



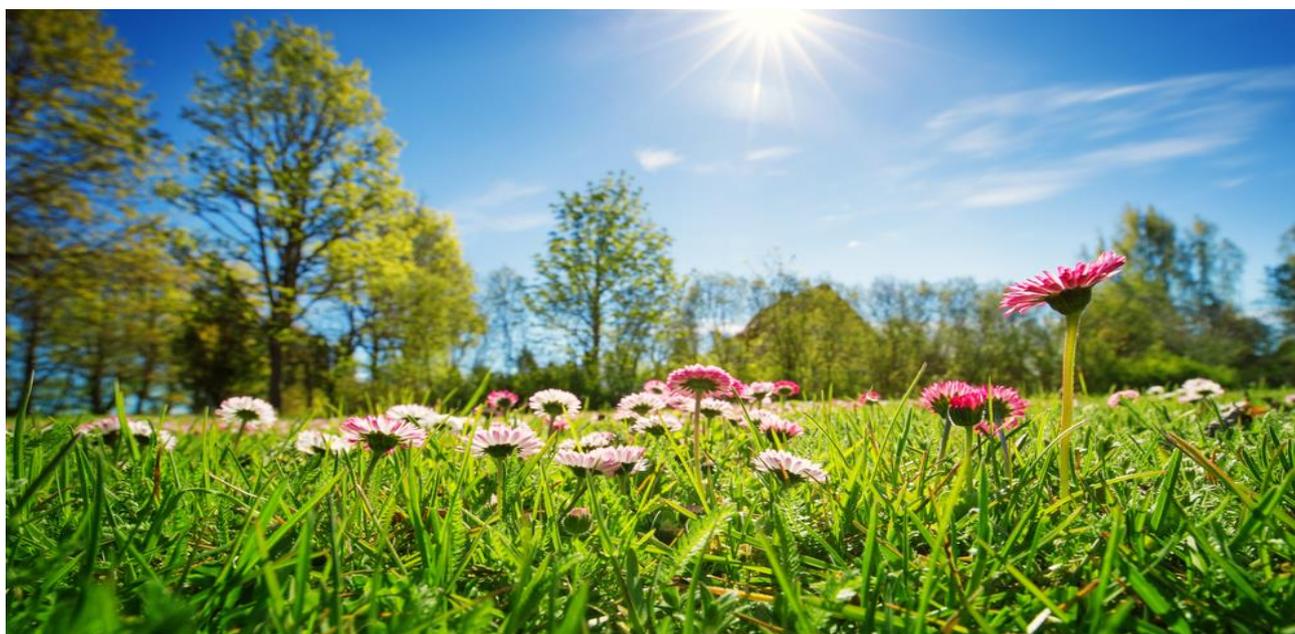
St Mary's



Achieving more together

St Mary's News
Summer Edition 2024

A message from the editor...



Hi everyone,

Welcome to the summer edition of St Mary's News. This edition includes an exciting news article from around the world, a delicious recipe and an Olympic quiz and word search for you to try. We have some great examples of your writing during the summer term, Teacher Talk from one of our members of staff and motivating book recommendations for each year group.

I hope you are enjoying the spring weather and are able to get out and about more. Maybe you enjoy cycling, running or other outdoor sports. Have you been to the local park? Have you noticed any changes? Do you like playing in the garden? Which animals and plants are emerging around you? Enjoy the weather and reading this Summer edition of St Mary's News!

Mrs Gill

Summer Recipe

Jam Jar Summer Trifles

From BBC Good Food

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp custard powder
- 500g icing sugar
- 250g butter, softened
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1-2 tbsp milk
- 500g strawberries
- 2 tbsp elderflower cordial
- 300g shop-bought madeira sponge

You'll also need

6 x 400ml jam jars

Method

STEP 1

Beat the custard powder, icing sugar, butter, vanilla and 1 tbsp. milk together in a stand mixer until smooth and creamy, or do this in a large bowl using an electric whisk. Add a little more milk to loosen, if needed. Transfer the icing to a piping bag fitted with a large star-shaped nozzle and set aside.

STEP 2

Choose three of the best-looking strawberries, then halve and set aside for decorating later (or you can use six whole strawberries). Halve, hull and chop the rest of the berries, then mix with the cordial.

STEP 3

Cut the Madeira sponge into roughly 2cm cubes. Arrange a layer of sponge pieces in the bottom of each jam jar, then top with a generous spoonful of the chopped strawberries, including any juice. Pipe a swirl of the custard icing on top, then repeat the layers again, finishing each jar with a strawberry half. Will keep chilled for up to a day.

