

FEATHERED FRIENDS

THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL CHRISTMAS QUIZ 2019

Never let it be said that the Blue Coat Quiz is too difficult! We thought this was a really tough one, but we received 178 entries, the most since 2007, and of these 19 were completely correct. 26 entrants score 99 and a further 26 scored 98. In other words, 71 entrants got two or fewer questions wrong, so there are clearly a lot of people with an appetite for a stiff challenge. After a draw, the prize winners are:

1. (£75) I DUTTON, Droylsden (2nd 2016, 3rd 2013)
2. (£40) J CRABB, Shaw
3. (£25) C BOND, Stretford (2nd 1995)

Congratulations to all three and especially to our 1st prize winner, who has been a regular contender over the last ten years. Our 2nd prize winner is a relative newcomer who scored 99 last year. Our 3rd prize winner has been competing since the early, pre-Google days of the quiz and has got it all right in each of the last four years.

The other sixteen who scored 100 are almost all regular contenders: the BRIERLEY family (Stalybridge), A CAMERON (Stockport), the COWELL family (Macclesfield), J EDWARDS (Sale), A GOSLING (Stalybridge), J GRAHAM (Austerlands), R HALES (Ilfracombe), M LOVERIDGE (Sompting), J McCLEARY (Droylsden), P MALLINSON (Greenfield), the MILES family (Canterbury), S NEWTON (Sale), J REYNOLDS (Lancaster), D SMITH (Eccles), R SMITH (Lees) and D YOUNG (Shaw).

Commiserations to them all. They and everyone else who scored 50 or more went into a draw for the £10 consolation prizes and the five winners are: the BRIERLEY family, K FLEMING, P JORDAN, M LINDSAY and H WHITAKER.

This year one answer (Q98) proved far harder to track down than all the rest: "Jamaica" is one of the names for the country dance tune which introduces the tv comedy series UPSTART CROW. Of the 71 entrants who scored 98 or more, 43 got this one wrong.

There were very few questions which had viable alternative answers which met all the criteria. These are the questions where alternative answers most often appeared:

Q26 We expected HOBBY-HORSE, but there was another early bicycle called the DANDY-HORSE and "dandy" is an abbreviated form of dandy-cock, a nickname for a bantam, so that was accepted.

Q58 "Kittiwake Oilfield" cropped up a lot, but it lies due east of Aberdeen, which is over 200 miles south of the Shetlands, so not accepted as an alternative to CORMORANT OILFIELD.

Q77 The QUAIL HOLLOW CLUB in North Carolina is the venue for the Wells Fargo (Golf) Championship, an annual event on the PGA tour. Several people offered "Drake Center Iowa". There is a Wells Fargo Arena in Iowa, but it is part of the Iowa Events Center, not the Drake Center, if indeed there is such a venue, so not accepted.

Q90 It is unfortunate that the leading character in the tv comedy series *The Office* has the same number of letters in his name as the expected answer, CHRIS FINCH, as this led many to submit "David Brent". Some dictionaries do include "brent" as an abbreviation for brent goose, but DB does not fully fit the description in the clue. He certainly thinks he is a wag, but despite all his flaws (incompetence, hypocrisy, lack of self-awareness, etc), he is not really a bully. Finchy is undoubtedly both!

Q92 NICHOLAS CRANE is one of the presenters of the tv series *Coast* and could be deemed pessimistic as he seems to carry an umbrella in his backpack at all times. A surprisingly popular alternative was "cardinal marks". These are buoys and other objects which indicate marine hazards and point the way to safe water. A cardinal is a bird, but this answer fails on two counts: an inanimate object cannot be pessimistic and the clue points to a singular rather than plural answer.

Finally, here are some notes on the other hard questions towards the end of the quiz:

Q91 PHILIP SWALLOW is a character in David Lodge's 1975 novel *Changing Places*.

Q93 Florence Easton (1882-1955) was a soprano from Middlesbrough known as THE NIGHTINGALE OF SOUTH BANK.

Q94 Joe Tallentire is the landlord of THE THROSTLE'S NEST in Thurston (based on Wigton) in Melvyn Bragg's 1970 novel *A Place in England*.

Q95 Derek Robinson's 1971 novel GOSHAWK SQUADRON is about the Royal Flying Corps in World War One.

Q96 Bob Breadsnapper runs Bob's Bikes in the 1981 children's tv series PIGEON STREET.

Q97 Stoker is the nickname of PEREGRINE CAVENDISH, Duke of Devonshire.

Q99 The bushranger Frederick Ward (aka Captain Thunderbolt) and Frederick Britten escaped from the COCKATOO ISLAND penal establishment in Sydney Harbour.

Q100 Charles Dickens' eponymous character MARTIN CHUZZLEWIT emigrates to Eden, a swampy settlement in the USA, where he almost dies of malaria.

