



The John Roan School  
The best in everyone™  
Part of United Learning

# THE EXPLORATION EDITION

WINTER 2023  
PROUD MAGAZINE  
THE JOHN ROAN SCHOOL



The John Roan School

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

We are an ambitious learning community where PRIDE brings out the best in everyone

Dear students, parents, families and friends,

Welcome to our new-look PROUD magazine, a place to show off our work, to celebrate our achievements over the last term, and hopefully to give you something fun and interesting to read.

This issue's theme is Exploration, a theme which we think fits the spirit of the school.

We hope you enjoy reading our magazine. We loved making it! Thank you to everyone who contributed.

All that remains now is to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and see you in 2024!

*Ms Meira*

*Indie*

*Hugo*

*Sophie*

*Ferdie*

*Perdy*

*Skye*

*Sara*

*Tom*

*Imogen*

*Michael*

*Kezia*

# Chasing Dreams

By Serenity, Y7.

Explorers, explorers, sailing on the seas,  
Explorers, explorers, chasing their own dreams.  
Explorers, explorers, looking at the sights,  
Explorers, explorers, guarding through the night.

Explorers, explorers, looking for the unknown,  
Explorers, explorers, looking at what's grown.  
Explorers, explorers, out in their tree house,  
Explorers, explorers, getting hurt, "OUCH!"

Explorers, explorers, thinking wild,  
Explorers, explorers, searching out the howls,  
Explorers, explorers, sailing on the seas,  
Explorers, explorers, chasing their own dreams.

# Teacher's Pets

Match the teacher to their pet!

(Answers on the last page)



A) Tallulah



B) Bolan



C) Raphael



D) Persephone



1. Mr Codrington



2. Mr Farrell



3. Mr Shaw



4. Ms Begum

Welcome to my Country  
**Burkina Faso**  
By Kalifa, Y9



**Capital:** Ouagadougou  
**Population:** 20,835,401  
**Major language:** French

In Burkina Faso things are very different than in the U.K. The schools are different. In both schools, you have to respect the teachers, but in Burkina Faso they may make you do push ups as punishment. And if you fall asleep, they make you stand up for the rest of the lesson.

At lunch, you go home. If your mum did not cook, you can ask her for some money to go and buy some food. If you want, you can eat the lunch in school, but they do not give you food there. On Wednesdays, you get to go home at break time.

On the weekends, you can go out to play or go and help your parent in the garden to plant some tomatoes or onions. If you're lucky you may find a baby bird that looks like this...



*My primary school*



You can give them food and water and when they grow up, you can let them fly or you can keep them as a pet. You can also go to the river with your friends to fish when you're not at school, or look after your animals (such as goats, sheep and donkeys).

See if you can make your cupcakes look as good as Imogen's! Send us a photo of your decorated cupcakes and we'll include it in our next issue!

## Imogen's Easy Vanilla Christmas Cupcakes

### INGREDIENTS

- 110g butter, softened
- 110g golden caster sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 110g self-raising flour
- 1-2 tbsp milk, plus a little extra for the icing

### *For the icing*

- 125g butter, softened
- 185g icing sugar

### METHOD

#### STEP 1

Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Line 12 holes in a shallow muffin/cupcake tin with bright or festive cupcake cases. Blend the butter and sugar together until the mixture is light and fluffy. Beat the eggs and vanilla extract together in a jug, then beat into the butter/sugar mixture a little at a time.

#### STEP 2

Fold the flour into the above mixture along with a little milk – the mixture should fall easily off a spoon. Divide the mixture between the cases with a spoon, filling each one no more than half full.

#### STEP 3

Cook the cakes for 12-15 mins – they should be firm to the touch and slightly golden brown. Cool in the tin for 5 mins, then lift them out gently and leave to cool completely.

#### STEP 4

To make the icing, beat the butter until it is soft. Beat in the icing sugar a little at a time, then beat in a splash of the milk as you need to give you a soft icing that can be piped easily. Scrape the icing into an icing bag fitted with a star nozzle. Ice the cakes in swirls, starting in the centre and working outwards.

