



HOOLE HERALD



Pupils Paint the School Rainbow!

The Colour Run returned for another funfilled event. Families put on their whitest t-shirts and tackled our messy course whilst volunteers threw bright powder paint at every corner, leaving everyone covered from head to toe!

Together, we raised an amazing amount of money, every penny of which will be invested in to future events at our vibrant school!

Turn to Page 4 for more colourful photos!

Memorable Moments from this academic year

And what a year we've had! Let's take a look at some of the highlights.

September

Our Year 6 children showed the determined and resilient spirit we promote in our school family when they embarked on their residential trip to Glan Llyn Centre in Bala in torrential rain. Undeterred by the poor weather, our adventurers got stuck in to canoeing, high ropes courses, archery, climbing, abseiling and raft building! Year 6 are such wonderful ambassadors for our school, showing resilience and determination when faced with challenges.

We held an Autumn Fair at the end of September - A huge thank you to everyone who helped to make the Autumn Fair such a great success. We raised over two thousand pounds!



October

Our choir were invited by The High Sheriff of Chester to perform at Chester Racecourse for her charity event. The High Sherriff walked around the track, completing 26 miles to raise money for Cheshire Community Foundation alongside lots of other families. We sang with members of the Sankofa Songsters to encourage the walkers as they completed the walk.

Our first Why Don't You Workshop was a great success! Children from years 3, 4 and 5 let their imaginations go wild, creating a plethora of funky and vibrant pompom creatures, complete with googly eyes and different shaped ears!

Our school families donated to our Harvest Foodbank collection, working together to help others. The donations were gratefully collected by West Cheshire Foodbank to help combat poverty and hunger across the city.

Our school hall was transformed into the Dukedom of Illyria for a very special show. A theatre group linked to the Storyhouse visited us to present a high-energy and modern performance of Twelfth Night.



November

Our school attained an award from the Centre for Financial Excellence by Young Enterprise, in recognition of our work to develop children's money management awareness. Mrs Watling represented us at a special conference in Manchester, where she was presented with our award.

Later in the month we won the Young Carers Award. This award recognises the strength of our school systems for identifying and supporting children with young carer responsibilities. Our school was one of only ten schools across Cheshire who attained the highest Gold level of this award.

Year 6 undertook their level 1 and 2 Bikeability awards. The training enhances pupils physical, social, and academic skills, leading to increased confidence, healthier habits, and a greater ability to judge risks. This training is incredibly important as it prepares children for cycling on single-lane roads safely.

Year 4 enjoyed a history trip to Beeston Castle! They enjoyed an immersive workshop lead by a history expert where they learned about the history of Beeston castle and the roles and responsibilities of being a knight. They admired the fantastic views across Cheshire from the top of the castle and produced some excellent sketches.

A selection of children joined Mrs Elston and braved the cold on a Thursday evening, parading through the streets of Chester for the annual Chester City Lantern Parade! They lit up the streets with the fantastic lanterns they had made in a previous workshop with local artist Ian P. What a magical evening!



December

The second of our Why Don't You Workshops, saw pupils learning to read music over two sessions. By the end they were reading music to play Jingle Bells! They even composed their own musical pieces.

Our choir were much in demand over the festive period, with performances at Bishops High School, All Saints' Church Cafe, The Piper Pub and Chester Cathedral.

The PTA Santa Social was an incredibly enjoyable evening with superb entertainment provided by our Choir and the Recorder Group, alongside the wonderful Santa's Grotto and various festive stalls and games.

It was the first of our School Discos, with DJ Cookie supplying a brilliant evening of music which certainly got everyone moving!



January

We were invited to a very special event in Broughton. by Airbus, to welcome the retiring Beluga ST 5 coming in to land on its final mission.

We were recognised again, as a flagship school for The Literacy Company, in recognition of the strength of teaching in this area. We welcomed over 30 visitors to Hoole, when we hosted a training session for teachers from schools across Cheshire. Our visitors visited classrooms to see our writing lessons in action, observed our English lessons in action and learnt about successful approaches.



February

Our fabulous Year 4 children dazzled parents and carers with their performance of a 'Marvellous Multiplication Musical'. It certainly was marvellous! The children sang and played their roles with such enthusiasm.



March

We held a Geography Workshop, which showcased what we have learnt in geography this academic year to families of all year groups. There was a range of interactive games and quizzes for our visitors to enjoy. We even had exploding volcano demonstrations!

Year 5 enjoyed their annual Viking Day which was an amazing adventure back in time! They tried their hands at weaving, baked berry pancakes, created rune bookmarks and played Hnefetafl, a traditional Viking strategy game. At the end of the day, armed with shields and spears they had an intense battle.

Our World Book day was a great success, with so many inventive and creative costumes - we were amazed!

Families joined us for an enjoyable musical concert to showcase what year 4 pupils had learned in their weekly brass instrument lessons. 15 of the children went on to shine brightly at the Chester Music Centre Spring Concert at Upton High, performing with the Chester Schools Concert and Mezzo bands. They playing some of the pieces they have learned during the spring term.

A team of four super-scientists were nominated to represent our school from Year 5 and 6. Niall, Harrison, Zara and Sam T-F battled with over 170 other schools nationwide, in the National Science championships for British Science Week! The team made it through to the semi-finals!

The second of our PTA School Discos were a great success with children dancing the night away to DJ Cookie selection



April

We had an incredible start to April when we learned that both our boys and girls cross country teams had been awarded first place at the Chester Schools Cross Country series 2025/2026! Arianwen was also awarded first in the Year 5 individual girls' competition and Niall and Logan were champions of the Year 6 boys' competition, coming first and second overall!

Our amazing Science Team took part in the semi-finals of the National Science championships, working really well as a team. They came 25th out of 106 teams from around the country - a fantastic result!

Our incredible Year 5-6 Shakespeare Club welcomed a jam packed hall, and treated us to a wonderful performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream. And what a dream show it was - a tale full of twists and turns and bursting with comedy! The actors gave it their all and it showed. A HUGE CONGRATULATIONS to our magnificent cast and thank you so much to all the families for coming to enjoy their performance.

