

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



The Y6s have been busy in their final half term at St Paul's

GOODBYE, HEDGEHOGS

By Elisa and Ema

Every school says goodbye to a class. And it's coming around the corner. Are people ready?

The last day of school, July 19, is a sad and happy day. Year Six are getting ready for Year Seven and they're leaving their primary school. Many feelings have been spoken. "I feel sad, I won't get to see my friends often," Amir said. An anonymous person said: "Good!" about moving on.

Nathan, a former pupil of St.

Paul's, told us about life at St. Bede's.

Q: Is it hard to find where to go?

Yes, for a couple of weeks. But you can always ask an older pupil. They'll help you.

Q: How many classes are there?

Five a day, 50 minutes each. St. Bede's has six maths classrooms and eight science labs.

Q: What is different about St. Bede's?

The religion factor. (It has a Christian ethos.)

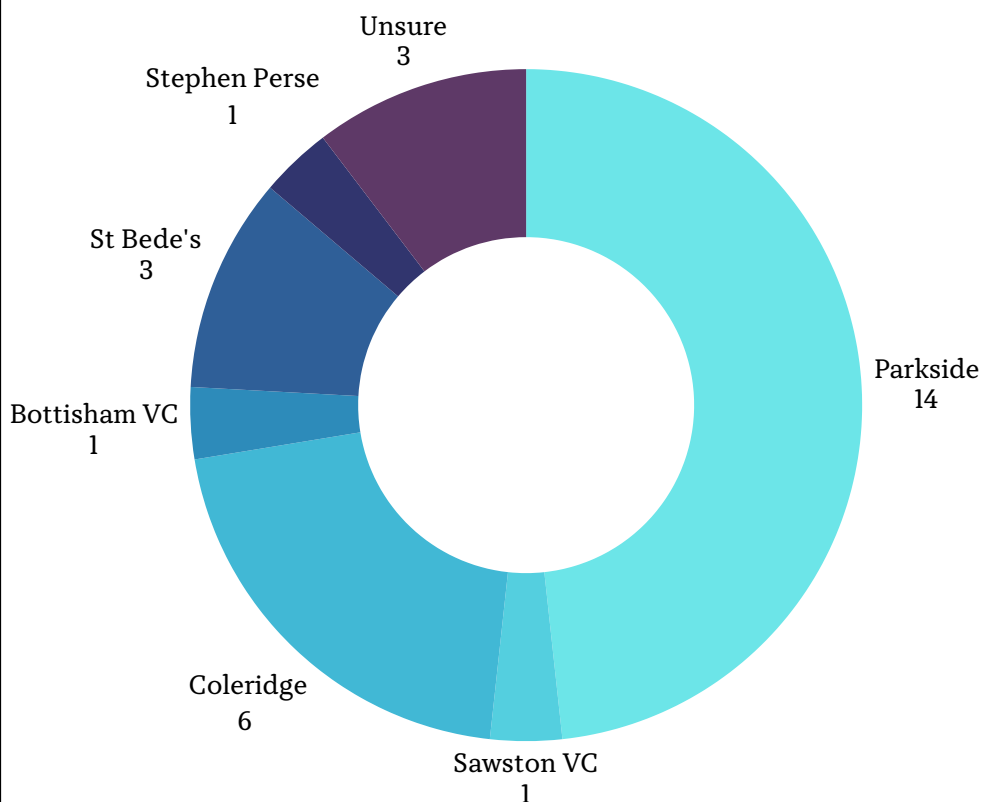
INTERVIEW: SKANDAR AUTHOR OF STEADMAN

By Alastair, Alexandra,
David and Remy

We interviewed famous author A.F. Steadman, writer of the internationally bestselling Skandar series, to get some inside perspective on the process of writing award-winning books. The Skandar series is set on an island full of unicorns. Not the pretty ones you're used to, these unicorns are bloodthirsty but can

be tamed by their destined rider. The stories follow a boy who has a strange bond with his unicorn and together they fight the dark forces lurking on the island. We learnt about the backstory to some of the characters, the creation of the books and even the future of the series on paper and the big screen.

