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WINNING!**

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**THE WORLD'S BEST
NEWS & FACTS
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

ENVIRONMENT

Scottish bog
wins special
recognition

p10



ANIMALS

Spoonbills
make rare
return

p11



UNBELIEVABLE

Artist creates
tiny Olympic
tribute

p27



10 August 2024 • Issue 452
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Making sense of the world

THE WEEK

Junior



**THE BEST
MAGAZINE FOR
CURIOUS
KIDS**



UNITED

People come together to help local communities after unrest p4



Volunteers rebuild the wall of a mosque in Southport, England.



This week's big news

Russia and the West's last prisoner swap



Brittney Griner

Basketball star Brittney Griner was arrested at an airport on the outskirts of Moscow in 2022, just days before Russia invaded Ukraine. Griner had arrived in the country to play for a Russian basketball team. Griner pleaded guilty to carrying illegal items in her luggage and was sentenced to nine years in prison. Critics said her imprisonment was for political reasons and she didn't deserve such harsh treatment. Later that year, Russia released her in a prisoner swap that involved Viktor Bout, who had been found guilty of several crimes and jailed in the US.



Evan Gershkovich hugs his mum as Joe Biden looks on.

FRESH START
The youngest prisoner freed was 19-year-old Kevin Lik.

Prisoners set free in deal

On 1 August, the largest prisoner swap between Russia and the West in more than 30 years took place. A prisoner swap is when countries make a deal with each other to release certain people from jail. "The West" refers to most of Europe, the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. The relationship between Russia and the West has become worse since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

What happened?

The swap took place on the runway at Ankara airport in Turkey. Russia received eight prisoners, who had been held in jail in the US, Norway, Germany, Poland and Slovenia. Two of the prisoners were a couple and their two children were returned to Russia with them. The West received 16 prisoners, including two British citizens. Fifteen of these were freed by Russia and one was freed by Belarus, an ally (friend) of Russia's.

Who were the prisoners?

One of the people released to the West was Evan Gershkovich. Gershkovich is a reporter for *The Wall Street Journal*, a US newspaper. He was arrested in March 2023 while working in the Russian city of

Yekaterinburg. Russia had accused him of working for the CIA, a US government agency that gathers information about foreign countries. The US denied this and President Joe Biden said Gershkovich had been targeted for being a journalist and being American. Another freed prisoner was Sasha Skochilenko, an artist who was jailed for replacing supermarket price tags in Russia with anti-war messages. The two British citizens released were Vladimir Kara-Murza and Paul Whelan. Kara-Murza is an activist and well-known critic of the Russian government. Whelan, who previously served in the US army, was arrested by Russia in 2018 and accused of spying – something his family denies.

How was the swap deal organised?

It took a long time to arrange. The deal dates back two years – to a previous swap, in which US basketball player Brittney Griner returned home (see panel). During the talks at the time, Russia

made it clear it wanted the return of a man called Vadim Krasikov, who worked for the Russian security service. This was the start of two years of discussions. Krasikov was one of the eight prisoners released by the West. Turkey played an important part in the difficult negotiations (discussions) that eventually led to the prisoner swap.



Sasha Skochilenko

What has been said?

David Lammy, the UK's Foreign Secretary, welcomed the release of the prisoners. He said Russian authorities had put Kara-Murza in prison "because he courageously told the truth about the war in Ukraine". President Biden highlighted the importance of having good relationships with other countries. He said, "Today is a powerful example of why it's vital to have friends you can trust, work with and depend upon." Biden also thanked Germany, Poland, Slovenia, Norway and Turkey for their help in securing the prisoners' release.



Bangladesh's prime minister steps down

On 5 August, Bangladesh's prime minister Sheikh Hasina stepped down from her role and left the country, following protests that started in June. Hasina has served as prime minister since 2009 and was elected for a fifth term in January.

The protests, led by students, began because people were unhappy with a rule that reserved 30% of jobs in the government. These reserved jobs were for relatives of members of the military who fought in the war of independence against Pakistan in 1971.

There were further protests in the capital, Dhaka, on 3 and 4 August, and clashes with police led to violence, during which at least 90 people were killed. More than 250 people have died since the protests began. Although the government changed the rule about reserving jobs, students continued to protest to demand justice for those who had been killed and to call for Hasina to step down.

The army chief, General Waker-Uz-Zaman, announced Hasina's resignation on 5 August and said that an interim (temporary) government would be formed. Thousands of people took to the streets to celebrate the news of Hasina's resignation. On 6 August, Professor Muhammad Yunus was named as the leader of the interim government.