Year 1 visited the Grosvenor Museum as part of their Toys from the Past topic.

our very special Tutankham-duck braved the choppy waters of the River Dee to compete in this year's Duck Race. Designed and created by our Art Ambassadors and Mrs Elston, our duck didn't win however we are super proud of him anyway!



May

Our Shakespeare festival continued with a powerful performance by our incredible Year 3-4 Shakespeare Club, who portrayed the classic play, Hamlet, to a packed School Hall! They also went on to perform for the residents of the Belong Care Home who were delighted by their confidence and stagecraft in bringing the play to life in such an imaginative and skilled manner

We attained the Silver Rail Safe Friendly Award. This award recognises our commitment to raising vital rail safety awareness among our school community.

Our Year six children completed their SATs. The children certainly did themselves justice and showed what resilient, enthusiastic and determined individuals they have grown to be! They received their Leavers Hoodies after their last test to celebrate!

It was the final disco of the academic year with DJ Cookie spinning the tunes and keeping us dancing!

Year 5 held a Cake Stall raising a MASSIVE £340 to put towards class trips and events to reduce costs to families.



June

The Summer Fair was an incredible success and raised over £2700!! A massive thank you to the PTA and all of the volunteers who manned stalls, helped to set up and to pack away after the event.

Year 3 had a marvellously mummyfying time at The World Museum, exploring ancient artefacts and enthralling exhibitions!

There was much excitement as the swimming pool returned, enabling every child the opportunity to enhance their swimming skills!

Year 2 ventured out through the streets of Chester for our local history study field trip, hunting for buildings designed by architect, John Douglas.

It was Year 5's turn to brush up their cycling skills with important training from the folks from Bikeright.



July

Year 6 dazzled us all with their monstrously hilarious musical, Grossbusters - a thoroughly enjoyable performance!

Year 2 popped to Park Hall Farm for a day with the animals, followed by an exciting school sleepover and disco!

We welcomed lots of families in to school for our annual Sports Day, and boy, was it hot hot hot!

Year 2 and Year 6 held their Graduation Services at the beautiful All Saints' Church. Quite a few tears were shed!

The Year 6 also enjoyed their leavers party, complete with pizza, disco and inflatable assault course!

Last, but certainly not least, to round another fantastic year off nicely, we held a colour run and had an absolute blast! What a busy year!





COLOUR
RUN!





The Painting

A short **scary** story by Sam Tilston-Foster

In a strange darkness, something lay. It was not of the living in its current form, but still gave off an unpleasant aura. The soul within was sleeping, and so it would, until disturbed. Then it would awake to feed. It lay, in its chamber, waiting for its prey to come forth and rouse it from its slumber. And it would not be long.

It was the fourth of December in 1865, and the night was cold and windy outside. I sat in the corner of my studio, gazing intently at the picture before me. I puffed on my tobacco pipe, wondering what made the painter portray such a strange image. The evening was coming on, and though the time was reaching nearly ten, I decided that I had time for one last job. I worked as a restorer of historic art, although I could see no importance in this piece.

There was a woman standing alone in this hallway, an ornate golden cup in her hands. She was dressed like a typical gentlewoman but with a strange look in her eyes that she had seen many things. The eyes in question seemed to be a bright red, though I assumed it to be just the effect of the candlelight by which I lit the room. The woman looked as if she had just exited a banquet hall, coming to find a servant to bring forth some more wine for the guests. The frame of the picture was beautiful, expertly wrought in gold with exquisite patterns along it. However, dust and dirt had gathered in some of the grooves, and it evidently needed a good polish. Clearly the painting had not been touched for maybe a century or more. And so, I set to work.

I began scraping out the most part of the dirt with a small knife, careful not to damage the gold below. I next used a brush to remove the excess dust to reveal the entirety of the metalwork, although the frame was in clear need of a good, long polish. I had left the jar and cloth in the storage cupboard under the stairs, and so put down my pipe and went to collect it. I wandered out and along the corridor, the light dim, and only lit by the blunt nibs of candles along the wall. I contemplated making my way into town tomorrow to buy new ones as I approached the cupboard doors. They opened with a small creak that echoed up the stairs. It was piled high with old pots of paint, stiff brushes, and many things I did not need, nor cared for in the slightest. I soon spotted the jar of polish on top of a box, and reached for it. I then returned to my studio, and sat back down on my armchair, ready to get back to work. But something was different. The woman had gone.

It was unexplainable. I stared, utterly confused at the picture. The carpet, walls and ceiling were still there. But the woman had vanished. Not a trace was there that she had ever been a part of the image. My mouth hung ajar. The tobacco pipe floating in front of it, clutched in my frozen hand.

Suddenly, there was a scuffle, that startled me to the point where my pipe slipped from my hand and clattered to the floor. I turned to see... the woman. The woman from the painting. She was just as well-dressed, just as intent-looking, and strangely to me in that moment, just as beautiful. She had long, astounding eyelashes, and amazingly smooth skin. She began to walk slowly towards me, though her feet made no sound on the wooden, planked floor. All of a sudden, reality hit me. I realised that I must be dreaming, and that it was impossible for it to be the same woman. I clenched my eyes shut, hoping for my mind to wake up from its delusional state. I must have dosed off in my chair, the thought of the woman fresh in my mind.

However, a sudden surge of pain coursed through me, spreading from my arm. I yelped, and opened my eyes to gaze down at a fresh wound in my arm. Blood leaked from what look like a bite mark set deep in my flesh. My gaze shifted upwards, and fell on the painting. The woman was back, but she was different. Her once, unemotional expression was gone, replaced by a wide, almost villainous grin that revealed sharp, pointed teeth. Her lips were stained red, and a drop of blood was dripping from one long fang. The goblet was once again clutched in her hand, and a bright red liquid filled it. I now finally realised that the glowing red eyes was no effect of the light.

Immediately after seeing the truth behind the picture, I took the knife which only half an hour ago I had used to restore the piece, and now used it to shred its canvas. I was only satisfied when no sign of the vampire was left before throwing the remaining material into the fire. I watched the canvas shrivel in the flames gleefully, as the smoke rose out through the chimney. One red eye looked at me from the ash, fear flashing across it, before it burst into flames, leaving no trace left.

The vampire was gone.



