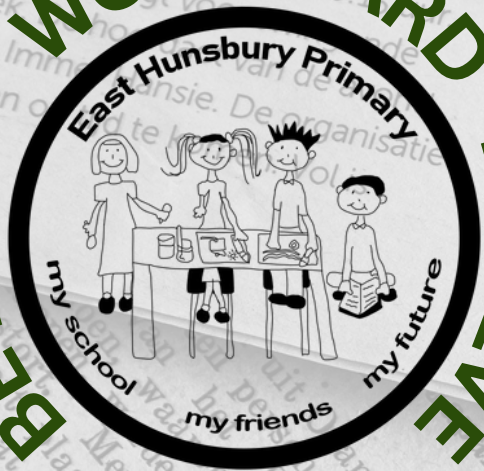


WORK HARD  
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IN THE

**SPOTLIGHT**

YOUR WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

The weekly newspaper for children

**WHAT'S IN THE  
NEWS THIS WEEK?**

What do you think about this week's news?

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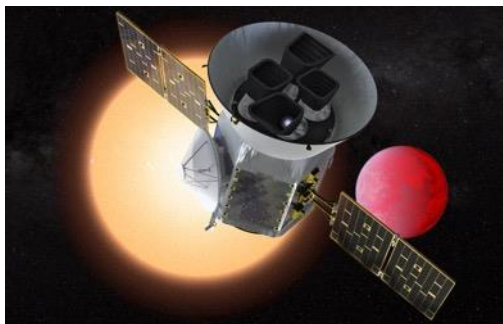


# 85 Possible Planets

Astronomers from the University of Warwick have discovered 85 possible planets with temperatures potentially cool enough to sustain life. Of the potential exoplanets (an exoplanet is any planet beyond our solar system), 25 were previously found by independent research teams. However, 60 are new discoveries found using data gathered by NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS). TESS is designed to discover and monitor thousands of exoplanets and other objects in orbit around the brightest dwarf stars in the sky, by recording changes in light. The observed dips in the brightness of stars are called transits and show that objects, such as exoplanets, are passing in front of them. Scientists think that the new exoplanets are similar in size to Saturn, the second largest planet in our solar system. Saturn is over nine times wider than Earth! Professor Daniel Bayliss, of the University of Warwick said, 'It's very exciting to find these planets, and to know that many of them may be in the right temperature zone to sustain life. Encompassing the collaborative spirit of



**Pictured Left:** NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite. **Source:** NASA\_TESS @NASA\_TESS X page.



the TESS mission, we have also made our discoveries public so that astronomers across the globe can study these unique exoplanets in more detail. We hope this will drive further research into these fascinating exoplanets.'

**Do you think it would be exciting to discover planets that could be lived on outside of our solar system?**

# World's First Magma Observatory

The Krafla Magma Testbed (KMT), in a remote area of Iceland, has been announced as the world's first magma observatory. KMT's website said the research facility, open to all, will have access to a magma chamber (an underground reservoir of molten rock). Scientists plan to drill down to the magma chamber, so that they can observe and experiment on the magma to see how it behaves and reacts whilst underground. This will give them a greater understanding of magma, volcanoes and help to improve volcano prediction. The world's first tunnel to a magma chamber also has the potential to unleash unlimited energy, using geothermal power. Geothermal energy is the heat produced deep in the Earth's core. It is a clean, renewable resource that can be used for heat and electricity. Two boreholes will be drilled, one will give scientists their first direct measurements of magma and the second could help to supercharge geothermal power, giving access to tons of green



**Pictured:** Magma flow. **Source:** Canva.

energy. 'What we know about magma comes from interpreting activity measured at the surface, the geology of fossil magma chambers, and laboratory experiments. The Krafla drilling project will provide direct samples and observations, helping the world to read signs of volcanic unrest better,' explained John Eichelberger, a volcanologist (a geologist, who focuses on understanding volcanoes) at the University of Alaska.