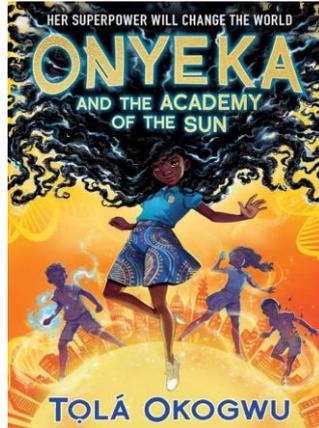
Enjoy!



This Edition's Book Recommendations

Year 6

Onyeka and the Academy of the Sun **Tolá Okogwu**



An exciting, edge-of-your-seat adventure.

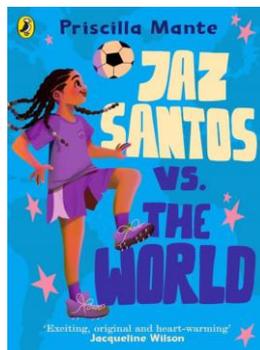
Onyeka and her best friend, Cheyenne, are both Nigerian living in London. Whilst Cheyenne is confident and not bothered what others think, Onyeka feels like she doesn't fit in. Her hair in particular causes others to stare. It has a mind of its own and no matter what her hairdresser mum does to it, it's out of control. Onyeka's mum doesn't talk about Nigeria or why they left and least of all, what happened to Onyeka's dad.

'Onyeka and the Academy of the Sun' is an exciting edge-of-your-seat adventure with interesting and unique characters. I loved the development of the relationships between Onyeka and the other children as she got to know more about them. I became totally lost in Onyeka's world and couldn't wait to find out what would happen next.

This story would make a fantastic read for Upper Key Stage 2 children, particularly for those that are fans of superhero stories and films. Tola Okogwu says in the author's note in the book that she hopes it will "act as both a mirror and a window" in terms of representation, and I think lots of people will agree that it does. What a wonderful book.

Year 5

Jaz Santos vs The World **Priscilla Mante**



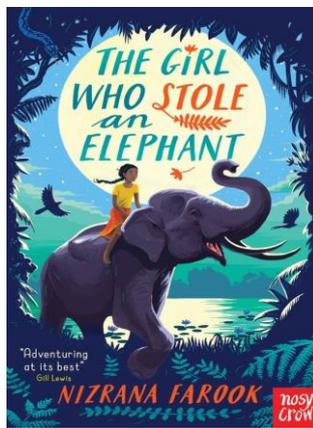
Jaz Santos vs the World is the first in a new series about a girl who gathers an unlikely group of friends together to make their own girls' football team. This is an inclusive and empowering tale with a real-life feel that will appeal to fans of Cath Howe and Jacqueline Wilson.

Circumstances in Jaz's life are starting to feel out of control. She has been in trouble at school, kicked out of dance club and is dealing with the growing cracks in her parents' relationship, culminating in a house fire and her mum eventually moving out. There's more on her mind too – Jaz loves football and often plays with the boys at lunchtimes, but is excluded from the school team because girls are not allowed to play.

This timely and heart-warming story about teamwork, self-belief and following your passions in the face of life's ups and downs is likely to score big with readers aged 8-11.

Year 4

The Girl Who Stole An Elephant Nizrana Farook



An exciting new middle-grade adventure from Nizrana Farook filled with atmosphere, suspense and adventure with elements of Robin Hood and Arabian Nights.

Set in the dazzling landscapes of Sri Lanka, *The Girl Who Stole an Elephant* is the story of a girl called Chaya and her friends Neel and Nour. Quick-fingered Chaya is a young version of Robin Hood; she steals from the rich to help the poor in her village. However, when she steals the Queen's jewels, things begin to go horribly wrong. Not only does she put herself in grave danger, but her actions also bring harm to her best friend Neel and the people of her village.

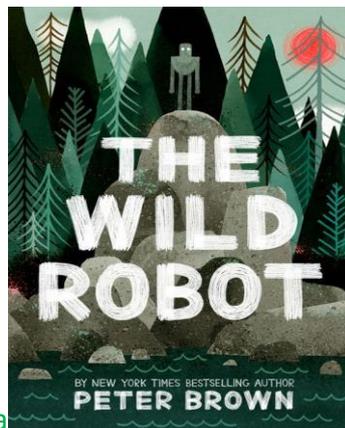
Loyally, Neel takes the blame for Chaya's actions and is sentenced to death. Chaya knows that she must act quickly if she is going to save him and a gripping and adventurous escape begins. Along the way, they meet Nour, a young girl from a wealthy background who opts to join their cause.

