



# BCG Newsletter

December 23rd 2021



## Welcome to our Newsletter

As I sat down and thought about what to write in this last BCG Newsletter of 2021 I realized just how much has

been achieved this term. Nursery had a 'Wedding Day', Year 2 explored Roald Dahl's amazing stories, the Year 6's had WW2 Day, Year 3's explored the Romans, we wore crazy socks for Anti Bullying week and then there was my favourite - Halloween.

## **IB Diploma off to a great start**

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The Year 12s have made a tremendous start to their IBDP course, they have been committed and have responded well to the stimulating and creative challenges our wonderful teachers have presented them with. We are currently in discussions with the EU Business School to partner with them from September 2022 on a new exciting project which would give our students a direct pathway into their many degree courses. This project would be part of our new IB Careers Programme option that we plan to start in September. This would be the perfect route for those students wishing to do a Business related degree whilst staying in Barcelona or, if they prefer, further afield in their Munich or Geneva campuses. More details in the new year!

## **BC Andorra**

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Last week I had a few meetings at our sister school BCA, in Andorra. The school is expanding quickly and they have now moved into their new secondary buildings. The Principal, Mr Harry Lock and I used the time to plan some exciting things that we will do between the schools. To start with, their secondary students will be coming to Barcelona for a Watersports Activity Week. This will be the first of many exciting opportunities to strengthen the partnership between our two schools. Again, more details to follow in the new year.

## **Brexit battles**

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As a Europhile, I have never been shy to share my dismay at the Brexit result and we have felt the impact this term. The paperwork, required documentation and visa requirements for teachers coming from the UK has proven to be extremely laborious. As part of the process we are now finalising the documentation for our teachers and they are now back in the UK where they need to wait for their visas. We have appointed some excellent teachers for next September, as we increase our subject range at IGCSE and IB and needless to say we have already started their visa applications!

## **Magical Arts**

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So many good things have been going on this term but a particular highlight for me were the Christmas concerts in Primary and Secondary. I would like to thank Miss O'Connor and Mrs Foreman in particular for putting together these high quality performances. I love Christmas and feel that concerts such as this are truly magical. Children who may start the year saying they don't want to be in the choir, quickly realise how much they enjoy it. We value the Arts, as you know and we ensure that the Choir has protected time on the curriculum; as such we look forward to more concerts in the future. It was also the first public outing of the Secondary BCG Quintet who performed beautifully too. It is such a shame that parents were not able to attend in person but please do watch the recordings - they really are super!

Drama and Art have also played a huge part this term. The numbers for GCSE Drama and DP Theatre are extremely high and these subjects have proven to be very popular with the students. The Year 7s, 8s, 9s, and 11s have all performed this term. The Art studio is well worth a visit if ever you have the opportunity. The students are encouraged to explore their ideas and experiment with a range of media whilst also being taught the key skills required to make beautiful art. I am passionate about the Arts and I am particularly pleased that we are developing these areas in the school and providing these creative opportunities for the students.

## Sport Success

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This term has given us the opportunity to get out and about a little more than we have been able to over the last year. In particular we have had sports fixtures with BSB both home and away. After losing the first few matches in a variety of sports, BCG started winning and currently we lead 7 games to 3! This is even more impressive given that they have more children to choose from in all of their sports! I really am very proud of our students' achievements and a big thank you must go to Mr Steadman and all of the teachers that coach and lead our sports teams.

## Academic

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I have enjoyed reading the students' reports and it is pleasing to read the insightful comments from the teachers. Whilst some students clearly need to focus more, especially when doing independent learning at home, the large majority are making excellent progress. There have been assessments and projects for most of the school over the last few weeks and then after the holidays the Year 11s and Year 13s get into the serious business of Mock Examinations. Whilst some rest and family time is important, especially at this time of year, these students must work hard and ensure they are fully prepared for these very important exams.

Lots of work has been going on to help our Year 13 students find the right university for next year. The current cohort have made applications to the US, UK and Holland as well as Spanish Universities.

In the Primary school we were delighted to announce that Kerry Ford is to become the new Science Coordinator and Abi Carter the new PSHE Coordinator. Both priority areas for the coming year. We wish them luck in these new projects.