We are grateful to everyone who bought the quiz and especially to those who sold extra copies to family, friends and colleagues. Thanks to you, the quiz raised just over £1,400 this year.

1	INEPT RADIO AND TV PRESENTER (4,9)	Alan Partridge
2	BLACKPOOL ATTRACTION SINCE 1923 (3,6)	Big Dipper
3	POPULAR WHISKY BLEND (6,6)	Famous Grouse
4	YOU GET THIS FOR COMING LAST (5,5)	Booby Prize
5	CHINESE GOOSEBERRY (4,5)	Kiwi Fruit
6	LUXURIOUS FLOOR COVERING (4,4,6)	Shag Pile Carpet
7	COULD <i>YOU</i> TELL IT FROM BUTTER? (5,9)	Stork Margarine
8	RETALIATION IN KIND (3,3,3)	Tit For Tat
9	PIRATE CAPTAIN (4,7)	Jack Sparrow
10	SWEET DRINK FROM BULMERS (10,5)	Woodpecker Cider
11	ARTS AFICIONADO (7,7)	Culture Culture
12	CHART-TOPPER FOR THE MANFREDS (6,8)	Pretty Flamingo
13	GRISHAM'S THIRD (3,7,5)	The Pelican Brief
14	THESE WILL RAISE YOU ABOVE THE CROWD (4,2,6)	Pair Of Stilts
15	NOT PARKY'S FAVOURITE GUESTS! (3,4,3,3)	Rod Hull And Emu
16	TARTAN POPSTERS (3,4,7)	Bay City Rollers
17	DALLAS SPIN-OFF (5,7)	Knot's Landing
18	RAGTIME DANCE (6,4)	Turkey Trot
19	BLADE (6,6)	Wesley Snipes
20	NENEH'S HALF-BROTHER (5-3,6)	Eagle-Eye Cherry
21	CHICAGO BREWERY (5,6)	Goose Island
22	NO-DEAL CONTINGENCY PLAN (9,12)	Operation Yellowhammer
23	FERGIE'S LITERARY CREATION (6,3,6,10)	Budgie The Little Helicopter
24	DECORATIVE WALL MOULDING (4,4)	Dado Rail
25	NO 1313 IS SCARY (11,4)	Mockingbird Lane
26	EARLY BICYCLE (5-5)	Hobby/Dandy-Horse
27	HODGES' PARTNER (4,7)	Dave Peacock
28	DEAD RINGER (3,6)	Jan Ravens
29	MUNICH VICTIM (5,5)	Frank Swift
30	ONE OF MANY WHO HAVE PLAYED TINY TIM (5,3,4)	Robin The Frog
31	IF I COULD (2,6,4)	El Condor Pasa
32	KITCHEN CABINET HOST (3,6)	Jay Rayner
33	ULSTER LAKE SYSTEM (5,4)	Lough Erne
34	ANGLESEY OUTPOST (6,6)	Puffin Island
35	SOUL/JAZZ POET (3,5-5)	Gil Scott-Heron
36	FORMER FIRST LADY OF FLEET STREET (4,4)	Jean Rook
37	TRIPLE WORLD SERIES WINNERS (9,7)	Baltimore Orioles
38	THEME PARK GROUP (6,14)	Merlin Entertainments
39	LONDON PUB-ROCKERS (5,6)	Ducks Deluxe
40	CHEERS CARLA! (4,7)	Rhea Perlman
41	MARILLION'S HOMAGE TO ROSSINI (3,8,6)	The Thieving Magpie
42	BANKS FAMILY'S NEIGHBOUR (4,4)	Miss Lark
43	IT GARNERED TWO AWARDS FOR CHILDREN'S LITERATURE (3,3,7)	The Owl Service
44	MIDLANDS CARPETMEN (13,8)	Kidderminster Harriers
45	LENNON SONG INSPIRED BY A CIRCUS POSTER (5,3,3,7,2,2,4)	Being For The Benefit Of Mr Kite!
46	DEVON RAILWAY (6,4)	Avocet Line
47	FOR HIS MONUMENT, JUST LOOK AROUND YOU (11,4)	Christopher Wren
48	FEATURED ON SOLO ALBUMS BY PAUL AND RINGO (3,3,9)	Bye Bye Blackbird
49	WEST AND FIELDS TOGETHER FOR THE ONLY TIME (2,6,9)	My Little Chickadee
50	MOSTLY LIVE ORANGE JUICE (7,10)	Ostrich Churchyard
51	FLEMING'S PLAN TO PROTECT GIBRALTAR (9,9)	Operation Goldeneye
52	TYNESIDE SHIPBUILDERS (4,6)	Swan Hunter
53	BENJAMIN'S FIRST PARABLE (6,5)	Curlew River
54	MADE A FLYING START WITH CHARIOTS OF FIRE (9,5)	Goldcrest Films
55	HE SCHLEPPED A FRIDGE ROUND IRELAND (4,5)	Tony Hawks

