

WRITTEN AND REPORTED BY NEWSPAPER CLUB

WHAT DO RAINBOW FAIRIES AND WARRIOR CATS HAVE IN COMMON?



You may have read a book by Vicky and not known she was the author!

By Clara and Emikhe

This is the first half of a Q & A that we've done for the amazing author Victoria Holmes. We interviewed her because we want to help everyone learn about her and her books in the *Warrior Cats* series. If this Q & A gets you interested you could try reading the *Warrior Cats* books in the school library. Though remember if you get confused she goes by different pen names including Erin Hunter.

The first question that we asked her was about why she decided to write the *Warrior Cats* series. Interestingly enough she said that it went

back 25 years, a long time before any kids at St. Paul's were born.

At the time Victoria had been writing about lots of animals, so her publisher asked her to write a story about cats. Even though she is more of a dog person Victoria set to work on the first storyline, which included all the things that she wanted to write about like war, religion and politics, people falling in love with the wrong people (that happens a few times in the series) and what it's like to be new in places. The storyline was just meant to be for one book, but when

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6-7: COOL OR CRINGE?

By Ada and Emma

Six-Seven took the school by storm this year – but is the trend finally fading out?

The Origin Story

The "6-7" craze started with a song, moved to a basketball game, and became extraordinarily viral when the "6-7 kid" became a sensation. Like most memes, it traveled through social media, moving from content

creators to teens before leading down to younger children. By the time most parents noticed it, the trend had already become a playground staple.

What St. Paul's Thinks

At St. Paul's, we are divided. While some students are still loyal to the phrase, others are officially "over it." A recent poll of pupils

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WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BE AN ARTIST?

By Clia and Eleanor

Robyn Bragg is an artist who recently moved to Cambridge from Canada with her family. She is also Eleanor and Elizabeth's mom. We interviewed her to find out what it is like to do her work.

What kind of art do you do?

I do mixed media, which is mixing different kinds of art

techniques together. What I mainly do is encaustics (painting with melted beeswax) and collage.

How often do you work?

Every week while my kids are at school.

Do you work with other people?

I make my art by myself but I am part of a group of mother artists in Canada

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POLLS
WHAT DOES ST.
PAUL'S THINK?

READING
WORLD BOOK DAY
AND MS DUNN

SPOTLIGHT ON
LATIN CLUB

PLUS...
QUIZZES, RIDDLES,
CARTOONS AND
MORE!

ARTIST Cont'd from Page 1

called 44.4. We put on shows together and support each other and learn from each other.

Do you have any other hobbies?

Yes I do. I like pottery along with reading, cross country skiing and hiking.

What inspires your art?

I'm inspired by fairy tales, mythology, architecture and nature.

Did you always want to be an artist?

No. When I was very small I

wanted to be an astronaut and a ballerina. But I always loved art.

What did you learn at school that helps you be an artist?

Art class helped a lot but other stuff did help too, like math. Especially money work because I have to keep track of my expenses and how much money to sell pieces for. English also helped a lot as well because I spend most of my time writing proposals for art shows. Computing helped me make my website.



Above: Robyn and us in her studio. Below: a selection of Robyn's art.



6-7 Cont'd from Page 1

found that while the meme is falling out of fashion, roughly a third of the school is still keeping it alive.

We interviewed a couple of students to see if "6-7" is still "fun" or just "old." Aggie (Year 6) thinks it's "slay," noting that: "It's come into this year because of the younger kids and, it's just a meme!" Meanwhile, Tamar (Year 5) is less convinced, admitting she's "kind of interested" but that "it doesn't really mean anything" to her any longer.

The Teachers Talk

While the students are split, the staff's vote is most important: it's time for 6-7 to go. Teachers have found the constant repetition irritating and hard to end. Mrs. Emokpaire, to stop students in their tracks, says "6-7-8-9!" Miss Brown was

even more direct, simply calling the meme "really annoying."

What's next?

As "6-7" fades out, a new phrase is already coming up for 2026. The latest claim taking over the playground? "2026 is the new 2016." Only time will tell if this one has staying power or if it will end up in the meme graveyard.