## Parents Focus Group

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Thank you to all of the Parent Reps that we have met on Wednesdays throughout the term. We hope that this regular communication between the school and the parents is helpful. Of course some feedback may not always be what everyone wants to hear but on any one topic the views of parents themselves cover the full range of views! Needless to say, all of our decisions are based on what is best for the children in school.

Over the coming months the Student Council, student reps and parents will be invited to contribute to the discussions regarding the new school uniform. We are not satisfied with our current supplier and will source a new one. We will also use this as an opportunity to update the uniform entirely ready for the start of the next academic year.

- **Date for your diary - General Meeting for all reps on January 19th at 9:00**

## IGCSE and IBDP Subject Choices

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January and February is the time where Year 9 and Year 11 students and parents will discuss, and then choose the options for IGCSE and the IBDP respectively. The students have been doing some initial choices but the following two events are where parents are given all of the information to enable them to discuss the choice with their children.

- **IGCSE meeting for Year 9 on February 1st at 5pm**
- **IBDP meeting for Year 11 on February 14th at 5pm**

## Departing Friends

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I am sad to announce that Dr John Jim will be leaving us at the end of this term. He has decided to return to the UK to be nearer to his children. John has been very popular with the students, staff and parents and I would like to thank him for inspiring all of our young Chemists. John, thank you for all you have done for BCG and we wish you and your family the very best for the future.

Daniela Odisho is returning to Sweden. Daniela has a bad foot injury prior to arriving in September and will go home to have medical treatment. Daniela's experience has been much appreciated in her role as a teaching assistant in Upper Primary and we wish her a speedy recovery.

## Preparations for a return to virtual learning

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Lastly, I have asked the teachers to ensure they are ready for online learning from the start of next term. The COVID situation is changing so rapidly that we may well have to go back to virtual teaching at some point. As you know we worked extremely hard to remain open for the whole of last year and disruption has been kept to a minimum. Please can I ask that you all have plans in place in case we have to teach virtually in the new year. I sincerely hope we do not have to.

## Cancelation of the London Trip

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It is with great sorrow that I am writing to say the COVID regulations in the UK are preventing us from running a viable trip to London. A huge amount of work has gone into preparing a wonderful trip for the students and everyone was really excited about going. However, with two days quarantine on arrival it is clearly not possible. We will run the trip again at the first opportunity. We are speaking with venues and airlines to see possible refunds or credit notes and will keep you informed.

Christmas is a time for families and I very much hope that you are all able to enjoy a peaceful and restful time together. Merry Christmas! ¡Feliz Navidad! y Bon Nadal.

*Simon Mower*

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Dear parents,

It has been a very busy term and the students have achieved a remarkable amount. It has been great to have some sort of normality back at school with sporting fixtures and trips going out this term.

The teachers have worked very hard as always this term to deliver individualised learning to your children and I have been impressed with the progress that has taken place.

I would like to comment on the mindfulness programme with Mr Russell which has been extremely successful. The students feel very supported and cared for, this is down to the work Mr Russell is doing and our excellent tutors and pastoral care.

I wish you all a safe and healthy Christmas. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

*Danny Steadman*

# EYFS & PRIMARY

Dear parents, families and carers,

It feels like only yesterday we were greeting all of the boys and girls to start a new academic year back in September and in the blink of an eye Winter has suddenly crept up on us. It is difficult to put into words just how busy school life has been this term. There is always such a variety of things going on in every corner of the school. From a 'wedding day' in Nursery to chocolate making in Year 5, the creativity of both pupils and teachers never stops.

In recent weeks I have been fortunate enough to observe all of the Primary team teach a lesson. It is a nerve-wracking experience for them, let me tell you. However, I have been beyond impressed by the standard of teaching and learning taking place. High quality lessons delivered in a way that engages and excites our pupils has been the highlight for me this term. It is a real joy to watch the bond develop between a teacher and their pupils. It is very special. I pride myself on our classrooms embodying both the spirit and skills of a mini-community, all working together to help each other and learning at their best. It is a privilege watching our pupils from Nursery all the way up to Year 6 learn happily and learn well.

