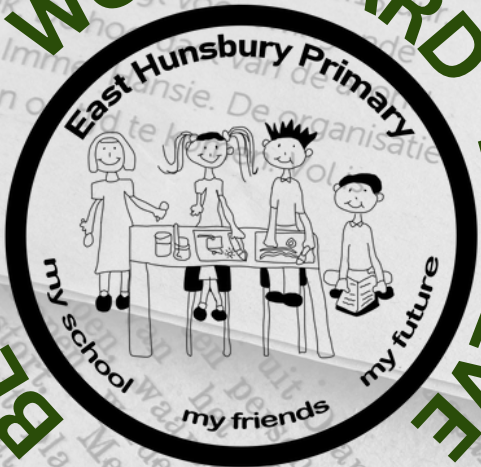


WORK HARD
BELIEVE
BE KIND



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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Set for a Soggy Summer?

While the UK is no stranger to wet weather, some forecasters are predicting a seriously soggy summer which could see fifty days of rain. That is ten more days of rain than the country had last summer. In order for a day to be classed as 'rainy,' there must be a minimum of 2.5mm of rainfall within 24



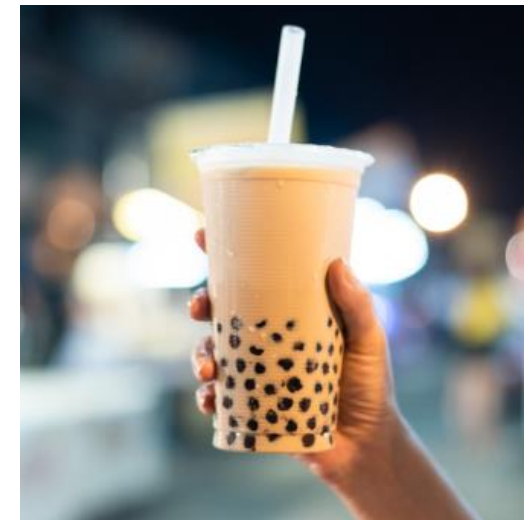
Pictured: Walking in the rain. **Source:** Canva.

hours. So far, the wettest UK summer on record was in 1912, over 110 years ago. That year saw fifty-five days of rain during the three-month summer period. The beginning of this year has indeed seen widespread rainfall in the UK, and it is thought that climate change may be behind this. As the climate warms, the atmosphere is able to hold more moisture, which can lead to higher levels of rainfall. However, in recent days, the Met Office have dismissed the precipitous predictions saying, 'It's not possible to forecast a specific number of days of rain in the UK for a whole season.' So, it looks like we might just need to wait and see – and keep our fingers crossed!

Bubbl-icious

Have you ever tried bubble tea? Even if the answer is no, you have almost certainly heard of it, as the cutesy drink has gained much popularity over recent years. Also known as pearl milk tea or boba, the drink originates from Taiwan. The typically cold drink is traditionally made using black tea, milk, sugar, ice and the famous bubbles, which are called tapioca pearls. The pearls are soft and chewy and are made by mixing a starchy substance, called tapioca, with water and brown sugar. The drink's popularity has gone from strength to strength thanks to users sharing their love for bubble tea on social

media. As the super-cool beverage has travelled around the world, different variations of the drink have evolved, including the use of syrups, jellies and new flavours, such as matcha, jasmine, mango, passionfruit and so many more! The drink even has its own emoji! 🧋



Pictured: Pearl milk tea. **Source:** Canva.

Can the voices of the young be as powerful as those of adults?



I believe that we all need to make our opinions heard. If we feel strongly about something, we must let other people know. Anita

Chasing Cheese

The world-famous Cooper's Hill Cheese Chase was back this year! The annual cheese-rolling event is held at the near-vertical Cooper's Hill, in Gloucester, England, and involves competitors chasing after a wheel of Double Gloucester cheese. The cheese is rolled down a steep embankment, and the winner is the first person down the hill! Very few of the entrants remain on their feet, with most falling and tumbling down the 180-metre hill. The much-anticipated Spring Bank Holiday event includes men's and women's downhill races, as well as adult's and children's uphill races. Only 25 people are allowed to enter each downhill race, and they do so at their own risk as many people sustain injuries whilst competing! The winner of each race receives an 8lb (3.6kg) Double Gloucester cheese wheel, the honour of being called a Cheese Champ, and the admiration of the thousands of spectators, who watch the event live or stream it! Although cheese rolling has been around for much longer, the first



Pictured: Abby Lampe, women's race winner. **Source:** Cooper's Hill Cheese Roll Facebook page. races at Cooper's Hill are thought to have been held in 1826! Abby Lampe, from North Carolina in the USA, is the 2024 women's champion and also won the race in 2022. Abby gave the advice of, 'Be the cheese! You just have to roll. There's a little bit of pain, but it's just going to be temporary.' Other English extreme traditional races include the Tetbury Woolsack Races, where racers carry a heavy woolsack, weighing up to 27kg, around a course. **Do you think that it is good to keep these old, quirky traditions going?**

