

THE EPISTLE MEETS JACQUELINE WILSON



We met Jacqueline Wilson at the Cambridge Literary Festival

By Clara and Rosie

Some years ago when Jacqueline Wilson was young she started a passion for writing. She wrote her first story, *Meet the Maggots*, when she was nine. Her first published novel was *Hide and Seek*. Her most popular books include *The Illustrated Mum*, *The Story*

of *Tracy Beaker*, *Girls in Love* and *Vicky Angel*. All of those you've probably heard of. Have you always known what you want to be when you grow up? Well Jacqueline Wilson did: by the age of six she already knew she wanted to be a writer. She says as soon as she found out that after the

title on a book it's the name of the author, she thought that it would be wonderful if it was her name on the spine of a book. She wrote her ideas down in notebooks.

Jacqueline left home at the age of 17. She then lived in the Church of Scotland girls' hostel. She initially encountered a misunderstanding about her booking and ended up staying in a linen cupboard for three months due to the hostel being full. She stayed at the hostel for two years leaving to get married at 19. All that time she wrote two or three novels (she couldn't remember). She sent a few off to publishers and she got nice letters back but Jacqueline says she was very silly and that she thought that " 'no they are just being nice because I'm young' but actually it's really good to get a letter back from the publishers." Jacqueline says that now she thinks that she should

have tried harder with the publishers. But she kept on writing - which is kind of a good thing because look at her now, she's famous - and she got married early and had her daughter Emma.

FUN FACT

Jacqueline says she couldn't name all her books to save her life!

She says: "I was with her in the library - she was about two - looking for picture books, and I saw a line of books on the shelf for people beginning to read, and they were all about children who lived in cities and had fish and chips for supper. And I liked the look of them, so I wrote one and sent it off and they said 'Yes, we'd like to publish it'."

Jacqueline says that she gets inspiration from random people, objects and sometimes newspapers. Things that you would probably see every day.

TURN TO PAGE 3

Welcome to the fifth issue of The Epistle, a newspaper reported and written by children from Years Five and Six during Monday lunchtimes, for their fellow pupils.

OPEN WIDE!
SCIENCE WRITER
LETIZIA DIAMANTE

LIFE AT ST PAUL'S
SPOTLIGHT ON
FOOTBALL CLUB

FINAL TERM FOR Y6
PGL AND NEW
SCHOOLS

PLUS...POLLS,
POINTLESS, PUZZLES
AND COLOURING!

FANTASTIC FOOTBALL CLUB

By Valentine

Football club is a club after school from 3:30 to 4:30pm on a Monday for Year 5 & 6 and on Tuesday for Year 3 & 4.

At football club, we play games, run drills (football practice), have matches and most importantly, have fun!

A few words from the coach

On Mondays and Tuesdays, Miss Brown very kindly gives up an hour of her time to run football club. She runs our games, drills and matches. In other words, she is the coach.

Miss Brown said she wanted to run football club because there are a lot of people who enjoy playing football and thought it would be a fun thing to do after school. She also told me that she got into football because her older brother was always playing football and she has always enjoyed playing. Miss Brown supports the local team - Cambridge United - and has told me her favourite player was Paul Digby (until he left) because he was a good addition to the team and



Miss Brown loves to see children having fun and learning new skills

enjoyed being part of the community.

Miss Brown said it's important for children to get into football because it's an active sport and it's good to play in a team. She can relate because, she told me, until she was nine years old, she played for Haverhill Rovers.

Miss Brown said her favourite part of football club is seeing everyone having fun and learning new skills, but she dislikes not having a football club for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

A few words from the children

I interviewed two of the children from football

club, one from the Year 3 & 4 football club and one from the Year 5 & 6 football club.

Dylan from Year 3 & 4 football club

Dylan from Year 3 told me that he went to football club because he really enjoys playing football.

Dylan also told me that he has been going to football club for a year now.

