



Do you want to please Santa when he comes down the chimney? If you do, then wouldn't you like to make a Santa handprint?!

- 1) Get some white paper, draw and cut around your hand.
- 2) Use some pom poms to make a beard on the fingers.
- 3) Cut out some red paper and cut it into a hat shape then glue it on your palm.
- 4) Put a pom pom on the end of the hat.
- 5) Make a face with googly eyes or draw them on.
- 6) Draw some ruffles to his hat!



By Lyra

CHRISTMAS

WORD SEARCH

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

santa
snowflake
carol
holly

reindeer
robin
sprouts
Christmas

tree
tinsel
elf
presents



By Star



We have a very exciting opportunity that you can get involved in! Every issue, there will be a new competition to enter. 3 lucky winners will have their entries published into the next half term's newspaper. Please hand any entries to Soriya Allen in Stoats (Year 6) or using the office email office@steyningprimary.org.uk.

The children who want to enter the competition this time have to...

Draw a short, funny comic sketch about getting people in a festive mood.



What game should you play this Christmas?

Instead of sitting around the tv waiting for dinner to cook, why not try out some of these fun Christmas games?

Heads up

Why not play Heads Up, a fun game for all ages. Start by writing the name of classic Christmas themed people and objects, such as snowman, tinsel, Christmas tree or Elf, on sticky notes. Each player sticks one to their forehead without looking at what it says. Then, they take turns asking questions about their own card. Everyone else has to help by answering yes or no.



Guess the Christmas Smell Game

Challenge your friends and family to guess the Christmas smell! Gather some Christmas scents like cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg, pine needles, orange, and gingerbread and put them in cups. Blindfold your guests and ask them to guess the smell. No peeking!



Scavenger hunt

Feeling like Christmas is over too soon? Set up a sneaky scavenger hunt by hiding clues to send your family on a wild goose chase round your house or garden. The prize doesn't have to be a gift, it could just be something disappointing like a stinky sock! The sillier the better. The fun is in the hunting.



By Astrid

Silly Snowman Drawing

Have you ever tried drawing without looking? It's harder than you think! Try drawing a snowman with your eyes closed or with a blindfold on. However, if you are feeling brave and have washable pens at hand, put a clean piece of paper on top of your head and have another go. This makes a fun and silly holiday activity and might just reveal some hidden talent!




Santa's Lost Present



Yesterday, Santa was checking through his presents and found there was one missing! He questioned all the elves that had either helped or made the presents but could not work out who it was. Solve the questions and help Santa find out who stole the present.

SUSPECT

Name:	Gender:	Age:	Favourite colour:	Picture:
Cookie	Girl	6	Purple	
Angel	Girl	10	Green	
Holly	Girl	5	Purple	
Trixi	Girl	7	Green	
Jangles	Boy	5	Purple	
Basil	Boy	6	Green	
Pip	Boy	7	Purple	
Noel	Boy	10	Green	

Question 1



Solve the maths problems and find out if the culprit is a boy or girl. If most of the answers end in odd numbers, it's a girl and all the boys on the chart need to be crossed out. If most of the answers end in even numbers, it's a boy and all the girls on the chart above must be crossed out.

10×5	$24 - 5$	$53 + 7$	$7 + 19$	$1 \times 20 \div 4$
$27 + 222$	$41 + 95$	$36 + 9$	$53 \div 1$	5×4

The culprit is a_____.

Question 2

Santa found another clue! Maths questions are the clue as Santa needs help to decipher a code. When you solve the maths questions, the answer is a letter. Make the word and find out what the culprits' favourite colour is.

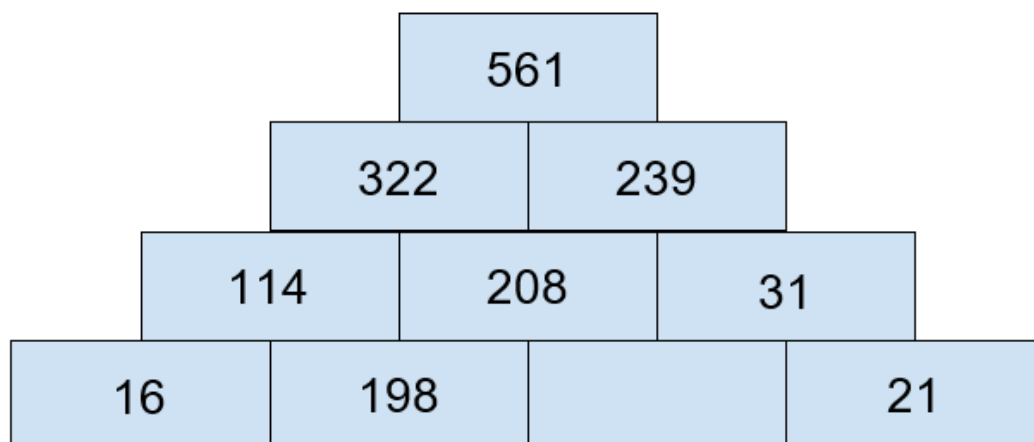
$9+2=$	$22 \div 2=$	$3 \times 5=$
$9-3=$	$7+2=$	$6+16=$

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

The culprit's favourite colour is_____.

Question 3

The culprit's age is the last clue. Fill in the gap in this pyramid then divide it by 2 to find the last answer.



The culprit's age is _____.

The naughty elf that stole Santa's last present is:

_____.



By Astrid, Ayla and Coco

Thank You!

Thank you for supporting us by reading our first issue of the SPS News. We would really appreciate your feedback to make sure we're reporting and publishing things that you're interested in. To have your say, use the QR code below.



Scan to give us feedback!