Flamingo Lays First Egg Aged 70

A 70-year-old flamingo has surprised many by laying an egg for the first time ever this spring! Gertrude lives at Pensthorpe Nature Reserve in Norfolk, UK, part of a flock of around sixty flamingos. Although her egg is not fertile or viable so it will not hatch, staff say that it is a great indication of how happy and healthy Gertrude is. Ben Marshall, from Pensthorpe Nature Reserve, said, 'This has still been a fantastic experience for Gertrude to display her maternal instincts, partner up, and sit on a nest along with the rest of the flock. Whilst Gertrude won't have an egg to hatch this year, lots of our other flamingos are due to hatch their flaminglets in a few weeks. We know that Gertrude is very protective of the young in the flock and will make a great



Pictured: Gertrude and her egg. **Source:** Pensthorpe Nature Reserve X page.

aunt and babysitter of the impending young.'

Did you know that baby flamingos are called flaminglets? They also learn to swim very early – not long after they have learned to walk! Do you know any more flamingo facts?

Can the voices of the young be as powerful as those of adults?



I think it is more difficult for children to make their voices heard. Adults can use social media!

Tomas

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1, 2, 3, Caw!

Recent research has revealed that crows may be able to count up to four! The birds are known for their intelligence and their cheeky ways, but this new discovery has amazed scientists. The study involved showing a quantity of objects to the crows, who then responded with a number of cries to match. The crows were right more times than not, and they were rewarded for a



Pictured: A carrion crow. **Source:** Canva.

correct response with a tasty treat! Interestingly, human toddlers go through this stage of development, making a number of sounds to match a number of objects, when learning to count. Scientists believe that crows have developed this counting ability because it helps them with practical tasks in their day-to-day lives, including checking all their eggs are safe, choosing food-rich areas to forage and staying in large groups to avoid predators. For some scientists, the most important finding from the study is that the crows paused before answering correctly, taking longer pauses before counting higher quantities. The pauses indicate that the birds are thinking and planning their responses carefully. Clever crows!

Orange in Alaska

Rivers in Alaska's arctic region have been turning orange in recent years. Some of the discoloured rivers can even be seen from space! Scientists have discovered the rusty orange colour could be a result of minerals entering the water due to melting permafrost. Permafrost – permanent frost – is soil or underwater sediment that remains frozen for two years or more. The oldest known permafrost is nearly 700,000 years old! As this frozen layer of soil thaws, metals such as zinc, copper and iron that were previously trapped are released into streams and rivers. This is a

problem for communities that use the rivers for drinking water as well as for fishing. Researchers are currently in the middle of a three-year project which is aimed at understanding the problem better and finding the right solution.



Pictured: Kutuk River, Alaska.
Source: @007Antriksh on X.

Can remembering difficult times help shape a better future?



I think if something horrible has happened before, we should know not to let it happen again. Trish, 8

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D-Day Commemorations

Chris Williams, Headteacher at West Dean CE Primary School, has been in touch to share with us that children from the school's Year 5 and 6 recognised the location shown on one of our posters immediately. They had recently visited the British Normandy Memorial at Ver-sur-Mer. Chestnut Class at the West Sussex school were quick to recognise the exact spot as one they had been to during their four-day residential trip to Normandy, France. Staff and learners took with them a commemorative flag (pictured right) that was later flown in their village for the D-Day anniversary. Mr Williams said, 'It is our Year 5 and 6 class (Chestnut Class) pictured. We



Pictured: Pictures from the children's visit to the British Normandy Memorial at Ver-sur-Mer.
Source: Chris Williams, Headteacher at West Dean CE Primary School.

took them on a four-day residential trip to Normandy the week before the half term break. During our trip we visited the British Memorial at Ver-sur-Mer and took some time to remember the fallen whilst viewing the incredible 1400 strong silhouette installation. As a symbolic gesture, we took the D-Day flag from our village (West Dean, near Chichester) across the Channel and back again. On Thursday we'll be flying the flag on our school flagpole, for all of the village to see.'



Valuable Vintage Toy

A Star Wars Boba Fett action figure has been sold by Heritage Auctions for £411,000! The 1970's hand-painted, missile-firing Boba Fett toy is now the world's most valuable vintage toy. Created in 1979, it was never released to the public as it was deemed a choking hazard. Only two of this super rare model of the bounty hunter are still in existence. 'The rocket-firing Boba Fett action figure long ago became such a mythic icon that people worldwide know about it even if they don't collect anything at all,' said Joe Maddalena from Heritage Auctions. 'We knew this one had a chance to enter the record books, and it was thrilling to see it become the most valuable toy in the world.' The previous title holder was a one-of-a-kind Barbie wearing a one-carat diamond, which sold for £236,000 in 2010.



Pictured: The hand-painted, missile-firing Boba Fett vintage toy.
Source: Heritage Auctions Facebook page.

What do you think makes this model worth so much money?
Do you think any of your toys could become valuable vintage items in the future?

Can remembering difficult times help shape a better future?



It's important to look to the past to learn from what has happened. It also means we can remember and respect the people who died in wars. Tilly

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