

SMIRCHS GAZETTE

A NEWSPAPER BY STUDENTS, FOR STUDENTS

Chess Club

BY HARRY

During lunchtime on Thursdays, chess club is held on the maths floor in S20. If you are interested in joining then please make your way to S20 and speak to Mr Smyth at lunchtime. Chess club is a great way to interact with other people and improve your problem-solving skills!



Behind the scenes of Chess Club

Photo by Emmanuel

New Year:2023

BY QUAMAI AND HARRY

Happy new year from everyone at the newspaper club!

A new year's resolution is a tradition, most common in the Western World but also found in the Eastern World, in which a person resolves to continue good practices, change an undesired trait or behaviour, accomplish a personal goal, or otherwise improve their behaviour at the beginning of a calendar year.

Why not make one for this year?

2023 is a new year for all of us, we have goals to set and hit!

There are so many things to look forward to, such as the King's coronation and NASA's mission to collect samples from asteroids: how exciting!
There's also Valentine's Day coming up...

New Year is a huge event which expresses the importance of the new year and a new you.

Happy New Year!

WE PRAY, WE CARE, WE ACHIEVE

Theme of the Term

BY AIMEE AND PRECIOUS



Banter or Bullying?

In this school, we do not tolerate any kind of bullying, whether it is between specific friend groups or strangers. We are focusing on 'blurred languages', which is when people believe that they can call each other names when they have similar histories or backgrounds, but when someone else says it, it is considered offensive. This could be people of different races, or religions. We will not accept it. It is extremely inappropriate and unkind. At St Matthew's, we all have the same rights and have to abide by the same rules.

Each month, as a school, we have been focusing on a different topic to improve and reflect on. The first one was 'Personal Space,' the next was 'Internet Safety' and, for this month, it is 'Bullying and Banter'. Banter is a form of teasing that is mutually consented to. Both parties involved understand that it's a joke and neither of their personal boundaries are broken. When one party takes offense, the personal boundary is breached, and if the other party continues whilst knowing this: it turns into bullying. Just because they may have not taken offense before, doesn't mean they don't have the rights to now. Every day people change and grow, including the change of humour. Something that may have once been funny might not be the next day. Continuing on with the 'joke' is denying their wishes and disrespectful. If the other party doesn't like it, it's bullying. It doesn't matter if you find it funny because they don't.

Is the potential damage really worth the 'joke'?

If you relate to the party whose personal boundary is breached, you are not alone. Talk to someone at home or at school so they can try sort it out. If you feel a little shy and worried about speaking to someone face to face, you can always call 'Bullying Hotlines' and speak to a professional about how you are feeling.

A few good ones to call/text are:

CHILDLINE - 0800 1111

NSPCC HELPLINE - 0808 800 5000

YOUNG MINDS - 0808 802 5544

CROSS TEXT LINE - TEXT HELLO TO 741741

EACH - 0808 1000 143

We are always here for you:
confide@smrchs.com

Mother Tongue Club

BY PRECIOUS

Language is my identity

KS3 Mother Tongue club

KS3 STUDENTS YOU ARE CORDIALLY WELCOME TO COME AND CELEBRATE YOUR MOTHER TONGUE!

AN EXCITING CLUB TO LEARN DIFFERENT CUSTOMS, WORLD LANGUAGES AND A CHANCE TO CREATE POETRY AND CREATIVE WRITING to embrace and honour YOU!

Miss Mohamed & Miss Prendergast

Start date: Friday 3rd February 2023.
3:15-3:45 in 11F6

KS3 Mother Tongue Club

On the 21st February, it is 'International Mother Tongue Day.' This day is for us as a collective to celebrate our linguistic differences. Many people who live-in English-speaking countries are given a day to appreciate, learn or teach others their mother language. It's a time to come together as one. Now I'm guessing you are wondering, what is mother tongue and does this day even apply to me? Mother tongue is the language you learned from your parents before going to school and learning English. It's the language you hear your parents speak/speak with them. Many of the words in your language may not have an English equivalent or have multiple meanings in your language, yet only one in English. This is why Miss Mohammed has decided to make a 'Mother Tongue Poetry Club'. The club will be for KS3 students to come in and write poems in their own language. They get to get closer to their culture whilst developing their literacy skills. It will be a safe space for everyone, whether fluent or not in their language. You will be able to even learn a bit more about your peers and their heritage.