LATIN CLUB

By Theo

Latin is a classical European language that came from Ancient Rome. It formed the start of the common languages, such as Spanish, French, Italian and Portuguese, and heavily influenced English, especially in science, law and medicine. Although it is considered

a "dead language" in everyday communication, it is still used for academic and religious texts and is studied today for its literary richness.

In Latin Club we do wordsearches, crosswords, and read comics in Latin. Once, we did a debate about whether the Romans had a good impact on Britain.

Answers to Taylor Swift Quizzes on Page 8

- | Trivia Quiz | Emoji Quiz |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Taylor Swift | 1. Love Story |
| 2. The Life of a Showgirl | 2. Bad Blood |
| 3. Alison | 3. Midnight Rain |
| 4. December 13, 1989 | 4. Lavender Haze |
| 5. 13 | 5. Snow on the Beach |
| 6. Travis Kelce | 6. End Game |
| 7. Pennsylvania | 7. Wood |
| 8. Austin Swift | 8. White Horse |
| 9. 2024 | 9. 22 |
| 10. Purple | 10. Cruel Summer |

Y6 VISIT THE TOWER OF LONDON

By Emikhe

On Monday 16 March, Year 6 went out to the Tower of London.

Firstly, we went to the coach at around 8am in the morning and everyone was buzzing with excitement. After 1hr and 45mins we arrived at the Tower; it was right beside the River Thames and over the river was Tower Bridge. We walked into the centre of the tower and there was a metal-wired elephant poking out the stone wall - it was most fascinating to see.

We then went up the stairs leading to the White Tower which was built by William the Conqueror in 1078. As we went up there were two ravens perching on a metal stick poking out of the wall, both had a strap on their leg one was green and the other was pink. It is foretold that if

the ravens leave the Tower, London will fall; do you choose to believe that?

When we walked in we first saw the models of the horses and their armour. There was also armour which soldiers wore when they went to battle. There was the Collare of Torture which was used for scolding wayward wives when they gossiped, it had sharp bronze bits that would hurt the neck.

After a while we came into a room which had things you could play with. There was a fake cannon and when you pushed a button it would pretend to hit the screen and create a hole.

Also there was a 3D map of the Tower and it would say where different things would have taken place.

After being in the White Tower we looked at the King's

Guards who stand extremely still and only move every ten minutes. They were dressed in red and had long furry hats called busbys and carried a gun called the A3 assault rifle.

We then entered the Jewel House where the Crown Jewels were. We first came into a room which had crowns that other kings or queens would have worn. Next we came into another room which had dazzling stones and some models you could feel, they were nice and smooth.

Soon enough we came into the room where the Jewels were, we stepped onto a travellator which took us slowly down and we looked at the crown that people in royalty had worn. There were golden spoons and a golden punch bowl and they all looked nicely polished. At the end there laid the Crown Jewels: it had a big ruby

placed in the middle and a diamond cross on the head. There were lots of sparkles and it glimmered in the light.

We then went outside and saw a memorial around the place Anne Boleyn was beheaded along with 22 other people.

