This issue was written by Dilara, Layney, Freya, Sia, Christopher, Darcie, Tasia, Love and Rio

Finlay Flyer

Did you know pumpkins are around 90% water?

(turn to page 8 for all things autumnal)

What did the oak tree say when autumn came around? ***Leaf me alone!***

(turn to page 10 for more hilarious jokes!)

Did you know polar bears can smell their prey up to 20 miles away?

(turn to page 4 to discover more)

It was the night before Halloween and the girl's family had just arrived at their new house. In this story, I will be calling her the girl and the girl I shall call her for narrators just like me shouldn't have to be knowing of such little details.

(turn to page 2 to discover what happens next)

This issue is celebrating all things spooktacular and autumnal! Inside, you can find scary and adventurous stories, fascinating facts about this time of year, information about some of our favourite animals and a variety of jokes and puzzles for you to enjoy.



Finlay Community School

ASPIRE BELONG ACHIEVE



THE STORY OF STINGY JACK!

BY DILARA

It was the night before Halloween and the girl's family had just arrived at their new house . In this story, I will be calling her the girl and the girl I shall call her for narrators just like me shouldn't have to be knowing of such little details. Anyways back to our story . Her parents brought her into a new town that she was not willing to go, however this was her life with her father .

She wanted to do ballet and got a masters in science, she wanted to do dance and graduated from karate a year later . She lived like this and didn't fuss, she didn't cry or pout, she just lived with it. Finally, once she had gotten in the house, she ran upstairs, and like every day dad had called her back down.

Love he had said, go outside have some fun . No sternly she fired back. I have played by your rules enough in my life and I want to be free. And with that she had stormed out unknowingly pleasing her father for getting fresh air as all he wanted was really just to take care of her .Only then had mum walked in and learned that her daughter had wandered off. She gave a warning to her husband and went out into somewhere I don't know. Now back to the daughter's story.

Ambling through unrecognised streets, she had come across an awfully loud banging, the only thing that put her off was it was in a graveyard but that did not stop her . She quickly ran over just to see two girls and a boy rushing out and they greeted her as the new moving in person. She asked what they were doing and they quickly explained they loved Halloween and introduced themselves . Hi I am Grace the first girl said, and I'm Steven said the boy and finally, the last girl said I'm May .

She immediately knew they had a special bond and with that she ran home to tell her parents about the new friends she had made. But the only thing I didn't tell you was they said her new house was haunted, now this was something she is very keen on but her dad, not so much. As she quickly told her parents and then ran upstairs, her dad gave a shocked look to his wife and all she said was I know you don't like this but I am glad she has a new hobby and you will too, no matter how much you love to control her life and she walked out . He felt everyone was against him but that is not the point of our story.

The girl was up in her bedroom and heard her dad leave. She immediately phoned her new friends and she went Halloween shopping . Luckily, when she came home, neither of her parents were home and so she decorated a squeaky bat on the door, fake cobwebs around the house and a spooky cauldron from Madam Marbles [this doubled as a candle]. Hours later, her dad walked in throwing the bat and screaming. She cheerfully strutted in and lit her cauldron. Her dad blew it out and she tried to apologise but he said no. Suddenly, the candle relit, her dad said unblowable huh, take this and he ran it under water. And this is where our story ends and you wouldn't believe it but when they both walked off ...The candle relit .....

Penguins!

Penguins are flightless, aquatic birds that live almost exclusively in the southern hemisphere.

Facts you may not know!

1. Penguins have two days dedicated to them every year: January 20th is Penguin Awareness Day and April 25th is World Penguin Day.

2. A group of penguins in the water is called a raft, a group of penguins on land is called a waddle. Other collective nouns for penguins, include rookery, colony, and huddle.

Where do they live?

Penguins live in the southern hemisphere from the cold ice of Antarctica to the cold rocky corners of Africa.

Hope you enjoyed reading about penguins!





These penguins are really unique and they are very special in this world!

Look how cute!



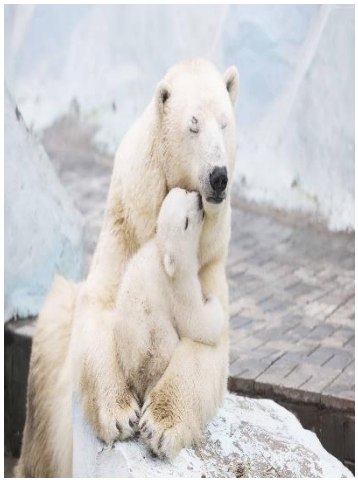


By Layney

Polar Bears

Did you know that polar bears have transparent, hollow fur, and can smell a seal from over 16-30 km away, making them uniquely adapted Arctic marine mammals?