#### STEP 5

Now sprinkle with festive decorations or dried fruit.





**Mrs Smith, Principal**

# Interview with a Teacher

In our new 'Interview with a Teacher' series, Skye in Year 7 decided to start right at the top!



**Hello, Mrs Smith. Thank you for letting us interview you. Our first question is what was your earliest childhood memory?**

My earliest childhood memory is when I was around three years old and I was waiting in my parents' bedroom to meet my new baby sister. It's a lovely first memory.

**Do you have any pets?**

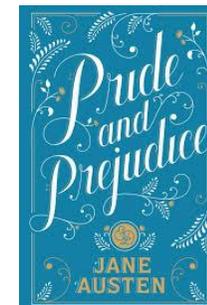
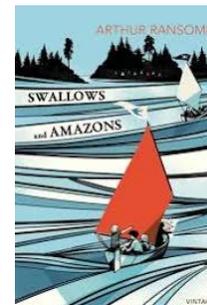
I don't have any pets at the moment, but we had cats growing up. And now I look after my children's pets.

**Where did you grow up?**

I grew up in Wales, just by the border with England.

**What was your favourite book when you were young?**

I remember really enjoying *Swallows and Amazons* by Arthur Ransome. My favourite book now is *Pride & Prejudice* by Jane Austen.



**Finally, do you like working with children?!**

I really love it! At the end of a long day or after meetings I find that talking to pupils brightens my day.

# JOKES & A RIDDLE

Entertain your family  
and friends with the  
best jokes and riddles  
from the playground...



Sometimes I tuck my chin  
into my chest and lean  
forward...

That's just how I roll.



Where does a king keep  
his armies?

In his sleeves!

R

I only know 25 letters of  
the alphabet...

I don't know why.

A

Y

What's the best thing  
about Switzerland?



I don't know, but the flag  
is a big plus!

I bought the world's  
worst thesaurus.

Not only is it terrible, it's  
terrible.



**Riddle:** Mr and Mrs Winter  
have six daughters and each  
daughter has one brother.  
How many people are in  
the Winter family?

(See last page for answer)



My three favourite things  
are eating my family and  
not using commas.

# SURVIVING IN THE WILD

By Ferdie, Y7

Imagine the scene – you are on an aeroplane that crashes in the jungle, or on a ship sinks and you swim over to a nearby island. Or perhaps you just get separated from your group while on a trek in the mountains. In order to stay alive, you will need to be able to survive in the wild and use nature's resources to sustain yourself while you await rescue.

## Equipment

These are some useful items of equipment. The more of them you have, the better.



- **Matches** – Matches are the best way to start a fire so try to have as many as you can. Matches don't work when damp so you can waterproof them by covering them in candle wax.
- **Flint and Steel** – Flint and steel is a long-lasting firelighter that will work when wet, though it does take skill to master. Find some thin, dry kindling. Strike steel with a flint to create a spark and blow very gently to kindle the spark.
- **Snare wire** – Thin brass wire 60-90cm long for making snares, which are traps made from a loop of wire, which can be placed on animal trails to catch small animals such as rabbits.
- **Fishhooks and line** – Very useful if you are near a river. You can whittle fish hooks out of sticks. If you do not have them, you can still fish, using your hands to tickle the fish or weaving fish traps from reeds or sticks.
- **Medical kit** – water sterilising tablets and potassium permanganate, which can also be used to sterilise water, or can make an antiseptic and is also flammable. It is also useful to have medicines such as antibiotics, antihistamines and painkillers.
- **Flexible saw** – A saw that is a wire with teeth that can be coiled up to be carried easily. This can be used for cutting wood, even quite large trees.
- **Knife** – A knife is an extremely important bit of survival equipment. A knife with multiple blades can be a useful tool, but a knife with a single, strong blade can do most tasks efficiently and will be stronger and last longer. It is essential to keep it sharp. Folding knives are easier to carry.