The club will be starting 3:15- 3:45 and be held in 11F6.



Mother Tongue Day Quiz

1. How many languages are spoken in the world?

- A. 6000
- B. 10000
- C. 7000
- D. 8530

2. How many languages are spoken at St Matthew's?

- A. Under 12
- B. Over 16
- C. Under 200
- D. Under 17

3. How many countries are there in the world?

- A. 195
- B. 203
- C. 108
- D. 210

4. What language has the most native speakers?

- A. Arabic
- B. Mandarin Chinese
- C. English
- D. Español

5. Which language is spoken in the most countries?

- A. English
- B. Español
- C. French
- D. Dutch



1. c 2. b and c 3. a 4. b 5. a



Winter Wonderland

Young Writers - All Ages!

BY MIRIAM

There's a chill in the air, the leaves have fallen and the nights are growing longer; winter is upon us. How do you spend your winter days? Perhaps waiting for the snow to go sledding, or huddling in front of the fire with a delicious hot chocolate. Will you be eagerly awaiting Santa on Christmas Eve? What will be your New Year's resolution? What about nature during this frosty time? Your poem could be about the animals deep in hibernation or the bare trees waiting for spring to arrive. For many, this season is a time for family, friends, and kindness as well as over-indulgence and parties!

Prizes

Young Writer judges' favourite poet wins a £25 National Book Token!

Every entrant receives a bookmark and if selected for publication they also receive a certificate of merit.

Rules

To make sure your entries are valid, please follow the rules listed below:

- Only one entry per child.
- Poems can be on the entry form or an A4 sheet of paper, handwritten or typed.
- Poems can be written in any style.
- The child's name, age and full address must be included with their poem.
- The poem must be original!
- Open to both schools & independent entrants.

Activities

BY VICTORY

Free Activities To Do During Your Free Time:

There are multiple fun and exciting activities that take place in Manchester during the half-term holiday period. I would like to recommend some activities you could do as entertainment during the week. Some of these activities involve:

1. Castlefield Viaduct 'High Line'

All you need to do is book yourself a slot to visit on the National Trust website. The urban sky park is the culmination of months and months of work to transform the dilapidated and derelict Grace-II listed structure with an impressive array of trees, flowers and more.

2. Weekend Walks

Here in Manchester, we are lucky enough to be a stone's throw away from some wonderful spots for walking. It would be fun and interesting to spend your weekend walking through parks, haunted historic structures and many other places with friends, taking pictures.

3. The Pankhurst Centre

Exploring the story of the Pankhurst family and the suffragette campaign for votes for women, you can sit in the parlour where their first meeting took place, have a stroll in the garden or just chill in the brilliant little cafe. The tickets for entry are free, but they also work on a pay-what-you-can donation when you book, to help them keep the Pankhurst Centre open to the public.



Pizza Express Trip

BY PRECIOUS

On the 19th December, the Newspaper team were awarded with a trip to Arndale to eat at Pizza Express. We (the team) are so thankful that Miss Alexander and Mrs. Chowdhury had organised it for us and that Mr. Jordan was ever so kind to drive us there and back. The staff were generous and charitable to us, giving us ice pops and being patient whilst we ordered. We couldn't ask for any more lovely service from them!

This trip really helped motivate us as a group and gain momentum to create the highest quality newspaper we can. It was so lovely and relaxing that it didn't even feel like a school trip, it felt like a bunch of friends just hanging out. We as a team would love to experience this again and earn the right to go.

As a thank you to the staff at Pizza Express, we would like to encourage you to go and leave a 5-star review.

Once again, thank you!



The Lion King Trip

BY LAYCIE

On the 18th of January, Year 7 and 8 went to The Palace Theatre to watch The Lion King. The Lion King theatre trip had an extremely positive reception. It was a wonderful experience for us all. I think the play itself was highly creative and is nearly identical to the movie. It is suitable for all ages.