Polar bears live in the Arctic in the northernmost parts of the world. There are 19 subpopulations of polar bears that live across North America and Eurasia. The majority of them can be found in Canada, but also live in Alaska, Greenland, Russia and Norway.







Polar bears travel over 3,000km per month and are able to swim for days at a time.

They are the largest bear species and have a special third eyelid for protection!

Polar bears have an excellent sense of smell. They can smell prey up to 20 miles away. According to the Guinness World Records, this means they have the most sensitive nose for a mammal that lives on land.

By Freya

Arctic Fox

The Arctic Fox is adapted to live in extreme cold. Here's how:

Seasonal Coat Change: Most individuals are white, growing a thick, pure-white coat in the winter that turns brown / grey in the summer.

Compact Body Shape: Short ears, a short muzzle, and a round body help minimize heat loss.

Snow Boots: Dense fur on the pads of their feet provides insulation and helps them walk silently across ice and snow.

Fluffy Tail: Used as a warm wrap around their body when curling up to sleep in freezing temperatures.

Below are some images of the Arctic Fox in its environment.





Did you know its scientific name is Vulpes Lagopus which means 'hare-footed,' referring to the fur on its paws?

The Arctic Fox is omnivorous; they mainly hunt lemmings, small rodents and birds, and will also eat eggs, fish, berries, and scraps left behind by larger predators like polar bears.

They typically live 3 to 6 years in the wild, though some can live up to 10–11 years.

The Arctic Fox is 25-30cm tall and 55cm in length. Its tail is about one third the length of its body.

By Freya

The Present by Christopher

(independently written and edited for the BBC 500 word competition 2026)

Fred was a 12 year old boy who loved his 9 year old brother, Brick. One fine morning they went to their favourite place in the whole wide world - The library. They went to the courtyard with a new find called THE PRESENT. They snuggled down as the sun rose and opened the spindely, old book. Inside was a picture of a white christmas present with a red ribbon. Instantly, they got sucked into the present through an inter-dimensional wormhole!

Suddenly, they were sat next to a man with a floating book, color changing glasses and a pet robot. Fred asked “What? Where? Who?” The man said “ I am Jeffery from the year 2762ad. This is the present. The world is across all existing timelines. To go home, use 8 yottawatts of power to light the Christmas tree at the centre of the universe and open a wormhole. I will find a shuttle for you. Collect plenty of hyke (an atom that retracts from humans). Without it you’ll die in space!”

Jeffrey pulled out a high tech device and pressed a translucent button. It made a high-pitched squeal; everything shone orangey-yellow. They shrunk to nothing and then suddenly grew again - on Mount Everest! Then Jeffrey said “ it’s a intertravelaporter device. Climb up there,” while pointing to a flag. “But surely we cant see the atoms and they retract from us?” said Brick. Jeffrey sighed, ”put on these spectospecs301, and you’ll see the bright green atom. We’re not enough people to retract the atoms.” Then he reached into his coat pocket and pulled out a bright orange bucket that had three pairs of glasses.

As they put on the glasses, they saw grey, blue and green particles. They saw a clump of lime green Hyke and walked towards it cautiously because they weren’t used to the rough terrain of Mount Everest. Out of the bucket they pulled two grey devices to count their Hyke

A few hours later, they had 600 Hyke a piece and relaxed in a log cabin to rest for the night. They drank glasses of warm milk that Jefferey fetched for them and dozed off to sleep with dreams of jungles and forests on there intergalactic journey. In what felt like a matter of seconds, Jeffery was waking them up at four in the morning . Jeffery told them that they were going to the shuttle station in Russia.

They got dressed and breakfasted. They trecked over a low mountain. Jeffery talked to a man that told them to go to area Z so they went to area Z. The problem was, it was on a mountain that went strait up but luckily there was a ladder. When they were most of the way up it collapsed! Fred grabbed the edge of the cliff. Brick grabbed Fred’s ankles. Jeffery grabbed Brick’s ankles and an egyption lady grabbed Jeffery’s ankles! The four of them heaved themselves into the shuttle and went home.

The story of Jack the snake boy! By Rio

(independently written and edited for the BBC 500 word competition 2026)

Jack was a young boy in a world full of nature. He liked football, snakes and nature a lot. He spent his time at the reptile shop looking at the numerous, colossal snakes. He was jealous because of how many snakes the shop owner had. Jack really wanted a pet snake himself but he wasn't allowed one because his parents doubted that he could take care of one by himself. He thinks he can because he had watched lots of videos of raising snakes. Then he had an idea. He was going to sneak in the reptile shop.

