



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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And they all lived hoppily ever after!

The tale of a missing stuffed, soft bunny rabbit had a very happy ending after a little girl, called Waylynn, lost her beloved little friend at Pittsburgh International Airport.

“Bunny” was handed in to information desk worker, Patti Getty, who did everything she could to ensure that the lost rabbit was reunited with its rightful owner. But, before doing so, she made sure that Bunny had a good tour of the airport first! ‘I wanted to take the bunny around and show what Pittsburgh Airport is like’, she said.



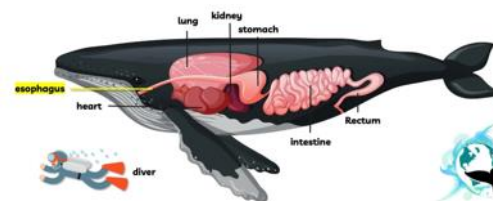
Pictured: Waylynn's lost toy rabbit, named Bunny, on its airport adventure!
Source: @Pitairport on Instagram.

The airport shared an amazing video of Bunny's adventures online, and also a phone number to reunite the soft toy with its correct pal. Thousands of people saw the video, and eventually, Bunny's great, great grandmother, (Waylynn's great grandma!) was traced, and came to collect the toy and give her back! Let's all celebrate with a hoppy dance! **Have you ever lost a favourite toy?**

The Kayaker who came to tea!

Do you know what humpback whales like to eat? Well, it certainly isn't kayaks and their sailors, as one man in Chile luckily found out!

Adrián Simancas was rowing with his father in the Strait of Magellan, in southern Chile, when Adrián and his boat were suddenly scooped into the mouth of a passing humpback whale!



Whales don't eat humans, as they purely eat krill, small fish and plankton, so the whale very quickly spat him back out! Despite having very large mouths, humpback whales' throats are far too small, about the size of a human fist, so couldn't swallow a human. Dr Ian Kerr, CEO of the whale conservation nonprofit, Ocean Alliance, said, 'they have no interest in eating us [or] hurting us. It's not to their benefit'.

What would you think if you ended up inside a whale's mouth?

Pictured: Inside a humpback whale!
Source: Whalescientists.com/ CC-BY-SA-2.0/ on Facebook.

Are drones the future of delivery?



I think parcels delivered by drones would be very speedy! They wouldn't get stuck in traffic!
Kuba

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



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Birthday Wish Prison Tour

When celebrating her 104th birthday, Loretta Chamberlain, a resident at the Avon Nursing Home in New York, was asked what her birthday wish was. She responded by saying that she would like to visit the local jail, as she had never been inside a jail before! Livingston County Sheriff's Office said that they would be glad to make her birthday wish come true and invited her for a tour of their jail! 'Loretta enjoyed cake, getting fingerprinted, her mugshot taken, tour of the jail, getting locked in a cell, and got to meet many



Pictured: Loretta meeting a K-9! **Source:** Livingston County Sheriff's Office on Facebook.



Pictured: Loretta's prison tour. **Source:** Livingston County Sheriff's Office on Facebook.

deputies, including one of their new K-9s! Thank you to the Livingston County Sheriff's Office for making Loretta's wish come true!', posted Hurlbut Care Communities, who run Loretta's care home. Whilst touring the jail facility, Loretta examined security camera footage from the control room. Prison staff couldn't resist asking the centenarian the secret to a long life – her cheeky answer was that anyone wanting to live a hundred years should 'mind your business!'

Do you think it is important to try make birthday wishes come true?

If you could choose, where would you go for a tour?

Smelly Mummies

Researchers have discovered that ancient Egyptian mummies smell woody, spicy and sweet! The study was conducted by University College London (UCL) and the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia, working with the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. Scientists used both trained, human sniffers and scientific instruments to study the scent of nine mummified bodies inside unopened sarcophagi. A sarcophagus is a decorated stone coffin, used in ancient Egypt, to hold the mummified bodies of leaders and wealthy people. It is hoped that the data gathered will lead the way for scientists to learn how well a mummy is preserved, without having to disturb and sample it. A synthetic version may be created, so that if you visit mummies in a museum, you would be able to sniff what they smell like!



Pictured: Sarcophagus of a pharaoh. **Source:** Canva.

Lead author, Professor Matija Strlic explained, 'The smell of mummified bodies has for years attracted significant interest from experts and the general public, but no combined chemical and perceptual scientific study has been conducted until now. This ground-breaking research really helps us better plan conservation and understand the ancient embalming materials. It adds another layer of data to enrich the museum exhibition of mummified bodies.'

Have you ever seen an Egyptian mummy?

Are you surprised to learn how they smell?

Are drones the future of delivery?



I think lots of drones flying about with packages would be a bit scary! They might crash or drop the packages.

Kasia

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Online Safety Newsletter

April 2025

Screentime

Screentime is classed as any time spent in front of a screen, so it includes everything from watching tv to completing homework on a laptop. Whilst there is no recommended screentime (except for under two, which is zero), it is important that we find a balance.

Screentime can obviously be beneficial, both for educational and entertainment purposes, however it is important to be aware of the risks, such as:

- Eye strain.
- Disrupted sleep.
- Less time for other activities and being outdoors.
- Affects our attention span.