Dylan says he enjoys football club because it's really fun, we play good games, and we learn to pass, dribble and shoot.

Dylan told me his favourite part of football club is playing in goal and saving shots but that his least-favourite part is not

saving a goal or missing a shot. However, overall, Dylan said it was quite fun.

Alexander from Year 5 & 6 football club

Alexander from Year 6 told me that he joined football club to learn to play football. He said he has been going for two terms. Alexander also said that he enjoys it because you learn to play football.

His favourite part of football club is defending but he dislikes not being passed to.

If you're in Years 3-6 and interested in joining football club, ask Miss Brown or Miss Abrey for more information.

JACQUELINE WILSON CONT'D
Have you ever been inspired by random things for art or something else?

Her favourite book that she's written is *The Illustrated Mum* (she says it's a sad story but it has a happy ending). *The Story of Tracy Beaker* and *Think Again* are also her favourites, she says it's because they did so well.

Jacqueline Wilson was born in a place called Bath which she says is lovely but some young people think that she was born in a bath.

Jacqueline says her favourite book that she's read is probably *Ballet Shoes* by Noel Streatfeild.

Jacqueline says that she's read it a lot of times because she had to write about it. The last time she wrote about it was last Christmas, for a program for a play.

Jacqueline has three pets. Her oldest is Jacob, a white and gray cat. She says: "He's very elderly now, absolutely gorgeous, very serene, never hisses to anyone."

"And then I have a dog called Jackson, who's a rescue dog, who's again quite elderly. He started off black, but now he's kind of gray, like me. He's quite grumpy at times because I think he's got arthritis, when all your bones hurt. But he's very sweet. And then my baby, love of my life, is Molly, who's just three. She's a cavapoo, which means she's a bit like a teddy bear. And I also think she's part meerkat."

Then, she asked us if we were able to answer some of her questions! She asked how the seating is arranged in our classrooms. Clara described the desks in the Y5 classroom.

Jacqueline told us she had to sit in lines facing the teacher, always next to somebody. She thought that the teachers deliberately put you next to your worst enemy, who would poke you with a pencil or kick the back of your chair!

Jacqueline asked us what lessons we have. We told her: geography, English, history, science, maths, art, computing, DT...this last one confused her so we told her that DT is design and technology. She asked about playtimes. We told her that Key Stage One get an extra break in the afternoon.

Jacqueline then said: "You're exactly the age that I am writing for so I think you're extremely helpful."

We asked her if she knew what her next book is going to be called. She doesn't know yet, but she told us about the

story. "She's not really like Tracy Beaker, in that she's with quite an elderly couple and the man, who is a grandpa-type age, has a front garden with gnomes," she said. Then Rosie told her about a garden gnome she got as a housewarming present, who has fairy wings and is tie-dye and has funky antennae like an alien. Jacqueline said he sounds magical. It would be fantastic if he was in her next book!



Rosie's gnome

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OPEN WIDE! INSIDE THE MOUTHS OF ANIMALS

Science writer Letizia Diamante told The Epistle why she loves writing books for children, where she finds her facts, and why the panda is her favourite animal



Letizia Diamante's next book is set in Cambridge

By Talya, Halle and Isla

Dr. Letizia Diamante is a science communicator and children's writer. After her PhD in Biochemistry, she worked as a science communicator for a variety of public and private organisations, including CERN and the University of Cambridge. We met her at the Cambridge Literary Festival.

What's your favorite fact you wrote in the book?

It's the O'opu, a fish that lives in Hawaii and can climb waterfalls. I couldn't believe that a fish could climb waterfalls sticking on rocks.

Did you ever have a pet?

Now I don't have pets but when I was a child, I had a dog called Rocky. I was a little bit afraid of the dog,

until one day, I spent some time alone with him and I realized he was such a lovely dog. So we were then friends.

How do you know so much about animals?