Sheikh Hasina



Daniel Wiffen



Kaylia Nemour



Julien Alfred



Thea LaFond

GOLD GLOW
On 6 August, Cuban wrestler Mijain López won the Greco-Roman gold medal for the fifth Olympic Games in a row.

Olympians make their mark

It has been an exciting week of firsts at the 2024 Paris Olympics. People in the Caribbean celebrated after two athletes won their nations' first ever Olympic medals. On 3 August, sprinter Julien Alfred, from St Lucia, won the 100-metres final, and Dominica's Thea LaFond won gold in the triple jump.

Seventeen-year-old Algerian gymnast Kaylia Nemour won gold on the asymmetric bars on 4 August, making her the first African gymnast to win an Olympic medal. Also on 4 August, UK-based boxer Cindy Ngamba guaranteed the Refugee Olympic Team its first medal, by reaching the women's 75kg semifinals. The team is made up of athletes who are refugees (people who have left their homes because

of war or natural disaster). She said, "It means the world to be the first refugee to win a medal."

Swimmer Daniel Wiffen won gold for Team Ireland in the 800-metre freestyle on 30 July, making him the first athlete from Northern Ireland to win an Olympic gold medal in 36 years.



Murray waves goodbye.

As well as many firsts came the last match for British tennis star Andy Murray, who retired on 1 August after losing in the men's doubles quarter finals. Murray, 37, won three grand slams (major tennis titles), including Wimbledon in 2013 and 2016. He also won two Olympic gold medals in singles tennis. Murray said, "I'm proud of my career and what I put into the sport," adding, "I'm glad that I got to go out here at the Olympics."



IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

PROTECTING CHICKS

The RSPB and Natural England have launched a project to protect ringed plovers' nests. The project involves placing cages along the Cumbrian coast to protect the birds' nests. The RSPB hopes the project will help increase ringed plover chicks' survival rates next year.



A ringed plover.



NEW CHILDREN'S FILMS AWARD

The British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) announced a new Children's and Family Film category for its annual awards. The awards celebrate the best work seen in British cinemas over a year. The new category will be introduced for 2025, and films rated U, PG or 12A will be able to enter.

A BRILLIANT SCIENTIST

Rosemary Fowler, a 98-year-old physicist (a type of scientist), has been given an honorary doctorate by her old university for contributions to science. In 1948, Fowler discovered the kaon particle, which was unknown to physics. Although it was part of her studies, Fowler didn't finish her course. Instead, she left university to start a family.



Fowler receives her award.

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What is COBRA?



Prime Minister Keir Starmer

COBRA is a group of senior Government officials, police officers and other experts who meet to discuss how to handle emergencies, such as natural disasters, attacks or big accidents. In 2020, COBRA met 20 times to discuss the Covid pandemic. It is known as COBRA because the first four letters stand for Cabinet Office Briefing Rooms, which are in a building in central London.

People clearing up after trouble in Sunderland.



HAND OF FRIENDSHIP

A fundraiser to help businesses damaged in Belfast has raised more than £131,000.

Communities rebuild after unrest

Communities around the UK have been working together to clean up their local areas following several days of violent unrest.

What's been happening?

On 30 July, the trouble began in Southport, north-west England, when crowds targeted a local mosque and clashed with the police, injuring more than 50 officers. It then spread to other parts of the UK including Belfast, Hull, Liverpool, London and Rotherham. Far-right groups are believed to have been behind the unrest. These groups have very extreme

views about race, religion and immigration (when people move to the UK from other countries). In many places anti-racism protesters gathered to oppose the far-right groups. Racism is when people are treated unfairly because of their skin colour, culture or nationality.



A resident gives out snacks in Middlesbrough.

How are people helping?

In Southport, locals came together to repair the mosque that had been targeted. They have rebuilt walls and replaced broken windows. More than £196,000 has been raised to support a library in Liverpool that was damaged by fire. In Middlesbrough and

Sunderland locals worked together to clear away the mess and damage from the disorder.

What is the Government doing?

On 5 August, the Government held a COBRA meeting (see panel) to discuss its response. Prime Minister Keir Starmer said that the people involved in the unrest will face "the full force of the law". Starmer used to be the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) – a very important lawyer in charge of criminal court cases in England and Wales. He was DPP in 2011 when there was violent unrest around the UK. When *The Week Junior* went to press, more than 400 people had been arrested and some had already been sent to prison. Starmer said thousands more police officers are ready if needed to keep people safe.

