

Chess in Schools and Communities

Issue 1
November

Student Newsletter – Merseyside Region

Welcome to our very first CSC Merseyside Newsletter

Every half term we're going to send you a newsletter full of chess puzzles, competitions, news and lessons for you to enjoy. Inside you'll find some top tips to improve your games, some fun quizzes, stories from around the chess world and more!



News from the Chess World

The best player in the world ends his 125-win streak!

Top Tips

Exploring how the pieces move and attack.

Puzzle Corner

Your chance to test your skills.

Chess around the World

Learn about chess in different cultures!

CSC

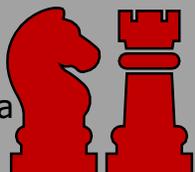
Chess in
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Word of the Month

“Zugzwang” – A German word which means “compulsion to move”.

Being in “zugzwang” means that all your available moves make your position worse. In chess, you're not allowed to miss your turn, or “skip a go” and let your opponent make two moves so you have to make a move which you know will be bad!



News from the Chess World!



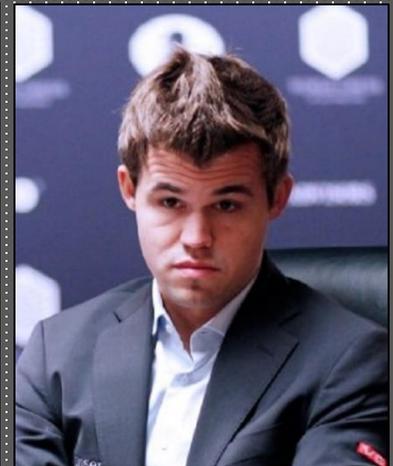
Magnus Carlsen's record breaking streak is over!

The very best chess players in the world can earn the title "Grandmaster". 29-year-old Magnus Carlsen from Norway is the best Grandmaster in the world, and is currently the World Chess Champion! He loves football and supports Real Madrid. As well as being the best chess player in the world, last year he was also top of the table for the Premier League's official "Fantasy Football" competition. He holds the record for the longest unbeaten streak in chess, but on October 10th, that streak was ended by Jan-Krzysztof Duda, a 22-year-old player from Poland, and Magnus lost an official game for the first time in over two years!

The last time Magnus lost a game was in July 2018 but since then he has claimed either a win or a draw in all 125 official, classical games he played. The game was part of the Altibox Norway Chess Tournament which is held every year. Even though Magnus lost to Duda, he still went on to win the whole tournament and earned 700,000 Norwegian kroner which is almost £60,000. Second place was claimed by Alireza Firouzja, the highest rated junior player in the world, who at only 17 years old is rated 2728!

Name: Magnus Carlsen
Age: 29
Nationality: Norwegian
Rating: 2863 (Ranked #1 in the world)

Magnus Carlsen became a Grandmaster at only 13 years old. When he was 19, he was the highest rated chess player in the whole world. In 2013 he defeated Viswanathan Anand and became the World Chess Champion. He has held this title ever since. He is also the World Blitz Champion, and the World Rapid Champion. "Blitz" and "Rapid" are types of chess where you have to play all of your moves within a certain amount of time, meaning that you have to make decisions very quickly.



This section is very plain to help you save ink and paper if you want to print out our "Chess Snap" game.

Top Tips!

Learning how all the pieces move and attack is very tricky – there's a lot to learn! Why not play "Chess Snap"? We've designed some special cards for you to print off and cut out that will help you learn and remember how all the pieces move! Use the table below to check that your answers are correct.

You will need

1. "Chess SNAP" – printable below (make sure to set your print margins to "narrow")
 - Page 1 – 1 copy
 - Page 2 – 2 copies
 - Page 3 – 1 copy
 - Page 4 – 1 copy (you don't need to print this off, but it would be helpful to have it close by!)
2. Scissors to cut the cards out (ask an adult to help you!). You may also want glue and card to stick the paper to, to make the cards stronger but you can play just with paper cards.
3. You may like to have a chess board and some pieces nearby, to demonstrate the moves to your friends.

The rules

1. Sit in a circle with a group of your friends or your family
2. Deal the cards out evenly between all players
3. The player to the left of the person who dealt the cards puts one card face down
4. Then the next player will put one of their cards face down on top of the other player's card
5. If two consecutive cards "match" then players must shout "SNAP". The first person to shout "SNAP" wins the cards
6. After a "SNAP", whoever won the cards starts the round again
7. The winner is the person who collects all the cards

You could play other games too, for example you could invent an action for every chess piece (you could shout "Neigh" like a horse for a Knight, or take a bow for a King). One person is in charge and plays some music out loud whilst everyone else dances. Then they could turn the music off and hold up one of the cards and you all need to do the action that matches one of the pieces that the card could relate to – like chess musical statues!