It was 3am. It was pouring down and cold. Jack snuck out his bedroom window. Soon after, he was crouching under a broken lamppost adjacent to the reptile shop. From his soaking hoodie pocket, he whipped out a bobby pin. He put it in the keyhole. He twisted it three times. CLICK! CLICK! CLICK! The door handle screeched as he opened the shop door. Slowly, Jack looked around. Crouch walking, he suddenly saw a snake in the shadows of its glass box. It hissed. In shock, Jack moved quickly to the other side of the shop. He found a key in the main office then he lifted the hatch. Inside the glass box, he saw a black and red snake in the pitch-black shadows. With a hook, he snatched it out of the cage and put it in a massive bucket and went home.

A couple days later, he was in his bedroom (his door was locked because he didn't want his parents to find out) quietly feeding a rabbit to the snake when the snake sunk is fangs into him. He screamed. He swayed side to side. He fainted. When he woke up his neck felt sore, he looked in the mirror and gasped. He had scaly arms huge fangs and a long tail coming out of his butt. He had turned into SNAKE BOY!

He went to the chemist to see if he could find some medicine to heal his neck and scales. On his way he heard a gunshot and people screaming. He bolted as fast as he could after the police cars. He saw A supervillain robbing a bank. He started to turn green, black and red. He had become a massive king cobra. He hissed at the robber. He shot venom out of his throat. The robber screamed and then fell asleep.

Jack turned back into a boy and explained to the police that he wasn't a villain, he was Snake Boy superhero. As the town was about to celebrate Superhero Awareness Day, they declared Jack as the number one superhero in the world.



Autumn fun facts!



Did you know autumn usually starts around the 22nd or 23rd of September, when day and night are nearly equal length?

10 Facts About Autumn!

1.Why Leaves Change Colour

During autumn, the leaves of many trees turn red, yellow, orange, or even purple. This happens because the green chlorophyll in the leaves breaks down, revealing the other colours that were hiding all along! It's like the trees are showing off their hidden rainbow!

2. The First Day of Autumn

Autumn begins on the **autumnal equinox**, which usually happens around September 22nd or 23rd. On this day, the hours of daylight and darkness are almost equal! It's one of two times a year when this happens (the other is the spring equinox).

3. Animals Prepare for Winter!

Autumn is a busy time for animals! Some animals, like **squirrels**, collect and store food like acorns and nuts to last them through the winter. Others, like **bears**, start eating a lot so they can build up fat and hibernate during the cold months. And of course, some birds fly south for the winter in a journey called **migration**.

4. Pumpkins Galore!

Pumpkins are the most famous autumnal fruit, and they belong to the **gourd family**, just like cucumbers and watermelons! Did you know that pumpkins are 90% water? They come in all shapes and sizes, and the largest pumpkin ever grown weighed over **2,700 pounds**—that's heavier than a small car!

5. Apples Everywhere

Autumn is also the best time for **apple picking**. Apples are harvested in autumn because the cooler temperatures help make them crisp and delicious. There are over **7,500 varieties of apples** in the world, with colours ranging from red and green to yellow and even pink!





6. It’s Sweater Weather!

As autumn comes, the weather starts to cool down. This is because Earth tilts away from the sun during fall, which means we don’t get as much direct sunlight as in summer. So it’s time to pull out your cozy jumpers and enjoy some hot chocolate!

7. Autumn Celebrations

Many holidays and festivals happen in the autumn! One of the most famous is Halloween, celebrated on October 31st. People carve pumpkins into jack-o'-lanterns, dress up in costumes, and go trick-or-treating. There's also Thanksgiving, a time to celebrate the harvest and give thanks, in countries like the United States and Canada.

8. Falling Leaves

In autumn, some trees lose their leaves in a process called abscission. This helps the trees conserve water and energy during the cold winter months. The leaves form a beautiful carpet of colours on the ground before decomposing and turning into nutrients for the soil.

9. Autumn Constellations

The night sky changes with the seasons, and autumn brings its own special stars! One of the most famous constellations you can see in autumn is Pegasus, named after the winged horse in Greek mythology. You can also spot the Andromeda Galaxy, the closest large galaxy to our own.

10. Days Get Shorter

Have you noticed it gets dark earlier in autumn? That’s because the days get shorter as we move closer to winter. In fact, the shortest day of the year happens in December, just after autumn ends. This happens because of the way Earth tilts as it moves around the sun.











By Sia

Autumn Puzzles

Can you unmuddle the Halloween anagrams?