56	TRINIDAD (4,2,3,11)	Land Of The Hummingbird
57	IT DESCENDED WITH VIC'S QUESTION CATEGORIES (3,4,4,5)	The Dove From Above
58	SHETLAND ENERGY SOURCE (9,8)	Cormorant Oilfield
59	INDIAN CARRIER WHICH CRASHED IN 2012 (10,8)	Kingfisher Airlines
60	GERMAN STORY WHICH INSPIRED A RUSSIAN BALLET (3,10,3,3,5,4)	The Nutcracker And The Mouse King
61	THEY BEGAN WITH THE ODYSSEY (7,8)	Penguin Classics
62	WEDDING GUEST'S PLEA TO SAILOR (6,2,4-5, 4)	Unhand Me, Grey-beard Loon!
63	SEE WINTER LIGHTS ANNUALLY HERE (6,5)	Canary Wharf
64	IT WON THE FABER BUT NOT THE BOOKER (9,6)	Flaubert's Parrot
65	OXFORD MILITARY HISTORY SPECIALIST (6,10)	Osprey Publishing
66	TOLLY'S GHOSTLY ANCESTOR (6,7)	Linnet Oldknow
67	KIEL'S PREDECESSOR (5,5)	Eider Canal
68	PRECURSOR OF WHIST (4,3,7)	Ruff And Honours
69	DIVE BOMBER FROM LANCASHIRE? (9,4)	Blackburn Skua
70	DYLAN'S FATHER - NOW YOU SEE HIM! (6,6)	Lionel Shrike
71	CRAVEN JAZZ SINGER (5,4)	Clare Teal
72	ENGLISHMAN WHO PLAYED FOR BOTH CLUBS IN KÖLN (4,8)	Tony Woodcock
74	LEGENDARY THIEF WHO WAS CANONISED (3,7,2,6)	The Jackdaw of Rheims
74	WHERE THE IMPOSSIBLE MIGHT HAPPEN (5,6,4)	Cloud Cuckoo Land
75	TWO-STROKE BIKE (1,1,1,6)	BSA Bantam
76	ALLEN'S TRANS-CHANNEL CONVEYANCE (8,9)	Gossamer Albatross
77	WELLS FARGO VENUE (5,6,4)	Quail Hollow Club
78	THE CALLUMS GO TO NORFOLK (4,4)	Coot Club
79	YOU MAY RIDE A BIKE OVER THIS (6,8)	Toucan Crossing
80	DICKENS BESTSELLER (3,3,4,2,8,3,2,4,4)	May The Bird of Paradise Fly Up Your Nose
81	ANTI-APARTHEID NOVEL (3,4,3,9)	Too Late The Phalarope
82	TUSCANY WINE FAMILY SAGA (6,5)	Falcon Crest
83	DAVE'S FORMER SPONSOR (3,8,3)	Old Speckled Hen
84	A DAY IN THE LIFE OF BILLY (WITH FLASHBACKS) (1,7,3,1,5)	A Kestrel For A Knave
85	ERIC'S ROAD TRIP COMPANION (5,7)	Bobby Seagull
86	FOSTER OR MOORE (7,8)	Clarice Starling
87	HE ALMOST DID THE DOUBLE IN ANTWERP (6,9)	Joseph Guillemot
88	PACIFIST GEORDIE POET (5,7)	Basil Bunting
89	LOWLANDS DOCTOR (3,7)	Bob Buzzard
90	OFFICE WAG AND BULLY (5,5)	Chris Finch
91	HE SWAPPED WITH MORRIS IN 1975 (6,7)	Philip Swallow
92	PESSIMISTIC COASTAL GUIDE (8,5)	Nicholas Crane
93	FLORENCE, THE TEESSIDE DIVA (3,11,2,5,4)	The Nightingale Of South Bank
94	JOE'S PUB AT A PLACE IN ENGLAND (3,9,4)	The Thristle's Nest
95	ROBINSON'S FICTIONAL RFC MEN (7,8)	Goshawk Squadron
96	WHERE BOB HAD A BIKE SHOP IN 1981 (6,6)	Pigeon Street
97	VERY WEALTHY STOKER (9,9)	Peregrine Cavendish
98	IT STARTS WITH JAMAICA (7,4)	Upstart Crow
99	TWO FRED'S ESCAPED FROM HERE IN 1863 (8,6)	Cockatoo Island
100	EDEN WAS NO PARADISE FOR HIM (6,10)	Martin Chuzzlewit