What do we mean "if the cards match"?

The cards have lots of different things on them. Some might have a picture of a piece, some might have a points value, some might have a direction, or another description of how a piece moves. If a card which could be describing one piece is placed on top of a card which could describe the same piece, then it's a match. For example, if you put down a card which says "1 point" then you know that that is describing a Pawn. If the next card says "Forwards" then you know that that could also describe a Pawn, so you would shout "SNAP". If you put down a card that says "5 points" and then the next player puts down a card with a picture of a Bishop on it, then you couldn't shout "SNAP" because they don't match. To help you, there are little letters on the bottom of each card to tell you what piece each card covers, and we have a handy table just below! When you first play, use the letters and the table to help you but try to explain why you believe two cards match, this will help you to remember!

King

Queen

Rook

Bishop

Knight

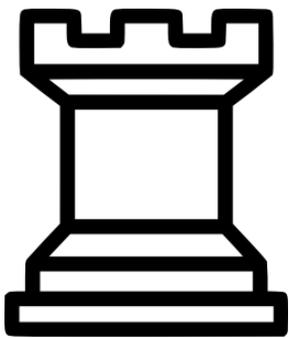
Pawn



K



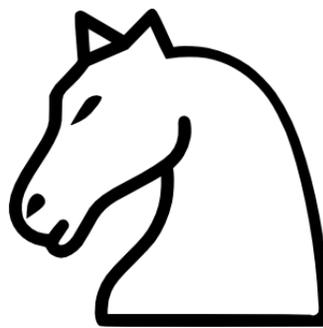
Q



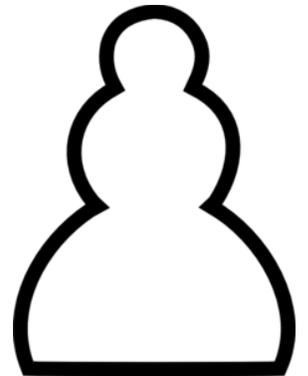
R



B



N



P

<p>Attacks diagonally</p> <p>K Q B P</p>	<p>Attacks horizontally or vertically</p> <p>K Q R</p>	<p>Attacks in "L" shapes</p> <p>N</p>	<p>Can move as many squares as it wants</p> <p>Q R B</p>
<p>Moves diagonally</p> <p>K Q B</p>	<p>Moves horizontally or vertically</p> <p>K Q R</p>	<p>Can only move 1 square at a time</p> <p>K P</p>	<p>Moves in "L" shapes</p> <p>N</p>
<p>Is allowed to move backwards</p> <p>K Q R B N</p>	<p>Is not allowed to move backwards</p> <p>P</p>	<p>Can jump over other pieces</p> <p>N</p>	<p>Can move further than normal on its first move</p> <p>P</p>

<p>Worth 1 point</p> <p>P</p>	<p>Worth 3 points</p> <p>B N</p>	<p>Worth 5 points</p> <p>R</p>	<p>Worth 9 points</p> <p>Q</p>
<p>Start with 1</p> <p>K Q</p>	<p>Start with 2</p> <p>R B N</p>	<p>Start with 8</p> <p>P</p>	<p>Start with 2</p> <p>R B N</p>
<p>Attacks and moves in the same way</p> <p>K Q R B N</p>	<p>Attacks and moves in the same way</p> <p>K Q R B N</p>	<p>Attacks and moves in the same way</p> <p>K Q R B N</p>	<p>Attacks and moves in different ways</p> <p>P</p>

Pieces	King	Queen	Rook	Bishop	Knight	Pawn
Points	Infinite, because you can't take the King	9	5	3	3	1
Start with	1	1	2	2	2	8
Can move as many squares as it likes in 1 turn	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Can move forwards and backwards	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Can move horizontally and vertically	✓	✓	✓	✗	It moves both horizontally and vertically in one move	✗
Can move diagonally	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	The Pawn only moves diagonally when it takes a piece
Attacks in the same way it moves	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Special abilities!	✗	✗	✗	✗	The Knight can jump over other pieces	Every pawn can move forward 1 extra square on its very first go

There are lots of different games you can play with your cards. If you invent any fun games which will help you learn how the different chess pieces move, why not ask your parents or teacher to drop us an email at competitions@chessinschools.co.uk and share the rules of your new game with us? We might even include it in another newsletter so that everyone can learn how to play your fun game!