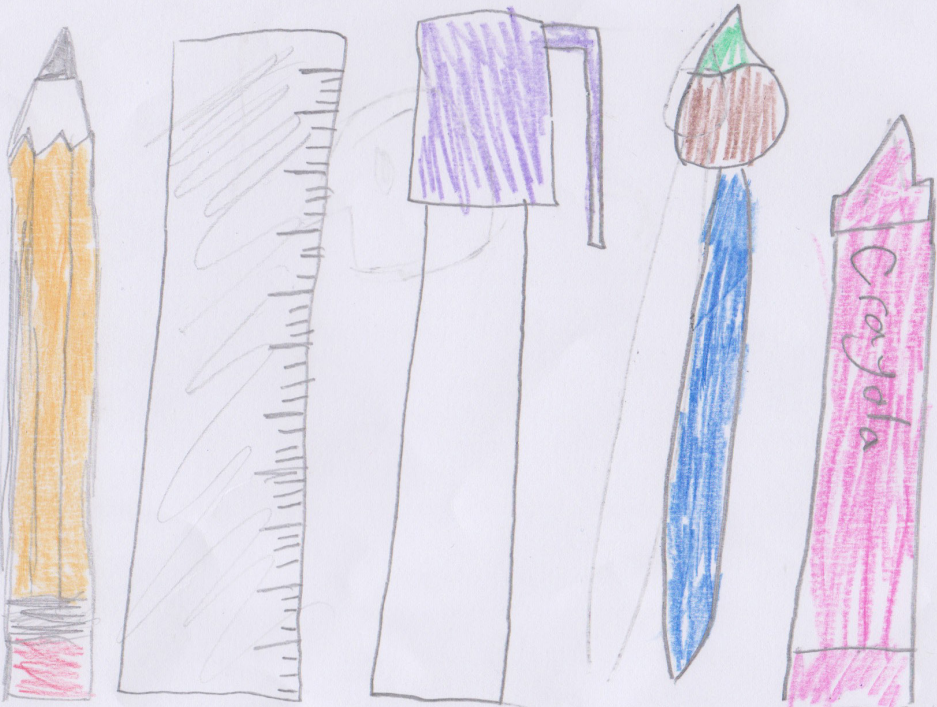
We then went into another building that people had been held in when they were waiting to have a trial like where Guy Fawkes would have been held when he tried to bomb the Houses of Parliament. There were the marks of what they drew and I found them extremely fascinating.

After lunch we went into the shop. After that we went back to school.

We came back at around 5.30pm and overall I thought it was a fantastic day!



With thanks to our sponsor



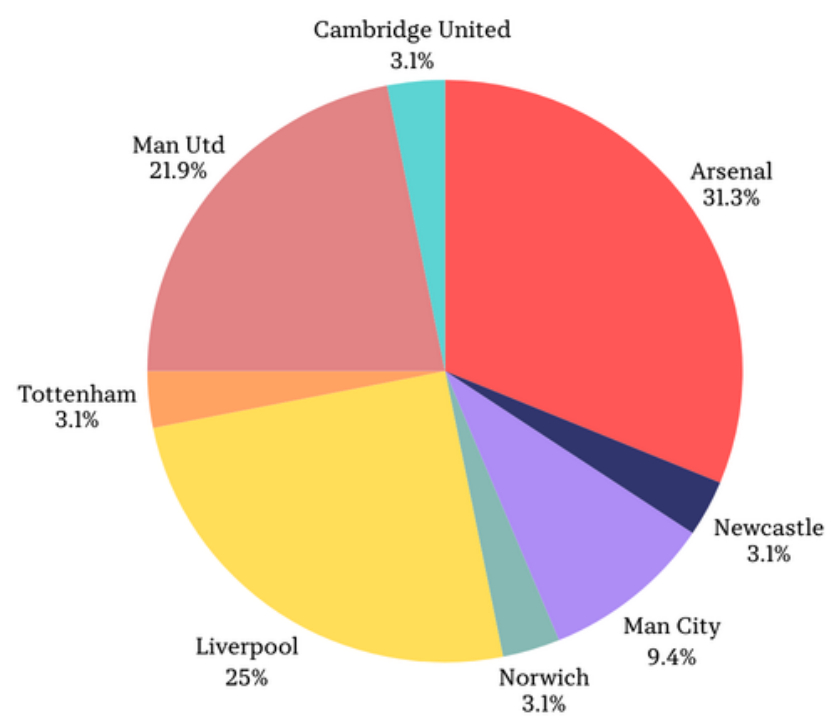
Handsome Provisions, purveyors of curated art prints by world-renowned illustrators.