For interview, turn to page 2



The destinations of Y6 leavers

SCHOOL LIFE
WHAT YOU THINK

PHONES IN SCHOOL
THE BIG DEBATE

EXIT INTERVIEW
MRS VOLLAND

PLUS...
TEACHER'S PET,
PUZZLES AND ADVICE



AF Steadman says she likes writing villains. Photo credit: Miss Abrey

Q: Why did you want to write about blood thirsty unicorns?

Growing up I loved fantasy and dragons but, surprisingly, not unicorns. The books I read were fast-paced adventures, leaning on the scarier side. At the time unicorns were portrayed as fluffy and kind. But they haven't always been seen this way.

There are many historic texts where they see a rhino and think it's a unicorn -- bloodthirsty unicorns that try to kill you. I thought it would be cool to write a modern version of the kind of unicorns I would've liked.

Q: Did you immediately want to write a book after your vision of Skandar?

I wrote a couple of books as a teenager. One was about pirates and spies. Not about unicorns. When I had the idea for Skandar's world of blood-thirsty unicorns, I began

brainstorming names and jotting them down. Some, like Scoundrel's Luck and Falcon's Wrath, are the same names that are used in the books. I immediately wanted to write Skandar but had to suppress all thoughts of it as I was studying for exams to become a lawyer. I next picked it up about five years ago.

Q: Did you always want to write children's books?

After I stopped being a lawyer I did a creative writing masters at Cambridge University. You could try lots of different things on that course. I wrote some poetry, short stories for adults, a play script and some non-fiction. But I wasn't sure what I wanted to write. On that course I ended up writing a series of short stories about Canterbury. The stories I kept imagining were ones where the characters were 13, 14,

and 15. It's a very interesting and puzzling age. Everyone is learning and understanding a lot about themselves. They're at an age where they can become more brave, but also a bit reckless. They're not children anymore but the worries of adults don't trouble them. When I sat down to write Skandar, I didn't think it would be a children's book. After all, Skandar starts off as 13 but by the end of the series he will be 18. Afterwards though, publishers make you think about who it's aimed for. They made me remove some of the more violent scenes. But I got to keep the important bits.

Q: Do you know the ending?

I do. And I especially know that because I've been away in a remote part of Scotland planning the story out in its entirety. I do definitely know how it's going to end! Now I need to write it down. My

publishers won't be happy with just notecards!

Q: Will the outside world feature as a problem?

It might. Especially for book five. I think it'll be interesting to see that interaction between the mainland and island a little more. It was quite interesting to see how the mainland reacted when they found out about unicorns. I'd like to revisit that in the fifth book.

Q: Can you tell us what stage in development the film is?

The script is done. It follows the first book. They're going to send it out to loads of directors and hope one accepts it. They will be project manager helped by me. It'll definitely be live action.

Q: Will you be writing anything after Skandar?

I've got a contract for one story in the Skandar series which is a shorter version, but from a time before. I would like to write more of those and also about what happened afterwards. If people like the first one I'll be able to write more of those. I'm also going to be writing some fantasy books for adults as well, set in Cambridge.

Q: What's your favourite unicorn?

I hate choosing. It's hard for me not to like Scoundrel's Luck the best. He is the main unicorn. I feel like I've felt a lot of what he's feeling.

Turn to Page 4



Mrs Volland told us what she'll remember most about St. Paul's

Mrs Volland Says Goodbye

By Alastair and Remy

Mrs Volland has been a teacher here for six and a bit years and now she is leaving. Many are sad about

her departure, although she is the saddest.

Are you sad to be leaving?

Yes, St Paul's was a big part of my life for a long time, since I moved to Cambridge in 2015.

Will you miss anyone in particular?

I will miss the whole school

and the life of it.

What is next for you?

I am moving to Birmingham, which is going to be really exciting. During the autumn term I'll be getting used to the city and working there.

What funny things will you remember?