Before long, everyone they know seems to have come under threat as a result of their actions. The King will stop at nothing to capture them, especially as they have stolen his prize elephant as well. Will these young protagonists be able to save the ones that they love and escape death? Or will it mean the end for all of them?

This is a KS2 must-read with an evocatively drawn setting, perfect for anyone who loves adventure!

Year 3

The Wild Robot Peter Brown



If you're looking for a heart-warming and a great time read, *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown is the perfect choice. This highly original story combines themes of technology and nature and is a sure-fire hit in the classroom.

The story follows a curious robot called Roz, who finds herself stranded in the wild on an island. Roz must learn to survive and earn the trust of the island's animals.

This is a beautiful tale of acceptance, friendship and what it means to care about others. With short chapters and lovely illustrations, *The Wild Robot* is a delightful read for Year 3 and beyond.

Wonderful Work Gallery – celebrating your great writing this term.

Monday 14th March 2024
Can I write a survivor's account of escaping Pompeii?

I have been fortunate enough to escape the horrors of Pompeii. Luckily, I am one of the very few survivors from that dreadful day and now I feel that I am ready to share with you my story.

It started like any other day in August. I was sitting on the edge watching the morning sunrise. I saw the Pale blue shimmering in the distance. I was feeling relaxed. I also saw the Aqua Marina. Sea had lots of big waves.

After I eat my breakfast I went for a walk on the hot burning ground. Suddenly the ground started to crack. I was about to fall but a big hand caught me by the hand my heart started to beat very fast. I said to myself "What is that?" I could then see smoke and it gathering in the sky. Just then people started panicking. With each one was panicking me and my friend Antohide was also.

Then soon all the lady houses were covered in ash. We then quickly ran to a wooden boat. We heard the yellow bird shrieking under the curve and a great of the waves super. We were super. We sat on the boat looking at our beautiful town covered in ash.

When I woke up I saw hot bubbly magma blasting out. I felt scared because lightning might strike the boat. My friend said "What is magma?" I plashed the sea and hit the boat. Small waves beat. I said it might be hot. I didn't know. All the glasses were covered in thick ash. We heard people panicking. We could no longer hear them. Then soon we reached land.

Conan Doyle

down on me. My throat was throbbing; my head was as if it was on a merry-go-round. All I could see was Cachi and (name of character) (captain Federico's name for Iquitos). Some took no notice of me, others watched me every move with their beady reptilian eyes. As I looked down at the reptiles, the smoke erupted from the blazing volcano. The lava of rose from hell; it began like a light show. How will I escape this infernal landscape?

Great start to a dramatic diary and great use of the style of language

Russell

Wednesday 1 May
Can I write an effective diary entry?
13th September 1835
Dear diary,

My hand trembles as I write today's ~~event~~ occurrence has scarred me for life. Is someone looking for me? Will I survive?

Fortunately, the waves halted our vessel from side to side; Mr Darwin's face turned as white as ships' porridge as he began to vomit his guts over the side of the red boat. The treacherous storm created waves big enough to jill the deck; as Mr Darwin kept gagging the wind speed picked he began to shake with the mighty breeze Mr Darwin began to fall. I dived in after him for I had option: I would put a rope around Charles and the throo the rope connected to Robinson.

The sea tugged me under; the water ran down my face like tears for I felt like I could cry. The lightning crackled through the air. Graduating from the depths of Hell, rain hammered down on me. Submerged in the icy water, my eyes began to close. My limbs tried to move but they were unable too. My eyelids began to seal.

I woke up bootless lying down on the sand; my bare feet felt charred in the bitter water. The sand was warm. The sun was beating

