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LEARNING TRUST

# Top of the Term

Christmas Edition, December 2024

## CHRISTMAS EDITION



MERRY  
CHRISTMAS



### Inside...

- Gaming
- Stuck in Space
- Presidential Vote
- Spanish Crisis
- Christmas Traditions
- Endangered Animals
- 2025 Meteor Strikes

### Best Bits....

- Top ten Christmas films 2024
- Christmas Market
- Christmas Cracker Joke Competition

Interested in having your say? Get in touch by  
emailing [schoolnews@deyeshigh.com](mailto:schoolnews@deyeshigh.com)



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# Gaming

Coding is the base of gaming. Gaming is the base of gamers. Gaming has made many people happy over the years, from the first games, Tennis for 2 and Pong, to current games, like MINECRAFT, Fortnite and Legend of Zelda. Do you like gaming?



## Minecraft

Minecraft: a 2009 block game that many people love and the place where boycotts happen. The riots happen because of the mob votes. The mob votes happen every year, where the community votes for 1 of 3 or 4 mobs. Every year, the community riots about them, but still votes! MINECRAFT has had many updates over the years, including, the Update that Changed the World, Tricky Trials, the Nether Update and the Village and Pillage Update.

## Dungeons & Dragons

D&D: a board and video game, an adventure. D&D brings a lot of happiness, great excitement and many people something to turn to. D&D is an exciting game, where you make a character, and go on an adventure as that character. Also, at Deyes high there will be a D&D club.



## Bloons TD6

Bloons TD 6 is a game about monkeys popping bloons. As the game goes on, the bloons get stronger. In round 17, regrow bloons come, next is camo bloons at round 24, lead bloons at round 28, ceramic bloon at round 38, the first of the blimps, the MOAB at round 40, fortified bloons at round 42, BFB, the second of the blimps, at round 60, then round 80 is the ZOMG, round 83 has camo, fortified and regrow ceramics, round 90 has DDTs, 3, round 100 is the BAD, and round 140 has the fortified BAD.

Do you play any of these games? Let us know what your favourite game is.

More about bloons TD 6 in the next newspaper, more about the monkeys...!

# Pretend Politics



## Presidential Vote



ATTENTION ,students of Deyes High...WE NEED YOUR HELP! Many months ago, we united to debate against who should be Mayor. In a heated event, and a roller-coaster of emotions, Spoon Man won.. by one vote. However we need your help AGAIN as in one week, you will see Spoon Man and Marty Mcfly race to the polls again to see... WHO WILL BE THE PRESIDENT? However, this time, they won't be alone as a NEW contestant enters the ring... TRUNKO! So get ready to pick your party - Red, White and Blue as you will be voting SOOOOOON...

By Jake Hagen

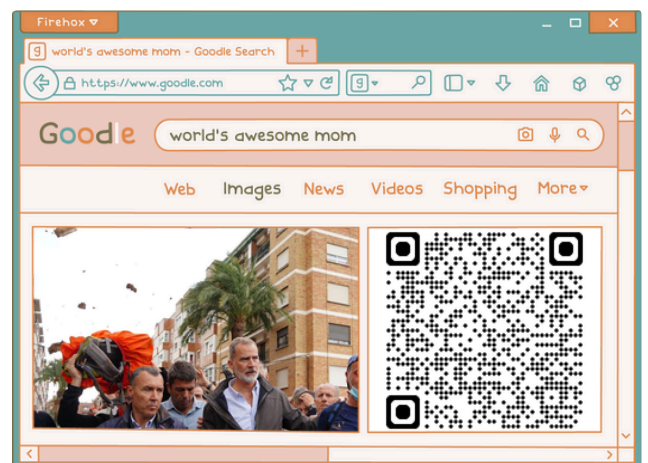
## Meanwhile, in the real world...

### Crisis in Spain as crowds shout 'murderer' at King Felipe VI

In October, floods in Spain killed at least 220 people in the worst flooding disaster in generations. This sparked protests all over the country, especially in Paiporta, a badly affected city in Valencia.