**Do you know the difference between lava and magma?**

**It's all about location - magma is molten rock that is trapped underground, it becomes lava when it erupts to the surface and keeps flowing like a liquid!**



**Pictured:** Krafla volcano, Iceland. **Source:** Krafla Magma Testbed - KMT Facebook page.

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

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# Giant Tortoises Airlifted Home

136 Giant Galápagos Tortoises have been returned to their natural habitat by conservationists. The Galápagos National Park Directorate, working with the Galápagos Conservancy, successfully transported the young tortoises by helicopter! Flying was determined to be the safest and least impactful way to transfer the endangered animals. The other option being multiple expeditions, involving a journey by sea followed by each tortoise being carried on a person's shoulders for several kilometres over lava fields and challenging terrain. The reptiles, which are all between 5 and 9 years old, were airlifted from Arnaldo Tupiza Chamaidan Breeding and Rearing Centre to the Cinco Cerros area on Isabela Island's Cerro Azul volcano. They have been hatched and brought up at the centre by park rangers, who have ensured they are healthy, microchipped for identification and prepared for release. These most famous residents of the Galápagos Islands, in the Pacific Ocean, are herbivores (meaning they mainly eat plants) and their reintroduction to their native habitat will help maintain ecosystem stability. Dr Jorge Carrión, the Director of Conservation at the Galapagos Conservancy, described their repatriation as, 'a crucial milestone in



**Pictured:** Galápagos tortoises being airlifted and released on the island. **Source:** Galápagos Conservancy Facebook page.

our conservation mission in Galápagos.' They are the largest living species of tortoise, have an average lifespan of over 100 years, can grow as large as 1.8 metres long and weigh over 400 kilograms! **Did you know that the word 'Galápagos' comes from an old Spanish word for tortoises?** **Do you know any other interesting facts about the islands?**

Last week's topic:

## Will self-driving vehicles change our lives?



I think self-driving cars will change our lives in a good way as they prevent those who drive recklessly from driving reckless and because of their amazing sensors and technology, they will be safe.

**Jack**

They're good because older people who can no longer drive can use them to be transported.

**Sam**

No because what would happen if the car malfunctions or doesn't stop when it should.

**River**

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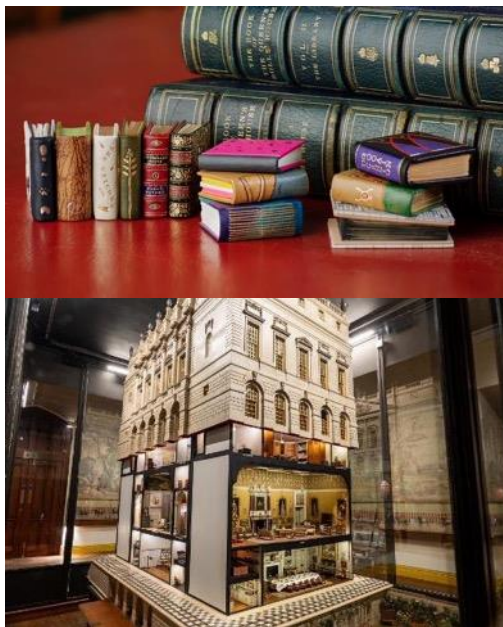
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## New Books for Royal Doll House

Queen Mary's Doll's House is 100 years old this year! To celebrate, its library has been updated with a collection of miniature books written by some of today's most famous authors. The initiative, led by Queen Camilla, has created a modern-day miniature book collection within the doll house's library. Twenty authors, including Sir Tom Stoppard, Dame Jacqueline Wilson, Sir Ben Okri, Bernardine Evaristo and Julia Donaldson, contributed to the project by each producing a 4.5cm high mini handwritten book to add to the library. The Queen has even penned one herself! The books are on display, alongside the scaled-down replica of an Edwardian-style royal residence, at Windsor Castle throughout 2024. The doll house that was gifted to Queen Mary has electricity, running water and even working lifts. All the books in the original miniature library, around 175, are real books, handwritten by leading authors of the 1920s such as A.A. Milne, Sir Arthur Conan-Doyle and Vita Sackville-West. The Queen called the library, 'the most breath-taking space in the house', adding, 'These new books highlight the incredible richness of twenty-first

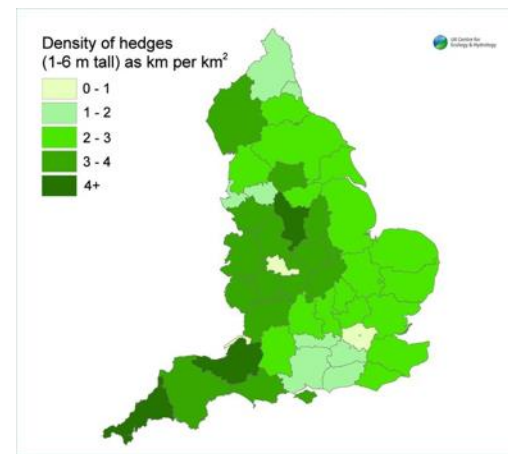


**Pictured:** Books from the new miniature book collection and Queen Mary's Doll's House. **Source:** Royal Collection Trust @RCT X page.

century literary talent - and demonstrate how fortunate we are to have access to so many outstanding writers, whose work brings joy, comfort, laughter, companionship and hope to us all, opening our eyes to others' experiences and reminding us that we are not alone.'

