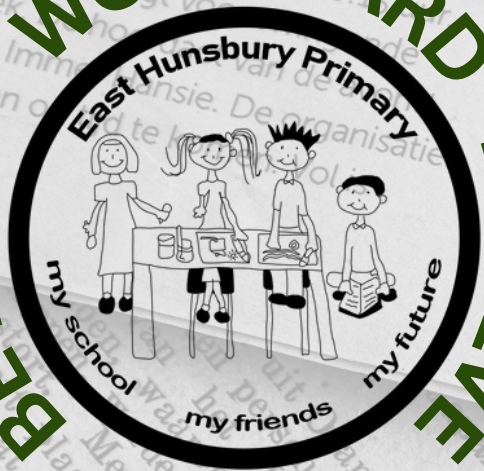


WORK HARD
BELIEVE
BE KIND



IN THE

SPOTLIGHT

YOUR WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

The weekly newspaper for children

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Swimming Lessons!

Wildlife photographer, Bertie Gregory, couldn't believe his eyes when he witnessed baby penguins making a giant leap from the top of an ice shelf into the ocean. The photographer expressed concern for the penguins as the jump was an enormous 15m drop, and the icy Antarctic sea below was full of floating chunks of ice. But he says, 'To my amazement, they were not just surviving but popping up and going, 'I can swim!' This is their first swim ever, the first swim of their lives.' Before Gregory captured his incredible images, researchers had been unsure



Pictured: Emperor penguin with its chick.
Source: Canva.

about how the chicks came down such steep slopes. This ritual of the penguin chicks taking their first plunge from the ice is called fledging. Emperor penguins are known to nest on sea ice. However, as ice shelves have become more fragile in the past 20 years, they have been forced to form colonies on the permanent ice shelves, which are much higher.

Hay Fever Returns

Runny nose? Itchy eyes? Can't stop sneezing? You may be struggling with hay fever. Not everyone has hay fever, but it is quite common with around 13 million people in the UK struggling with it. At this time of year, as temperatures rise and trees and flowers begin to bloom, more pollen is in the air. It is this pollen that causes hay fever as some people are allergic to it. There are, in fact, different types of pollen, such as grass pollen, tree pollen and weed pollen. The body works to protect itself by getting rid of pollen and this results in hay

fever symptoms, namely itchy eyes, a runny nose and lots of sneezing! Some ways to help manage these symptoms include wearing sunglasses to limit pollen getting into your eyes, closing windows at night and changing clothes after you have been outside.



Pictured: Boy sneezing. **Source:** Canva.

Can the past help us learn about modern life?



I think it just goes to show, we have more similarities than differences.

Eden, 6

Street Librarian's Success

Araba Maze is a street librarian and influencer who lives in Baltimore in the U.S. state of Maryland. She is combatting the book desert in her local area by becoming a street librarian and setting up a free book vending machine. A book desert is an area with limited or no access to appropriate books, with no libraries or bookshops in walking distance. Araba set up Storybook Maze after talking with children, who had joined her on her stoop at home to listen to the stories she was reading to her nieces. When she finished the last story, the children didn't want to leave, and this was when she discovered that they had no books at home! Araba then used her experience as a librarian to put together a collection of books to take to the children as a mobile library. She used her social media platforms to



Pictured: Street librarian Araba Maze.
Source: Storybook Maze Facebook page.

raise money to have a free book vending machine installed as well. Storybook Maze's next aim is to raise enough money to provide a Book Trolley – a colourful train with carriages full of books and places for people to read. 'This book haven on wheels aims to break down barriers and provide access to books that traditional libraries can't reach,' Maze writes about the new project. 'As the wheels of the Book Trolley turn, so do the pages of countless stories waiting to be discovered!'

Do you think this is a good way to make sure that everyone can access books? What else do you think could be done?

Blue Whale Comeback

For the first time in decades, many blue whales have been seen near Seychelles! Seychelles is an African country: a nation of 115 islands scattered across more than a million square kilometres of the Indian Ocean. Scientists from Florida International University (FIU) and University of Seychelles conducted two expeditions covering about 5,500km across the northern Seychelles. They reported a total five sightings, including groups of up to ten blue whales. Marine biologists say that the return of blue whales in eastern Africa, following intense whaling, offers hope of their number increasing. Jeremy Kiszka from FIU, who worked on the project, said, 'When blue whales were sighted, we approached them slowly to obtain details of their group size and behaviour. Photographs of both left and right sides of the dorsal region were taken to identify them. Because

colouration patterns are unique to each animal, we knew that at least five individuals were identified during this expedition. After sharing our pictures with other research groups working on blue whales in the Indian Ocean, no "match" was found. This means the whales we identified in Seychelles might have been photographed for the first time ever!'

Did you know that blue whales are the largest creatures on Earth? They can grow up to 30 metres in length! Do you know any facts about blue whales?



Pictured: Blue Whale.
Source: Florida International University @FIU X page.

Can the past help us learn about modern life?