This term we have begun work on our Positive Playground Campaign. This was introduced in a bid to give our pupils opportunities to attend a range of clubs run by me. These include Pokemon Club, Lego Club, Book Club and Arts & Crafts. These activities are free and there is no need to sign up. I am very pleased to say behaviour has improved significantly and playtime is a much more positive experience for everyone. I look forward to developing the patio area next year and providing the children with more equipment to play with.

Amongst organising all things Christmas, we have been very busy planning and preparing for the new Spring Term 2022. Here are some diary dates for next term:

- 16th January - Year 1 visit the Aquarium
- 27th January - Year 6 Volcano Trip
- 8th February - Nursery & Reception visit the Chocolate Factory
- 16th February - Year 4 to visit Parc Guell
- 2nd March - Year 3 visit to Egyptian Museum
- 23rd March - Year 2 Forest trip
- 30th March - Year 4 trip to Barcelona Zoo
- 31st March - Year 5 and 6 to see theatre production of Legally Blonde
- Year 5 visit to Olympic Museum (date TBC)

I would like to thank all of the EYFS & Primary team for their flexibility and support of our beloved school. They make incredible things happen every day. I wish them all a wonderful Christmas and to enjoy an enormously well deserved break.

Lastly, I would really like to thank our community for their kindness, generosity and support this school year. It means so much to me that our families are happy and feel connected to us at BCG. Have a great time with your loved ones and I look forward to seeing you in the new year.

A big hug

**Miss Wakelin**  
Head of EYFS & Primary

# SANTA'S VISIT



# PRIMARY CHRISTMAS FAIR



# IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME NEWS

## IBDP Reflection Days

IB reflection days aim to consolidate learning acquired throughout the Diploma Programme so far and offer our students new challenges and opportunities for collaboration with the wider school community.

This week Year 12 have presented a 'Mini' TOK Exhibition to Years 10 and 11, completed their first official Extended Essay Reflection on Research and Planning Form, and been taken through a real life job application process which included writing a letter of application, completing an in-tray exercise and, for successful applicants, attending an interview with Mr Mower and other members of staff. Students have attended CAS reflection and wellbeing sessions as well as having some guided self-study time, attending the Christmas concert, helping out with the Christmas Fayre and...most importantly...exchanging Secret Santa gifts!

After a wonderful start to the IBDP course, it is now time for Year 12 students to take some well deserved rest and reflection with their families. We encourage them to read their academic reports carefully and think about how to act on the targets their teachers have set for them.

We look forward to seeing them back in school, recharged and ready to keep learning in January.

**Ms Fenton**  
*IB Coordinator*

## INTERNATIONAL TENNIS TOURNAMENTS

In the build up to Christmas our tennis playing eAthletes have a busy tournament schedule. Jetting around the world to close out the year!

Banu Malak set off to the Rafael Nadal Academy in Mallorca for a tournament held by Tennis Europe. It is an international category 2 tournament and is for players from all over the world. Banu has been entered into the main draw and could potentially play someone in the top 20 of the world. Of course this is important to improve her ranking and make the progression towards the professional game.



**MALAK, Banu Selvi**

**Tito Chavez**

Also, Tito Chavez left to Miami to prepare himself for the Orange Bowl. One of the world's most prestigious, junior, tennis tournaments. He will compete against Under 14s from all over the world. To perform well in this tournament means potential access to sponsors, academy scholarships and eventually the pro tour.

Famous names to have competed in the Orange Bowl include Andy Murray and Roger Federer. Being his first year he is hoping to perform well and gain experience for next year and hopefully challenge for the championship.

**Dan Pilcher**

# TOK EXHIBITION

On Monday, year 12 presented their first practice Theory of Knowledge Exhibition. The Exhibition, which will form part of their overall assessment in May 2022, requires students to choose a prompt from a prescribed list of 35. These prompts are open-ended and philosophical, inviting the students to ask whether bias is inevitable in the production of knowledge; to what extent our values affect the acquisition of knowledge; and the ways in which material tools influence knowledge. Once they've chosen a prompt, they have to find three real-world objects that demonstrate this philosophical conundrum. The students had a little over a week to prepare this and came up with original and diverse objects ranging from the Sefer Refuot, to a photograph of The Beatles on a Japanese tour, to The Rock's tattoos, to an airplane boarding pass, to a Vegan Menu from Alive Vegan Restaurant. The students then presented their objects and the links between them to Years 10 and 11.