All the rescuing of children who are stuck:

- under chairs
- between cupboards
- inside jumpers
- or on the monkey bars!

Also, a child asking: Do you speak gibberish?

Me: I don't think so!?

Child: I do. I come from the land of gibberish.

The joy of reception is that every day something funny happens!

Should phones be allowed in school?

By Alexander, Callum and Mae

We are writing this to see what the children and teachers of St Paul's Primary school think about cell phones being allowed in school. Some people thought that phones should be allowed in school because they can give you very important information, for example knowing the weather or knowing the name of your new prime minister (Keir Starmer). But the other side of the argument was that

Turn to Page 4

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SKANDAR cont'd from page 2

Q: When are they set?

In the first one there are some carvings on the tree to help Skandar find out about Erika Everhart. It starts in June 2022. Each book takes a year. Because the fourth one is coming out early we're going to be ahead of ourselves. I wanted to set it now, as you are living in. I thought that would be interesting.

Q: Are there any characters you dislike?

At the start I didn't like Amber much because she was created out of some people who weren't very nice to me when I was at school. She behaves like she's better than everyone else and you're not really sure what's going on with her and she's mean to Skandar. I felt bad about that and she went on a bit of a journey. It's fun writing characters you don't like.

Q: Do you like Kenna?

Kenna is the oldest sister. I have younger brothers. I do like her as a character because I like writing complicated people. I like seeing what she's going through and how she's become the way she is. It's fun writing the wild mutations and I was scared my publishers were going to make me take them out because they're a bit scary. I like her as a character.

Q: What was your favourite book as a child?

A Wizard of Earthsea by Ursula K. Le Guin. In it there are islands, dragons and really cool magic that feels very connected to the world.

Q: Did any other books inspire you?

It's hard to write anything if you don't read. If I'm struggling it's because I haven't read books recently. The daemons in Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials*

trilogy really struck me when I was growing up. I loved the idea that you could have something with you all the time that shared your feelings.

Q: Were you involved in marketing your books as the "new Harry Potter"?

From the beginning, I asked people not to compare Skandar to Harry Potter because it's the biggest phenomenon ever. But unfortunately as much as you say that, people can say whatever they like.

Q: Are any parts of your books influenced by Harry Potter?

The thing about Harry Potter is that there are so many books and they are so long that unfortunately J.K. Rowling uses most of the plot twists and topics that you can write about. Certainly if you look, you will find all kinds of things that seem related. I think

many children's authors find it a bit tricky not making their books too similar to Harry Potter. In Skandar, I noticed that when people are getting possessed by the unicorns, that seemed quite similar to the Chamber of Secrets. Although it was not intentional. But it is fine as long as it fits with your own mythology.

I don't think it's helpful to compare books. It worries me that people say Skandar is similar to Percy Jackson. I don't think it is. If you're comparing a new book to a book that everyone loves so much, it's difficult.



The fourth Skandar book will be published on October 10.

PHONES cont'd from page 3

they shouldn't be allowed in schools. Why? Because they can provide false information. For example, YouTube might say the Conservatives won the general election (they didn't). Another problem is that they distract students from their learning.

Together we interviewed people from different classes. Here is what some of them told us: Biggles from Year Six said he thinks it can be used in school but not as a gaming device. It should

only be used in situations like you are going home by yourself or you are going with someone else. Lola from Year Five said that if you're in Year Six and you walk alone then yes, or if you have a family emergency then sure. She also said that sometimes a child needs their phone.

Then we asked Mrs. Darrell. In her opinion it is allowable for Year Six to have phones in school because staff let students in Year Six walk home when their parents aren't picking them up.

Life at St Paul's

By Megan

I wanted to find out why people like coming to school at St. Paul's. When I asked pupils and teachers whether they like being at St Paul's, everyone replied with an enthusiastic YES! When I asked why, they talked about how people care about one another and that they have lots of friends here. I also asked people for their views on the playground, their favourite subjects, best

sports or activities and the tastiest lunchtime food.

Here are people's favourite things about...

The Field

The grass, football, goal posts and trim trail.