Further information

Childnet discuss what is screentime and how much screen time is enough in this useful article:

<https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/screen-time-boundaries-parents/>



Social Media Concerns

Most social media apps have a minimum age rating of 13+. Whilst there are benefits, this article discusses some of the potential risks of using social media.



Risks of Social Media

- **Inappropriate content** – social media may expose children to content that is not appropriate for their age, including sexually explicit content or content that promotes harmful behaviours such as self-harm.
- **Cyberbullying** – this can take many forms, including sending nasty or hurtful messages, leaving unkind comments, sharing photographs of somebody else without their permission or impersonating somebody with a fake account.
- **Excessive Screentime/Addiction** – too much time online can affect mental health and disrupt sleep patterns.
- **Contact from strangers** – there is a risk of stranger contact, which can lead to an increased risk of grooming.
- **Challenges** - children may not have developed the skills and ability to critically analyse what they see online. Whilst some challenges are fun and provide no risk, there will be challenges online that are risky/dangerous.
- **Sharing too much information** – children may share personal information e.g. their phone number, school name or inappropriate photos of themselves.
- **Algorithms** – algorithms influence what we see on social media platforms to keep us engaged on the platform. This can lead to 'echo chambers' where users are only seeing content that relates to their opinion rather than seeing a balanced viewpoint. It can also lead to a user being exposed to large amounts of content about one topic/theme, which may not be helpful if it is negative.

How can I help make it a safer environment?

- Check the age rating of each app and restrict access until they reach that age.
- Set up age-appropriate parental controls, for example set content restrictions and screen time limits.
- Chat to your child about what they are doing online, including who they are following and interacting with online.
- Restrict devices in their bedrooms.
- Show your child how to use any reporting and blocking tools.

Further information

You can find out more from the following:

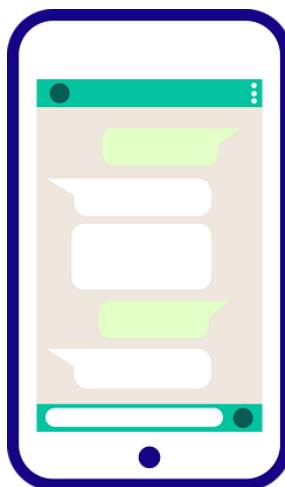
- <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/social-media-smarts.html>
- <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/social-media/#Talkingaboutcyberbullying>

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Group Chats

Is your child part of any group chats? This could be on social media, for example on WhatsApp or within games such as Fortnite. If so, it is important that you are aware of the potential risks, which include:

- **Inappropriate content** – there is often a lack of moderation within chat facilities so users could be exposed to content/language that is not suitable for their age.
- **Bullying** – there are many instances where inappropriate/hurtful comments are shared within groups, this could take the form of name calling or body shaming. Bullying can also be in the form of excluding others from the group. These issues often overspill into 'real life'.
- **Strangers** – your child could be added to groups with people they do not know or even with someone that they have previously blocked.
- **Conversations can be shared/screen shot** – make sure your child is aware that anything they share within a group can be shared with others outside the group.
- **Sharing personal information** – remind your child to be aware of the information they share with others including images and location.



How can I help make group chats safer?

- Check the recommended age rating and adhere to them. If we all did this, peer pressure would be reduced.
- Set up age-appropriate parental controls and set screen time limits.
- Show your child how to use any reporting and blocking tools.

What else can I do?

- It is crucial to have regular conversations with your child about the risks outlined above and about what they are doing online.
- Talk about who they are chatting with, encourage them to think carefully about the messages they send and how they might be perceived by others. Talk about positivity and not saying anything hurtful. Ask them to think about whether they would say what they are messaging, face to face.
- Devices should be used in family rooms so you can monitor what they are doing and who they are interacting with.
- Finally, make sure to model good digital behaviour yourself, as children often learn by observing the adults around them.

Further information

Childnet have created a Group Chat Guide for parents following consultation with the Childnet Youth Advisory Board and Digital Champions: <https://www.childnet.com/resources/cheat-sheet-group-chats/>

Did you know some Emojis have a double meaning?

For those that have watched Adolescence, you will know children and young people may be using emojis to mean something completely different. For example, the kidney bean emoji may be used to identify as an incel. It is important that you are aware of how emojis can be used and keep up to date with the way in which they can be used as their meanings are changeable. You can find out further information here:

<https://www.bark.us/blog/emoji-slang-guide/>

Vodafone: The Rise of the Aggro-rithm

Vodafone released a short video last year, titled 'The Rise of the Aggro-rithm'. It highlights the harmful algorithms targeting young boys. It's certainly worth a watch as well as learning about the terrifying statistics accompanying it:

<https://www.vodafone.co.uk/newscentre/press-release/ai-aggro-rithms/>

3 things to consider before giving your child a smartphone

Wayne Denner has published a blog discussing the three things that parents wished they had considered before giving their child a phone. You can read the article here:

<https://www.waynedenner.com/3-things-parents-wish-they-had-considered-before-giving-their-teen-a-smartphone/>