Artwork by Eleanor

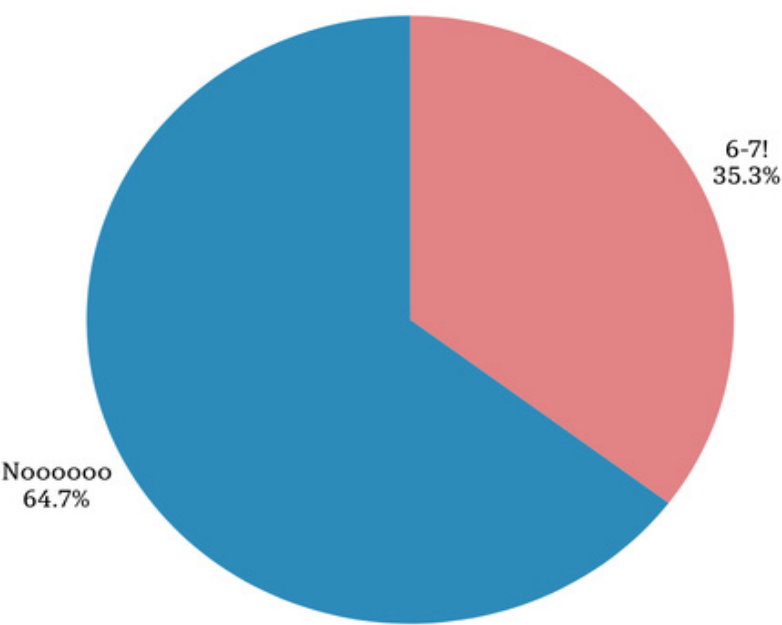
WHAT DOES ST. PAUL'S THINK?

Aiden, Theo and Valentine polled children from across the school on the big questions of the day. Here's what they found out.

What's your favourite English Football League team?



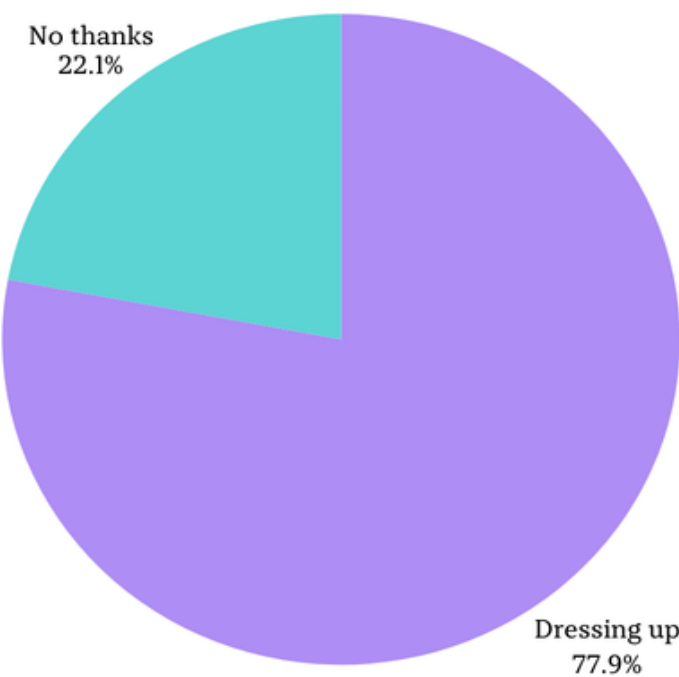
6-7: love it or hate it?



Roblox or Minecraft?



Do you like dressing up for World Book Day?





MEET OUR SCHOOL LIBRARIAN

By Clara and Emikhe

Ms Dunn is our school librarian. You might also know her from leading our World Book Day assembly and poetry club. She helps to keep our library clean and looks after the books. This is the year of reading so we interviewed her.

When did you start to love reading?

When I was really young my first book was called *My Birthday Wishes*. I've still got it. My sister scribbled on it with a crayon!

What inspired you to be a librarian?

Well, because I really

love introducing books to children. I've done that all the time I've been a teacher and lecturer in Homerton College. Then I introduced books to children on the BBC which was on Children's Radio. I made four BBC films called "Let's Make A Story."

What is your resolution for reading this year?

To read *The Mirror and the Light* by Hilary Mantel.

What do you want to say to people who aren't sure about reading?

Well, give it a go, find something you're interested in or ask a librarian, teacher or friend.

ST PAUL'S CELEBRATES WORLD BOOK DAY

By Isla

World Book Day is a yearly event in which you can dress up as your favourite book character. It falls on the first Thursday of March. This year, World Book Day fell on the 5th of March. And you can dress up as a character from any book that you want. If you don't like dressing up then you could take a book into school that you like. Last year, a few people were selected to be winners of a competition.