Russell

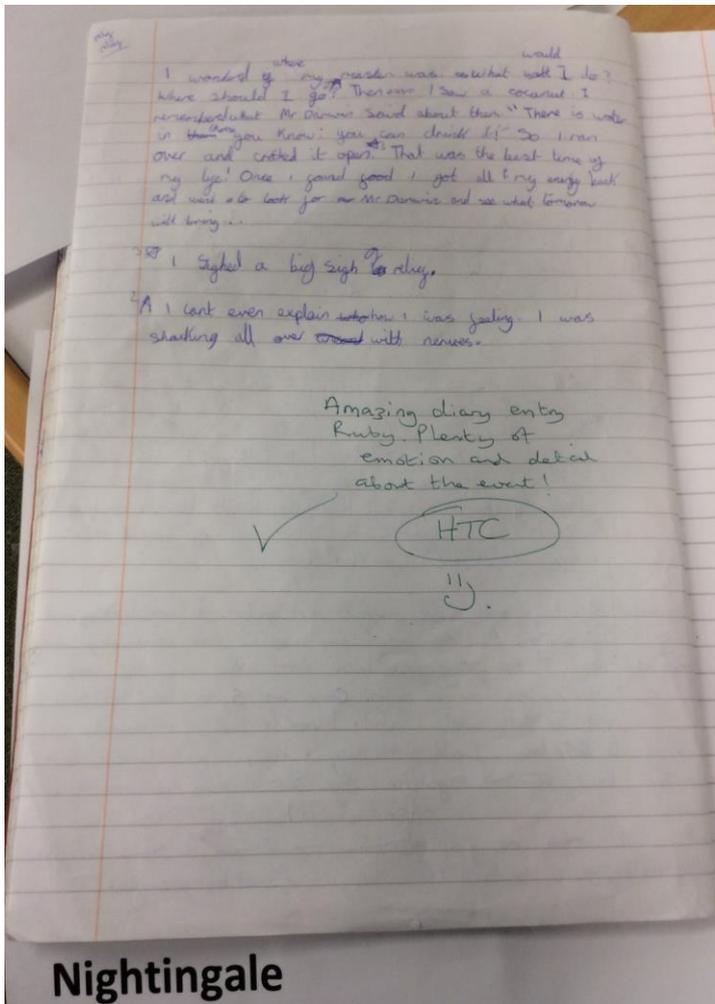
Monday 29th April 2024
Can I write a diary entry?
Dear diary,

You will never guess what and I can't even believe that I'm still alive. So I was getting on to a small boat with my master Mr Darwin and everyone else. It was such a lovely day but then I never saw this coming: a big storm reminded us. We tried getting to the Bayle as fast as we could but it was too late... All the waves were crashing into our boat; we were rocking like crazy. Brace yourself for the unexpected: my master - Mr Darwin was overboard.

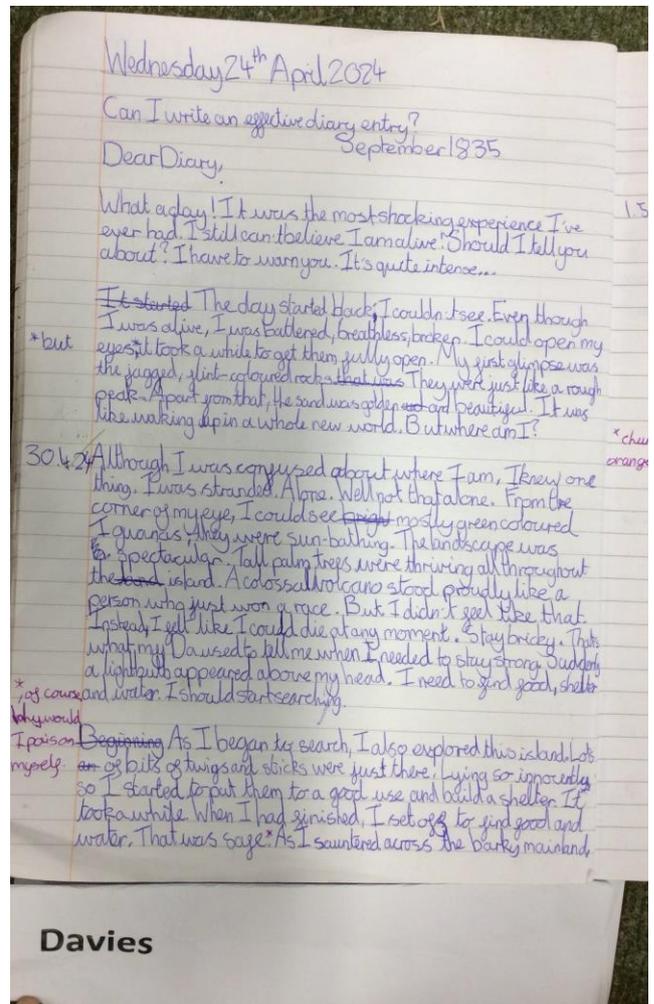
All my fellow mates were trying to get him back on to the boat by rope holding his ropes and pulling him in. But the currents were so strong and pulled me in too. I was trying to push him up then I lost balance; I also lost sight of my master. I was afraid. All the waves were pushing the boat away. Hold your breath because you'll be just when I thought things couldn't get any worse. I didn't know where I was but then...

You will never know what I was through. A huge wave pushed me under. I was twisting and turning; I didn't know which way was up and which way was down. I kept getting flesh bubbles from when my da was teaching me how to swim: "Come on, Syrus, head up come on!" So that's what I did. I tried to seal a moment of my life to take a breath. Next thing I knew, I was knocked out by a big rock, mysterious stone that I could see from the corner of my eye. I was dead and hallucinated. I had blacked out. I woke up startled on a beach. I had never seen this beach before. Of course, I had a big cut on my forehead.