There is a short wait until the play starts and there is an interval in the middle. The play was amazingly detailed, and the costumes were incredible. Year 7 and 8s really enjoyed the opportunity to go on this trip as some have never been to the theatre before.



Young Reporters

BY AIMEE



The Road

It's a dangerous business going out of your door. You step onto the road and, if you don't keep your feet, there's no knowing where you might be swept off to. **JRR Tolkien**

We walk down roads every day. Some are real and familiar; the road where we live, the road to school or the road to a friend's house. Some are less literal: the roads that lead us through the challenges and obstacles that life puts in our way. Whatever the road, there is always the chance that, without knowing, it will lead us on an unexpected journey.

The 18th Elmbridge Literary Competition, run in partnership by The R C Sherriff Trust and Elmbridge Borough Council, is looking for your short stories and poems on the theme of 'The Road'. The Competition will once again run through until February 2023 to keep it within the academic year.

The winning entries will be added to a book and sent to be read across different libraries in the UK, including the British Library. (Vouchers available to win too!)

Entries can be a poem or a short story.

Closing date: 27th February.

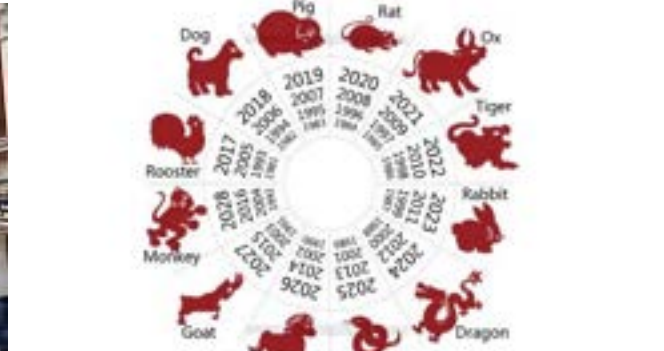
Miss Mohamed is kind enough to lend some students help. On Wednesday lunchtimes, in 7F8, laptops will be available to students who have **already written drafts**.

Good luck and have fun!

Chinese New Year

BY SOPHIE

Chinese New Year is a most important festival in China. The festival includes tasty food, special dances and even more! Chinese New Year also lasts 15 days from the 22nd of January!



Chinese New Year is full of different dishes. Some people say that certain foods bring fortune and more! The offering of food serves to bring ancestors and other beings in the other world closer to oneself.

Chinese dragons are a symbol of China's culture, and they are believed to bring good luck to people, therefore the longer the dragon is in the dance, the more luck it will bring to the community. The dragons are believed to possess qualities that include great power, dignity, fertility, wisdom and fortune.

The Chinese zodiac animals are: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, and Pig. This year is the year of the Rabbit, who came fourth in the race.



The Chinese New Year parade in Chinatown.
Photos by Aimee and Sophie

China

BY SHAN

Size

China is the third largest country in the world, covering about 9.6m square kilometers. It is a country in the east of Asia with the largest population on earth (1.4 billion)!

Destinations

Top 3 Places to visit in China

1. Beijing (Great wall of China)
2. Xi'an (Terracotta army)
3. Chengdu (City of cute pandas)

Facts

Top 3 Fun Facts about China

1. Red in China means happiness.
2. Toilet paper was invented in China.
3. Tea was discovered in China.

The capital of China is Beijing which is where the Great Wall of China is. In China, many people speak in Mandarin which is listed as one of the hardest languages.



Music Recommendations

BY JESSE

Cologne – **Beabadoobee**

Are you that somebody? - **Aaliyah**

The perfect pair – **Beabadoobee**

That boy is mine – **Brandy + Monica**

Attention – **New Jeans**

Heartbreak hotel – **Whitney Houston**

So good – **Destiny's Child**

I wanna be down – **Brandy**

Rock the boat – **Aaliyah**

Automatic – **Red Velvet**

ARTIST OF THE ISSUE CHAPTER #1: BEABADOOBEE ☆

Give it up for beabadoobee! Beatrice Kristi Ilejay Laus otherwise known as Beabadoobee is a Filipino-British guitarist; singer, she made her musical debut in 2017 with the acoustic ballad “coffee” which gained extreme popularity in 2020. From then onwards she continued to set trends and inspire many to pick up their first guitar and learn her songs.