Puzzle Corner!

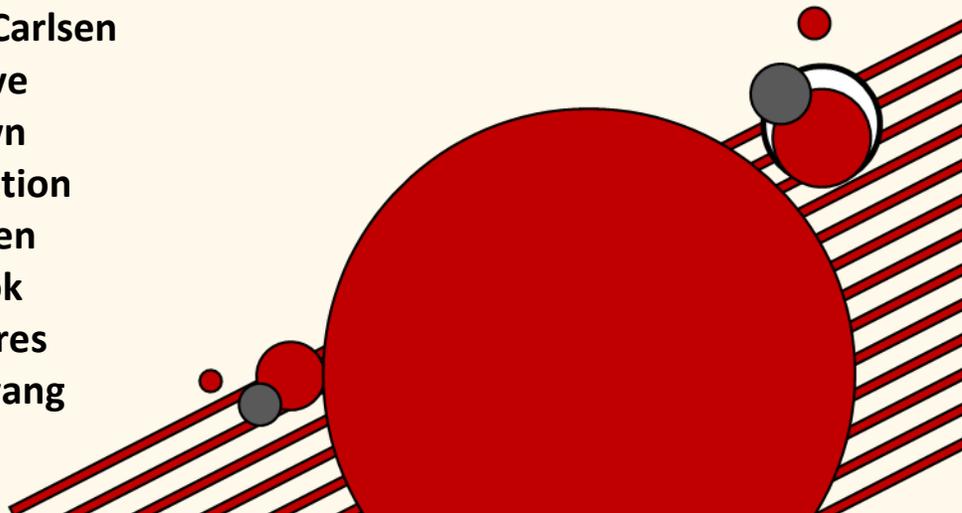


Wordsearch

How many chess themed words can you find in our grid? Words might be horizontal or vertical (just like how the Rook moves) or diagonal (just like a Bishop!) but they won't be backwards – the words will only go forwards just like a Pawn.

Z	K	Z	X	S	K	G	T	Z	H	D	B	A	X	V	F	Z	B	I	S	H	O	P	A
U	A	E	P	M	C	Z	C	A	J	H	L	V	V	V	L	P	T	Y	C	L	F	Z	M
G	P	F	V	N	A	D	F	E	Y	K	O	J	S	A	Q	K	U	U	Z	E	N	K	P
Z	N	V	J	B	S	G	P	H	S	X	C	J	B	Y	U	E	J	T	R	H	A	I	R
W	E	Y	M	W	T	L	N	M	Y	U	K	P	C	H	E	C	K	N	D	K	Y	E	O
A	V	S	E	G	A	V	B	U	A	G	F	J	I	Z	E	K	G	L	L	Q	K	R	M
N	U	Q	B	D	V	S	F	X	S	D	P	W	J	K	N	B	K	J	X	E	K	Q	O
G	Q	E	J	P	O	H	E	R	U	C	J	N	L	U	H	J	X	O	I	R	H	D	T
I	S	G	Z	F	I	Q	T	G	D	I	A	G	O	N	A	L	L	Y	J	A	C	H	I
P	R	R	Z	K	D	E	M	Q	I	U	G	R	W	Z	N	Y	Z	E	O	V	H	E	O
B	M	A	D	X	F	Q	S	C	U	P	C	M	L	I	Q	Y	R	F	S	B	E	P	N
S	V	N	S	B	L	B	V	B	E	T	S	V	M	S	G	Y	Y	R	X	N	S	Q	G
I	J	D	D	Q	Q	U	Z	R	K	K	Y	E	Z	I	E	Y	X	X	T	I	S	N	D
O	T	M	Y	H	U	D	O	H	H	X	E	X	Y	O	Z	N	F	M	G	S	B	Q	R
A	G	A	N	C	P	A	G	G	Y	K	N	I	G	H	T	P	Z	O	X	I	O	Q	N
F	G	S	S	W	D	E	R	R	Q	R	C	Y	N	Q	M	C	V	V	I	G	A	A	T
V	A	T	R	N	N	W	O	E	R	U	L	R	I	T	J	L	X	E	C	C	R	K	O
Z	O	E	P	G	U	R	O	A	S	D	K	Q	A	C	Y	B	C	K	K	N	D	Q	A
G	M	R	X	B	M	S	F	D	D	C	L	S	K	P	S	E	Q	N	Z	Y	Z	Z	M
N	W	M	Z	L	L	M	E	I	A	F	R	Z	I	P	N	S	R	H	Q	L	W	F	M
L	R	I	C	H	E	C	K	M	A	T	E	H	N	L	H	I	P	A	W	N	X	J	G
F	O	S	O	P	Q	A	D	H	E	E	D	Z	G	Z	J	M	K	I	F	E	Z	Q	C
Z	O	T	Q	M	V	C	Y	X	Y	B	M	T	Y	Z	P	G	Q	P	Z	S	G	L	W
Y	K	T	J	T	N	L	R	D	L	K	C	S	Q	T	C	A	P	T	U	R	E	B	W

