

Merry Christmas and a Covid-free New Year – 2020

Oh my word, aren't we all pleased to see Christmas come this year? Here in Ofquality Street we certainly are. After last year's festivities when helpers were furloughed and elves were shelved, we're hoping for things to go more smoothly this time round.

You'll not need reminding of what happened last Christmas when Santa had to elf-isolate and the usual festivities had to be cancelled, but we'll remind you anyway. Cows gave birth to goats, garments were rent in twain and buses caught on fire.

Schoolteachers had to be asked whether children had been naughty or nice and then Al Grimm had to decide on the presents they were to receive. My word, what unhappiness and grumbling ensued!

You may remember that Christmas came earlier in Scotland because of the dark nights up there. Poorer students received cheaper toys and richer ones received more expensive ones, prompting children to protest in their dozens, some of them getting up before noon to gather in the town square. "SQA, where's my A?" they chanted, no-one knowing what that meant. "My grades are not my postcode" said a girl from Aberdeen AB7 43E whose grades were, indeed, her postcode. In the end, it was decided that toyshops should throw their doors open and children take the toys they wanted. They liked this solution so much they're doing it again this year!

In England, though, there was a bit of concern. At one point on a Saturday night, it was decided that children should be able to choose presents from their Amazon wish lists but that was withdrawn as an idea once the effects of the Schnapps had worn off. There were cases of some people threatening to sue the government (for example in Colchester, where they had seen A* in the east) and garments that had been rent in twain were further rented into double-twins.

In the end, toyshop doors were thrown open as in Scotland and everyone responsible, including Al Grimm, went off on a long holiday far away from the papers.

Have you seen Sally?



Sally is described as shy and retiring and hasn't been in contact since August of this year. Last seen in Coventry, she is believed to have travelled to London in the company of a silver-haired man named Roger. All information received confidentially.

But lessons have been learned! Christmas will be different this year of course, but a little more like what we've been used to. Presents will still be given, but children will know in advance what those presents are likely to be (and to those cynical children at the back, they won't be boring old C3 questions like they have been for so many years!)

Presents will also be wrapped in bright and shiny formulae sheets

Those children who might usually expect to receive i-presents (iPads, iPhones, iGCSEs, etc) will as usual be showered with pricey gifts and will sail smoothly on the next stage of their lives, so no worries there.

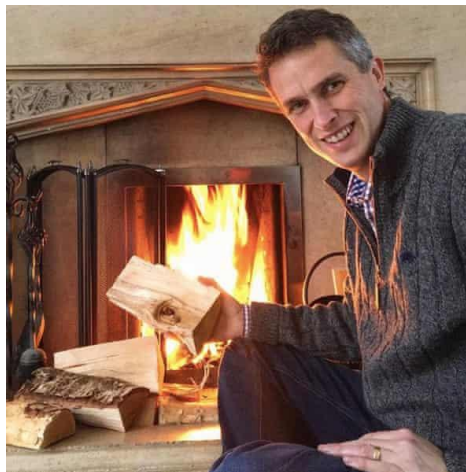
TIERS AT CHRISTMAS TIME

Those who have been asking when we can expect three tiers to return have got their wish with the introduction of Foundation, Higher and Very Higher tiers (although no children will be able to gather for the Very Higher tier).



Within these tiers, maids-a-milking, ladies dancing, lords-a-leaping, pipers piping and drummers drumming will be limited to groups of no more than six, unless they are in a school classroom in which case no such restrictions will apply and they can probably all be squeezed in together.

Have you seen Gavin?



We have! Probably more than we would like. This Christmas, he might vanish up the chimney rather than come down it...

PISA HOMES LEAGUE



Pisa Homes League matches will recommence in 2021, although all European ties have been cancelled. We have made all efforts to ensure there will be a level playing field in 2021.

Students from the south of England will play from left to right and students from the north will play right to left.

Christmas classics updated

There are n vaccines in a delivery. 600 000 of the vaccines are from Pfizer. The rest are from Oxford AstraZeneca.

Hannah is given a randomly chosen vaccine from the delivery.

Anna is also given a randomly chosen vaccine from the delivery.

The probability that both Hannah and Anna receive the Pfizer vaccine is $1/3$.

Show that $n^2 - n - 107999820000 = 0$