## Food and water

**Purifying water** – you should not under any circumstances drink impure water, for example from standing pools, or lowland streams where animals may have contaminated the water. Purifying water is mainly done by boiling it. You can boil water in any vessel, even a leaf, so long as you can make a fire. If you cannot, you could use purifying tablets or potassium permanganate. Sphagnum moss has antiseptic properties so squeezing it releases clean water, as well as being useful for cleaning wounds and a good replacement for a bandage.



## Foraging (finding food in the wild)

- o **How to identify dangerous plants** – unless you know they are absolutely safe, avoid plants with milky sap; red plants; fruit which is divided into five segments; plants with barbs on their stems; old or wilted leaves; mature bracken and any wild mushrooms.
- o Some common plants that can be eaten include wild varieties of well-known fruits, nuts, primroses, dandelions, wild garlic, knotweeds, wild parsnips and ground nuts. Roots and tubers provide lots of nutrition. Tree bark, from trees such as birch, maples, willows and pines, can be boiled and ground into flour – labour-intensive but nutritious.
- o Meat – never eat carrion (meat that is already dead when you find it), as it will probably have flies and bacteria, and do not eat purple or bruised parts, which might be infected. Never butcher game in your camp to avoid attracting predators and insects – instead you can butcher it on your trap lines to attract more game and save all of the skin to use for other things. Although it seems very gruesome, you might need the nutrition from meat to survive.
- o Fish – never eat fish that are floating on the surface of the water, if you did not kill them. In streams fish usually congregate in pools in deep, calm water. Looks for them at small rapids, the tail of a pool, eddies below rocks or logs and deep undercut banks in the shade of bushes. If you have a fishhook and line, use that with some bait - grubs and worms work best. Also, try putting on a lure – shiny objects work well so things such as tin foil are ideal. You could also use a net, a weighted line with bait or even your hands “tickling” the fish – feeling in the mud and grasping it behind the gills and pulling it out.

- o **Fungi** – while some fungi are perfectly safe to eat, you must be cautious as some can kill if you eat even a tiny amount. Common examples of edible fungi are beefsteak fungus and oyster fungus. Most fungi that grow on trees are safe, though always check before eating. Fungi growing on the ground are more likely to be dangerous. Examples of safe ground fungi are Giant Puffballs, [picture], Field Mushrooms and Wood Mushrooms. Watch out for white spores or gills, a slimy cap with loose patches or stem rings and do not eat them if they are wormy or decomposing. The most dangerous fungi are the Death Cap and Destroying Angel mushrooms.



Key to Picture: 1. Destroying Angel  
2. Death Cap 3. Field Mushroom  
4. Wood Mushroom 5. Giant Puffball

# Shelter

Unless you expect to be rescued very quickly you will need shelter – to keep you warm, to protect you from the elements, and to give you shade. You need to have somewhere to sleep, and time spent making a shelter is a good investment. You might not have any equipment, but you can often build a shelter from materials you find in your surroundings. Some types of shelter are:

- A sapling frame – cut down some bendy young saplings and lean them together to make three to four upside-down Vs (called an A-frame). Tie them together with string, bark or young saplings.
- A teepee – drive long sticks into the ground in a circle so that they point inwards towards each other and then lash them in the middle.
- A log cabin – if you expect to need a longer-term shelter, cut down plenty of logs of similar length and thickness to make your walls. Make notches towards the ends of the logs, and stack them in a square shape, fitting the notches together so the walls do not have gaps in them. Remember to leave a gap for your door. Criss-cross some thin branches over the roof and put on a covering.