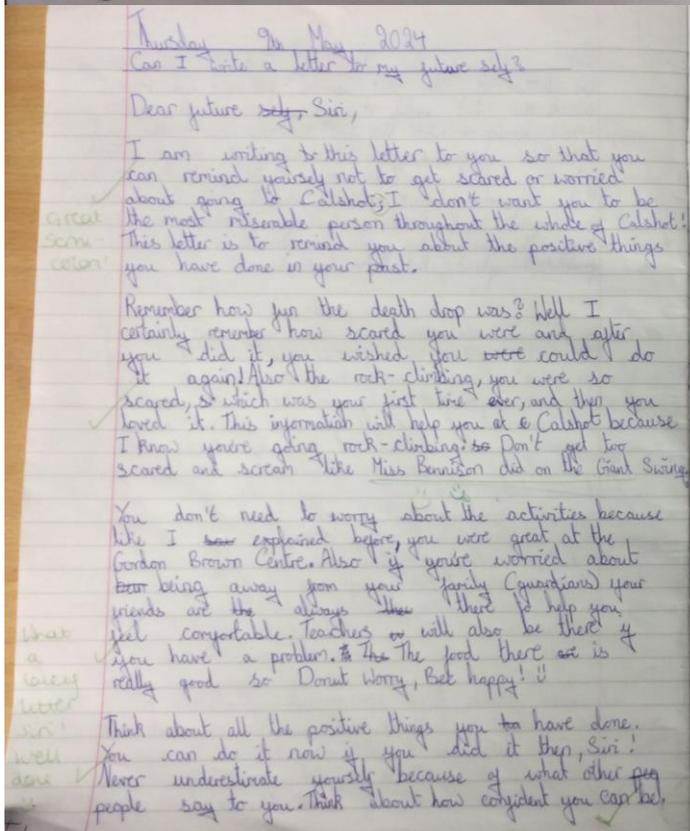
Nightingale



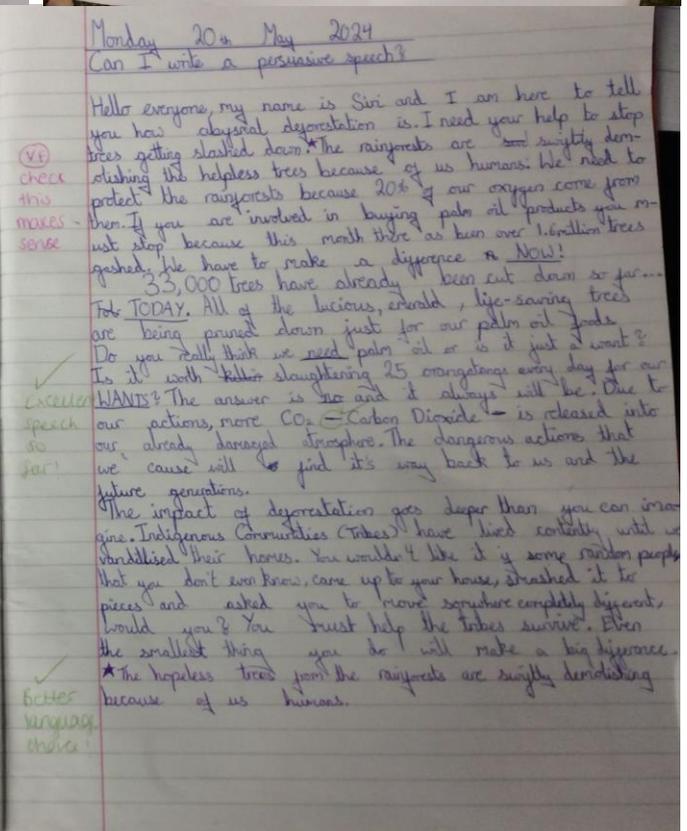
Nightingale



Davies



Mitchell



I force in my tracks. A sickening splash made my belly turn. It wasn't a bird or a human. Not a hobbit nor Mr. Darcy. What could it be....

1.5.24 With the screech still ringing in my ear like a high-pitched bell, I fell or cold breeze slap me in the face. That was unusual. I gazed up at the glit-grey sky and saw a shadow circling above me. It wasn't any type of owl... It was massive. I thought it was a preb but how could it be when it had wings as wide as a lobe. I should carry on describing it but then something dramatic happened. The creature started to descend down towards me. I tried to retrace but as soon as I ran my best speed, I felt these claws pick me up from my shoulders to my ankles. ^{Turns} As I turned my head, I noticed they were on a small. They were as big as an elephant's foot with scales. After a minute of flying, I was dropped. Into the deep murky sea below and I was right. Soon my mouth was full of water; I couldn't see because seaweed covered my eyes like a blindfold.

