



THE EAGLE

Jan 2022

The Final Countdown

Efrem assembles the many achievements of St Edmund's.



Efrem and Rahwa: Destined for greatness.

Efrem gives us the rundown of the celebration assembly process:

Celebration assembly is packed with delight and the desire to improve ourselves. From tutor awards to having your name called to go up on stage...

However, Year 11s just had our last celebration assembly, which, as you can see, left a lot of students smiling... Story continues on p.3



"My Mum will be so proud!" Efrem



Stephen Morgan Visit
by Rahwa p.4



Bonnie New Year!
by Grace & Dalia p.2 



A Tuff Job Well Done 
by Freya p.5

Plus much more inside...



TRAVEL

Santa Stop Here.



Grace and Dalia review seasons past and present.



Reindeer Experience - Lapland

What can you do in Lapland?

There are many different winter sports to do in Lapland that are entertaining for tourists. Some of these include:

- Watching the Northern lights
- Snowmobile tours
- Reindeer safari
- Visit to Santa's village and snowmobiling to a reindeer farm
- 4 hours snowmobile safari

More information can be found on [tripadvisor.co.uk](https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk) about prices and more information about what you can get up to in Lapland.



Did you know?
Lapland is in Finland!

Why would you want to visit Lapland?

Lapland is a perfect tourist attraction, especially around Christmas time because of the crisp, white snow that is hard to find in any other country.

There are loads of activities and events that you can do whilst you are there and the "magical winter landscapes" and "northern light viewings" add to the Christmas fun that you can have at Lapland. You can also meet the real Santa!

Bonnie New Year!

New Year's Eve Celebrations in Edinburgh

What is Hogmanay?

Hogmanay is a celebration that marks the arrival of the new year. This festival lasts for three days (starting from the end of December and ends on the 2nd of January).

It was first started when Mary, Queen of Scot's returned back to Scotland in 1561.



Hogmanay Fireworks from Colton Hill.

Where did Hogmanay originally come from?

These celebrations lead back to the pagan times (hundreds of years ago) but some people also think it marks the beginning of the winter solstice.

How do people celebrate Hogmanay? Most people in Scotland celebrate with street parties, live music concerts, dancing, fireworks, food and much more to celebrate this big Scottish festival.





The Final Countdown

I enjoyed the Year 11 celebration assembly due to the fact that most people got nominated at-least once and people were extremely happy. Mrs Tuffnell gave us a big speech about how our behaviour and effort had improved majorly over the year. Everyone was happy with their performance and overall improvements.

Romero Award:



Oscar Romero picture from CAFOD.

Chaplain Fiona shares the good news:

We have just been awarded the Second Level of the Romero Award. I am very pleased for our school as it shows how Catholic Social Teaching is embedded in so many aspects of our school life.

Photography collected by Freya

Bilingual Club:

Run by Miss Rodriguez

Are you in Year 7, 8 or 9?

Are you Bilingual or Trilingual and want to meet new friends?

This is your club!



When?
Every Monday
(Starts on the 18th January)

Where?
Library or ICT Room

THE BENEFITS OF BEING BILINGUAL
GO BEYOND THE ABILITY TO
COMMUNICATE IN ANOTHER
LANGUAGE.
BILINGUALISM GIVES KIDS A
BROADER PERSPECTIVE OF THE WORLD

 BilingualKidspot.com



STUDENT NEWS

Stephen Morgan Visit

Rahwa walks us through a talk given by our local MP.



Stephen Morgan talking to citizenship students.

Local MP Stephen Morgan speaks with Citizenship students.

In citizenship, we got to meet Stephen Morgan who is our local MP (for Portsmouth South) and also the shadow minister of schools. It was a very exciting experience as we got to ask many questions, get an insight into the political world and being a councilor - as well as understanding his personal experience of getting involved in politics at a young age and how we can do the same.

It was also very interesting as he gave us his own perspective on political news e.g. about Novak Djokovic arriving in Australia and the controversy regarding him not having vaccination status and the looming idea of people being forced to have vaccine passports. He additionally discussed the news of Boris Johnson going to a party during lockdown and the negative consequences that may play out.