Book Recommendations

BY DANIELLA

Romance:



Fantasy:



Young Adult:



WhysUp

BY PRECIOUS

On 30th January, Year 10 were invited to an assembly to speak about a re-emerging subject with youth today: Gambling and Mental Health.

One of the founders of WhysUp named Mark came into school to share his story with us. He was the same age as us (the Year 10 students) when he had fallen into addiction. Due to him being exposed at a young age with no support, he had accumulated a sum of £306,000 in debt. He had no money to pay his creditors back and when he did, he would blow it off on horse races. It was a hard year in rehab but he pushed through and is now 9 years free. He is able to stay and take care of his three sons and repair his relationships with his family.

One of the vital things he had mentioned was how gambling has now transferred into an online space and how it is an everyday occurrence for kids of today. Many kids couldn't imagine letting go of a digital device for even five minutes, let alone a week. This is an "acceptable" addiction even though it could have a detrimental effect on someone's social and mental health. Another addiction is: opening "loot-boxes" on different games online. Many companies use them to pry on kids and trap them into a loop of using their parents' credit card and rebuying loot-boxes. Mark had spoken to a kid about this problem. He (the kid) had spent over £2,000 of his mother's money to buy a virtual item. When asked why, it was because there was just a button that could be clicked with zero repercussions. Companies and everyday life have normalised this addictive behaviour to us which could lead to a destructive life in the future.

If you feel like you also suffer from not being able to detach yourself from online or tend to spend £100 upon £100 on online games, I suggest reaching out and reading about Mark's company to enlighten yourself and improve the way you consume media.

Here is their website:

<https://www.whysup.co.uk/about/>



Sports

BY KEHINDE

At St Matthew's we have a variety of sport teams. They require a lot of dedication and commitment to partake in and I am proud to say that our school has displayed a great deal of teamwork and sportsmanship in each and every match. This term there have been highs and lows but, as a whole, everyone has tried their best and has done extremely well.

These are some of the matches that took place this term:

Year 10 football won against Our Lady's 6:0

These boys display a massive amount of concentration and determination which really shone through in this match. Defence was outstanding and they gained an incredible lead and kept it throughout the game.

Year 9 won against Our Lady's 3:5

This was a great game by our year 9s. It was a close victory but nonetheless they came out on top. This team put their best foot forward and they performed very well.

Year 10's game was very close 2:4 to Coop Academy.

This was another good match where they unfortunately didn't win but they demonstrated great resolve and teamwork and tried their best to get as far as they did and I think that deserves recognition.

Gay – Straight Alliance

ST. MATTHEW'S
ROMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
Voluntary Academy

gsa
Gay-Straight Alliance

Every Monday
in the BeeHive
3pm-4pm
All welcome!