I thought, what is this creature? What was it doing to me? Will I survive.

Davies

Can I write a biography?

Mary Jane Grant

Mary Jane Grant was born in Jamaica 1805, 219 years ago! Her Dad was an officer and Mum was a Jamaican healer or herbist. Mary learned all her Mum's skills and knowledge from being a healer. Mary's Mum used Jamaican and Caribbean herbal (plant based) remedies for other people. Mary Seacole was a Jamaican nurse who served during the Crimean War in eastern Europe. On November 10th 1836, Mary married Edward in Hamilton Seacole. Mary Seacole was famous for being a healer to not just black people.

She is most famous for travelling to Crimea in 1855 to help care for soldiers wounded in the war, the soldiers even called her 'Mother Seacole'. In 1859, Mary volunteered to work as a nurse during the Crimean War. Mary decided she would go for her self to get to Crimea. Seacole carried her and treated the injured soldiers with her herbal remedies. Do you want to know what she used for her herbal remedies? Well she used mixed plants together to make herbal remedies.

Mary Seacole Died on the 14th May 1881, at the age of 76, in her home in London. After death, Seacole and her work were sadly forgotten. However, about 100 years later, a group of Jamaican nurses wanted to know more about her and started to make her famous again. In 2016, a statue built in her honor was unveiled at St Thomas' Hospital in London. In 1992 a book was published about her life. The wonderful adventures of Mrs Seacole in Mary's hands was an autobiography. It was one of the 1st to be written by a black woman in Britain.

Paulet

Thursday 16th May 2024

Can I write my introduction to my speech?

Have you actually thought about the damage that deforestation is causing? Well, lucky for you, I'm going to tell you and persuade you. If you do reflect on what I have to say, then you can send letters to important people such as MPs the king or even the prime minister! You must be the change or before you can say the earth will be destroyed. We must stop chopping trees down or before you know, the sound of chainsaws will drown out the peaceful sound of birds and the earth will be grey and dull with no life. ~~And~~ you don't want that do you? Well, you better get a move on then. Our planet needs saving.

Remember this: 36 football pitches worth of beautiful trees full of life are lost every minute to deforestation. This means thousands of species could be lost in a matter of years. 15 billion trees are lost in just one year. Just think of those poor animals who if they're too fortunate enough to survive, their homes and family have been taken away from them. As a result, animals' lives are on our shoulders. However, this time the consequences are real!

It's not just the innocent animals dying out, it could even be us eventually. As the amount of carbon dioxide being trapped from the back of trees and not enough oxygen being released is deadly. If we don't do something, we'll die. You may be said

to read about and look for editing opportunities

there thinking 'im you not going to live till' the earth has cut from Global warming and deforestation and if you are, you are a very silly person. If you think that, then thinking it like you are assuming your great great great great grandmothers. Yeah, that changes your thoughts down it! Well, enough with the negative. Now with the positive. (There isn't very much sadly is!)

All is not lost, there is a hope, a very small hope buried inside all of us ready to burst out. All we need to do is let it burst bright! If we don't do something, we will die. If we don't do something, animals will die. If we don't do something, the world will die very, worryingly soon. You can't use paper, don't, by any means, probably with palm oil, use more metal based things rather than wood and finally, plant more trees! The population of them is dropping rapidly. The world is relying on you yes you. You will make a difference!

Let's join together and make a change. There will be no more Global warming or deforestation if we do something. Together we will save our communities all over the world. Together we can make a change. Together we will overcome deforestation!

White

Teacher Talk by Mrs Clarke



My Garden

To be honest, I have very little knowledge of plants, it's an ongoing experiment to find out which plants like what and where. Generally, it seems native plants are happy on rubbish soil, tolerate the extreme weather quite well and give our struggling insects and birds the nourishment they need, though I will try other non-native plants if they attract butterflies and bees.

It isn't a selfless choice; I absolutely love sitting in my conservatory watching the antics of the birds visiting the feeders. Sparrows buzz in and out, sometimes queuing along the edge of the bird bath. A group of mobster starlings swoop in and squabble, deliberately knocking each other off the feeders and long tailed tits with their high-pitched call peck at the fat balls, regardless of me standing only an arm's reach away. A cheeky robin frequently stares at me through the window with a, 'Where's my breakfast then?' look in his bright eyes.

In the early spring, my goat willow buzzes loudly with insect life and when the pollen drifts to the ground, it looks as though it has snowed around the trunk!