I read a lot of books, I watch a lot of videos on YouTube, and I ask some experts. So I ask some vets, I ask some scientists who work with animals. And then if I have a doubt, I try to find a solution. I have a question in my head, how is this possible? How does it work? Then I look for the answer everywhere. So books, videos and experts. That's how I know.

How long did it take you to finish the book?

I had this idea during the pandemic, so it must have been around 2020. The idea

came from the way the dentist says: "Open Wide!" and I realised I had lots of interesting questions about animal teeth and mouths. The process of putting together the images and the illustrations can take some time. It took around five years overall.

What's your favorite group of animals?

I like the panda, which makes my favourite group the mammals. There is a fun thing about the mouth of the panda, because the panda is a bear, and bears usually are carnivores. The panda is not a carnivore anymore, but still it has the long pointy teeth that are typical of carnivores. They now use their pointed teeth to tear apart the branches from the bush. But they don't really need them anymore because they're not so aggressive like other bears that need to hunt their prey.

If you were an animal, what would you be?

I would be some animal that can fly, because I want to see the cities and the jungle and the landscape from above. An eagle, I think.

What made you want to write this book?

It is my dream to write books for children. When I was your age, I really liked writing, and I specifically thought I'd like

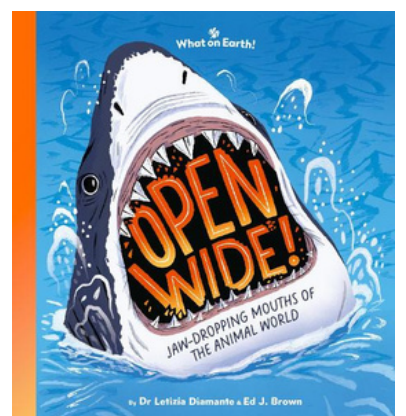
to write books for children because they have a lot of pictures. My dream came true!

Are some of the pictures in your book photographs?

So yes, some of them are real pictures. For example, there is a photograph of the skin of the shark under the microscope.

What is your next book about?

My first book was a scientific adventure set in the world's biggest particle physics laboratory, called CERN, which is between Switzerland and France. I used to work there as a science communicator, and my third book is, again, that type of style: a scientific adventure, but this time in... Cambridge! There is a lot of science to explore in Cambridge, science from the past and the present, and it's a mix of adventure and science. There are three characters who are students, and they go back and forth from the past to the present.



PGL (AKA PARENTS GET LOST!)

By Arthur, Callum, Louis
and Rohan

PGL is a fun interactive adventure camp. At the end of year 6 all St Paul's pupils get to go for 2 nights. The camp is in Lincolnshire and we travelled there by coach. There are lots of fun activities to and these were our favourites:

Jacob's Ladder

Jacob's Ladder is a massive ladder with gaps getting bigger in between each wooden pole. You have to climb to as high as possible. They gave you ropes to hook around the wooden poles. It

was a tough job, with very few people making it to the top.

Canoeing

We went canoeing on a lake and we were taught what to do by the instructors. It was really fun, splashing around doing a mini game where two people had to tag as many other canoeists as possible. The best bit was at the end when we all got to jump into the water!

Abseiling

At the camp there was a big tower which we had to abseil down. It was a really tall tower and with an amazing view. It was very nerve-racking when we got to the top and looked down. Some of us felt like backing out but in the end we faced our fears, took the plunge and



abseiled down safely. We were relieved when we got to the bottom and proud of ourselves for doing it.