DOG MANIA



by Isla Trinder-Hughes (year 6)

Dogs are a man's best friend. All dogs have an attractive coat unless they have an illness that may result in them losing their fur. When a dog's owner can no longer care for them, (due to illness, location or war) they can unfortunately be given up for adoption.

Here is some information about a fantastic dog who was given up for adoption at Cheshire Dogs Home:

JJ is a handsome boy who is still young and has lots of energy! He gets very giddy when going out for his walks around the park and really enjoys his off lead time in our secure compound area, playing with everything! He can pull a little on the lead due to being very excitable when going out so he would benefit from some training to help him with this. He is the loveliest, happiest boy and has been so friendly to everyone that he meets! He is a bouncy boy that likes to jump up at you and smother you with kisses (whether you want them or not!) And he is only 8 months old!

JJ came in to our care as a re-home, therefore we do have some history on him which we can let potential adopters know once your application is successful. He has said a lovely hello to lots of different dogs since he has been with us, so we do think he could live in a home with another dog of a similar size and energy level and one which will tolerate his puppy traits - subject to a successful meet and greet. Although we still unsure of how he would react around cats!

In the end, dogs don't just share our homes - they share our hearts. Their loyalty, joy, and unconditional love remind us daily that life is better with a wagging tail by our side.

Now, here is some information about guide dogs that I hope shall inspire you!

Guide dogs are specially trained assistance dogs that support blind or visually impaired individuals with their mobility.

They are not just pets; they play a crucial role in the lives of those with serious sight problems, helping them navigate their environment, avoid obstacles, and perform daily tasks.

Guide dogs undergo a training process that typically lasts about two years, during which they learn to adjust to a harness, stop at curbs, gauge their owner's height, and perform various commands to assist their handlers.

The breeds commonly chosen for guide dogs includes German shepherds, Labrador retrievers, and Golden retrievers, among others.

Guide dogs are not only companions but also provide support, independence, and a sense of purpose for their handlers.



SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF

**Miss McDonald has worked at our school for 10 years!
She's taught most year groups and is currently a Reception teacher.**

**Unafraid of a sparkly costume and partial to a boogie on the dancefloor, we caught up with
this vibrant, fun loving yogi, to find out a little more about what makes her tick!**

What did you want to be when you were little?

I was torn between a teacher and a football pundit! I wrote two university applications and decided to go with teaching!

Did you work at a different school before you came here?

I didn't. I left university and got a job here at Hoole!

What inspired you to become a teacher?

I enjoyed school as a child and had some really lovely teachers who I still remember now.

What other jobs have you had since leaving high school?

During university I worked in a shop (Next) and a local pub.

Which was your favourite?

I enjoyed the pub because I liked making the drinks.

What was your favourite subject at school and why?

I always enjoyed Drama and studied this at A-Level.

What are some of your favourite hobbies or interests outside of school?

Outside of school I enjoy going to the gym, going to concerts and I have a season ticket at Everton. I have had one since I was 8 years old.

What is a funny or memorable moment you've experienced in the classroom?

A funny moment from the classroom was when my year 3 class April fooled me!

What is one thing about you that might surprise us?

Danny Jones from the band McFly is a family friend and when I was younger he was always at our family parties.

If you didn't work in a school, what would your 'dream' job be in an alternate universe?

My dream job would probably be an actor or reporting on football.

Have you got a pet? If so, what is it and what's its name?

I have got a house rabbit who is called 'Bunn'.

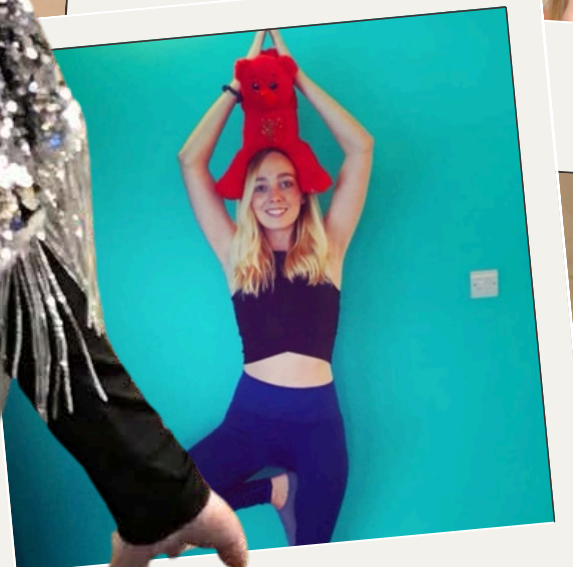
What is your favourite colour?

My favourite colours are pink and blue.

If you could travel to any decade in history, which one would you choose and why?

Probably the 1970's because I would go and see a number of artists I love such as David Bowie and Bill Withers.

Miss McDonald



The Golden Hazelnut

A short story by
Lyra Bourne



Once upon a time, there was a squirrel called Katie.

She was cleaning her precious sparkly hazelnuts and then she opened the cupboard door.

“Oh!” Katie gasped, looking surprised. There was a golden hazelnut in the cupboard door!

How did that get in there? Katie wanted to keep it so she did. She set off to the special tree stump, because she was very proud of it.

The next day a badger thief stole the golden hazelnut and then he ran away.

That afternoon, Katie looked at the special tree stump to see if it was still there. It wasn't there! Katie felt shocked. Where did it go?

She asked some woodland friends but they didn't see what had happened. So she asked someone called Hedgie the hedgehog.

He explained that the badger thief had run away with it. Katie looked all over the woods for him but there was no sight of the badger.

She finally found him in the meadow and she snatched the golden hazelnut right off the badger.

Soon, he was arrested. Katie walked home with the golden hazelnut and she lived happily ever after.

The end.

What do you call a
Spanish Man who lost his
car?

Carlos!

Miss Carter



Why are Pirates
called Pirates?
because they
Arrrrrrrr!

Miss Worthington

What do you call a donkey
with three legs?

A wonkey!

Miss Willson

What do you call a
deer with no
eyes?
No idea!

Pepe

Why is six afraid of
seven?
Because seven ate nine!

Mrs Watling



What do you call a
fake noodle?
An impasta!