School Subjects

Maths, art, history and English

Sports and Activities

Football, netball, gymnastics and the opportunity to go to the Parkside Pool and swim

Tastiest Food

Peach pudding, ice cream and ice lollies.

Spotlight on School Clubs

By Alexander, Callum and Mae
There are many clubs you can join at St. Paul's. For this issue, we found out more about three of them.

FOOTBALL CLUB

Football club takes place after school on a Monday for Years Three and Four and Tuesday for Years Five and Six. It also happens on Wednesday lunchtimes for all ages. The coach, Miss Brown, who dreamed of being a football coach since



she was young, said she thinks everyone can play and it can keep people active. She added that she thinks girls should play. According to Miss Brown, teamwork is the most important quality of a player. Zahraa in Year Five said that she would like a separate club for girls as there are not enough girls' clubs. She said she wanted a change so she does not have to play in front of boys and that a girl's club would mean girls would not need to hide their talent. Vanessa also said she'd like a girls' football club because it's mainly a boys' sport.

CHESS CLUB

If you are in Key Stage Two and you like battle strategy, we think that you will love Friday morning chess club. To tell you all about it, we



asked an expert, Alexander! He said that he loves chess because it is very satisfying when you win a game. He thinks it's good for children to learn chess because it makes them think about their moves. "I started to play chess because I thought it was a fun game and I was right, it was amazing so I started trying very, very hard," he said.

CODE CLUB

At code club, children complete coding projects. It is on Wednesdays after school and is for children in Years Three to Six. Code club is fun and you will enjoy it. It is a great opportunity

to work on coding and create your own games. If you look towards the future you would know that there are a lot of opportunities in science and technology so this would be great for your knowledge. So you should give code club a go! Vanessa from Year Five said that she liked code club because if she was stuck she could work it out with an adult and that in code club they crack codes and create codes. Vanessa also likes code club because she goes with a friend.

Mrs. Darrell said she works with the governors to agree what to work on. She said it is always good to offer a wide range of clubs. She added: "I think it's important that we let the children choose the clubs and we'll see if we can do them."



Review: Emil and the Detectives

By Rory

Once upon a time, in a small town in Germany,

there was a boy called Emil. He is trusted with a fortune to send. He gets on his train to Berlin but on the train Mr Snow steals the money after drugging Emil. Emil makes four friends and tries to follow the thief but it

goes nowhere. Emil doesn't want to tell the police because of an incident at home. But when he confesses, he is told that that doesn't matter and then Emil uses pinholes to prove that the money is his. He is even given a bonus as it helped a lot of cases in Berlin. The songs, for example *Eyes on Every Street*, were repetitive but still good. They were very well sung. Overall, very well done Year Sixes. Hopefully the next Hedgehogs (us) do just as well!



Answers to quizzes on
Pages 7 and 8

Flags
A: Palau
B: Singapore
C: Ivory Coast
D: Nauru
Teacher's Pet
Mrs Volland has a cat
named Dink (C)
Mrs Darrell has three
rabbits named Woody,
Chestnut and Bramble (A)
and a puppy named Kiya (F)
Mrs Thake has a dog named
Roxy (D)
Miss Brown has a dog
named Bruno (B)
Miss Abrey has a dog
named Biscuit (E)
Biscuit Bonus Round One
Biscuit is on the right. The
other dog is Stella, who
belongs to former St. Paul's
teacher Mr. Smart.
Biscuit Bonus Round Two
Biscuit is A. The others are
Archie (B), Stella (C),
Finley (D) and Coco (E).

Eco Tips from Eco Club

By Alexandra

With the climate crisis getting worse faster than ever before it is important to take action now before the changes become irreversible. It might feel overwhelming but there are small things we can all do to help. Here are some tips from members of our club that you can try at home.

1. Bring your own reusable shopping bag and mug

By doing this, you are helping reduce the amount of plastic waste. The main cause of plastic pollution is single-use plastic as people only use it once and then throw it away.