School Councillors were not allowed to select themselves but were allowed to vote for each other.

Catherine (Year 5) says she likes World Book Day because it's really fun and you can dress up.

World Book Day was a complete success and everybody enjoyed it. All of the teachers and students who dressed up did it really well and there was an amazing assembly.



Mrs Emokpaire and Miss Templeman as Dr Seuss's Thing 1 and Thing 2

Continued from Page 1

she gave it to her publisher they said that it could be six books! As most people would, Victoria felt some anticipation and she thought “How am I going to write six books about cats! I don’t even like cats.”

Nethertheless Victoria accepted. To help she recruited Kate Carey. Kate helped on the first two books then another person, Cherith Baldry helped Victoria on book number three. After that Cherith and Kate took it in turns to help her, Victoria would send them a manuscript that was about half of the size of the book that they would write. After writing it they would send it back to Victoria and she’d change any bits that she wanted to. Looking at this paragraph you can tell that the *Warrior Cats* series kind of started by accident. When Victoria’s publisher started to release the books Victoria had no idea that it would be such a success. It wasn’t until book six, *Darkest Hour*, came out in America and it went to number one on the bestseller list that Victoria and her publisher realised just how big the series was getting. That is actually how the second series started.

The second question that we asked her was if she was still writing the storyline for the series. Sadly she doesn’t because nine years ago she became very unwell with cancer so she had to step down and let Kate and Cherith work on it. Now there are about twelve people now who do the storyline but because it was her that came up with the original idea she gets to do the interviews.

The third question that we asked was about why she chose the pen name Erin Hunter. We discovered that the reason she picked it was because when they first published *Warriors* in 2003 the only other animal fantasy series was called *Redwall* by Brian Jaques, which was about rats, mice and badgers. They felt that people who liked *Redwall* might like to try *Warriors* because it’s about animals’ perspectives. Because of this they needed to have a surname that came close to Brian’s in the alphabet, and on book shelves, so someone buying *Redwall* might think to try *Warriors*. Victoria chose the first name Erin because, quoting her, it’s ‘cool’.

The fourth question we asked was about the names of the cats in the *Warriors* series. Victoria said that when she started planning the books she did some research on Native American tribes because she knew that she wanted to have the cats living in tribes and worshipping the world around them. While doing research Victoria discovered a newfound love for Native American names like Little Feather or Chasing Clouds, because they were beautiful and sounded a bit like short poems. It was because of this that she chose two-part names for the cats. So for people that know about Native Americans and have wondered about the names you have your answer. She also chose names that reflected the appearance of the cats for example Black Foot, One Whisker or Stumpy Tail. As the books went on it became harder

and harder to think up new character names. Thankfully *Warriors* had become very popular online so there were lots of those quizzes where people could create their own *Warrior* name. Victoria would go onto them and use the names that other people came up with for the characters in her books. Because of this some times people write to her to say that there was a cat in the books that had the same name as their *Warrior* name. The fifth question that we asked was about the most useful thing she learnt at school for her career. Vicky said that it was a very good question and she hadn’t been asked it before. She said that she was always the girl at school that was good at writing stories and that she was always good at English but not at maths and science. She also enjoyed Latin, French and History. For her A levels she did English, History and Latin then she went to Oxford University and did English there. Vicky said English did help her in her writing career and in some of the other series that she’s written her knowledge of history has also helped her.

The sixth question was about when she started writing. Vicky said that at school she was always told that she would become a great writer but actually her first career was being a teacher. After a bit she realised that she liked the books more than the children. Then she started working as an editor in children’s publishing, helping other authors on their books. After a bit it became clear that sometimes she could be a bit bossy and

she’d say to writers that their stories weren’t working and suggesting that they should write other things. That’s when her publisher asked her if she wanted to write a book of her own; it was in 2000. The first series that she wrote was called *Animal Ark* which is about a girl whose parents were vets. Like *Warriors* she used a pen name - Lucy Daniels - for her first books. After finishing *Animal Ark* as a second series she was asked to write a series about fairies so she came up with the *Rainbow Magic* books using the pen name Daisy Meadows. Vicky Holmes based *Rainbow Magic* on a book she wrote when she was seven. It was about Jack Frost not being invited to the fairy ball and then stealing all the colour. The seventh and final question was about the religious aspects of *Warrior Cats*. Vicky said she was interested in how people worshipped different things. In some religions there is a kind of promise that when we die it’s not the end. All of these concepts fascinated Vicky and that’s how she decided that she wanted the cats to have spiritual beliefs. Vicky wanted it to be something in their natural world, so it made sense to her that the cats would look up at the skies and see the bright lights and think that their ancestors’ eyes were looking down on them. The cats would think that it would be a whole clan, which she called Star Clan.