A few years ago, I ripped up my four metre square of grass in the front garden and laid wildflower turf which provides changing colour throughout a large part of the year and only gets cut late autumn. When the flowers die back, a flock of charming goldfinches harvest the flower seeds. OK, so it looks scruffy for a while - I sit on my compulsion to tidy it up too early and let the wildlife enjoy it.

The scorching summer temperatures have left birds, insects and hedgehogs without water and the ground too hard to find worms, so we have plenty of regularly cleaned water bowls both raised up and on the ground. (My aim this year is to recycle water more efficiently.)

Over the last two years, I have been planting a variety of bulbs in the back garden lawn - snowdrops, crocuses, winter aconites and others I can't remember. It will be a nice surprise when they emerge!

We are also growing a wide range of saplings hoping at some point to have a small woodland planted up, or to give to anyone with room in their garden for a tree.

Admittedly, our average sized garden is rather over stocked with a wide variety of flora, but does our average garden make a difference? Blue tits have nested for years, sparrows use our pampas grass for bedding, we have counted more than 15 different species of bird visiting our little patch - yes it does!

What's in the news around the world?



The Amazing Journey of Sea Turtles: A Tale of Survival and Adventure

Sea turtles are some of the most fascinating creatures in our oceans. These gentle giants have been around since the time of the dinosaurs, and they continue to captivate us with their incredible life journeys. Recently, sea turtles have been making headlines as scientists and conservationists work hard to protect them and their habitats. Let's dive into the world of sea turtles and discover the amazing efforts being made to help these wonderful animals.

The Life of a Sea Turtle

Sea turtles begin their lives in a very exciting way. A mother sea turtle lays hundreds of eggs on sandy beaches, often at night. Once the eggs hatch, the tiny baby turtles, called hatchlings, scramble towards the ocean. This dash to the sea is full of dangers, but it's only the beginning of their incredible journey. As they grow, sea turtles travel thousands of miles across the ocean. They can be found in almost every ocean basin in the world, swimming gracefully through the water with their strong flippers. Sea turtles are known for their long migrations, which can cover great distances between feeding grounds and nesting sites.

Exciting News from the World of Sea Turtles

Recently, there has been some wonderful news about sea turtles. In many parts of the world, their populations are starting to recover thanks to conservation efforts. Here are a few exciting stories: **Successful Hatchlings in Florida:** In Florida, USA, conservationists have reported a record number of sea turtle hatchlings making it safely to the ocean. Volunteers and scientists have worked tirelessly to protect nesting sites from predators and human interference. Their hard work is paying off, as more baby turtles are now reaching the sea.

Protected Areas in Costa Rica: Costa Rica is home to some of the most important nesting beaches for sea turtles. Recently, new protected areas have been established to ensure that these beaches remain safe and undisturbed. This means that more mother turtles can lay their eggs in peace, and more hatchlings will have a chance to survive. **Tracking Adventures:** Scientists are using satellite tracking to follow the journeys of sea turtles across the ocean. This technology allows us to learn more about their migration patterns and feeding habits. Recently, a sea turtle named "Maya" was tracked traveling over 3,000 miles from her nesting beach in Mexico to her feeding grounds in the Galapagos Islands. Her journey helps scientists understand how to better protect these magnificent creatures.

How You Can Help Sea Turtles

There are many ways you can help protect sea turtles, even if you live far from the ocean. Here are some ideas: **Reduce Plastic Use:** Sea turtles often mistake plastic for food, which can be very harmful to them. By reducing your use of plastic and recycling, you can help keep our oceans clean. **Support Conservation Efforts:** Many organizations work to protect sea turtles and their habitats. Supporting these groups through donations or volunteer work can make a big difference. **Spread the Word:** Sharing what you've learned about sea turtles with friends and family can help raise awareness about their importance and the challenges they face.



Olympic Wordsearch
From Mrs Stephens

Summer Olympics

Word Search

DIRECTIONS:
Find and circle the
vocabulary words
in the grid. Look
for them in all
directions including
backwards and
diagonally.