*I think we should use what we have learnt about people in the past to improve our lives now. We should look at things that they did right and do them that way again but not copy things that didn't work out so well. **Trudie***

Let us know what you think about this week's news



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Sahara Skies in Greece

Cities and towns across much of mainland Greece were recently blanketed in an orange haze, which had many people wondering what was happening! One onlooker in Athens commented that the unusual sky 'created an eerie image that made Athens look like a colony on Mars...'! The effect was created by dust that travelled from the Sahara Desert in North Africa. The desert releases up to 200 million tonnes of dust every year. The heavier dust particles quickly fall back to Earth, but the lighter dust can be blown as far as northern Europe, so



Pictured: Views of the orange sky in Greece.
Source: @zefhkyprianou on X.

instances such as this do sometimes happen. While many enjoyed the slightly spooky spectacle, those with any breathing difficulties were advised to limit exercise and wear a protective mask when outdoors. Luckily, the dust clouds have now cleared, and the beautiful blue skies of Greece have returned.

Clawesome Comedy!

Feeling a little crabby? Well, look no further! The Crab Museum in Margate recently held a contest to find the funniest crab-related jokes. And who better to judge these crabulous jokes than a crew of crabs! A panel of judges shortlisted their favourite jokes. These jokes were then written on pieces of paper and waterproofed before being lowered into the sea using string. The winning joke was then sea-lected by a crab. The quality of jokes was astounding, with the museum saying, 'We've been pinching

ourselves since submissions closed!' Some of the contenders included pearls such as 'Why did the crab cross the road? It didn't. It used the sidewalk' and 'How do barnacles get around? By taxi crab'. But first place was pinched by Leon Price with his joke, 'Man walks into a restaurant with a crab under his arm and says 'do you make crab cakes'? Manager answers 'yes, we do'. 'Good' says the man. 'because it's his birthday'.



Pictured: Crab on a beach. **Source:** Canva.

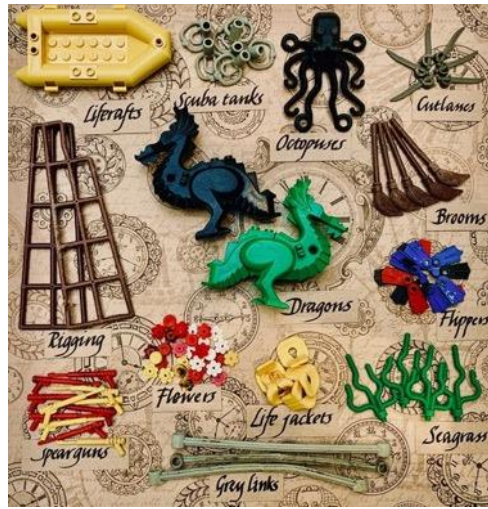
How can shops make sure everyone feels represented?



I think this is quite tricky for shops. Maybe shops should do a questionnaire to ask all the customers if they are happy with their shop. Hannah

Looking for Lego

A 13-year-old, in Cornwall, has devoted a lot of his spare time to collecting nearly 800 pieces of Lego lost from a container during a large storm in the 1990's. He has now found his most coveted piece! Liutauras Cemolonskas searched for over two years to find the super rare Lego Octopus! The Great Lego Spill of 1997, on the shores of the ancient Cornish market town of Marazion, occurred when 62 shipping containers were lost into the sea from a cargo ship due to terrible weather. One of these containers spilled a massive shipment of five million pieces of Lego into the water. Most were sea-themed, and some examples of pieces that washed away, including the sought-after Lego octopus, are pictured above. Lost in the waves were 352,000 pairs of flippers, 97,500 scuba tanks, and 92,400 swords. The Lego octopuses are the hardest to find as there were only 4,200 onboard. The group 'Lego Lost At Sea' are collating information about where the lost



Pictured: Examples of the Lego pieces from the shipment lost at sea.

Source: Lego Lost At Sea Facebook page.

pieces are when they wash up on shore. They record the locations on a map. Unbelievably, almost two days later, another Lego octopus was discovered just 10 miles further down the coast! Justin Goode, who had been taking his friend's dog for a walk when he made the discovery, said, 'Within a few steps of feet on sand I spotted the octopus, right at the end of a long seaweed strand line left by this morning's high tide.'

Do you think you would enjoy looking for Lego on this coastline?

What else do you think you might find?

Europe's Clean Electricity

Energy think tank, Ember, has announced that a record 60% of Europe's electricity was powered by clean energy sources in the first two months of this year! January and February of 2024 saw a record-breaking amount of clean electricity generation in Europe, equating to 516.5 terawatt hours - 12% more than the same period of time last year. This is said to be possible due to the fact that more electricity is coming from hydro, solar, nuclear and wind generation consistently every year. There was also a marked decrease in the amount of fossil fuel-powered electricity production, down to just 351 terawatt hours. This is the lowest it has been since 2015 and 8% less than last year. The two fastest growing sources for clean energy electricity across Europe were nuclear and hydropower. Clean

energy is described as energy that comes from resources that never run out and whose byproducts have minimal, or no, effect on the environment. Some countries, including Ireland and Portugal, were able to say that they had days or multiple days when they were using only renewable energy for two thirds of their whole population.

Have you ever seen windmills or a hydro dam harvesting energy?

What do you think about them?



Pictured: A windmill farm in the Netherlands.

Source: Canva.

How can shops make sure everyone feels represented?



In order to make everyone feel represented we need to listen to everyone's ideas and concerns. Then work together to help everyone feel included. Layla

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