



30,388 VOTERS HAVE THEIR SAY

Is winter the best time to reflect on what is important to you? The majority of young people say Yes.

Visit www.votesforschools.com for the full story.

UP FOR DISCUSSION: CITIES OF CULTURE

This week, VotesforSchools voters will be answering the question: "Could a year of culture make a difference where you live?"

Why not discuss what you think about this question at home? Could more culture make a difference to your local area?

THIS WEEK'S BIG READ: STOP-MOTION ANIMATION

Some of the UK's most iconic characters have come from Aardman Animations: they are the studio behind Wallace & Gromit! Their latest film, Vengeance Most Fowl, aired on Christmas Day, 20 years after the duo's last outing.

The stop-motion technique is what brings clay or plasticine models of the characters to life. This involves creating lots of versions of the models that are then moved slightly between each frame of the film. Once the film finishes production, these small changes look like realistic movements!



COMPREHENSION CHALLENGE

- Who are the creators of Wallace & Gromit?
- When were Wallace & Gromit last on our screens?
- What materials are used to create the models?
- True or false? Stop-motion animation is quick to do.
- Find a synonym for "lifelike" in the text.

GETTING THE FACTS RIGHT?

Meta, who run Facebook and Instagram, have decided to stop using fact-checkers in the US. Instead, users will be able to comment on whether a post is accurate using "community notes". This system is used on social media platform, X.



A COLD START TO 2025

The UK has been hit by snow and severe flooding. The extreme weather caused some schools to close. Weather warnings and flood alerts were given in many areas. It is thought temperatures were low as -20°C in some places.



TEENAGE DARTS CHAMP

At the age of 17, Luke Littler has won the PDC World Darts Championship at Alexandra Palace in London. He beat the three-time world champion Michael van Gerwen to become the youngest ever world champion in the history of the sport.



THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC

Following new releases from Taylor Swift, Coldplay and Billie Eilish, music fans in the UK spent more on recorded music in 2024 than ever before. The biggest-selling album was Swift's The Tortured Poets Department which sold 783,820 copies.