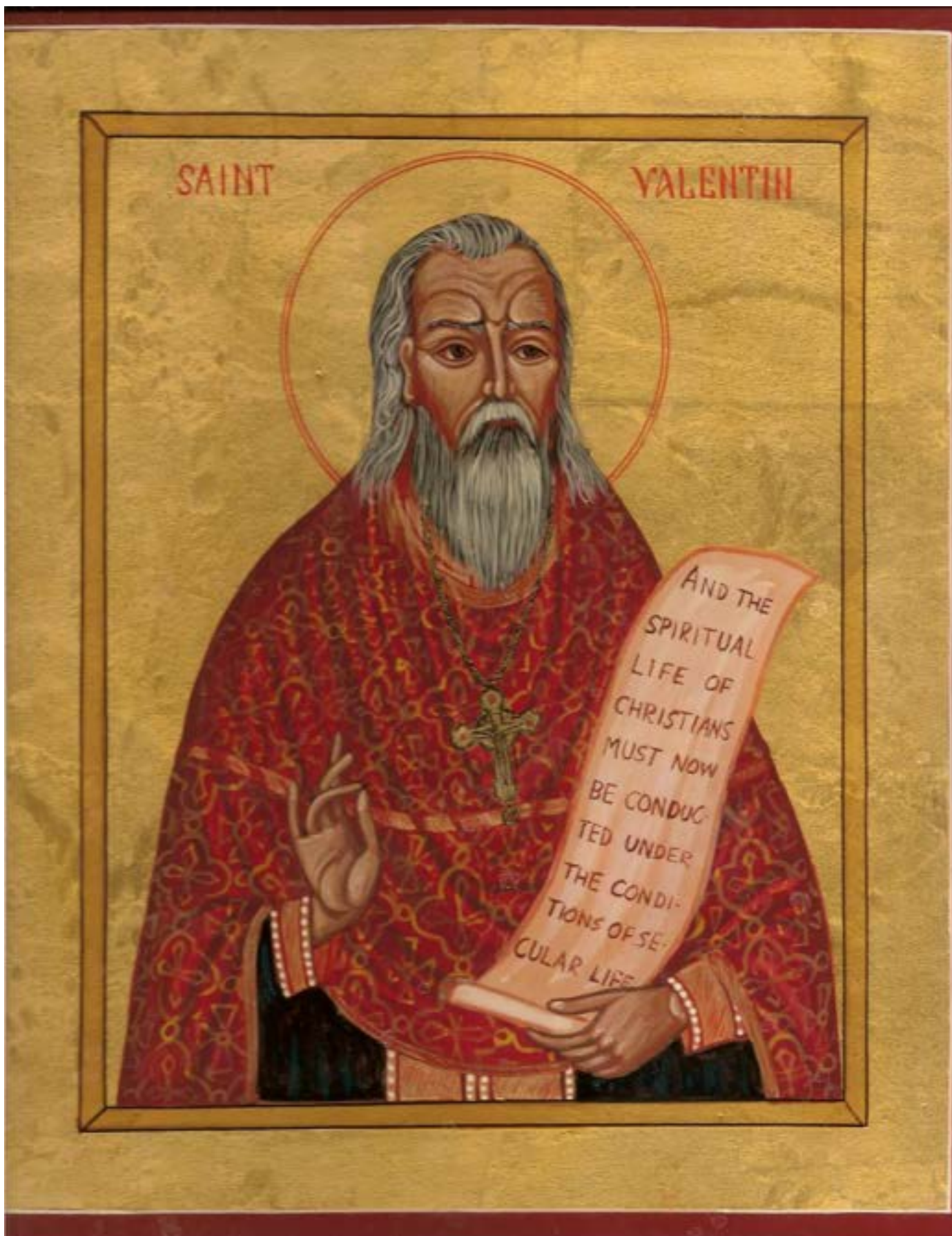
We Pray, We Care, We Achieve.

EMMAUS
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

Valentine's Day

BY HARRY

It originated as a Christian feast day honoring one or two early Christian martyrs named Saint Valentine and, through later folk traditions, has become a significant cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of romance and love in many regions of the world. Valentine's Day, also called Saint Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine, is celebrated annually on February 14. Valentine's Day was actually designated by Pope Gelasius I in order to replace the ancient Roman festival Lupercalia, a celebration of fertility. This Saint Valentine wore a ring with a Cupid on it—a symbol of love—that helped soldiers recognize him. And, in a precursor to greeting cards, he handed out paper hearts to remind Christians of their love for God. Because of this legend, Saint Valentine became known as the patron saint of love.



You are loved.

May God bless you on this beautiful day and may his blessing and love be with you every day.

Valentine's Day cookies

Want something home-made to give to your family, friends or even your crush for Valentine's day? Well, look no further, for this cookie recipe has the cookies come out the oven fully decorated.