Miss Foy

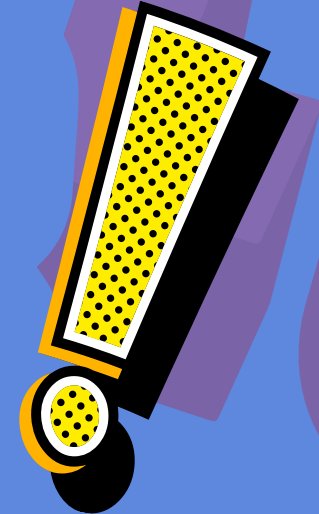
Which animal is
the best at
cricket?
A bat!

Mrs Millington



JOKES

FUNNY MOMENTS WITH OUR CLASS CLOWNS



Why can you never
trust an atom?
Because they make up
everything!

Mrs Jones

I saw my maths
teacher with a piece
of graph paper
yesterday... I think
she must be plotting
something.

Miss Rennocks



Why type of bird works in
construction?

A Crane!

Casi

What did one
plate say to the
other?
Dinner's on me!

Olivia E

What does a frog say when it
reads all the books?

Red it, Red it, Red it!

Lexi

What do you call a
sleeping dinosaur?
A dino-snore!

Mrs Elston

Why did the
scarecrow win an
award?

Because he was
outstanding in his
field!

Mrs Inns



YEAR 6 MEMORABLE MOMENTS

Our year 6's have been reflecting on their time here over the years. We will miss them all dearly in September.

My top two memories are from year 5 - Viking Day and meeting our Reception Buddies!

Sam T-F

Year 6 has been so much fun! We have done so many new activities - my favourite was on the raft building on the Year 6 trip when we all fell in. I'll never forget my friends.

Hettie

My favourite memory was making bread in Year 2!

George

My favourite memory was in Year 2 when we made bread and ate it! I also enjoyed finishing our SATs in year 6 and having ice lollies! When we made our own air raid shelters, it was really fun to paint and decorate it.

Firdowsa

I'll never forget our Year 6 play!

Daryna

I loved Viking Day in Year 5, especially meeting Olaf and when he called me Emma the Riddle Hater!

Emma

My favourite memory was from the Year 6 residential trip when i got pushed into the lake!

Leila



My favourite memory was finishing our SATs in year 6 and getting our hoodies!

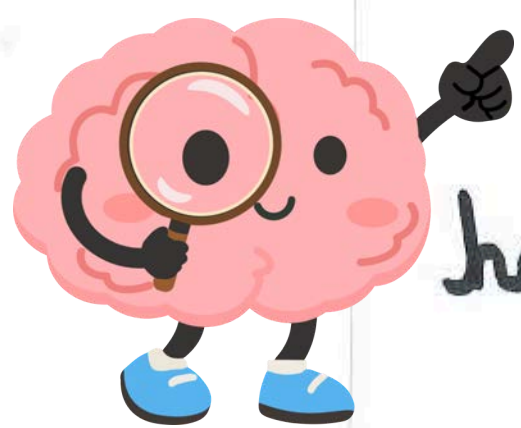
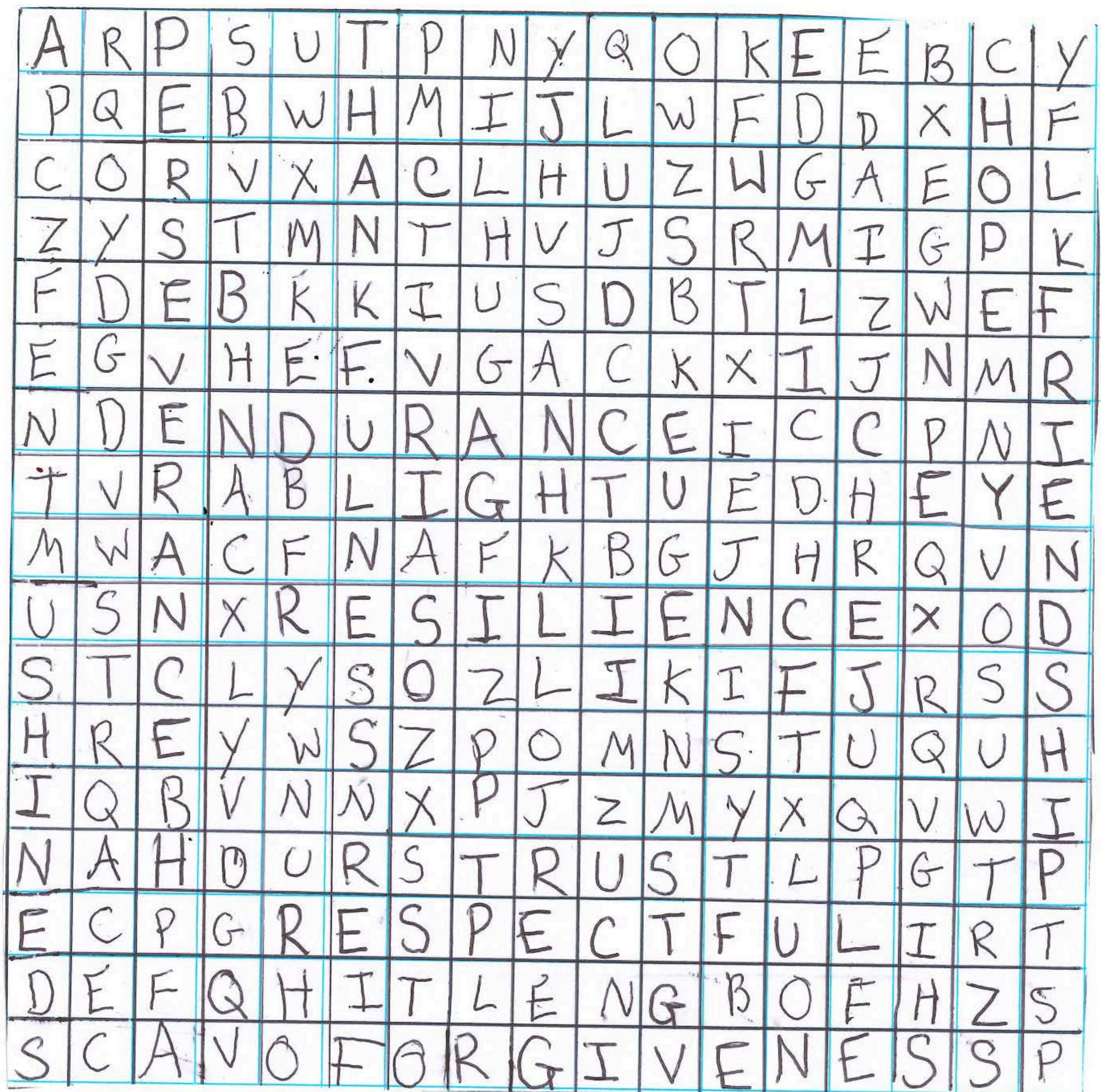
Oscar

My best memory was in year 6 on the residential Trip - it was so much fun doing the activities. It was really funny at the owl show when it nearly flew on to my head!