WORD OF THE WEEK

GYMNASTICS

The words gymnast and gymnastics have unexpected beginnings. In ancient Greece, men would exercise naked as a sign of discipline. Their word, *gumnazein*, meant "to train naked", so a gymnast was one who trained without clothes. A related word is *gymnasium*, which today is shortened to "gym".

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

9 August 1173

Work starts on Leaning Tower of Pisa

Construction on the Tower of Pisa began 851 years ago. Made with white marble, the tower was designed as a bell tower for the cathedral that stands next to it in Duomo Square, Pisa, in Italy. Five years after work started, the tower began to tilt because its foundations were sinking slightly on one side. War brought the project to a halt for a century and allowed the tower's foundations to settle. It was finally completed in 1372.



The Leaning Tower of Pisa.



Pupils in Fife check their results.

Exam results in Scotland

On 6 August, students in Scotland received National, Higher and Advanced Higher exam results. The day began with a delay as thousands of students were sent emails with blank spaces where their grades should have been, but the issue was resolved quickly. Exam pass rates fell and they are now closer to what they were before the Covid pandemic. Pupil Kate told the BBC she was "very relieved" but said the delay had left her "a bit shaky".



The Sycamore Gap tree shoots.

Felled tree sprouts shoots

Twelve shoots have been discovered growing from the stump of the Sycamore Gap tree in Northumberland, England. The tree, planted in the 1800s, stood in a dip next to Hadrian's Wall, a famous historic landmark, before it was illegally cut down in September last year. The shoots could develop into new trees. Gary Pickles, the national park ranger who first discovered them, said he was "amazed and delighted" that the Sycamore Gap tree might live on.



Museum's pigeon poo logo

The London Museum has announced it has a new logo inspired by one of the city's most familiar sights: pigeons. In the design, one of the birds is standing over a splat of poo. Museum director Sharon Ament said that pigeons had long been a part of London life, watching what goes on in the city. The London Museum (which recently changed its name from The Museum of London) is set to move into a new home in the Smithfield area of the city in 2026.



The National Eisteddfod.

TUNE UP
The Welsh national anthem was written by a father and son, Evan and James James, from Pontypridd.

Celebrating Welsh culture

The National Eisteddfod took place from 3 to 10 August in the town of Pontypridd in South Wales. The annual Welsh language and culture festival features a packed programme of competitions, concerts, performances, events and activities for the whole family, attracting thousands of visitors.

The event is held in a different part of Wales each year, and this time the main festival site, known as the *maes* or field, was at Ynysangharad Park in the centre of Pontypridd. There were also events at other venues around the town. "There's a definite local feel to the programme this year," said Helen Prosser, from Eisteddfod. The festival also invited local graffiti artist Tom Llewellyn, known as Tee2Sugars, to paint a huge mural in the town centre. "I'm glad that we're able to provide a national stage for so many local performers and artists," said Prosser.

The event is best known for its competitions. People of all ages from across Wales gather to compete in cultural contests such as acting, dance,

music and poetry. Each year the top prizes are the Eisteddfod chair and crown, designed to reflect the local area. The 2024 chair was created by designer Berian Daniel and was donated by the pupils and community of Ysgol Llanhari, a school near Pont-y-clun. It is made from materials including oak from an ancient forest and iron to reflect that iron-making was a big industry in the South Wales valleys. Pupils came up with the idea of adding a river of coal to the design.

Daniel said, "Coal came from the earth of the valleys, creating work and wealth, and although the industry has come to an end, its influence remains strong and the school wanted to see this reflected in this chair."

The silver crown was designed by jeweller Elan Rhys Rowlands, who worked with local pupils on her design. It combines the features of the Old Bridge in Pontypridd and the pattern of notes in the Welsh national anthem, which was composed in 1856. The crown was awarded to poet Gwynfor Dafydd in a ceremony on 5 August.



A ceremony at the Eisteddfod.

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Pet python found after escape into art gallery" *BBC News*





Around the world



California, US Strike begins for video game actors

Video game actors have gone on strike (stopped working as a form of protest) to call for gaming companies to protect them from artificial intelligence (AI). This is a computer system that can learn and perform tasks that usually require human intelligence. Actors worry that AI could be used to recreate their voices or performances.



Strikes in California.



President Tómasdóttir.