*Iain Foreman*



# INDIVIDUAL ACTING LESSONS

The Performing Arts department now offers individual acting lessons in preparation for the LAMDA (London Academy of Music and the Dramatic Arts) exams which can be taken in June. Natalie Rosewood is a professional actress and experienced teacher who has already taught several BCG students who have gained the highest level of "Distinction" in their exams.

Lessons are 15 euros per session, once a week, and will take place either before or after school, or during the day on a rota system (a different time each week so as to avoid missing the same class each week). The qualifications are highly regarded, and earn university admissions (UCAS) points. Here is some more information about LAMDA:

<https://www.lamda.ac.uk/lamda-exams/learners/ucas>

If your child is interested in signing up, please write to Claire Foreman at [performingarts@bcgava.com](mailto:performingarts@bcgava.com). Lessons start in January!

*Claire Foreman*



I'm Natalie, a professional actress living and working in Catalunya. I have a wealth of work and experience in film, TV and theatre all over the world and I have a huge passion for teaching drama to young people. I am excited to announce that from December I will be offering professional specialist private LAMDA Acting classes.

#### **What is LAMDA?**

Founded in 1861, LAMDA is the oldest drama school in the UK. They started to offer examinations in speech and drama to the public over 130 years ago. Since then they have developed an enviable reputation for excellence in the provision of Communication and Performance examinations in the UK, and they are rapidly extending their reach internationally. I am very excited to be able to offer them in Spain!

#### **What does it entail?**

I will be teaching Acting classes which will lead to an exam at the end of the school year.

Depending on the grade chosen, each student will prepare two or three monologues with my guidance, which they will then perform in their end of year exam in front of an official LAMDA examiner. The examiner will also ask them theory questions related to their performance which I will prepare them for in class.

#### **Why choose LAMDA?**

Acting exam learners develop their vocal physical and interpretive skills while they delve in to characters and explore the background of dramatic texts. Alongside producing authentic performances of their chosen scenes they also gain an understanding of the context and characters within them. As students progress through the grades they learn development of clear speaking and character portrayal, leading to understanding of Playwrights styles, appreciation of subtext and the influence of a playwrights style in the higher grades.

It is also highly beneficial for those students who aren't necessarily interested in pursuing a career in acting, as it still teaches them useful skills such as clear diction, breathing techniques, confidence and public speaking.

To begin with I would have a session with each student to determine which grade would be best for them to start with based on their skills. Grades 6, 7 & 8 are medal grades and are worth UCAS points which can contribute towards successful applications to British Universities!

# ENRICHMENT

Dear parents / guardians,

## Chess

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Kendal English School in Chile hosted an online chess event with 518 participants from 31 countries competing across primary, middle and senior school categories. We had 9 students competing (students across year 3 - 13) from their homes on Saturday 20th November.

Results arrived in my inbox last week and are absolutely magnificent! For our younger students, this was their first EVER online event and by all accounts their games were very exciting. They did an amazing job and we hope they are inspired to enter the upcoming events we've sourced for them. Our senior students were just....fabulous! They'll all help out staffing our after school chess clubs next term and pass on their expertise and enthusiasm for chess throughout the school. SIGN UP TO CHESS ECAP NOW!

- Giada Maria Ban, year 13, 8th overall in the Senior Girls Category
- Andrei Bozniakov, year 13, 9th overall in the Senior Boys Category
- Oriol Martinez, year 12, 13th overall in the Senior Boys Category
- Yuvgen Zinchenko, year 12, 18th overall in the Senior Boys Category
- Alexandr Grechman, year 13, 21st overall in the Senior Boys Category
- Diego Reguilon, year 3, 45th in the Primary Boys A Category
- Nikita Berthet, year 6, 79th in the Primary Boys B Category
- Matvei Bagno, year 8, 42nd in the Middle School Boys B Category
- Dmitri Bozniakov, year 8, 51st in the Middle School Boys B Category

Our students also participated, on Sunday 19th December, in a Spanish Regional Chess Event.