Poppy

GOODBYE & GOOD LUCK YEAR 6!

Puzzling Puzzles with Hettie and Lexi



hope ☐

endurance ☐

trust ☐

forgiveness ☐

justice ☐

friendship ☐

Thankfulness ☐

shine ☐

perseverance ☐

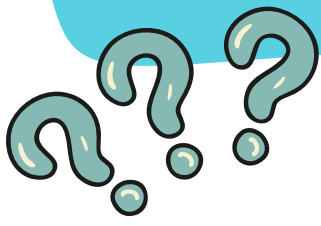
resilience ☐

light. ☐

respectful ☐



RIDDLE ME
THIS!



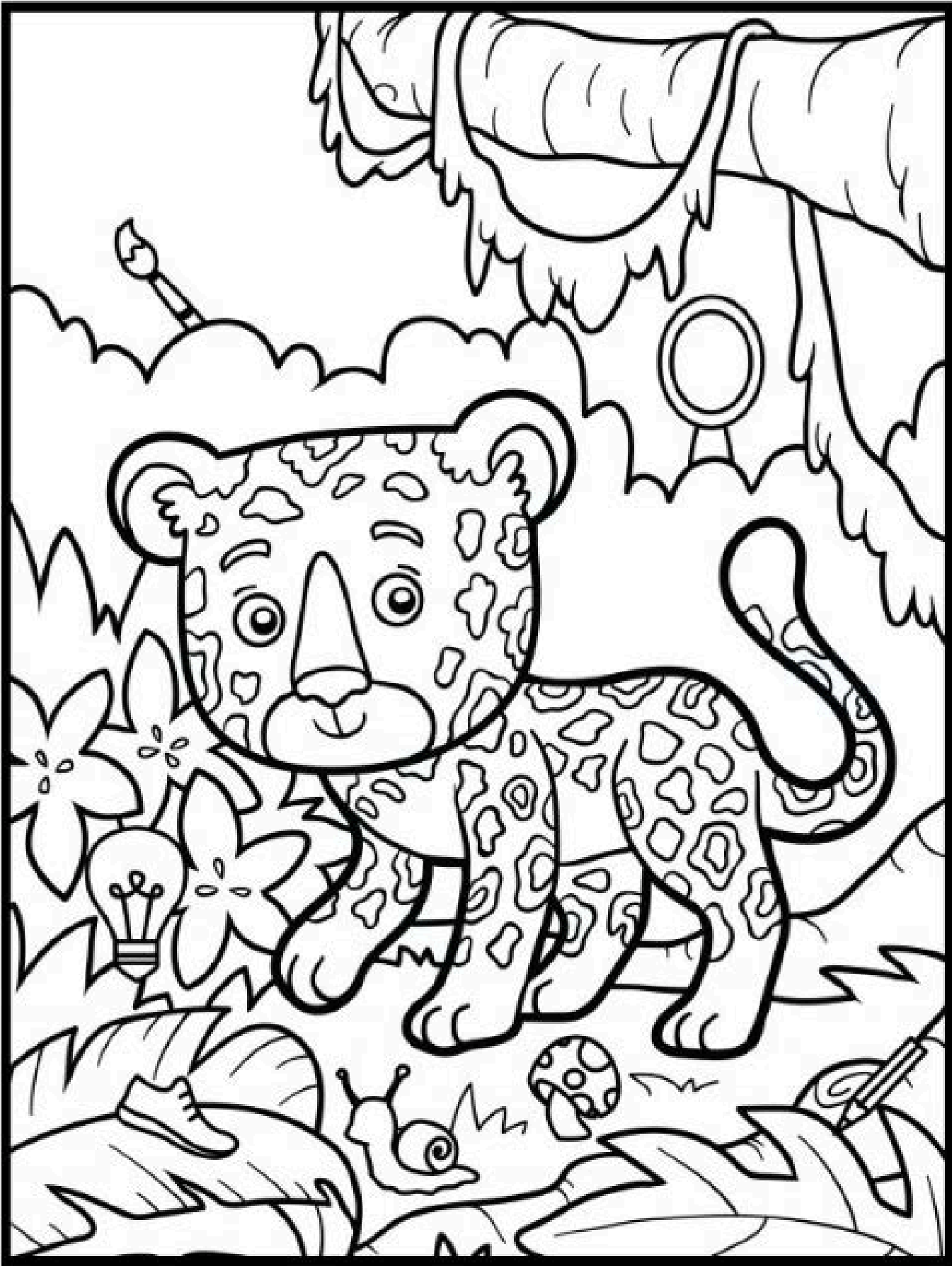
- 1. What can you hold in your left hand, but not in your right?
- 2. David's parents have 3 sons; Snap, Crackle and what is the name of the third son?
- 3. What gets bigger the more you take away?
- 4. Where does today come before yesterday?
- 5. What goes up but never goes down?
- 6. I speak without a mouth and hear without ears. I have no body and come alive with wind. What am I?
- 7. What has many keys but can't open a single lock?

- 1. Your right elbow
- 2. David
- 3. A hole
- 4. The dictionary!
- 5. Your age
- 6. An echo
- 7. A piano



HIDDEN PICTURES

Find these in the picture



Spot 10 differences



MEET THE MAKER

A MAGICAL CONVERSATION WITH LOCAL LEGEND, RUSSELL KIRK



Russell Kirk is the artist extraordinaire behind the incredible spectacles that are Chester's parades - The Midsummer Watch, The Christmas Lanterns, and the Winter Watch Parade.

