So, what can we expect from the Christmas special? Well, it's very much an A Christmas Carol Christmas. It's always about the past and the future which I think is why A Christmas Carol works so brilliantly. Every Christmas you always think back and you always think forwards. Christmas Day's different from other days; it's the only day you contemplate having a selection box for breakfast! So it's not like it's a typical Doctor Who. It is bigger, more colourful, matter, sweeter.

It's also a magnificently surreal episode. Well, yes. I know there are moments when you're thinking, 'What on earth is this?' But the thing with Doctor Who is that you actually have to have stories at that level because the hero himself lives in a telephone box that's bigger on the inside. And he's 900 years old and he wears a bow tie. I mean, we come in at that level. We can't then simply go and, you know, visit a hospital. You've actually got to go and have huge, mad, insane adventures.

And where did you get the inspiration for that terrifying shark? I thought the shark would be a cool monster. Because we need a monster, obviously, we can't do A Christmas Carol. And when I was a kid, I used to be properly worried that sharks might evolve and come ashore. I was particularly frightened of sharks. Not because of Jaws: this was before Jaws. I was always terrified of sharks. So the idea that they...
**Exterminate!**

**Steven Moffat**

**Exterminate!**

Steven Moffat dares you to take his Doctor Who quiz, or face the wrath of the Daleks!

**Easier questions on the previous series**

1. Which European city played host to vampires in the 16th century?
2. What is the name of the village where Amy and Rory were born?
3. The Doctor's eating habits — what with custard?
4. What was the name of the town where the Daleks used to live under Stonehenge?
5. Harder questions on the recent series
   1. What's Amy's Ponds' middle name?
   2. What model Tardis does the Doctor own?
   3. What was the name of the device that the Daleks activated to create their next generation?
   4. Who are Tabitha and Augustus?
   5. Name the village that played host to Silurians in 2010.

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In which direction are you planning to take the series when it returns next year? When the series comes back, I think in some ways it will be slightly edgier than before, rather than we've pushed that way, actually. I mean, Doctor Who's always sort of edgy but it's a bit edgier now and maybe a bit more at times a darker. We've got some proper, proper scary stuff in the new [series]. I saw some locations shots of the new monsters and they are terrifying, I think the whole thing about an old series is you want to feel as though it's young and punky and slightly naughty. When you look back on these series, I want people to think it's unpredictable and dangerous rather than this grand old thing that people love and forget about. I want people to watch Doctor Who because you don't know what the hell is going to happen next, and I think we've got some proper stuff like that. It will go on in unexpected directions this year; I can guarantee that and I can guarantee some jaw-dropping moments in the script this year.

**Fantastic. So back to the Daleks. Back behind the sofa, but also that feeling of “Oh my God, they’re not going to do it” or “oh, they’ve allowed to do that”. This sort of feeling that you get when a series is very young. I don’t know what it’s going to do next. You know how, when a series is very young, you get to know the rules of the book in a way, but when you see that first series you didn’t know the rule book and it was much more alarming and exciting. In a way I’m trying to make Doctor Who feel a little bit more. At the beginning, what does he think you make yourself? Your own ideas? Your imagination? That’s the real joy of Doctor Who, of course — what you make yourself. I think that’s the way we’re going with it. Doctor Who, Christmas Day, BBC One, 6pm.

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**Exterminate!**

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**Best for Kids**

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He's dehivelled, devious and approximately 90 years old. He's also, along with James Bond, Sherlock Holmes and Harry Potter, one of the great characters of English fiction. And now William Brown is back, for his fourth TV incarnation as Auld Bill, the time travelling cat in Outnumbered as Ben, TV's costliest pathologist. It is a remarkable return for William other potential staples of children's literature — Blyton, Jennings, The Famous Five — we deemed fit only for parody by Monte Pyrll, Monty Python and the Holy Grail. So, for 40 years or so, it's partly nostalgic, of course: the new series, adapted by Miranda Nye, is about the Brown family in a bustling 1950s village, with William and his Outnumber kids to roam the countryside devoid of child models, 60s and 70s mod music and titles. We would all welcome a return. But William's charm is that he is more than an Asbo-in-waiting. He has a moral compass, however worldly, and a great pricker of adult pretenses. Nye says: "I grew up reading the Auld Bill books, and while my father was always a bit of an illusionist. He is very good at exposing the pomposity of adults, which can make reassuring reading for children. He's also a great gambler with a full set of working groups children can all share."

He has dramatised four Richmal Crompton stories, in the first he meets the formidable Violet Elizabeth Brott, but it's the diminutive Isabel Blamire, the heroine who truly comes "to ‘chew’ when she's thick". In story two, William spares up his lecture on English wildlife by borrowing a parrot. In The School Report, his self-consciousness as the dreaded Aunt Augusta and, in the final story, William stirs up the trouble of a brave bank robber — a bravura turn from John Sessions. Given the story's wonderful touches of bafflement at the machinations of the adult world. "I used to listen to the audiotapes before I went to sleep," he confides to his bank robber. William devotes may worry why the series is set in a world where children are capable of the famous stories date from the Thirties. John Chapman, the producer, is confident that the "Fifth right", and points out, for example, how William Brown takes on the role of Auld Bill, the time travelling cat in Outnumbered, when space travel and pop groups are more common. He was innered into William's Old Age, and the boyhood pleasures of taking a school uniform off, and stuffing a dog food or outwardly adults or pub phone booths are now a mere facile manner.

Tues 28 BBC One, 12:30pm Wed 29/30/31 New Year's Eve