## Historic Hedgerows

A new map has revealed that there are enough hedges in England to reach around the world ten times! The hedgerow map was created using low-flying aircraft that scanned the ground with sensors that emitted pulses of light to create 3D images, providing precise information on the quantity, length, and height of hedges below. The whole of England was scanned between 2016 and 2021 to produce the map. Scientists at the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (UKCEH) announced that there was a total of 390,000km of fully grown field hedges in England. The information gathered has been used to provide the first accurate map of the hedgerow network across the country. The highest density of hedges are found in Cornwall, Somerset, and Derbyshire. Dr Richard Broughton, leader of the project said, 'The new map enables us to see where hedgerows are sparse and identify sites for targeted planting and restoration efforts, linking up habitats and improving the hedgerow network. It can also be used to estimate the potential amount of carbon that hedgerows could remove from the atmosphere and store.' Researchers believe that the map will help focus efforts to restore the country's hedges – it is estimated that there were twice as many in the 1940's. They say this is important to increase biodiversity, as



**Pictured:** Map of England showing hedgerow densities by area. **Source:** UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology @UK\_CEH X page.

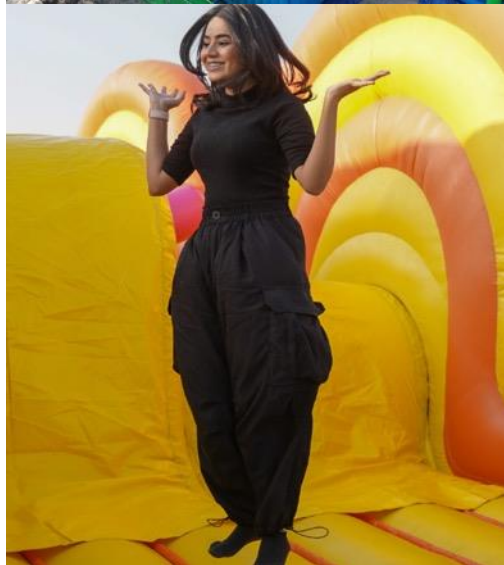


**Pictured:** A view over fields in Widcombe in the Moor, England. **Source:** Canva.

hedges contain many different kinds of plants. Hedges also provide a home for many species of wildlife and aid in the fight against climate change. Furthermore, they can reduce air pollution and even improve soil quality! **Do you know any other benefits of growing more hedges? Alternatively, can you think of any drawbacks?**

# Jumbo Jump

Jumbo Jump in Karachi, Pakistan, is now officially home to the largest inflatable castle in the world! The massive bouncy castle measures 1,421m<sup>2</sup> and an astounding 200 people can jump on it at once. Jumbo Castle, as it is named, is part of the popular tourist attraction that also contains other inflatables, including another smaller bouncy castle with ball pits, hoops and climbing towers, and an assault course over 30 metres long. There are also 'jaw-dropping' 12-metre-high slides and a photo booth. Karachi is the capital city of the Pakistani province of Sindh. Over 20 million people live there, and it is the largest city in Pakistan. The brightly coloured bounce house only takes ten minutes to fully inflate but it took six months to plan and design, ensuring it met safety guidelines and had record-breaking dimensions. Safer Khan, Founder of Jumbo Jump, said, 'We believe in creating moments that go beyond the ordinary and breaking the world record for the largest jumping castle at Jumbo Jump is a testament to our commitment to delivering unparalleled joy and entertainment in Pakistan. Our success is not just measured in numbers but in the smiles, laughter, and shared experiences of the communities we serve. Jumbo Jump is not just an event; it's a celebration of the extraordinary, and we look forward to continuing our journey of breaking records and creating memories that last a lifetime.'



**Pictured:** Jumbo Jump in Karachi, Pakistan. **Source:** Guinness World Records @GWR X page.

**Have you ever bounced or played on a bouncy castle?**  
**Would you like to go on one this large?**

## Last week's topic: Is fashion important?



What's the point in fashion? It DOES make people look good though. But the money used could go to other things, better things ...(I am not a fan of fashion).

**Daniel**

No, I can wake up and be in my PJs and be beautiful, so yes, I think fashion is not important.

**Hollie**

I don't think fashion is important very much to me.

**James**

I think that fashion is not that important because everyone is perfect just the way they are.

**Lyla**

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