Read the rest of our interview with Vicky Holmes in the next issue of The Epistle!

RIDDLE

By Valentine



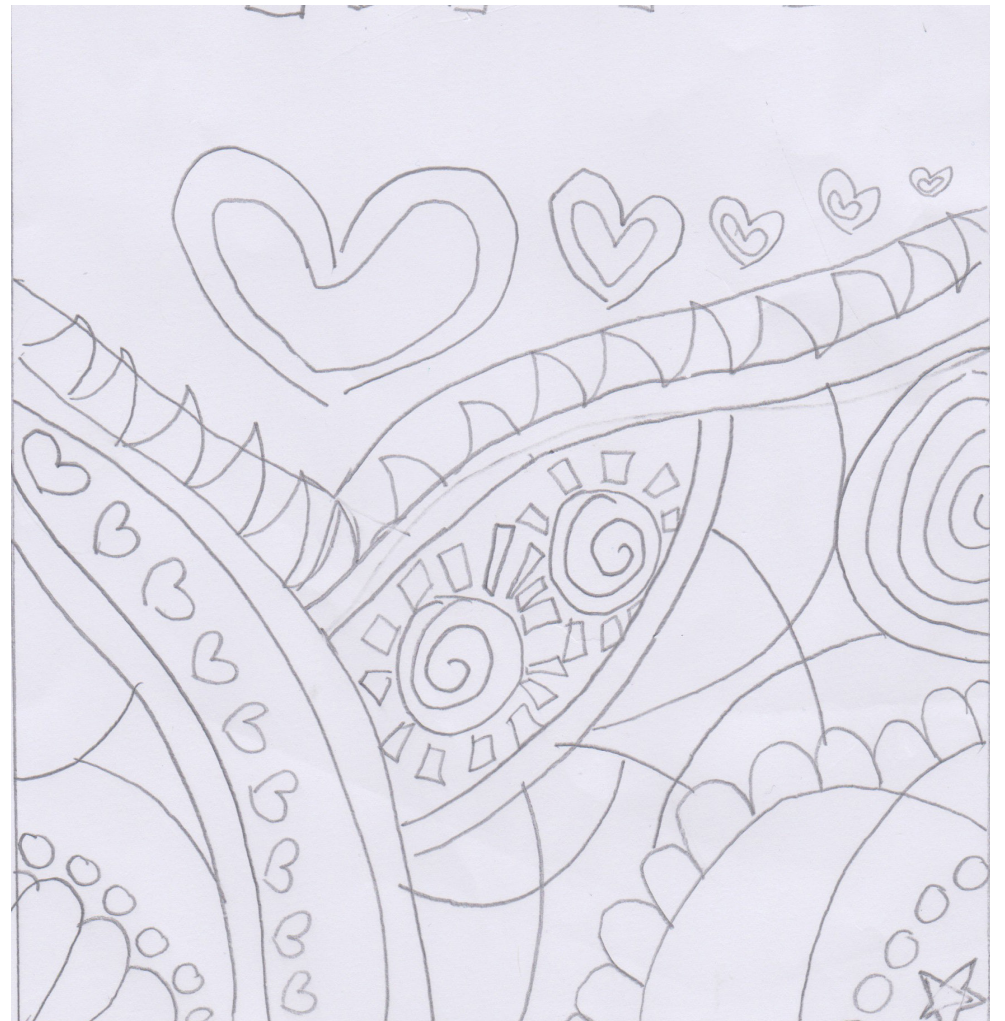
A group of gnomes live on a desert island. One morning, before sunrise, each gnome picks up a hat that is either black or white and puts it on. As it is still dark when they do this, they don't know what colour their own hat is.