The Midsummer Watch Parade is often described as one of the most colourful and historic street parades in England. This medieval procession features Russell's iconic giant puppets—including dragons, the unicorn, the Hippogriff, and the legendary Chester Ravens, the latter of which we represented in this year's parade!

Russell is no stranger to Hoole Primary; his children came here and he has collaborated year after year with us, and other local primary schools, designing and building elaborate mythical creatures and handheld lanterns that light up the city centre streets each year, in more ways than one!

Beyond the parades, he builds large-scale carnival sculptures, theatre props, and community mosaics besides painting, illustrating and sketching.

We sat down with Russell for a good chat about his colourful life, his inspirations and his aspirations.

Are you originally from Chester or did you grow up elsewhere?

I'm from a small village just outside Swindon Wiltshire originally. Very country, so an outdoor life of endless summers. Climbing trees, roaming woods and fields, very Laurie Lee. My school years were in Swindon, stayed on until Upper 6th and then art college in Devon.

What were you like when you were a child?

I had loads of friends so I must have been fairly well behaved and likeable.

What was your favourite subject at school and why?

Depends which part of my schooling you're referring to. I didn't dislike anything at primary school ...I was good at sport so always remember enjoying that. High school was different, as it tends to be. My trajectory was towards engineering so Physics, Maths, Technology; all of which I hated. I came to art late in Upper Sixth, which became my favourite place to be. Anyway, made a complete hash of my A levels and just scraped into college. I think we tend to like things we're good at, don't we? So if pushed, probably art.

Ironically, I use maths and physics all the time now while building puppets and sculpture.

What did you aspire to be when you left school?

Well I went to art college so I must have had thoughts of doing something along those lines. Nothing springs to mind...I certainly didn't want to be a train driver.

Have you any ambitions you've yet to complete?

Nothing pressing, though I would like to spend more time developing my own practice which means more time on my own in the studio.

How would you describe your artistic style?

I try not to, but...eclectic, improvised, varied. I survive by working in many different ways with a range of materials; Drawing, sculpture, mosaics, installations, writing, illustrating.....and puppet making. I'm not a master of any really, but reasonably good at a few different things.

Do you have a favorite art medium you love working with?

Short answer, no. Give me gaffer tape, cable ties and a glue gun and I'm mostly content. But I think if I had to pack it all in it's the drawing I'd miss most.

How did you first get involved in the Chester parades?

Completely by accident.

I met Mary Lewery, the director of Midsummer Watch, during a student workshop 27 years ago. Volunteered to help, walked in the front a couple of times, did a bit of making...the pirate ship and the elephant were the first commissions and was completely hooked by the third year. In 2006 Mary said to me 'Right I'm off, it's all yours'. And that was it.

Can you walk us through your creative process, from the initial spark of inspiration to the final piece?

There are different creative processes, it depends on what needs to be done. There's my own work, I'm always sketching, thinking, looking, so stuff appears all the time. There isn't a spark of inspiration from the ether, it comes through hard graft. Commissions, projects, eventsthings where there's a prescribed outcome, this is a different approach.

If I'm making a new devil puppet for instance - there's a box with devil written on it and into that box go images, words, music, research and then I'll start making it using all the things in the box as reference. Then at some point it's done.

What is the biggest challenge you face as a professional artist, and how do you overcome it?

Initially, self-belief. Gaining that and enough confidence to back myself was a hard one. But, I found that just saying yes to most things and then finding out the 'how to do it' bit, seems to have worked.

Do you have a favourite artist, and if so, what draws you to their work?

Painter .. Francis Bacon - honest, brutal, questioning....Of his time certainly, but look at his 3 figures at the base of a crucifix, they're as resonant now as they were in 1944 when he painted them.

Musician.... Tom Waits - gruff, uncompromising...

Organisation - 'Welfare State' - 1980's political arts group famous for their street puppets, happenings and events. Had a major impact on street art across the uk, I owe a lot to their legacy.

What does a typical day look like for you?

Busy and slightly unpredictable.

Diary of a work experience kid

I attended Hoole Primary School until 2021 then I went to Upton High School. When I was in Year 10, I returned to do work experience as a teaching assistant. It was so much fun, I decided to come back after my last GCSE to help out; this time in the school office rather than the classroom. I thought it'd be really good to gain some experience in an administrative setting before I started to apply for jobs.

On my first day, I worked alongside Miss Wilson. She had ordered all the books and stationery that would be needed in September, for when everyone returns to school after the summer holiday. Together, we checked off the items against the delivery note to make sure there wasn't anything missing. Then we set to work putting everything in piles ready to take to the classes to store for September. It was a tough job moving all that stock but it was rewarding to complete it!

The next day, I helped in the school office, preparing documents and forms, photocopying and filing. I even helped Miss Foy enter data on the computer to prepare for the Colour Run and update the school website. There was a lot to take in but my lessons in Computer Science came in really handy! It was really hectic and I was surprised how much work got done given the amount of visitors that came to the door and the enquiries over the phone - it never seemed to stop ringing!

On my third day, I was tasked with checking all the iPads were working well and fully charged on the trolleys. It was a big job as there were so many but I worked my way through them and gave them a good clean before I put them back on the trolley.

On Day 4, I helped Miss Foy write the weekly school newsletter. It's a big job to complete every week and cover all the events that happen.

On Day 5, I helped sort the documents to include in the annual reports. I was pleased to be doing in a room with air conditioning as it was one of the hottest days of the year! I also laminated lots of posters ready for the Colour Run. I'm excited to be helping at the event too!

Dusk Mcanally



Lunchbox roll-ups

A wrap is a great alternative to the standard packed lunch sandwich.
These easy lunchbox roll-ups can be made the night before to beat the morning rush!