2. Eat less red meat

Red meat is bad for the environment because of its high carbon footprint. The carbon footprint of food is how much carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere because that food was produced. By eating less red meat or giving it up completely you can reduce your carbon footprint. A person's carbon footprint is how much carbon is released to make the food they eat, and power the transport and devices they use.

3. Take care of what you recycle

As you probably already know, most litter - especially plastic - harms the environment. It gets into rivers, pollutes oceans and suffocates animals. You can help by recycling what you can. Paper, metal, glass and hard plastics can all go into your recycling bin. Plus, you can recycle flexible plastics and batteries at large supermarkets. You can also recycle pens, crisp packets, printer cartridges and old water bottles and lunchboxes at school. Make sure you put recyclables in the right bin.

4. There are lots of things you can do with your litter

There are some materials and objects that you can't recycle. However, there are other things you can do with general waste. Food and garden waste can be composted. Other things can be upcycled -- that means used for a new purpose. For example, some old yoghurt pots that you were going to throw away can be used as plant pots. Plus, you can make models or collages out of old bubble wrap, cling film, single-use cutlery and anything else that you find.

Several weeks ago, the eco club ran a vegan recipe competition. The winner's recipe was made by Dolce, the school caterer, and pupils were able to have it for lunch. In this article we publish the winning and runner-up recipes. The winner was Lottie from Y4 and the runner-up was Emma from Y3.

Tofu Banh Mi by Lottie

Ingredients

Tofu
Soy sauce
Vegan
mayonnaise
Pickled carrots
and cucumbers
Coriander
Side of sweet
potato fries

Method

1. Marinate the tofu in soy sauce
2. Fry the tofu
3. Place in baguette with pickled vegetables, coriander and mayonnaise.
4. Serve with sweet potato fries

Baked Vegan Korma with Cauliflower and Red Pepper by Emma

Ingredients

1 cauliflower
1 red pepper
6 spring onions
2tbsp sunflower oil
3 garlic cloves
100g (half a jar) korma paste
1 can chickpeas
150ml coconut cream
1 cube vegetable stock

Method

1. Heat oven to 180°C
2. Cut cauliflower into bite size pieces
3. Finely chop spring onions
4. Mix cauliflower, spring onions, oil and pinch of salt
5. Roast for 15 mins
6. Add crushed garlic, curry paste, chickpeas, coconut cream, 450ml of water and crumbed stock cube.
7. Add green beans and sliced red pepper
8. Stir it all together
9. Put back in oven for 25 minutes

WORDSEARCH

by Rosie

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

Banana, Apple, Cucumber, Tomato, Carrots, Leek, Watermelon, Orange, Peas, Sweetcorn, Cupcake, Sweets, Ice Cream, Chocolate



Q: I'm scared of my friends. What can I do?

If you think your friends are disrespectful start by telling them to stop, if they continue be firm and tell them once again and hopefully they will stop.

If you are scared of them, stop and think would a good friend make me feel scared of them?

Also it would be a little bit helpful if you didn't act like you were scared of them then you just won't feel the same anymore.

Now if you think they are inappropriate that's a whole other story.

love from
Clara, Evie,
Giannella
and Iris



CROSSWORD

by Rory

Across

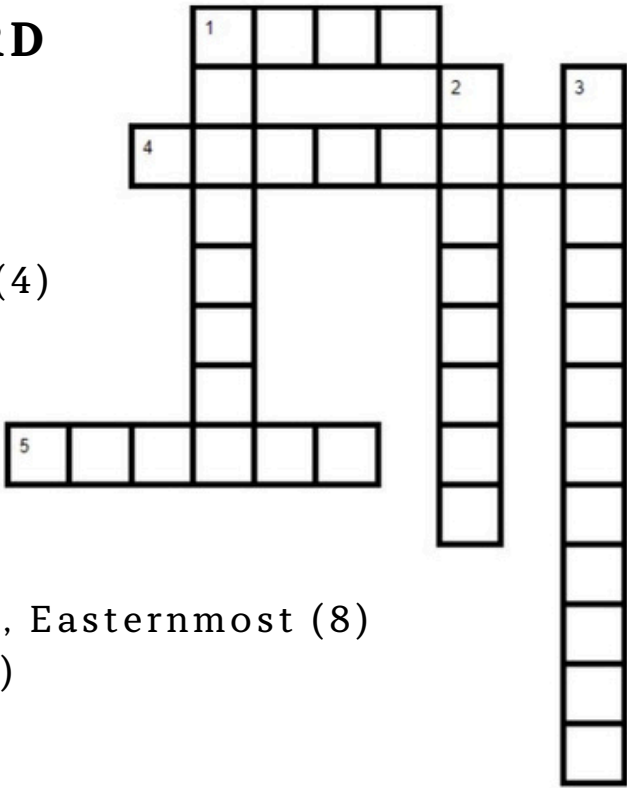
Capital of...