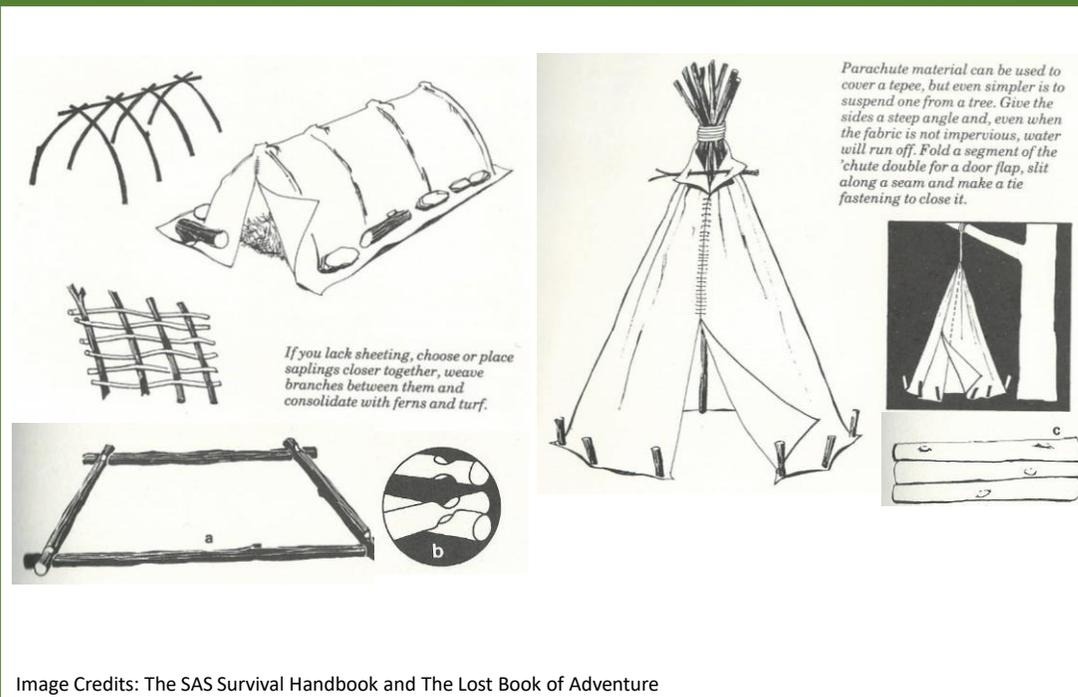


Image Credits: The SAS Survival Handbook and The Lost Book of Adventure

Your shelter will then need a covering. The best coverings are parachutes or tarpaulins but often you will not have access to these so you must choose an alternative. Often you can use plants, such as strips of bark (birch is water-resistant and can be overlaid on a frame), bamboo (though take care when dealing with it as it can snap under strain and hurt you), woven grasses and big leaves or moss.

## Further reading

If you want to read some more about survival, here are some fact and fiction books you might like:

- The SAS Survival Handbook by John Wiseman
- The Lost Book of Adventure and Journey to the Last River compiled by Teddy Keen
- My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George
- How to Stay Alive by Bear Grylls

# GAMING NEWS

By Russell, Y8



## The New Chapter 5 Update

The big new in gaming this term was the long-awaited update to Fortnite. And it didn't disappoint! If you haven't played Fortnite before, now is the time to start!

The best things about the update are:

- The new map. It feels like the original but with loads of extras. Make sure to visit Ritzy Riviera, Rebel's Roost and Hazy Hillside.
- Customise the Fortnite sports car.
- Medikits and shield potions can now be used while you're moving.
- A new Lego mode, completely separate to Battle Royal and Creative has landed. Best thing about it is that characters are converted into minifigures (including any skins that you own).
- Bosses are back on the island; Oscar, Nisha, Montague, Valeria and Peter Griffin (from Family Guy). Defeating each one drops a Society Medallion, we give you a buff that regenerates shields.

PRO TIP: Find the secret cave on the eastern coast of the island, southeast from Grand Glacier. Look for a small opening in the cliffs.