In November, King Felipe VI visited Paiporta. Crowds shouted "murderer!" at the King. Many locals were infuriated at the King and the government for not making decisions over floor warnings and evacuations much earlier, which would have saved lives. There is a blame game raging with widespread accusations that the national and local governments did not heed weather warnings and acted too slowly.

By Sophia Bird



For the full BBC article and latest updates on the matter, scan this QR code to read on!



# Christmas Traditions

Many people celebrate Christmas and grow up getting presents from Santa Claus but how many people know the true history behind this jolly, giving character? Santa Claus was originally known as Saint Nicholas - the patron saint of children - but how did he become such an important figure in children's childhoods?

Saint Nicholas lived in Patra, Turkey, in A.D. 280. There were three sisters whose father had once been rich but had fallen into difficult times. These women were planning to get married but this required a dowry to offer prospective grooms. Not having any other choice due to lack of money, the father decided that he would have to sell his daughters into slavery. Saint Nicholas was a bishop at the time and when he heard of this, he decided to help the family. He gifted them a gold bar which meant that the family could survive without needing to be sold into slavery.

His popularity spread as people heard of this story and Nicholas quickly became the Patron Saint of Children. There was a feast day held to celebrate him on the date of his death every year which was considered the best day to make large purchases or to get married. Since the feast day is no longer celebrated, presents from Santa were given to children to carry on his memory and to symbolise the gifts that the three wise men gave to Jesus on Christmas. However, Santa was always known to wear green until 1931 when Coca Cola aired a Christmas advert in which Santa was wearing red to depict the logo. This started the belief that Santa wore red and not the traditional green.

By Grace Stenton



What Christmas traditions do you and your family share? Let us know at [schoolnews@deyeshigh.com](mailto:schoolnews@deyeshigh.com)





# Endangered Animals

In this article, I explain about endangered animals and why animal extinction doesn't just affect animals but also humans and our environment.



## How do you classify an endangered animal?

A species is classified as endangered when there are fewer than 2,500 mature individuals. When a species population declines by at least 20% within five years, it is classed as endangered. More than 16,000 of the nearly two million documented species on earth are currently classified as endangered, which is an all time high.

## Which animals are classed as endangered?

The most endangered animal is the Javan Rhino, followed by the Amur Leopard. World Wildlife Fund (WWF) was founded in 1961 and is the leading global environmental charity. They safeguard endangered animals and combat climate change. Please [click here](#) to donate to help these amazing animals. It's so important to protect animals from extinction because they are essential for biodiversity. If we lose these animals, we would lose the natural caretakers of this earth.

By Chloe Dodd



You may have seen the WWF logo before. The charity does amazing work trying to help these animals and to make our world a better place. For more information, scan the QR code to browse their website.





# 2025 Meteor Showers

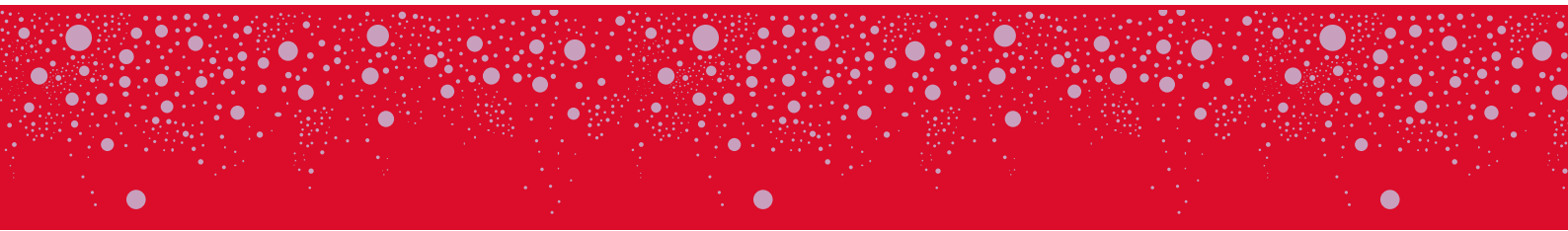
## Quadrantids meteor shower



In 2025, the Quadrantids will peak on the night between January 2–4 Meteor Shower. The Quadrantids are usually active between the end of December and the second week of January. Unlike other meteor showers that tend to stay at their peak for about two days, the peak period of the Quadrantids only lasts a few hours.