- 1. Switzerland (4)
- 4. Australia (8)
- 5. Canada (6)

Down

Capital of...

- 1. Brazil (8)
- 2. South Africa, Easternmost (8)
- 3. U.S.A. (10,1,1)

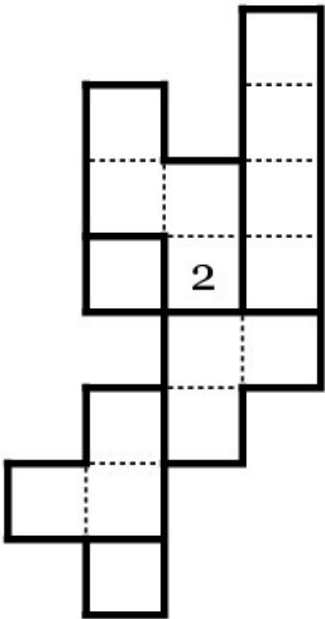


SUGURU

by David

How to play

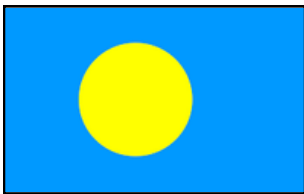
Every area surrounded by thick lines must contain the digits from 1 up to the number of squares within that area. Neighbouring squares (including diagonals) cannot contain the same digit.



FLAG QUIZ

by Rory

Can you name the country?



A



B



C



D

Teacher's Pet

Can you match each teacher to their pets?

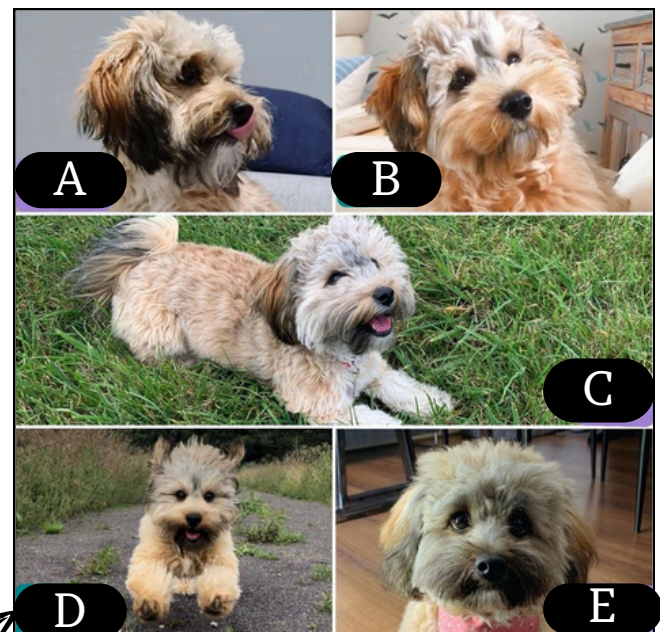


Biscuit Bonus Round!

These are photos of Biscuit and her siblings. Can you identify which one is Biscuit?



Biscuit and one of her sisters. Extra brownie (or should that be Biscuit?) point if you can name her sister. Hint: you have to be very "smart" to know



Biscuit is one of five fluffy siblings. But which one is she?