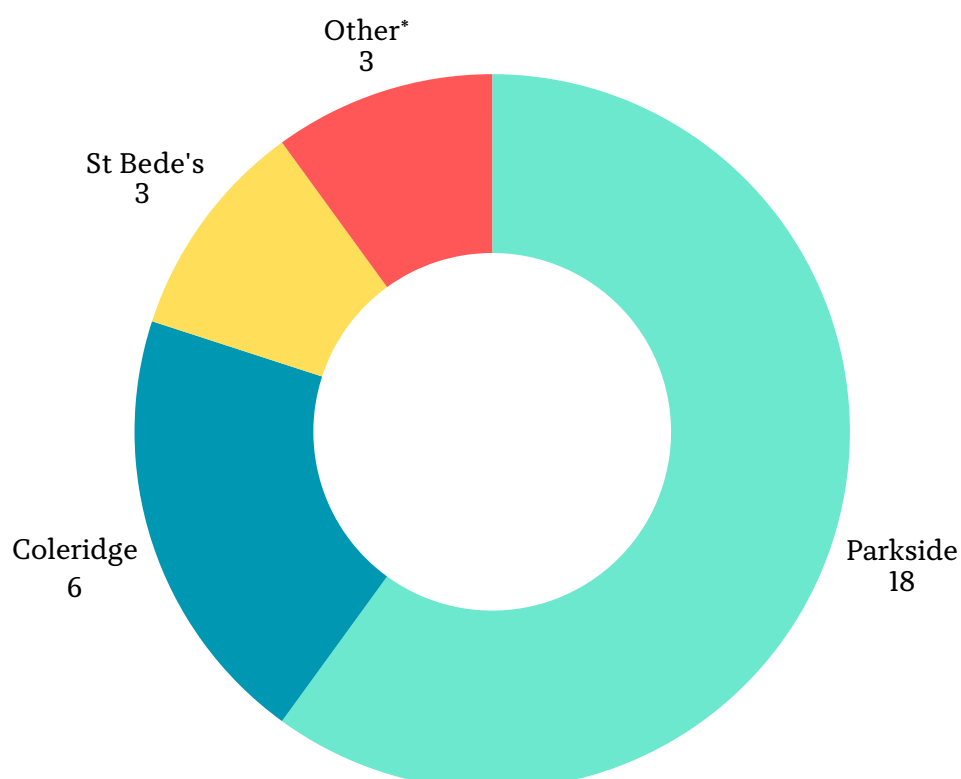
In the evenings we had a disco, a camp fire and some

really tasty food including chicken nuggets, salad and jelly for afters. We had a safe journey home and would highly recommend the trip to everyone!

WHICH SCHOOL?

By Rory

Year 6 will be going to secondary schools in September. But which ones? That is what this doughnut chart will answer!



*In other, one is going to Netherhall, one to Stephen Perse and one moving away.