You should be able to see the shooting stars in the northern atmosphere, if the weather is good. They can be seen with the naked eye so there's no need for binoculars or a telescope, though you will need to allow your eyes to adjust to the dark for at least 15 minutes beforehand. For the best conditions, you want to find a safe location away from street lights and other sources of light pollution. The meteors can be seen in all parts of the sky, so it's ideal to go to a wide open space where you can scan the night sky with your eyes.

The maximum of the shower occurs when the Moon will be a waxing crescent and it will set below the horizon at around 7pm, so moonlight won't interfere with seeing the shower at the peak. The Quadrantids are known for their sharp peak which lasts a few hours. The meteors appear near the Big Dipper.





# 2025 Meteor Showers

## Alpha Centaurid meteor shower



In February, the Alpha Centaurid meteor shower will reach its peak on the night of February 8-9, producing up to 6 meteors per hour. In early February, observers in the Southern Hemisphere can see the Alpha Centaurid meteor shower. It will reach its peak on the night of February 8-9, producing up to 6 “shooting stars” per hour. Don’t miss your chance to see the only meteor shower in February!

The Alpha Centaurids appear to originate from the constellation Centaurus. It’s the ninth-largest constellation in the sky, famous for containing Alpha Centauri, the closest star to the Solar System. The exact location of the radiant is 4° northwest of the star Hadar (beta Centauri). The meteor shower is best observed in the Southern Hemisphere, visible up to 32°N.

## The Lyrid meteor shower

The Lyrid meteor shower will start on April 14 and end on April 30 in 2025. The predicted peak of Lyrids will fall on April 22, 2025 at 14:32. The Lyrid meteor shower is seen every year in late April, when our Earth passes through the debris of ice and dust left behind by the comet Thatcher in its orbit according to NASA. So every Lyrid meteor is the fragment of comet Thatcher.

The shower usually produces up to 18 meteors per hour during peak activity under clear, dark skies. 2025 will be a good year to see Lyrids as the thin waning crescent moon will rise in the pre-dawn hours. So you will get an almost moonless night to observe Lyrids during the peak activity.

Defiantly put these dates on your calendars, 2025 will be a year to remember. If you get any photos of these amazing meteors please send them to us!

By Sophia Bird



# Stuck in Space

On June 5, astronauts Sunita Williams and Barry Willmore were sent on a mission for NASA. They travelled aboard Boeing's Starliner space capsule to the International Space Station (ISS). However in a turn of events, their 8 day stay has been extended 8 months!



Willmore and Williams made their third visit to the ISS in Boeing's Starliner on 6 May. The Starliner experienced problems on its way to the ISS, including leaks of helium, which pushes fuel into the propulsion system. Several thrusters also did not work properly. Because of this, the decision was made that the astronauts would not travel back on the Starliner. Some engineers think these issues should have been fixed in earlier tests or the initial design plan.

On 25 July, Nasa held a press conference to explain that they would be looking into the problems with the Starliner.