'Getting involved in politics at a young age.'

Photography by St Edmund's Catholic School

He told us that he thought Boris Johnson going to a party whilst we were all in lockdown was ironic and he thought many people wouldn't listen to/respect the government as a result. He also told us he thinks that Boris Johnson should resign otherwise it undermines the rule of law.

On the idea of vaccine passports and Novak Djokovic he said that he believed that the idea of vaccine passports should be normalised as it's keeping people safe. He even asked us about our own opinions on these political events.

As well as that, we also asked him a question we had in our own Citizenship mock about people being able to make a change through online activism and whether people exercising their rights of free speech to make a change could counteractively undermine democracy e.g., flooding emails of MP's/people with political power. He told us that whilst he thought it was extremely important for people to exercise their right; he also agreed that it did (in a sense) undermine democracy as it means that if a large amount of people have an idea, then they can forcefully make changes without following the correct democratic process.



Student Holiday Experiences:

"On Christmas, me and my family usually get together on Christmas Eve because for Polish people, we celebrate Christmas that evening. We always begin with a prayer and have the body of Christ and share it amongst everyone wishing them all best things in their lives. Then we eat as much as possible and finally open all our presents. On Christmas day we do also celebrate by getting together with other parts of our family and close family friends for the whole day."

-Wiktoria Year 11



PUBLISHED BY YEAR 11
MEDIA STUDIES | 4



New Year Revelation



Freya questions staff commitment to their resolutions...



Miss Bird: The picture of patience.

Teachers New Years resolutions:

When asking teachers about what their New Years resolutions were I received varied results.

When talking to Mrs Esmaili she said that for the New Year she will try to be more patient and to stop buying anything she doesn't need.

I then asked Mr Hughes about his resolutions. His response was to boast about his fitness drive saying it was something he wanted to continue into the New Year.

When talking to Miss Vobe she said that in the New Year she wants to eat healthy and be active.

Finally when I asked Miss Bird she gave me a lovely answer saying she wants to spend more time with friends and family as well as wanting to travel more.

Photography collected by Freya

A Tuff Job Well Done:



Mrs Tuffnell

As many people will know, Mrs Tuffnell has become Year 11s Head of Year for the last few months (which she has done an amazing job at). However with Mrs Were coming back some of the students wanted to say a huge thank you to Mrs Tuffnell.

"It's sad that she's no longer going to be our Head of Year, she's been a great Head of Year these past few months and it will be weird when she's gone."

"She's helped us all so much, which we are more than grateful for."

"She's a really nice teacher and we've enjoyed having her as our Head of Year."

By Freya



SEASONAL

Ghost of Baubles Past

Megan branches out into the tale of the Christmas tree.



Some people replicate the tradition today by dressing their tree in LED candles.

As we look back on the holiday season I would like to share the story of the Christmas tree!

Many centuries ago, Germanic people used a real pine tree to celebrate the winter solstice. The original Christmas tree date was December 21st, but I put mine up on the 17th of November!

The evergreen pine tree was the symbol of virtual energy and supposedly reminded men, that even in winter nature still grows and represents the start and end of nature's life cycle.

This cherished tradition celebrating Christ's birth around a decorated tree is one of the most beloved symbols of Christmas and the birth of Christ. Christmas trees are used by religious and non religious families all over the globe, as a symbol of love and happiness in the Christmas season.

However, lights are important in the history of the Christmas tree. Martin Luther, a Protestant was once walking through a forest of evergreen trees in Germany, when he saw sparkling stars lighting up the trees. Martin recreated this beautiful scene at home by lighting candles on his Christmas tree.

Photography by **Google Images**

My Christmas



My Christmas Tree

My family tradition for the Christmas tree is from way back in the 1980s. My Nan and Grandad would put the Christmas tree up on the night of the children in need charity Christmas appeal. Ever since my Mum was introduced to this tradition she has grown up and brought it into her family. So every year we watch the Christmas appeal, donate to the children in need charity, put up the Christmas tree and have a takeaway.