Eco Club Latest

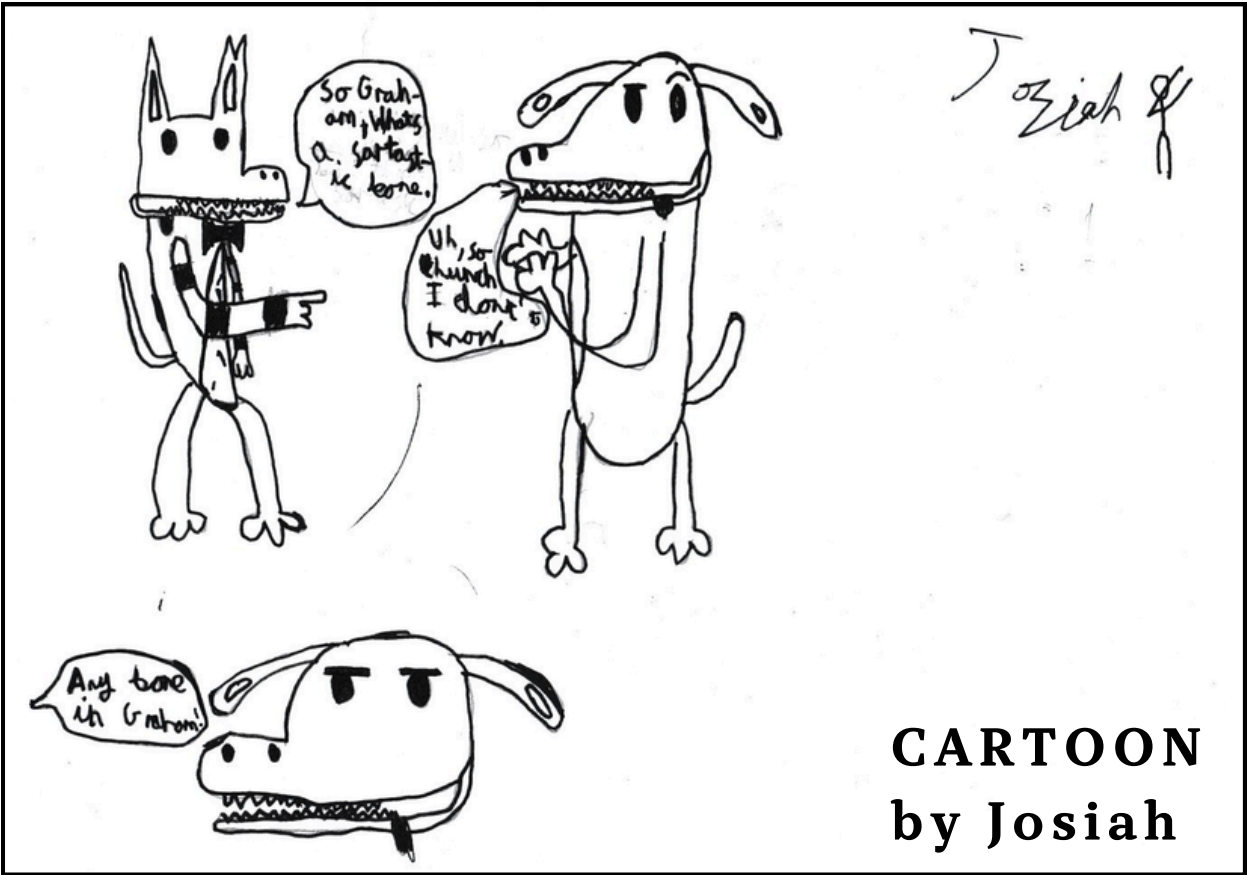
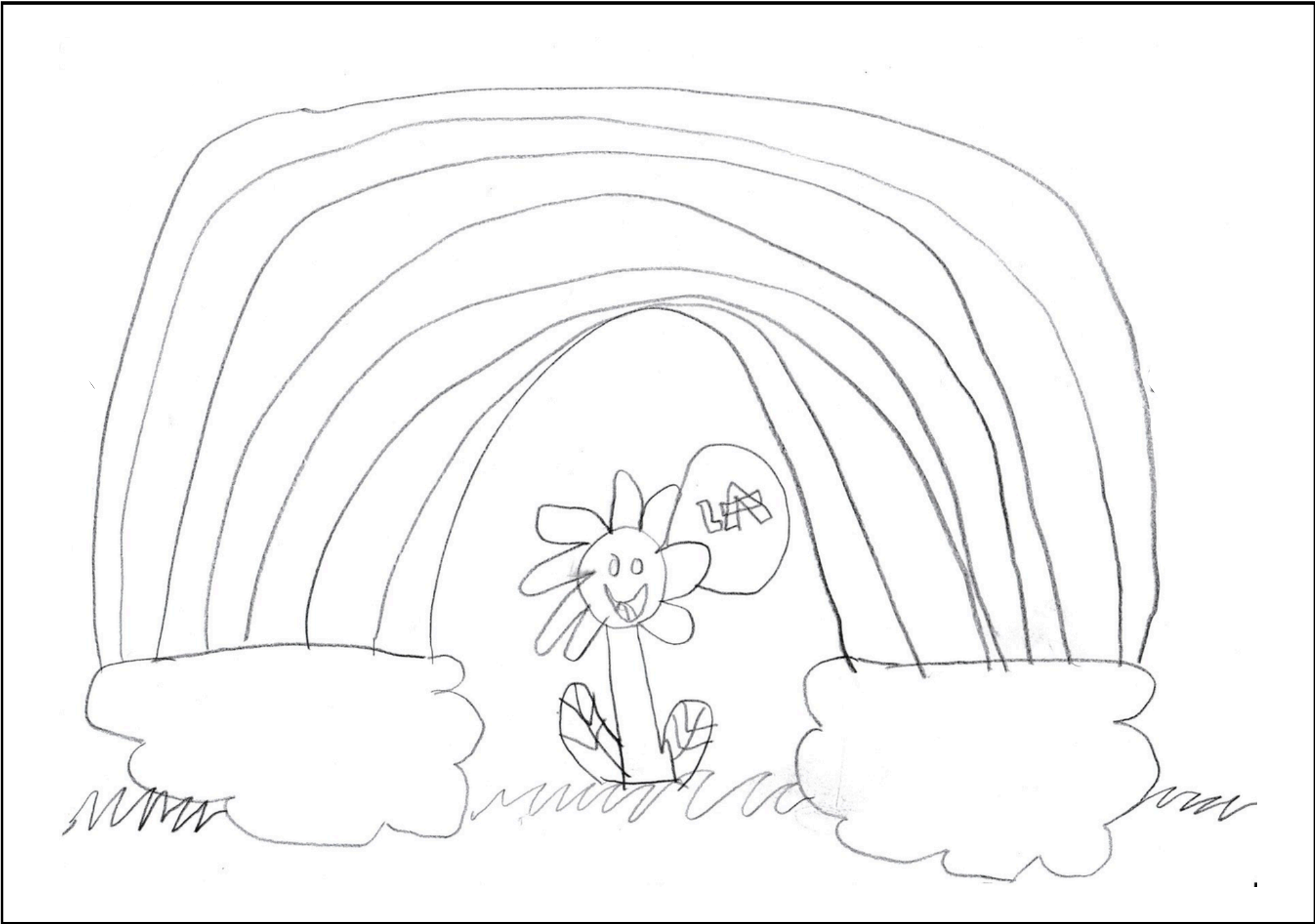
It's been another busy term for eco club! We have continued our work to boost biodiversity in the playground by installing more birdboxes and ladybird towers, as well as planting seeds.