Ingredients

1 tortilla wrap

For the smoked salmon and cream cheese wrap

1 tbsp cream cheese

½ small cucumber, peeled into ribbons

100g/3½oz smoked salmon (about 4 slices)

black pepper (optional)

For the rainbow veggies wrap

2 tbsp hummus

30g/1oz carrot, grated

30g/1oz red pepper, finely diced

30g/1oz red cabbage, finely shredded

handful spinach

For the pizza wrap

2 tsp mayonnaise

2 tsp sun-dried tomato pesto

3 squares ready-sliced mozzarella

6–7 slices salami

handful large basil leaves



Method

To make the smoked salmon wrap, spread the cream cheese over the wrap, then grind over some black pepper, if using. Lay the cucumber ribbons over the cream cheese and top with the smoked salmon. Roll up, then cut into six pieces.

To make the rainbow veggies wrap, spread the hummus over the wrap, then top with the carrot, red pepper and red cabbage, pressing them lightly into the hummus. Top with the spinach and roll up, then cut into six pieces.

To make the pizza wrap, stir together the mayonnaise and tomato pesto, then spread over the wrap. Top with the cheese, trimming it to fit, followed by the salami, then the basil leaves. Roll up tightly, then cut into six pieces.



Olivia's Garden Herb Pasta

Ingredients (serves 2–3)

250 g spaghetti

2 packed handfuls fresh basil leaves

1 packed handful fresh lemon balm leaves

2–3 cloves garlic

60–80 ml extra virgin olive oil

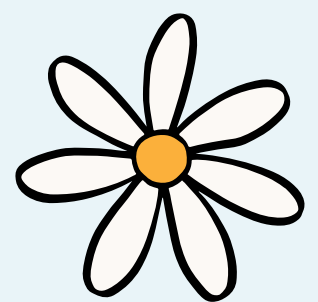
Finely grated zest of ½ lemon (optional but lovely)

2–3 tbsp grated Parmesan or Pecorino (optional)

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

A squeeze of fresh lemon juice, to taste

Toasted pine nuts or walnuts (optional)



Method

Cook the spaghetti in well-salted boiling water until al dente. Reserve about 1 cup of the pasta water before draining.

Meanwhile, blend or pound together the basil, lemon balm, garlic, olive oil, lemon zest, a pinch of salt, and the cheese (if using) until you have a loose pesto.

Toss the hot spaghetti with the herb mixture, adding a little reserved pasta water until the sauce becomes silky and coats the pasta.

Taste and season with black pepper, more salt if needed, and a squeeze of lemon juice to brighten the flavours.

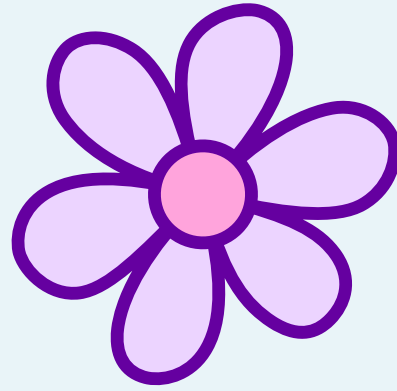
Finish with extra Parmesan, a drizzle of olive oil, and toasted nuts if you like.

Miss Wilson's easy_peasy_banana muffins

Bake these moreish banana muffins for a make-ahead breakfast or a snack on the go. They are quick, easy and ready in under an hour.

Ingredients (makes 12)

250g self-raising flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
110g caster sugar
75g melted butter
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 eggs
2 large ripe bananas - mashed
125ml buttermilk
50g pecans - chopped (optional)



Method

Heat the oven to 190C/170C Fan/gas 5.

Line a 12-hole muffin tin with paper cases.

Sift together the flour, baking powder, bicarbonate of soda and caster sugar with a big pinch of salt. In a separate bowl mix the melted butter, vanilla extract, eggs, mashed bananas and buttermilk.

Make a well in the centre of the dry ingredients and pour the wet ingredients in.

Roughly mix together with a fork, being careful not to over-mix. Scatter in the chopped pecans, if using, then spoon the mixture into the muffin cases.

Top with pecan halves, then bake for 20-25 mins, until golden brown. Cool on a wire rack

Miss Foy's homemade granola bars



These easy granola bars are great for lunchboxes, breakfast on the run or just as a mid-morning snack.



Ingredients (makes 12 bars)

100g butter, plus extra for greasing
200g porridge oats
100g sunflower seeds
50g sesame seeds
50g chopped walnuts
3 tbsp honey
100g light muscovado sugar
1 tsp ground cinnamon
100g dried cranberries, cherries or blueberries, or a mix

Method

Heat oven to 160C/fan 140C/gas 3.

Butter and line the base of a 18 x 25cm tin. Mix the oats, seeds and nuts in a roasting tin, then put in the oven for 5-10 mins to toast.

Meanwhile, warm the butter, honey and sugar in a pan, stirring until butter is melted. Add the oat mix, cinnamon and dried fruit, then mix until all the oats are well coated. Tip into the tin, press down lightly, then bake for 30 mins.

Cool in the tin, then cut into 12 bars.



SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF

Mrs Watling has been at our school for 7 years! She is a “Jack of All Trades” - when she’s not donning her Deputy Headteacher hat, she can be found teaching in Year 4, sporting an apron whilst helping out in the hall at lunch times, holding after school clubs..the list goes on and on!

Mrs Watling kindly answered some questions for us inbetween jobs!

What did you want to be when you were little?

When I was younger, I did not have any idea of what I wanted to be when I grew up. I did not enjoy school - and that is why it is important for me to make school enjoyable for children now.

Did you work at a different school before you came here? If so, which one?

I worked at one in Ellesmere Port and another in Winsford. Hoole is the biggest school I have worked at and it is definitely my favourite

Were you a teacher before you became a Deputy headteacher?

Yes - I have been a teacher a long time. I started as a Year 1 teacher, but have mostly taught Years 5 and 6 as well as Year 3 and 4

What inspired you to become a teacher?

I think 2 things. One was finding school difficult when I was a pupil and wanting to make it better for other children. My other reason is that I think it is the most important job in the world and you should do your absolute best as a teacher.

What other jobs have you had since leaving high school?

I worked in a restaurant, for a gas company sending out vans to gas leaks and I worked for a pharmaceutical company working with countries all over the world

Which has been your favourite profession?

Definitely being a teacher, although traveling all over the world and staying in beautiful cities and working with people from many different countries as part of my pharmaceutical work was great fun too!