## Race4Good

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This is a very special event that has been running in schools across South East Asia for many years. This year was the inaugural event for international schools in Europe and BCG year 13 students Alexandr Grechman and Maksym Tarasenko entered with enthusiasm. The event works in 'real time' with families in remote and rural areas of Nepal. The challenge is to create and design opportunities that can help these struggling families survive economically, socially and educationally in order to establish sustainable lives for themselves and future generations.

The boys were AMAZING! They won the first round of competitions but were unfortunately knocked out in round 2. They continue to be part of the event until it ends next week and will assist in judging other contestants as well as completing leadership, communication and management modules led by some of the world's top names in sustainable development. This is a truly holistic and sincerely valuable experience that will undoubtedly extend the academic and social skill set these young men already possess in abundance. Well done Sasha and Maks!!!

# ENRICHMENT

## Educational Trips and Visits

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This is just a friendly reminder that the school booking system is now open to authorise your child for all of the trips planned to take place in Term 2.

As always, we thank you for your continued support of the BCG Enrichment Programme.

We wish you a very happy and relaxing holiday.

Sincerely,  
**The Enrichment Team**

## BCG winner at a dance contest

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On Saturday the Year 6 BCG dance team travelled to Cornella for the baixdance Competition. The girls danced amazingly and all their hard work paid off! The group won the prize for best choreography, well done girls!!!!

Congratulations!!!



## KS3 DRAMA - BULLYING

Drama is an effective tool for exploring challenging themes within a safe and fictional environment. Our KS3 students have spent the last 3 weeks sharing their thoughts, ideas and experiences of bullying with each other in drama class and examining how ways of overcoming bullying can be communicated through performance. Each of us has put ourselves in the place of the bully, the victim and the bystander and students have shown sensitivity, understanding and emotional intelligence in the responsible way they have worked together to create these important moments of theatre.

As they have worked on their devised pieces or interpretation of texts, students have consolidated their knowledge of performance strategies and techniques, including the use of tableau, soundscape, split stage and how to use stage directions for clarity and impact. We were thrilled with their performances and look forward to similar projects in the future.

*Ms Fenton and Miss Darby  
Drama Teachers*



# CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

## EYFS



# CHRISTMAS CONCERTS



## PRIMARY



# CHRISTMAS CONCERTS



# CHRISTMAS CONCERTS



## SECONDARY



# CHRISTMAS CONCERTS



## YEAR 1 - YEAR 2



# CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

Please see the videos here:

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EYFS Please see the video [here](#)

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Year 1 and 2 Please see the video [here](#)

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Upper Primary Please see the video [here](#)

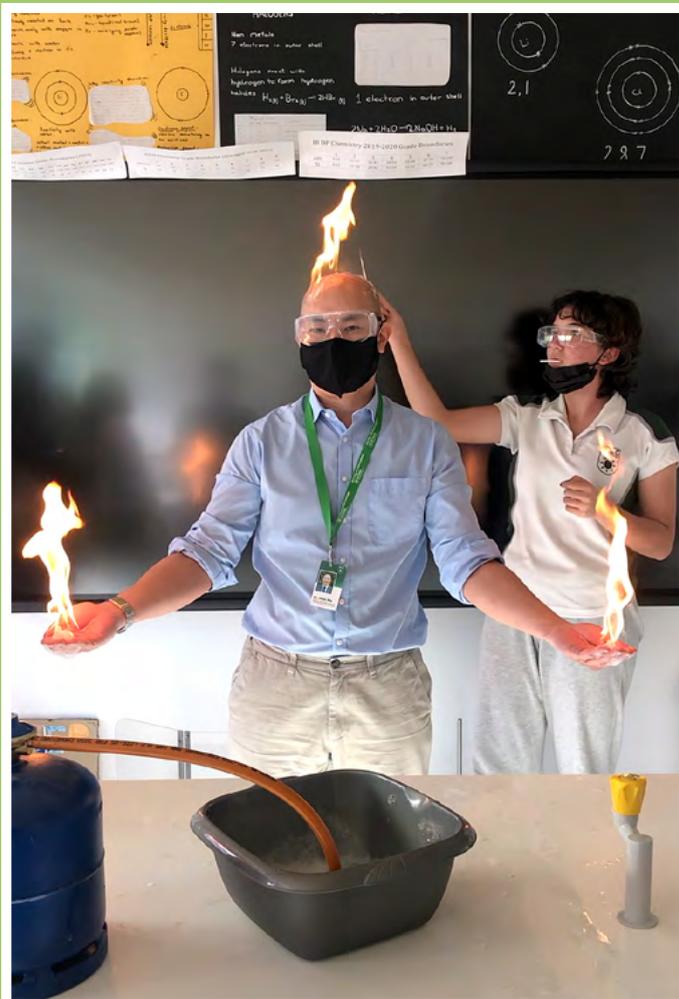
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Secondary Please see the video [here](#)