Reykjavík, Iceland President takes office

On 1 August, Halldóra Ólafsdóttir officially became the new president of Iceland. She was elected in June. During her election campaign, Ólafsdóttir focused on issues such as tourism, the impact of social media on mental health and artificial intelligence (AI). In Iceland, the prime minister is in charge and the president's role is mostly ceremonial – similar to the King in the UK.



Warsaw, Poland Plans to create more forests

Poland's climate ministry has announced plans to plant "community forests" that will form rings around 14 cities, including the capital, Warsaw. The new leafy areas will allow the public to be closer to nature, and some areas of existing forest will be given extra protection against logging (when trees are cut down for their wood).

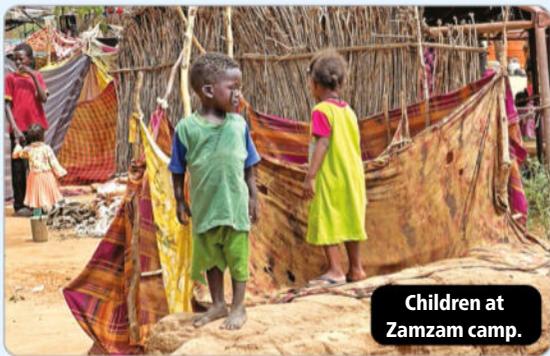


Poland is getting more forests.



El Fasher, Sudan People suffering from famine

People forced to leave their homes and move into a large camp are now officially suffering from famine (a widespread shortage of food). An alert was issued by an organisation called the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). Around 500,000 people live in the Zamzam camp, which is near the city of El Fasher.



Children at Zamzam camp.