What was your favourite subject at school and why?

I liked learning languages because I found learning them was quite easy.

What are some of your favourite hobbies or interests outside of school?

I enjoy being outdoors - especially near the sea, long walks, going to the gym and being part of my local church.

What is one thing about you that might surprise us?

When I got my university degree, I met and spoke to Princess Alexandra - Queen Elizabeth's cousin!

If you didn't work in a school, what would your 'dream' job be?

It would have to be a job in the sunshine! I would quite like to drive the tractors that smooth the sand on the beaches early in the morning before the tourists arrive. I love being outside in the early mornings before the day gets too hot and watching the sunrise.

Have you got a pet?

No - 2 grown up children is enough for me!

What is your favourite colour?

Red (Liverpool colours!)

If you could travel to any decade in history, which one would you choose and why?

I would like to go back to the 1960s - to see firsthand the work done by Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks as well as the first lunar landing and the Beatles when they were performing together.

Mrs Watling



PLEASE DON'T FADE WAY

By Lyra Bourne

*Please don't fade away,
and don't hide.*

We need you to be on our side.

*Keep playing because we're having
some fun in the sun.*

*Please don't fade away,
because we still love you.*

Just stay on our side.

Just don't fade away!





TOP OF THE CHARTS SPORTS



This years sports days were held between the
30th June-17th July.

This is always a fun time of year because everyone gets to participate, hang out in the school field in the sun, you can support your friends and chat to them. So get hyped people!

If that isn't exciting enough there's always cross country, so if that is your gig there's a possible 1st, 2nd and 3rd waiting for you. We also have loads of other fantastic sports you can get involved with.

Sports you can do at Hoole:

running, cross country, netball, football, cricket, bowling and swimming.



Well Done

Well done to Niall and Logan who came 1st and 3rd in the year 6 boys cross country. A big well done to everyone who ran in the cross country and the mile run and to all our netball champs.

A big thank you to Mrs Millington who arranged everyone.

By Arianwen S and Lily R (year 6)





A CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Mrs Tynegate

Mrs Tynegate joined our school as a Governor in 2020. Before she retired, she spent over 25 years as a Primary School teacher, mostly in Early Years. When she's not in school being Chief Governor or reading with the children, she leads the "Little Lights" toddler group at All Saints' Church, which has close links with our school.

We sat down to ask her a few questions.

What did you want to be when you were little?

I always wanted to be a teacher. I used to "play schools" with my dolls, and reluctant younger sister. I had a register and a timetable too.

How long have you been a Governor at Hoole CE Primary School?

Just over 6 years.

What inspired you to become a Governor?

I had heard great things about Hoole Primary School, and wanted to get involved. I had taken early retirement from teaching but still loved being involved in Education.

What jobs have you had since leaving high school?

My first job was a Saturday job in the record department of WH Smiths, which I loved, even though we didn't have a record player at home. I was very popular with my friends because I could get discount for them on the latest hits! I had different jobs in the holidays while I was a student, such as packing eggs in a factory, working in a hotel, working at a motorway service area (selling ice cream) and working in the china and glass department of a big store.

What was your favourite subject at school and why?

At Primary School I loved Topic, because we learned about lots of different things and could do presentations about our learning. At High School I liked Geography and English.

What are some of your favourite hobbies or interests?

I really love gardening and being outside. My garden is definitely my "happy place". I also like cooking, going to the theatre and spending lots of time with my Grand Children. I love being involved at All Saints Church, which is very special to me.

What is a funny or memorable moment you've experienced in your life?

When I was a Reception teacher, we used to dress up every week to make our Literacy come alive. I made lots of different costumes to wear each week.

Once, I had forgotten that I was dressed as Captain Hook and did all my Parent Evening appointments dressed as a pirate. The parents were rather confused!

What is one thing about you that might surprise us?

I was born and lived in Zimbabwe till I was 5, and we had a pet monkey, called Jackie, who was very naughty. She had to wear nappies, because you can't potty train a monkey.

What would your 'dream' job be?

I would like to work at a big country house or garden, either in the garden or taking children on tours.

Have you got a pet? If so, what is it and what's its name?

We have a dog called Stan. He is a big, scruffy Labradoodle. He is very friendly and chilled. He likes balls, food and walks.

If you could travel to any decade in history, which one would you choose and why?

I think it would be very interesting to visit the 1920s-30s. There was so much going on in history, the clothes were fabulous, and I could meet one of my heroes, Vera Brittain.



THE KING OF THE MOUNTAINS

A short story by Sam Tilston-Foster

A great beast soared over the towering peaks, scanning the land before it. The sun lay low in the sky, and soon the mountains would be plunged into darkness. But there was time for food. The creature hung in the air, its orange wings beating softly.

It rode the thermals along the cliffs, rising ever higher into the pale, pink sky. And yet, its gaze still managed to breach the shadows cast by the hills in the dazzling sunset. It spied sheep and deer below, along with other, stranger creatures. Round, little armadillo-like creatures trotted along the grass, and large theropod creatures, with the thick fur and horns of a goat, bundled along the cliff peaks in small herds. It was harmonious, though that would soon be shattered, as the creature was hunting.

It made a quick decision, locking onto its target, and preparing to attack. It pulled in its wings and plunged down towards its prey. Wind whipped past its reptilian face and through its leathery wings.

An alarm cry sounded, and the herd of sheep below looked up at the attacker heading directly for them. They scattered, bleating wildly, as the monster drew ever closer.

An orange glow began to illuminate the mouth of the monster, it let out a burst of brilliant flame. They lapped the ground, until they eventually caught up with the unfortunate sheep, and burnt its life away.

The creature came in to land next to the charred body of the sheep. It picked it up in its mouth, then took off again into the fading light. It flew until the imposing figure of a truly ginormous mountain loomed before it. The beast spiralled up its face until it came to the flat top of the spire. It landed with a thud, and dropped the sheep's remains in front of it. It tore a shred of meat from the carcass, and swallowed it.

The fire dragon stared out at the sun, that was now barely visible above the mountain peaks, and the vast expanse of valleys and cliffs before it.

He, was the King of the Mountains.



HOOLE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



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PRIMARY SCHOOL

2026