## This Term's Top Roblox Games

### 1. Blox Fruits

Blox fruits is a one-piece related rpg game where you fight bandits and do quests to level up. As you prestige into the game you can unlock things called fruits which you can buy from the blox fruit dealer or the blox fruit gacha which gives you a randomized fruits the higher the rarity the better it is.

### 2. Blade Ball

Blade ball is a game where the ball comes towards you and you click to deflect the ball and be the last one standing.

### 3. Brookhaven

Brookhaven is a role play game where you can role play with a large variety of jobs and others.

# The Road Not Taken

By Robert Frost (famous poet, not a student at our school)

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveller, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,  
And having perhaps the better claim,  
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;  
Though as for that the passing there  
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay  
In leaves no step had trodden black.  
Oh, I kept the first for another day!  
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,  
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—  
I took the one less travelled by,  
And that has made all the difference.



## Dear JR,

Something worrying you? Ask our anonymous Sixth Former for advice...

Dear JR,

I don't have any friends. I see other people at break time hanging out in groups, but I just walk around by myself. I don't know what makes them be able to make friends, but not me. Please help.



I'm sorry to hear that you're feeling lonely at school. It's hard not having anyone to talk to.

Making friends can take time. It's easier for some of us than others, but there are things you can do to help. Why don't you join a club or two? That's a great way to spend time with others outside of lessons. Try not to look too sad or angry as you walk around. People like to make friends with friendly people.

**Remember, you are not alone;** most of us have felt like this at one time or another. If you look around the playground, you'll see that there are other people who look like they might be lonely too. It's difficult to go up to someone, but you don't have to say, "be my friend!". Instead, try starting a conversation with something like, "hey, did you hear about..., or do you know where...".

It's also important to take care of yourself – take part in activities that bring you joy and fulfilment. You will make friends, but remember that friendships often develop gradually, so be patient and kind to yourself as you navigate this.

**There is a friend out there for all of us, I promise.**

Love, *JR*

# Explorers Who Disappeared...

## The Mysterious Disappearance of Amy Johnson

by Perdy Y7

On the 5th of January 1941, a plane piloted by a woman who was and still is loved by many, was sighted by passers-by plummeting into the Thames estuary, way off her designated course. That victim of terrible weather and bad luck was 37-year-old Amy Johnson. She was on a routine mission, flying from Prestwick to Kidlington. The army had hired her to fly their planes down from Scotland to their airfields. The day of her death, Johnson was advised not to fly because of the high winds, clouds and rain. Even so, Amy decided that she should complete her flight and set off that morning. After the take-off she noticed that the storm was getting worse. Her plane began to struggle, fighting hard against the sharp winds. A few hours later, it ran out of fuel. Instead of risking an immediate landing, she decided to bail out and crash into the river Thames. Some of the navy saw the aircraft fall and immediately rushed to help Amy. The captain and his colleague dived into the freezing water, attempting to rescue Johnson. In vain. She was too far under the water and the captain died trying to save her. But before the current ripped them apart, the seaman grasped the collar of what could have been Amy Johnson. Was it her? Or maybe it was another pilot who had also suffered the same fate. It is still unknown to this day.

### FUN FACTS:

- Amy Johnson's nickname was Jonnie!
- She was just 27 when she flew 11,000 miles to Australia.
- Amy hated the colour of the plane when she first got it so painted it.