By Megan





Around the World for Christmas



Briana takes us through different Christmas traditions from around the world.

Christmas around the world

Before you start reading, (my reader) I want you to acknowledge that there are 195 countries in the world. If I were to write about all of them individually, we would be here forever. I have cherry picked the ones I am most passionate about or found most fascinating.

The first country I have chosen to write about is... my home country Romania. In Romania our most traditional festive foods are marble cake and 'sarmale' (minced meat covered in cabbage leaves). Like most countries, if children have been good, they will get presents from Father Christmas. On the other hand, if they have been naughty (traditionally speaking) they would get a lump of coal or a stick. As Romania gets a lot of snow, people often go snow sledging. It is also usual for children to go caroling.



Sarmale.

'Like most countries, if children have been good, they will get presents from Father Christmas.'

The next country I am going to write about is... Poland. One thing I found unique and special about the Polish Christmas traditions, is that after the Christmas supper is eaten, the children eagerly wait for the first star to be sighted so they can open their presents. Another thing that I found very clever is that they put a little hay under the tablecloth to remind them that Jesus was born in a stable. The oldest Polish carol is called "Come Again Angel King" it dates back to 1424.



You can always find some blades of hay under the tablecloth.

I also find Lithuania very interesting, so I decided to write about some of its unique Christmas traditions. As most of us have grown up with Father Christmas bringing presents. You will be pleasantly surprised to learn that in Lithuania the bringer of presents is "Senis Saltis" (Uncle Cold) and his helper "Snieguole." It is not an unusual sight to see girls throwing shoes over their shoulders (if the toe points top the door it means they will find a husband, if the toe points to the room it means that they will not leave the nest for another year) in order to find a husband.