At the school summer fair, we held a plant sale which proved very popular. Our best-selling plant was lavender, which is great for the bee population!

Eco Club meets on Friday lunchtimes for children in Year 1 and up. If you're a parent/carers and interested in volunteering, get in touch with Aoife (Joe's mum) or the school office.

COLOURING IN

By Rosie



CARTOON
by Josiah

IT'S COMPETITION TIME!

Do you want to choose what happens in the next comic strip? Here's your chance! Give Josiah a piece of paper with your name on. Good luck!

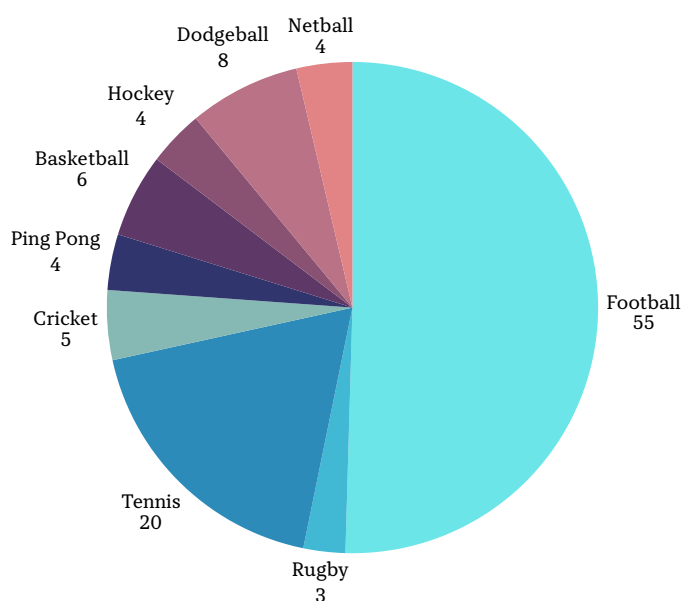


WHAT DOES ST PAUL'S THINK?