# Explorers Who Disappeared...

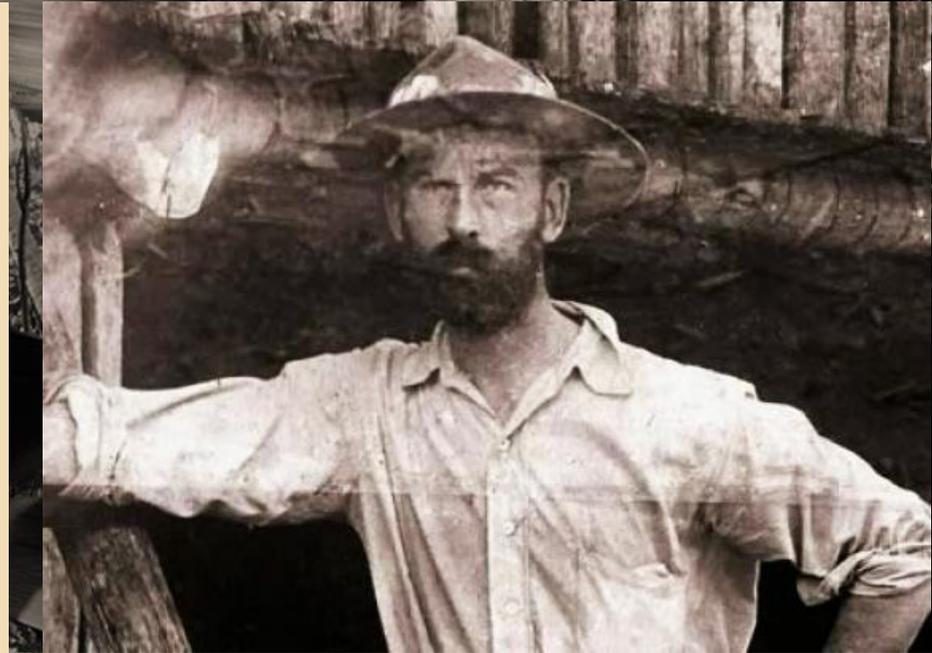
## The Mysterious Disappearance of Percy Fawcett

Born in 1867, this British explorer wasn't your conventional adventurer. Percy Fawcett was a man with a taste for fine wine and formal dinner jackets, which he wore while strolling through the Amazon. Wearing his trademark pith helmet, sketching ancient landscapes and chasing a hidden city he named "Z." Fawcett wasn't just mapping the unknown; he was practically rewriting the script of exploration.

Fast forward to 1925, and Fawcett embarked on what would become his final adventure. Determined to uncover the secrets of the Amazon, he vanished without a trace, leaving behind a mystery that still captivates the adventurous at heart.

### FUN FACTS:

- Percy Fawcett was the inspiration for the iconic movie character, Indiana Jones.
- Percy Fawcett believed in the existence of a highly advanced city in the Amazon, which he named "Z." He never found it, and there are still explorers going in search of this city to this day.



# Explorers Who Disappeared...

## The Mysterious Disappearance of Amelia Earhart

by Sara Y7

Amelia Earhart was born on July 24th 1897 in Atchison, Kansas. This was where she began to develop a deep passion for adventure from a younger age. Once in her twenties, she gained more and more flight experience and in 1928 Amelia achieved a celebrity status for becoming the first female passenger to cross the Atlantic by plane. But later in 1937, during an attempt at becoming the first woman to complete a circumnavigation flight of the globe in a Purdue-funded Lockheed model 10-E Electra, Amelia and the navigator disappeared over the central Pacific Ocean near Howland Island. They were last seen on July

2nd 1937 and it is presumed that she and Noonan died somewhere in the Pacific just three weeks before her 40th birthday. But only nearly after one and a half years were they declared dead but investigations still continue over 80 years later.

### FUN FACTS:

- Despite her flying achievements, Amelia was scared of heights!
- Amelia designed her own fashion line, including luggage for female travellers.
- Amelia had a pet canary called 'Chirpy'. Amelia would sometimes bring Chirpy on some of her flights.



# WORLD SPORTS 2023 by Tom, Y7

This year lots of stuff has happened in sports such as the women's FIFA world cup, as well as the ICC cricket world cup and the men's rugby world cup. But in these tournaments, unfortunately, 2023 was not to be England's year.

This year we have had lots of sports. The FIFA women's world cup was a massive event. In this competition, countries from all over the world arrived in Spain to compete. Unfortunately for England, we lost against Spain in the final. The final was a particularly good match but sadly Spain were the better team.