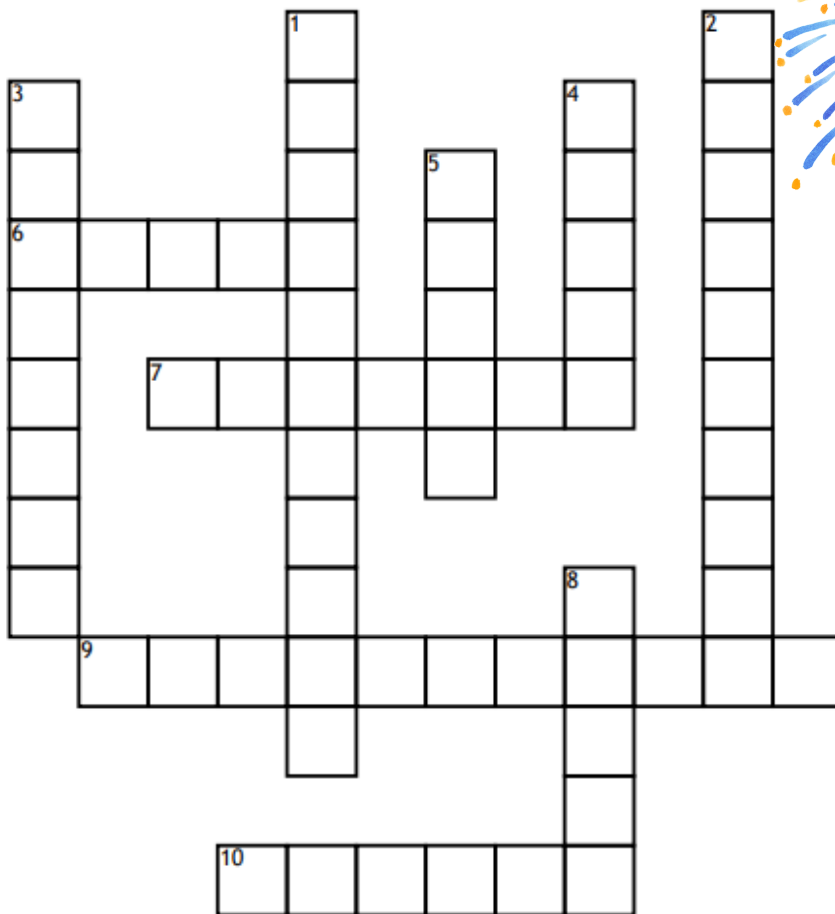
**By Briana
Year 9**





Puzzles & Games

Happy New Year

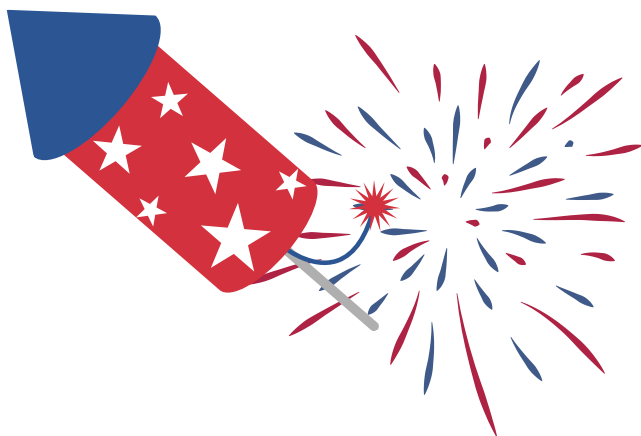


Across

6. People ____ and have fun on New Year's eve
7. There are lots of ____ on New Year's eve
9. People often make ____ at this time
10. Many parties include ____