They look perfect without the need to mix up batches of icing.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup/227g unsalted butter (room temperature),
- 1 cup/234g granulated sugar
- 4 Cups/500g all-purpose flour (sifted)
- ¾ cup 80g corn-starch (sifted)
- ¾ teaspoon/4g salt
- 1 teaspoon/15ml vanilla extract
- ¼ cup/ 50g caster sugar
- Few drops of pink food colouring
- It's easiest to make two separate batches of cookie dough: one uncoloured and one pink, just use half the ingredients for each batch. You can however make a big batch of dry and a big batch of wet ingredients then divide in half using a scale, colour one and mix.

In these instructions we will be making two batches starting with the uncoloured batch.

- Sift 2 cups flour, 40g corn-starch, and about 1/3 tsp salt into a large bowl then whisk to incorporate.
- In a mixer cream 1/2 cup room temperature butter, and 1/2 cup sugar together.
- Mix in 1 1/2 tsp vanilla extract.
- Add 1 egg to each sugar/butter mixture.
- On low, mix in dry mixture until almost combined. Scrape the bowl down then mix once more until just combined.

- Roll out to a 1/4-inch thickness then transfer onto a baking sheet and place in refrigerator to chill. I like to roll my cookie dough between two layers of plastic for ease of transfer and clean up.
- Now it's time to make the pink batch. Repeat the above steps but add in a few drops of soft pink food colouring to the butter sugar mixture along with the vanilla.
- Roll out as before and sprinkle about ¼ cup pink sanding sugar onto the pink batch. Give a gentle roll to press the pink sugar into the dough.
- Cover with plastic, transfer to a baking sheet and chill for at least 20 minutes to firm up.
- Once the dough has chilled use a ruler and a sharp knife to cut ½ inch strips of dough. Return to fridge while you work on the next batch.
- Layer pink and white stripes so that they are touching.
- Cover dough with a sheet of plastic wrap or parchment paper then roll to create a seal. Transfer to the fridge to chill on last time.
- Preheat to 375 degrees F.
- Cut cookies with a heart shaped cutter.
- Carefully lace cookies on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper or a silicone baking sheet.
- Bake for about 12 minutes then allow to cool before enjoying.

[Valentine Cookies - Preppy Kitchen](#)





HAPPY NEW YEAR



CELEBRATE
GOALS
JANUARY
COUNTDOWN

CONFETTI
NOISEMAKER
PARTY
MIDNIGHT

RESOLUTION
CLOCK
CHEERS
SPARKLES



		3	5		2		6	
1	2			6	8			
6		8	1		9			
2			6	3	5			8
3	5	6	8	9		1		
	8			1		3		
5		1	4		6	9		
8		7		5			1	
9	6		7		1	5	4	3

Adafruit
Search for these words

CE
DRR
ODLA
INJES
DUNRWPD
TOCOTVBR
ROTGRNEW
GDSOFIRRX
DINISNORO
SGOZZKCYL
EIP
TPGN
OUUVTGZOPLI
YRETTABIR
LURJPMREHTAEFLZ
TEEU
IMNOZEIPK
ZLJR
ZLJF
CITORK
PNQOPEJ
FANOFQB
TLULUX
AUXEL
MVNQ
UCH
YX

Ledyoda NeoPixel Raspberry Pi infrared diode joule wall	Feather unicorn CircuitPython Bluefruit frequency module	FORN DotStar LED ampere ground resistor	battery Trinket piezo capacitor hertz transistor
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Valentine's Day WORD SEARCH

QOHLOIENVBLMOJN
GAXALSCHEARTSSH
ICHOCOLATECKDNG
FNLMKSRLZIAWSXS
THODFWVGOFRCCZK
SOXJTERAXVDSARH
VLSGGHEHFLZERNTY
VIOHMTDLMEJCDHB
RDRMHHAODWNJYFA
OACYUETWPYVTDKP
MYPPGAEEQWOTIPN
AROYCRFRIENDSNQ
NFOENTXSXCUPIDE
CZKISSXEWKZJPGJ
EOUZAKAVYCBSXKT

Sweetheart	Valentine	Chocolate	Romance
Friends	Flowers	Holiday	Hearts
Cupid	Candy	Gifts	Love
Kiss	Date	Card	Hug