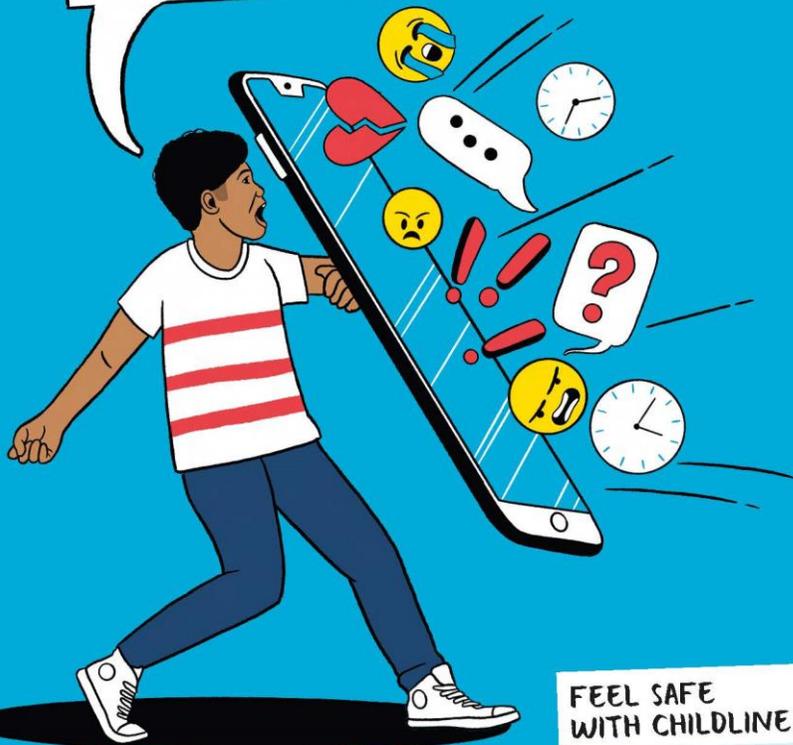
Next, the men's rugby world cup. This was one of the best world cups in the history of rugby. Unfortunately, England did not do very well as they lost matches that they should have won. Sadly, we did not make it out of the semi-finals. We lost against South Africa, who went on to win against New Zealand.



We have also had the ICC Cricket World Cup. Sadly England did not make it out of the group stage. We won 3 and lost 6 of our matches, and Australia went on to win.



NEED A PLACE TO  
**GET AWAY**  
FROM IT ALL



**FEEL SAFE  
WITH CHILDLINE**

Whatever's going on in your life, our counsellors are here to listen. Chat with one of our counsellors online, on the phone or, if you're D/deaf, through a British Sign Language interpreter. It's free, confidential and we'll make you feel at ease.

Christmas can be an exciting time, but not for everyone. If you are going through a difficult time, for whatever reason, please remember...you are not alone. You are a valued member of **The John Roan School** community – a community that really does care about you.

While school is closed, there are lots of places you can call that will help you get through this time, including Childline.

Childline is for anybody under the age of 18, and it does not need to be an emergency – you can call if you're just feeling a bit down. You can also text or use the message boards.

[Click here to go to Childline's Christmas holidays page...](#)

**childline**

ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME  
childline.org.uk | 0800 1111

Childline is a service provided by the NSPCC, (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) NSPCC, 2021. Registered charity England and Wales 218401, Scotland SC037727 and Jersey 194. Illustration by Toby Triumph, 0200 11110, NSPCC

We hope you enjoyed our magazine! A huge huge thank you to all of you who contributed.

We have big plans for the next issue. There will be a puzzle page, lots more John Roan news and pictures and, hopefully, even more content from students.

The theme for spring will be Invention; and you can submit anything you'd like to be included to Ms Meira (art dept.) at [monica.meira@thejohnroanschool.org.uk](mailto:monica.meira@thejohnroanschool.org.uk)



## Answers

Teacher's Pets:

A3, B1, C4, D2.

Riddle:

The answer is 9.

The Winters have six daughters and one brother, so there are a total of nine in the family.