1] wonellah

2] lafl

3] umanut

4] kumnip

5] mirpame

6] emizob

7] stohg

8] rekic ta rortt

9] tab

10] hinderlc



1. Halloween happens every year on 31st October.

Most Halloween celebrations in Europe and North America today are **non-religious**. But the holiday has **religious** and **pagan roots**. The word 'Halloween' comes from '**All Hallows Eve**' – the night before a Christian festival called '**All Hallows**' (**All Saints Day**), which honours the saints of the church.



Short & Silly Autumn Jokes

What's the cutest season?
Awww-tumn!

What do you get when you drop a pumpkin?
Squash!

What did one autumn leaf say to the other?
I'm falling for you!

Why do trees try new things so often?
Because every autumn they turn over a new leaf!

What did the oak tree say when autumn came around?

Leaf me alone!

What do you use to mend a jack-'o'-lantern?

A pumpkin patch!

Made by Christopher - 5HL.

Halloween

What did the ghost say to her class?

Watch the board and I'll go through it again!

What's a ghost's favourite food?

Spookgetie!

What do you call a fat pumpkin?

A plumpkin!



Try this Halloween craft at home

Items you will need:

- toilet roll or kitchen roll
- coloured paper
- paint or coloured pencils / felt tips
- scissors – please be careful and have adult supervision!

Happy crafting!

By Darcie



Autumn and Halloween Jokes!

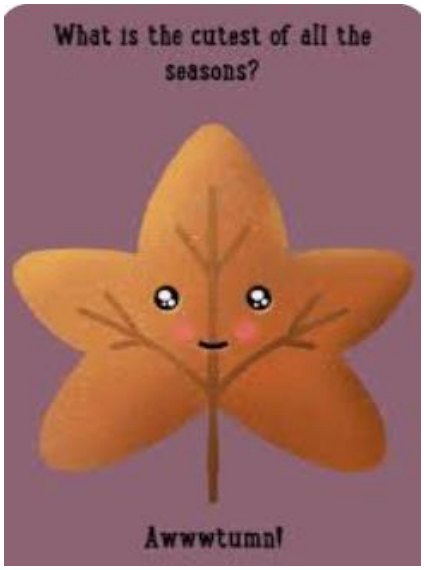


Halloween is a time where people dress up, have fun and especially eat sweets! On Halloween, you can give out your imagination and dress up in whatever you want like something scary, cute or funny.

















Chosen by Love and Tasia

WELCOME TO AUTUMN!!

HERE IS A LITTLE COLOURING PAGE FOR YOU TO ENJOY.









Chosen by Love, Tasia and Darcie

p	e	n	g	u	i	n	s	v	e	g	t	s
c	x	g	r	w	a	t	u	y	i	n	l	n
f	l	u	f	f	y	l	g	k	p	t	d	o
q	d	g	h	a	g	l	r	l	y	o	p	w
a	z	n	m	k	i	f	d	u	s	w	l	a
f	i	s	h	c	z	x	k	f	q	a	e	b
f	t	f	r	e	y	c	a	y	s	d	n	h
w	r	f	h	b	a	m	h	a	k	d	x	z
c	x	v	b	l	z	a	s	l	f	l	l	h
e	r	t	b	y	u	i	o	p	m	e	n	c
e	c	z	x	a	w	v	n	b	m	l	o	i
t	a	w	r	h	i	o	p	j	k	j	h	t
i	d	r	c	o	l	o	n	y	h	k	l	c
h	h	j	y	u	e	d	g	n	b	t	j	r
w	f	g	h	l	c	u	t	e	i	o	p	a

Playful Penguin Wordsearch!

penguin
arctic
black
snow
white
fish
fluffy
cute
colony

By Layney

A spooky boo-search!

f	e	h	i	n	t	r	y	p	a	s	d	f
g	h	w	p	a	j	f	t	p	g	h	j	k
l	i	a	d	u	z	a	u	t	u	m	n	l
t	s	c	l	t	x	v	m	y	r	h	i	h
h	b	w	y	l	c	b	r	u	t	y	m	n
y	r	s	l	y	o	n	t	i	y	m	y	t
u	f	x	h	j	l	w	f	i	v	e	r	v
l	v	q	n	i	p	v	e	u	j	l	v	l
o	e	a	m	k	t	e	a	e	k	i	m	u
q	d	z	u	o	t	r	l	s	n	p	n	i
w	p	u	m	p	k	l	n	m	b	v	b	g
e	a	s	d	f	g	h	t	l	o	n	g	t
r	h	i	h	k	p	i	o	p	l	k	f	a
t	f	l	t	u	r	u	y	r	t	g	r	l
y	t	k	y	j	e	l	e	a	f	f	t	d
m	m	p	m	h	s	y	w	a	q	d	y	f



Words:

pumpkin halloween

autumn leaf

By Dilara

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