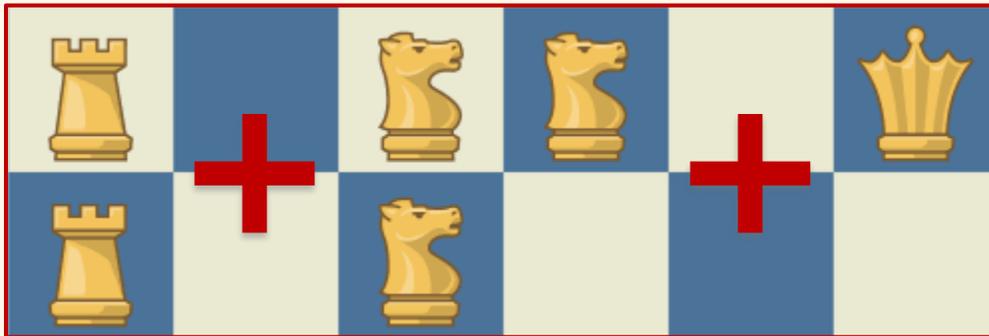
- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Avoid | King |
| Bishop | Knight |
| Block | Magnus Carlsen |
| Capture | Move |
| Castling | Pawn |
| Check | Promotion |
| Checkmate | Queen |
| Chessboard | Rook |
| Diagonally | Squares |
| Grandmaster | Zugzwang |



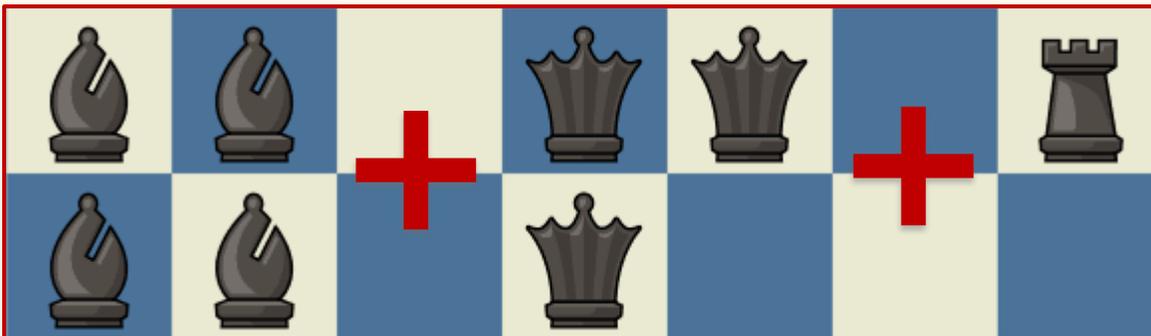
Chess Maths

Don't forget that every piece has a value, for example we say that the Queen is worth 9 points. We can test how well we remember the piece values by doing some chess sums! Let's have a go at the questions below, they will help you practice your adding and your multiplication!