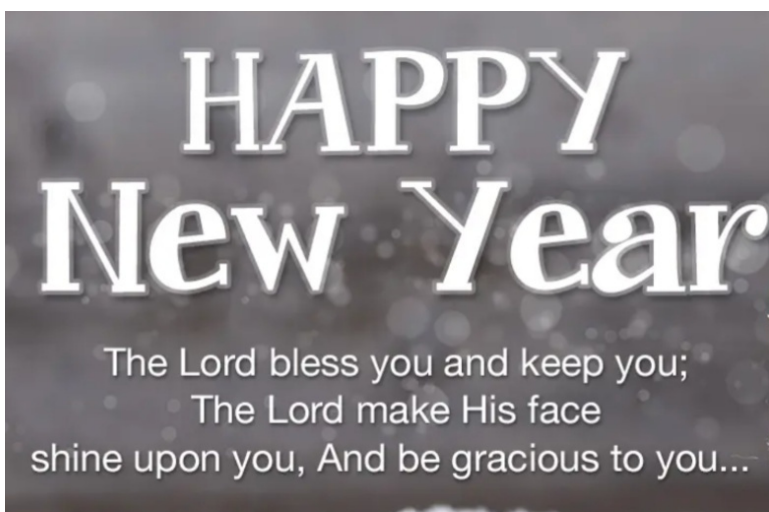
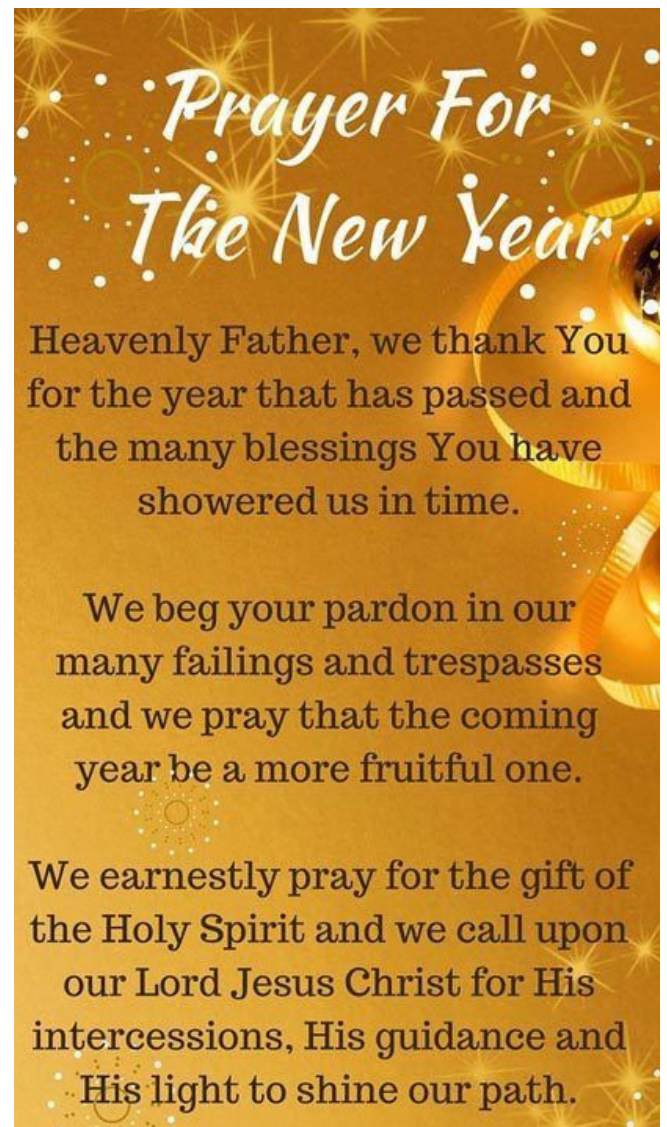
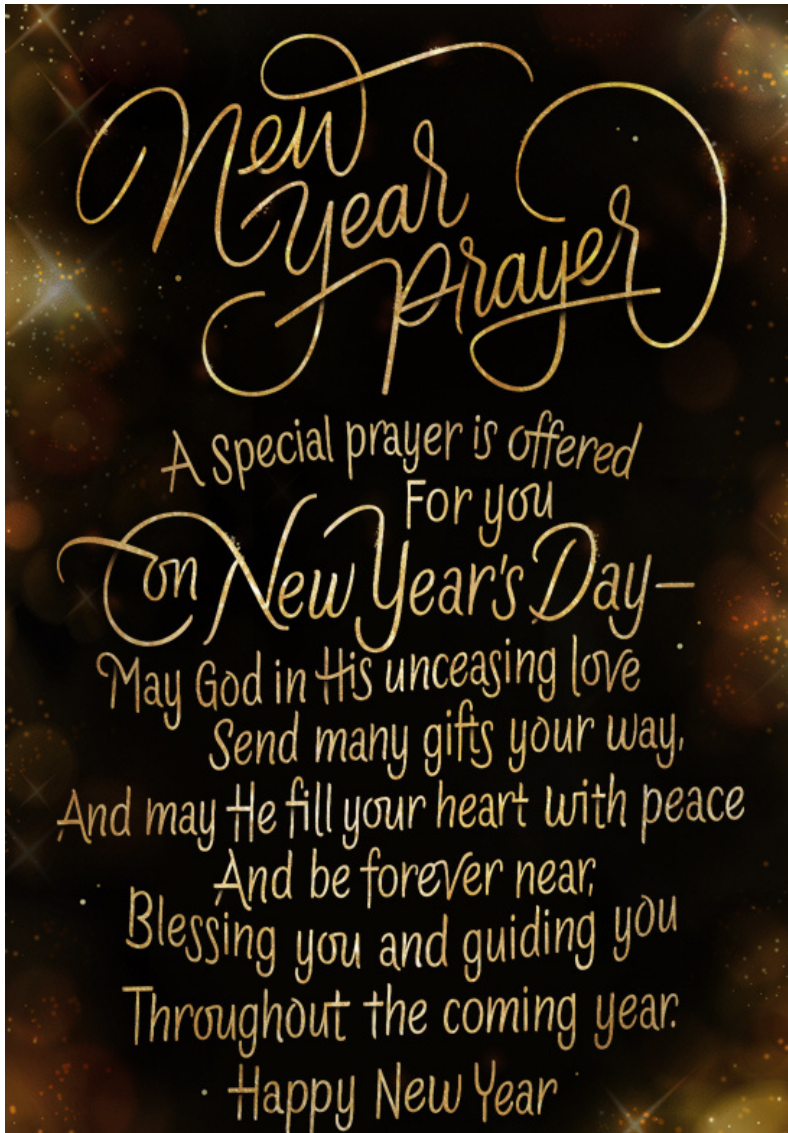
Down