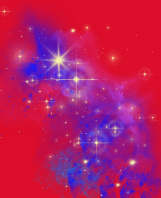
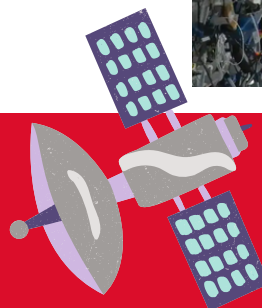
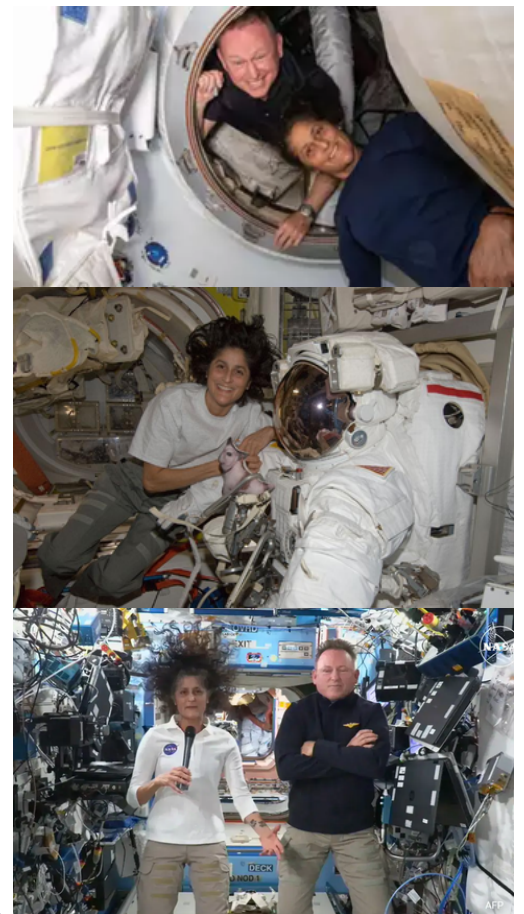
On the 24 August, Nasa announced that Willmore and Williams will have to wait until February 2025 to return home riding upon rival Space X's Dragon Spacecraft.

Eventually on 7th September the Starliner returned to Earth as planned, landing in the state of New Mexico.

The return flight had few errors but not zero. Steve Stich, a NASA commercial crew program manager, stated that it would have been a "safe, successful landing" had the astronauts been on board but acknowledged the right decision was made for the astronauts safety.

Sunita Williams and Barry Willmore are maintaining a positive attitude towards their extended time aboard the ISS. They keep busy with their daily tasks which can vary from science experiments to technical work on the ISS maintenance. The astronauts and their families are looking forwards to their future reunions with cheerful attitudes all around.

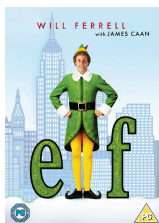
By Lexi Carlyle





# Top 10 Christmas Movies

Christmas is a time for family to gather together and watch fun films. Our top ten films are:



- 1) Elf
- 2) Home Alone
- 3) Jingle All the Way
- 4) Krampus
- 5) Gremlins
- 6) Christmas with the Kranks
- 7) Deck the halls
- 8) Noelle
- 9) The Grinch
- 10) Die Hard



By Chloe Dodd and Grace Stenton



Have your say!  
Click the link below, or scan the QR code to have your say on the greatest Christmas movie of all time and you may get a mention in our next edition.

<https://forms.office.com/e/S8TUVSv4hM>





# Deyes High Christmas Markets

On Saturday 7th December, Deyes High School held its very own Christmas markets. Many people from the community came along to support the event. There were a variety of stalls including crochet ornaments, jewellery, desserts, tombola and face painting. We even had our own Santa! Face painting was offered by Art teachers, Miss Talbot. Some children and their families also ran their own stalls.



The market was organised by Mrs. Byrne and Mrs. Fozzard alongside many members of our Student Council who also helped on the day. The market ran from 10am to 2pm and many people, including teachers, attended. Despite the very windy and rainy weather, the market was a success! We raised over £750 through tombola and stall fees which will be split between Motor Neuron Disease Association and Macmillan Cancer Support. Thank you for everyone who attended or had stalls, we hope to see you next time!

By Abi Reed



Thank  
YOU!





# Competition Time!

## Christmas Joke Competition

Ever thought of a really good Christmas joke? Sick of the cringey Christmas cracker jokes? Well Deyes High is making their OWN Christmas cracker which will be featured on the next newspaper! And you will be deciding what's in that cracker with your jokes. To enter your jokes, either email us at [schoolnews@deyeshigh.com](mailto:schoolnews@deyeshigh.com) or come to room 15 with your jokes.

The winners will be announced next term when the next newspaper comes out. Good luck!



From everyone at Newspaper club!

**We'd like to wish everyone an  
amazing Christmas!**