



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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Word of the Year

The top words used by children this year have been revealed, and the results are somewhat surprising! Oxford University Press (OUP) asked over 3,000 children aged 6 to 14 across the UK to vote for their favourite word. The winner? 'Kindness'! More than 60% of children chose this thoughtful word, saying it's important because it helps people, who might be struggling. One child explained, 'You don't know who is suffering, so it's always important to be kind.' Children also had their say on the coolest slang words. The word 'slay' came out on top, which means to be stylish, impressive, or great at



Pictured: Children's Word of the Year 2024, kindness! **Source:** Canva.

something. In second place was 'sigma', used to describe a super successful and independent person. Finally, the funny word 'skibidi', inspired by a YouTube series about singing toilets, came third, leaving many adults scratching their heads!

What's your favourite word?

Disney Donation

The Walt Disney Company has donated \$15 million (£12 million) to help people affected by the wildfires in Los Angeles. Thousands of homes and buildings have been destroyed by the fires, and over 180,000 people have been forced to flee their homes.

Walt Disney, the creator of Disney, lived in Los Angeles for many years so it was a very important place to him. 'We are proud to provide assistance to this resilient and vibrant community in this moment of need', said Bob Iger, CEO of the Walt Disney Company. Disney

has also said that they have been helping employees, who work for the company, and will continue to support the community as the fire damage unfolds.

What else could be done to help people in need?



Pictured: Walt Disney Company Building. **Source:** @Disney on X.

Should YouTube have more rules for younger users?



Yes, because younger children might see inappropriate things online.

Chloe

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Poozeum!

Guinness World Record holder and Dinosaur Poop Museum owner, George Frandsen, has been talking about his world-famous collection on a recent trip to England. The museum in Arizona, USA, contains the largest collection of coprolites (1,277 when counted in 2017), and is due to reopen after a winter break next month. Coprolites are the fossilised faeces (poo!) of animals that lived millions of years ago. The Poozeum promotes itself with the funny tagline - 'number one collection of number twos!'



Pictured: Barnum the Tyrannosaurus rex dinosaur poop. **Source:** Poozeum on Facebook.



Pictured: Poozeum – dinosaur poop museum!
Source: Poozeum on Facebook.

They go on to say, 'We aim to provide a one-of-a-kind experience that promises laughter, fascination, and a pile of the unexpected.' George also holds the record for owning the largest coprolite by a carnivorous animal, which is also on display. Barnum, the Tyrannosaurus rex dinosaur poop, is named after palaeontologist, Barnum Brown, who discovered the very first T. rex. The specimen is approximately 70 million years old and weighs 9.28kg. It measures 67.5cm long and 15.7cm at its widest. The Poozeum website also contains an online coprolite exhibition, where anyone can learn all about Barnum, and the intriguing subject of dinosaur poop fossils.

Are you interested in learning about coprolites?

Would you like to visit this or any other museums?

Futuristic Farm

A futuristic farm in Iceland is growing algae for food! The high-tech indoor farm is contained within a large warehouse, situated near to Iceland's largest geothermal power station. Scientists at the special building are using a system that harnesses energy from the power plant to sustainably grow these tiny aquatic organisms. Glowing pink-purple light bathes the microalgae in exactly the amount of light that they need to flourish. The 'intelligent light' illuminates the walls of panels, and cylindrical columns of water bubble away as the crops cultivate. VAXA Technologies explains more on their website, saying, 'We are bringing a new scientific approach to food production. Through our groundbreaking indoor production



Pictured: Vaxa bathes microalgae in a pink-purple light. **Source:** VAXA Technologies Iceland on Facebook.

process, we convert clean energy into food, producing the most sustainable crop in the world - microalgae rich in Omega-3 and protein.' Humans have almost always eaten macroalgae, such as seaweed. Consuming microalgae is less common, although it was eaten for centuries in ancient Central America and Africa.

Do you know any facts about microalgae?

Do you think it is a good idea to explore more sustainable food options?

Should YouTube have more rules for younger users?



Yes, because some stuff is too scary and for older people. Videos should have ages on them.
2MG Merrylands Primary School

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