1. The new year is a time for ____
2. It's a time for ____
3. You celebrate New Year's at the stroke of ____
4. Some people exchange ____ on New Year's day
5. There's usual lots of good ____ on New Year's eve
8. Some people exchange ____ on New Year's day





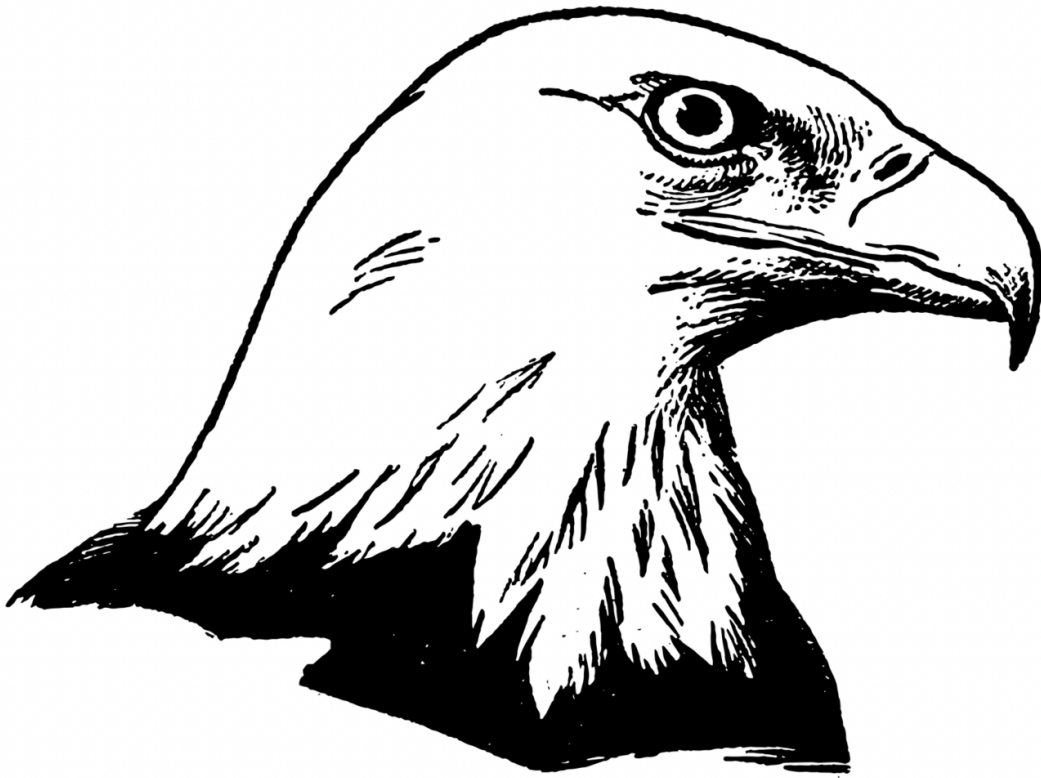
PRAYER & RELECTION



***'I can do all things
with the help of
God who
strengthens me.'***

Chosen by Phoebe





SAINT EDMUND'S CATHOLIC
SCHOOL PRESENTS

THE EAGLE

A MONTHLY NEWS PUBLICATION

FOR STUDENTS ■ BY STUDENTS

SCHOOL NEWS
STUDENT NEWS
TEACHER NEWS
SPORT
ENTERTAINMENT
TRAVEL
SEASONAL
EDUCATION
HEALTH & BEAUTY

Remember

If you want to contribute to 'The Eagle,'
contact the relevant representative or

Mrs Bull-Mittens via email on:

amelia.bull-mittens@saintedmunds.org.uk