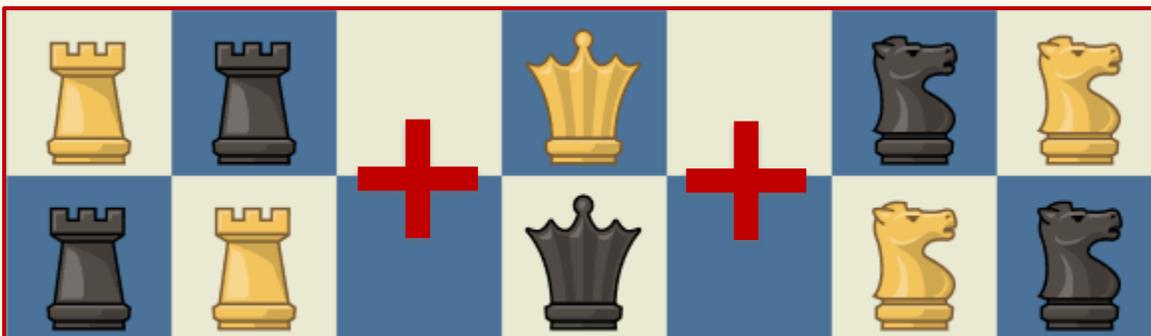
				
9	5	3	3	1
				



How many points would you have if you had 2 Rooks, 3 Knights and 1 Queen?

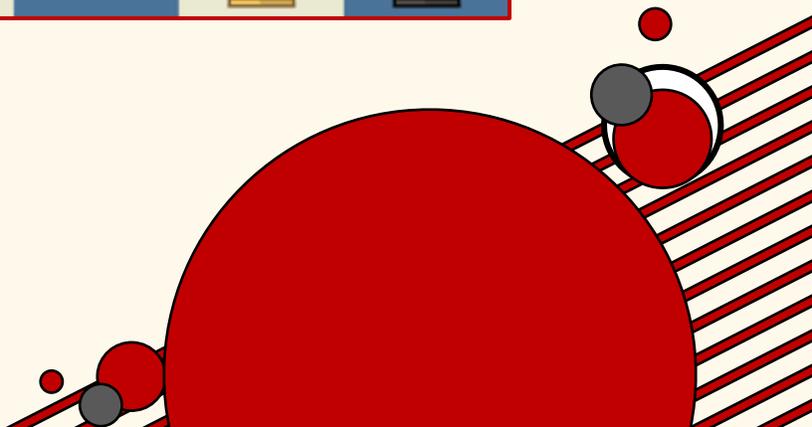


How many points would you have if you had 4 Bishops, 3 Queens and 1 Rook?



How many points would you have if you had 4 Rooks, 2 Queens and 4 Knights?

Now let's try adding up the answers to the three questions you've just done and see what you get for the grand total!





Chess Around the World

Chess is played all around the world. In each newsletter we'll take a look at how chess is played in a different country. If you know any interesting chess facts from around the world, why not share them with us at competitions@chessinschools.co.uk and we will feature them in our newsletters! This month we're going to take a look at Spain!



The Spanish word for chess is "ajedrez" which is pronounced "ah-head-reth". If you wanted to tell a Spanish person that you play chess, then you would say "Yo juego ajedrez" (Jo who-ay-go ah-head-reth).



This position is an opening called the "Ruy Lopez", but it's also called the Spanish Opening, or the Spanish Game. It is named after a Spanish priest from the 16th century called Ruy López de Segura. He wrote about this opening in his book "Libro de Ajedrez" and now it is named after him!



In Spain, all school children take part in chess lessons. All children study chess for an hour a week, and many students play in clubs outside of their lessons too!



Sabrina Vega and Alexei Shirov won the 2019 Spanish Chess Championships. Alexei is a Grandmaster and in 1994 was rated the second-best player in the whole world. Sabrina is a Woman Grandmaster and an International Master! She has won the Spanish Women's Chess Championship 6 times.

Competition time!



We think that chess is a great game which helps you to develop lots of different skills, as well as being fun! We'd like you to help us design a poster encouraging children to play chess. Our panel of chess experts will choose a winner and that person will win a great chess prize!

To enter, create an A4 poster all about chess and why it's a great game to play. Once you're happy with your design, please ask your parents to email competitions@chessinschools.co.uk with a copy of your poster (you can take a photograph of it, scan it in, or even draw it on your computer if you'd like!). When we receive your entry will reply to your parents' email with some extra questions and then your entry will be sent to our judges!

The deadline for entries will be December 20th, with winners being announced in our next newsletter.

Your corner x

We always love to hear from students who are enjoying learning about chess. Whether it's a question you have, something you've made or even just a letter about why you love chess, get in touch with us and we'll share it here for everyone to enjoy!

Ask your parents to send an email to competitions@chessinschools.co.uk and keep your eyes peeled for our next newsletter!

If your school is not currently supported by Chess in Schools and Communities, but you would like more information on how we can get involved with supporting your community please get in touch here:

<https://www.chessinschools.co.uk/forms/join-our-programme>