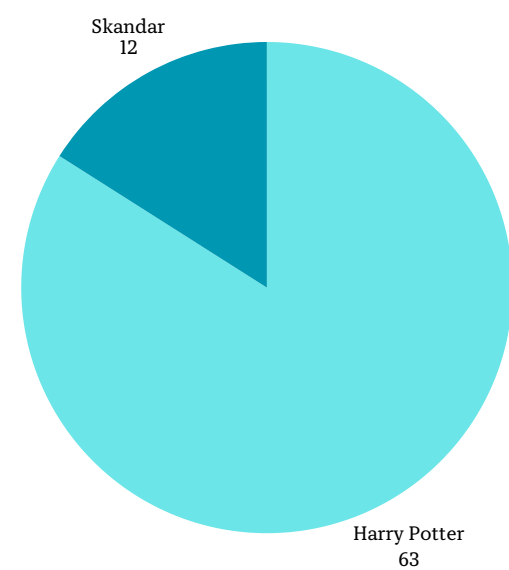
By Valentine

What's your favourite ball sport?



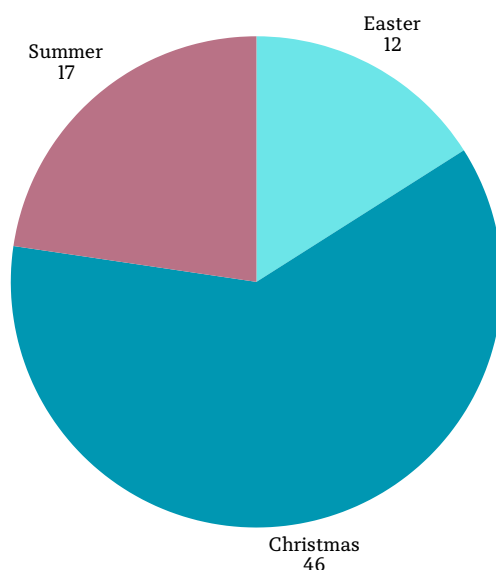
We're a football school

Harry Potter or Skandar?



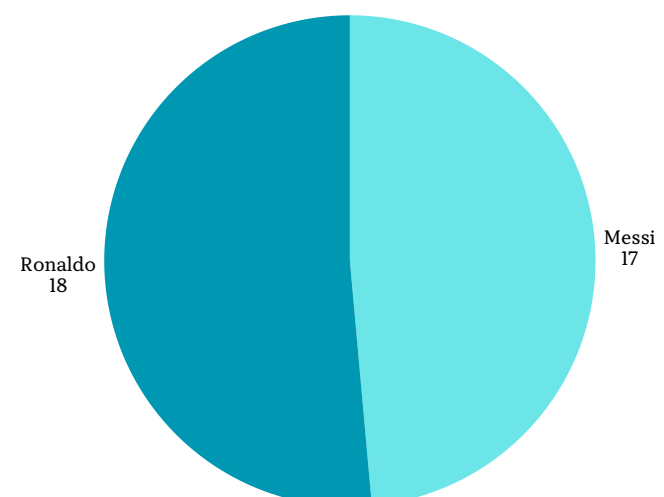
Wizard beats unicorn

Which holiday do you like best: Easter, Summer or Christmas?