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One of the sad realities of international teaching is that, eventually and inevitably, teachers move on and so it is that time for me. I still recall my interview lesson on pie charts with Year 8 and the nervous excitement of meeting my classes and colleagues on my first day. During my time, I have seen the school expand into new buildings, grow in number (of both staff and students) and seen your children mature and develop into thoughtful and inquisitive young learners. I hope to have made a difference to them and to have inspired them to enjoy Maths, ICT, Science and Chemistry as much as I do. Spain is a phenomenal country, warm and hospitable, and I shall miss living here. I return to Manchester, England, my hometown, to be reunited with my children and to accompany them for the next chapter of their life. I would like to thank students and staff for making my time at BCG so unforgettable and I wish everyone a well deserved restful holiday, please stay safe and have a joyous and prosperous 2022. Above all, I hope you all, as I will be doing, be spending time surrounded by family and loved ones.

*Dr John Jim*



# LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

## Poop log in EYFS and Y3 and Y4

In the Catalan lessons we have learned about the 'Caga Tió' (poop log) tradition, we learned the popular song and created our own versions. In addition, each Year group has given Tió something to eat and we have seen that little by little he was growing and getting fatter. On the 20-21st december we had the opportunity to recreate this catalan tradition.

Please see some pictures of our pupils celebrating the "Caga Tió".

*The Department of Languages wishes you very happy holidays and a happy new year!*

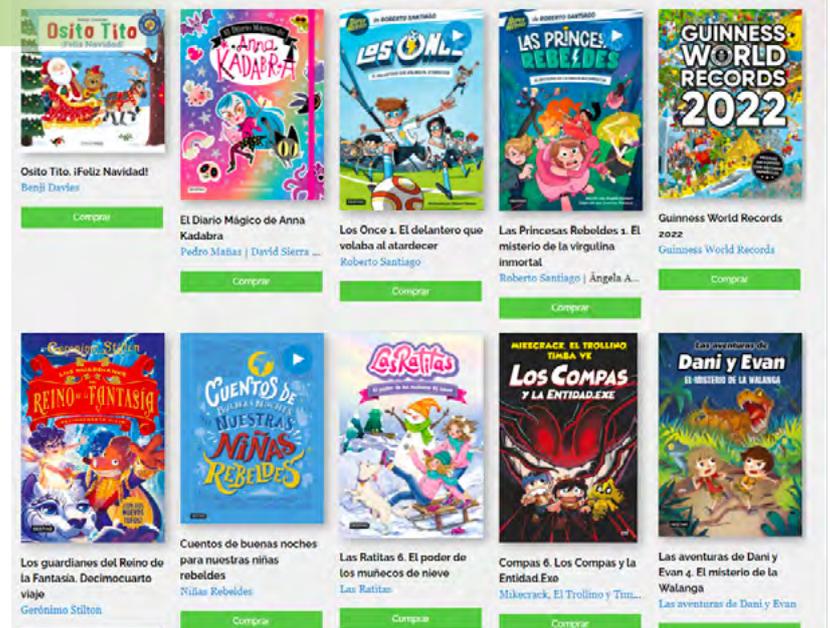


# CHRISTMAS READING

## EYFS



## PRIMARY



## SECONDARY