After the sun rises the gnomes meet on the beach. One by one, they join a line along the seafront. Without talking or communicating in any way, they form a line that is all black hats on one side and all white on the other.

Remember: each gnome could see all the other hats, but not their own, and could not talk, point, or make any kind of gesture to one another while sorting themselves out. What was their strategy?

COLOURING IN

By Eleanor



VICTORIA SPONGE CAKE

By Clara and Emikhe

Ingredients

Eggs (three for cupcakes or five for a two layered classic victoria sponge)

.Flour (self raising)

.Sugar (golden caster sugar is preferable)

.Butter (unsalted)

.Three tablespoons of boiling water*

.Vanilla extract (one teaspoon for three eggs or two teaspoons for five eggs)

*The boiling water helps make the cake fluffy and light.

Instructions

1.Preheat the oven to 180 degrees celsius.

2.Weigh your eggs with the shells still on (it is important to do this because you will need the same weight of flour, sugar and butter)

3.Microwave the butter so it becomes soft enough to mix with the sugar (but don't melt it) and beat them well together.

4.Beat the eggs then add them bit by bit slowly into the butter and sugar, mixing well after adding each bit.

5.Then add the vanilla extract to your mixture and stir it in.

6.Add the flour bit by bit, stirring it well but gently.

7.Once you've added the flour, add the boiling water, mixing after each spoon.

8.Cook for 15-20 minutes (cupcakes will cook faster than a big cake).

9.After it's finished cooking

you can decorate them if you want (let them cool a little first). For a classic Victoria sponge, spread jam (strawberry or raspberry) between the two cake layers and sprinkle a dusting of icing sugar on top.

10.Now enjoy!

This recipe is one from Clara's great grandmother Lily who discovered the boiling water trick from two ladies who always won the baking competitions at her local church.



WORDSEARCH

By Isla



H	Z	A	U	G	U	D	C	K	A	R	F	M	T	L	Y	R	E
A	N	G	C	J	W	F	E	Y	J	P	H	Y	C	J	W	Q	E
U	D	V	Y	C	B	Y	J	S	F	S	A	Y	O	S	S	V	T
Q	Q	X	B	R	I	E	S	F	C	U	E	R	U	X	Y	Y	I
M	R	X	Y	E	A	O	B	I	S	E	C	G	E	E	W	R	Y
R	Y	J	B	E	K	B	M	K	A	S	N	V	K	C	H	P	T
V	S	K	L	L	N	U	H	C	U	W	X	D	F	Y	I	X	I
K	E	X	P	E	L	L	I	A	R	M	U	S	O	T	Z	U	R
D	V	L	U	M	O	S	V	C	H	B	A	U	D	T	H	E	M
I	Q	L	S	I	K	P	P	A	S	V	W	K	W	X	Y	Z	S
S	A	N	L	J	L	P	O	H	A	M	X	A	Y	J	Y	O	Y
I	D	K	U	W	C	Y	L	B	W	R	D	D	N	Z	N	A	O

Five spells from Harry Potter are hidden in this wordsearch. Can you find them?

ACCIO
APARECIUM
DESCENDO
EXPELLIARMUS
LUMOS

Taylor Swift Corner

by Eleanor and Lidia

Think you're a serious Swiftie? Take this quiz to find out how much you know about her.

1. What was the name of Taylor Swift's first album?
2. What is Taylor Swift's latest album called?
3. What is her middle name?
4. When was Taylor born?
5. What is her lucky number?
6. Who is she engaged to?
7. In which U.S. state was Taylor born?
8. What is her brother's name?
9. In which year was the Eras tour in the U.K.?
10. What is her favourite colour?

These emojis represent Taylor Swift songs. Can you guess which ones?

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 1. 📖❤️ | 6. ⬅️🎮 |
| 2. 🖐️💧 | 7. 🍵 |
| 3. 🕒🌙☁️ | 8. 🌐🐎 |
| 4. 🌸🐣 | 9. ✌️✌️ |
| 5. ❄️🏖️ | 10. 🦇🏖️ |

Answers on Page 2