Santa will be happy

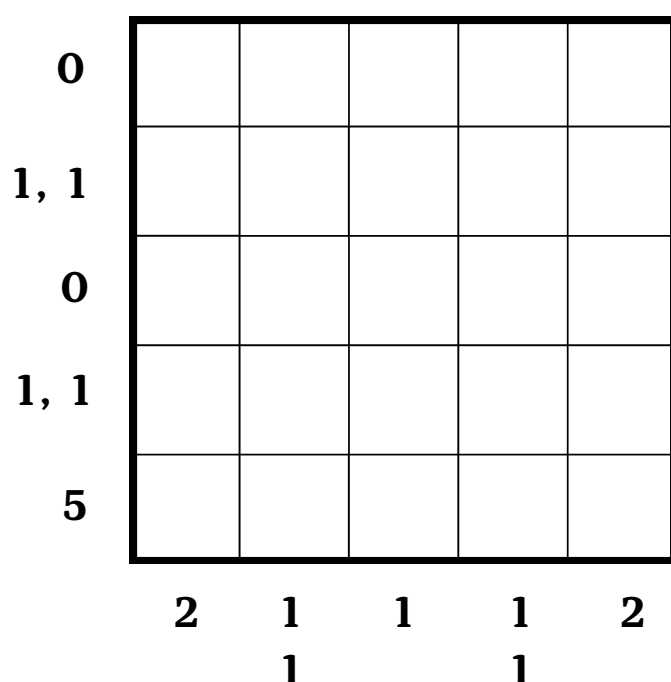
Lionel Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo?



Which footballer do you pick?

PUZZLES

GRIDDLER by Valentine



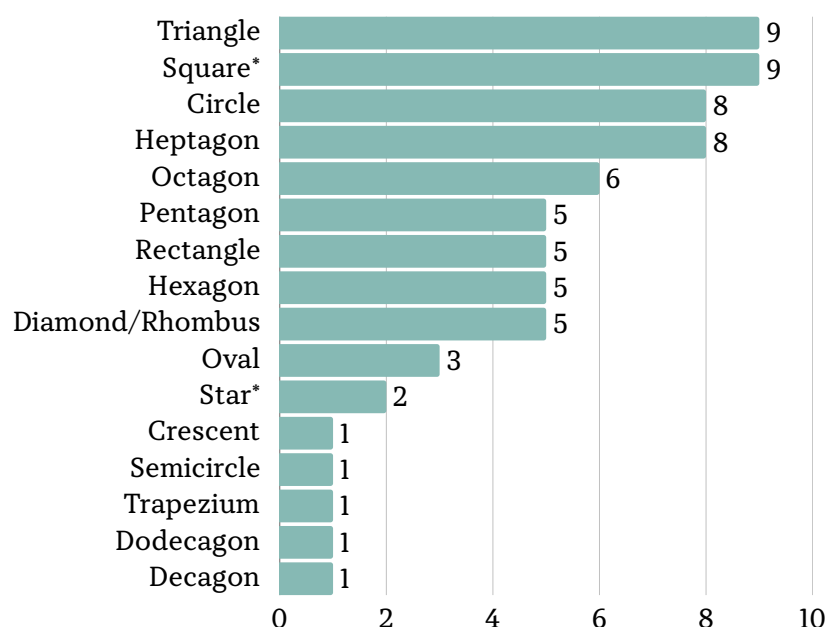
HOW TO PLAY

The numbers next to each column and row tell you the number of adjacent squares that should be coloured in to create a block. If more than one number appears (e.g. 1,1) that line will contain more than one block of coloured-in squares, separated by at least one blank square. Solving the griddler will reveal a picture!

“POINTLESS” by Rory

I asked 10 people to name 7 shapes. Then, 6 contestants competed to name the most unusual shape. To win, you have to say a shape named by the smallest number of other people, as long as that shape had been named by at least one person.

How many people named this shape?



In joint first place was Kayhan, who said dodecagon (a 12-sided shape), which was only named by one other person!



Clara from Year 5 came in joint first place with Kayhan for saying decagon (a 10-sided shape). It had also only been named by one other person!



Mr Knuppel came third. When asked to name a shape, he said hexagon (a 6-sided shape), which had been named by five others.

*although these shapes could be considered subcategories of others, we counted them separately