- ARCHERY
- ATHLETICS
- BADMINTON
- BASEBALL
- BASKETBALL
- BOXING
- CANOEING
- CRICKET
- CROQUET
- CYCLING
- DIVING
- EQUESTRIAN
- FENCING
- FIELD HOCKEY
- FOOTBALL
- GOLF
- GYMNASTICS
- HANDBALL



- JUDO
- KARATE
- LACROSSE
- POLO
- RACKETS
- ROWING
- RUGBY
- SAILING
- SKATEBOARDING
- SOFTBALL
- SQUASH
- SURFING
- SWIMMING
- TABLE TENNIS
- TAEKWONDO
- TENNIS
- TRIATHLON
- TUG OF WAR
- VOLLEYBALL
- WATER POLO
- WEIGHTLIFTING
- WRESTLING



Created by Kim White Steele for Puzzles to Print

Solutions on last pages

Ancient Olympics Trivia

1. In which country did the ancient Olympics originate?
 - a. Canada
 - b. Greece
 - c. Turkey
 - d. Oman
2. Which god from ancient Greek mythology is said to have founded the Olympics?
 - a. Heracles (Roman Hercules)
 - b. Hera
 - c. Apollo
 - d. Orion

3. Where did the Olympics get its name?
 - a. It was a type of Greek cheese
 - b. After a Roman emperor
 - c. After a religious sanctuary
 - d. It's where cameras were invented

4. How often did the ancient Olympics take place?
 - a. Once every four years
 - b. When Heracles declared them to happen
 - c. Once in a blue moon
 - d. Every two years

5. True or false:

The four-year increment between the games was used by ancient historians to measure time.

6. At their peak (around 500 B.C.), over how many days did the Olympics take place?
 - a. 5 days
 - b. 3 weeks
 - c. 2 months
 - d. 6 months

7. True or false:

Olympians wore a special loin cloth while competing at the ancient Olympics.

8. True or false:

Some participants covered their skin with olive oil and sand before training and competing.

9. What marked the finish line for all the races?

- a. An olive tree
- b. A row of bricks
- c. A squirrel
- d. A barbecue

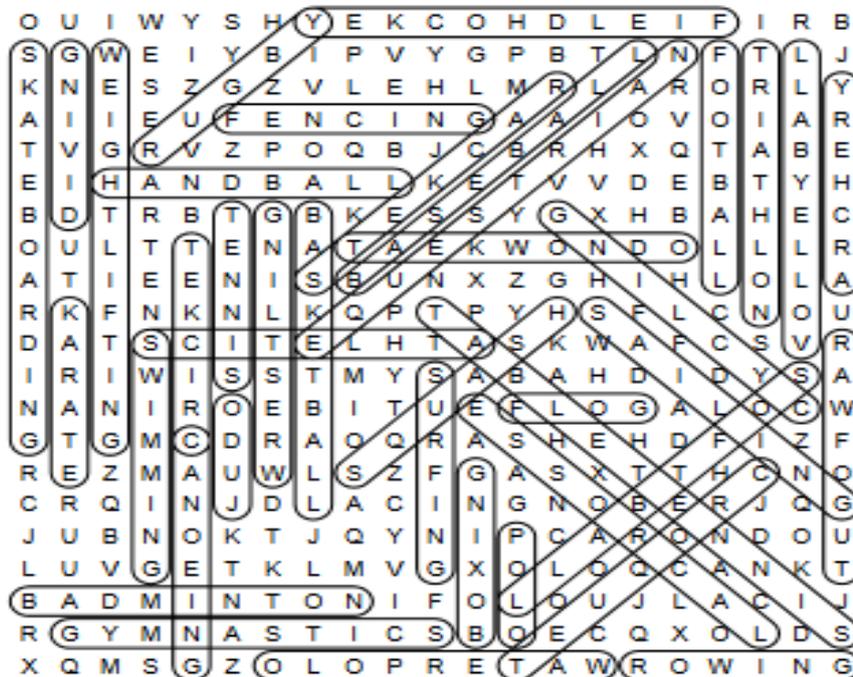
10. True or false:

A barbecue was a main feature at the ancient games.

Summer Olympics

Word Search

SOLUTION



Ancient Olympics Trivia

11. In which country did the ancient Olympics originate?

Answer: B

The ancient Olympics began in Greece.

Answer: A

12. Where did the Olympics get its name?

Answer: C

The Olympics took place in Olympia, a religious sanctuary, to honor Zeus. Hence, the games were known as the Olympics.

13. How often did the ancient Olympics take place?

Answer: A

The ancient Olympics took place once every four years.

14. True or false:

The four-year increment between the games was used by ancient historians to measure time.

True.

This period was known as the "Olympiad," and it was used as a dating system to record events.

15. At their peak (around 500 B.C.), over how many days did the Olympics take place?

Answer: A

16. True or false:

Olympians wore a special loin cloth while competing at the ancient Olympics.

False.

Athletes competed nude to show their physical power.

17. True or false:

Some participants covered their skin with olive oil and sand before training and competing.

True.

The oil and sand would help protect the skin from the sun as well as regulate body temperature.

18. What marked the finish line for all the races?

Answer: A

The sacred olive tree of Zeus marked the finish line of the races.

19. True or false:

A barbecue was a main feature at the ancient games.

True.