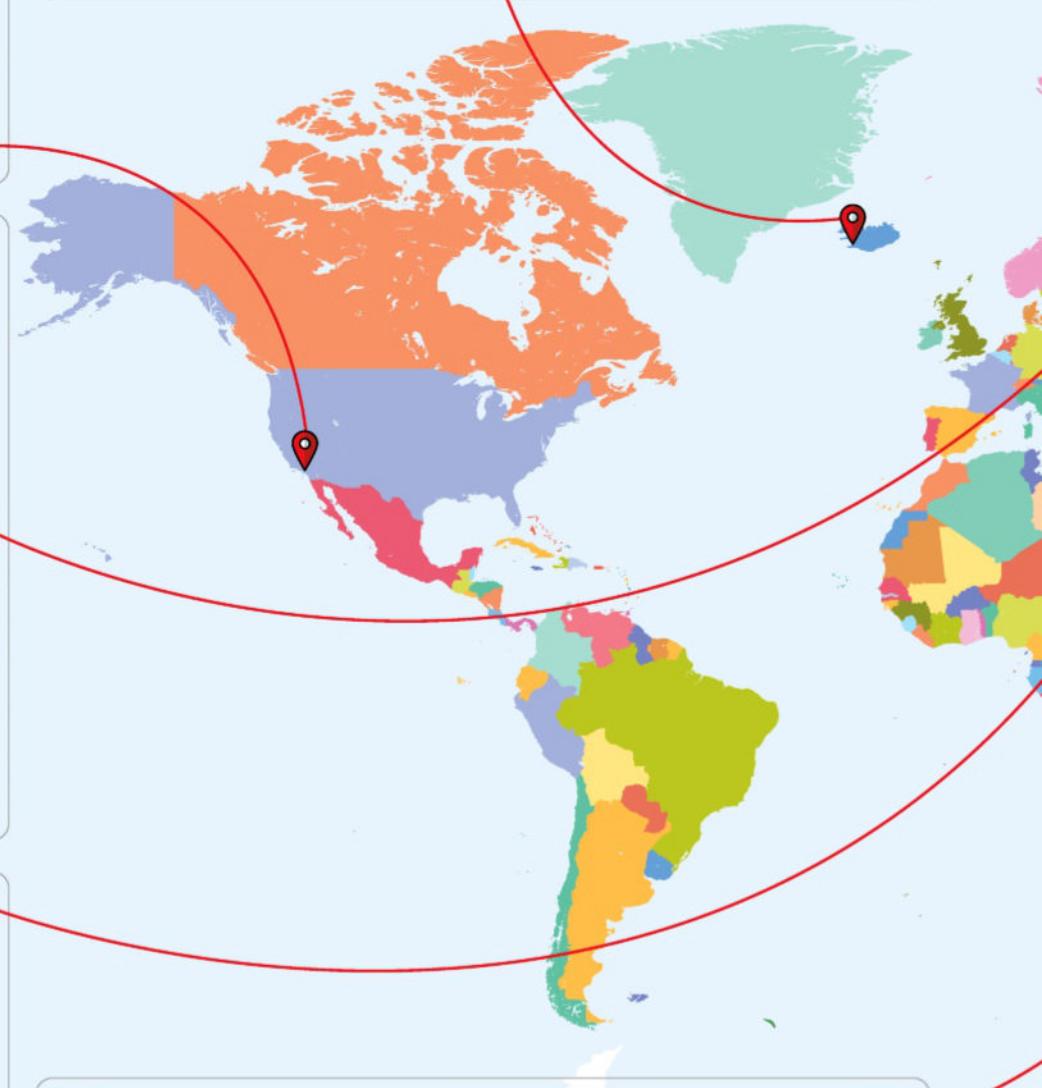


Kenya Crows cause problems

The authorities in Kenya have begun poisoning Indian house crows to try and reduce the birds' numbers. The birds have attacked the nests and eggs of other birds and killed small animals. The aim of the programme in the towns of Watamu and Malindi is to stop the crows from spreading to Nairobi, the country's capital. The authorities want to halve Kenya's population of house crows.



An Indian house crow.



GETTY IMAGES - REUTERS - NATURE PICTURE LIBRARY - REFSHUTTERSTOCK



Ukraine Fighter jets arrive

Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelensky, has said that several F-16 fighter planes promised by several countries have now arrived in the country. The planes can carry weapons and will help Ukraine in its war against Russia. Zelensky thanked the countries who sent them. He did not say if they had sent all the jets that have been promised or how many had actually arrived.



Shengjin, Albania Italy opens asylum seeker centre

On 1 August, the Italian government opened the first of two centres for asylum seekers in Albania, a nearby country. An asylum seeker is someone who has asked another country for protection. At the new centres, people can request permission to live in Italy. If they are refused, they'll be sent back to their home countries.



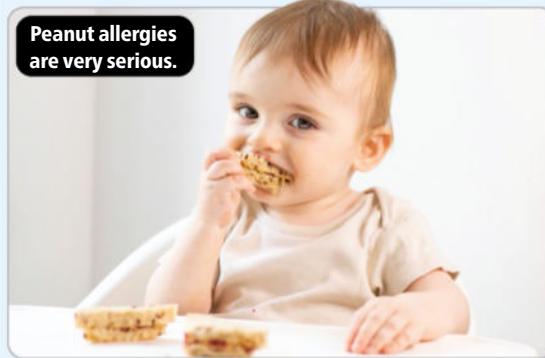
Japan Rice levels lowest in 25 years

Rice stocks in Japan are at their lowest level since 1999. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries said this has been caused by unusually warm temperatures last year, which affected rice crops, as well as a high demand for rice from tourists visiting the country. However, the ministry added that Japan isn't facing rice shortages.



Australia New allergy treatment starts

A new scheme is trying to help babies with peanut allergies. They hope to make them less allergic, and so lower the risk of them having a reaction (being unwell) if exposed to the nuts. Under the close watch of doctors, the babies will be given tiny doses of peanut powder every day over two years so their bodies can get used to it.



Kerala, India Search for survivors

Rescue workers have been searching for missing people after heavy rainfall caused landslides on 30 July. The army collected people from the area and took them to camps for safety. More than 350 people have died. Landslides are becoming more frequent in Kerala. This is being blamed on climate change causing heavier rainfall, and the cutting down of forests to make way for new tourist resorts.





The big debate

Is it ok to swim with wildlife?

Some people say that it's better to leave wild animals alone.

What you need to know

- According to the World Register of Marine Species, there are more than 243,000 known wildlife species living in the sea.
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) says that at least 37% of the world's sharks and rays, and 33% of corals, which make up reefs, are at risk of extinction.
- Around the world, there are lots of tourism companies that take people out on boats to spot sea creatures in the wild, such as dolphins, turtles and whale sharks. Sometimes, tourists are encouraged to go into the water and swim alongside them.



A swim with a green turtle.

TEAMWORK
Dolphins are so clever they can learn a skill and teach it to others of their species.

Over the summer holidays, lots of people will be travelling to different parts of the world with their friends and family. A popular holiday activity is swimming with animals in the wild. There are trips to swim with dolphins, sea lions, stingrays and even whale sharks. For people who love and admire wildlife, this is a rare chance to see amazing animals close up in their natural habitat. However, some conservation charities argue that it's not fair for the animals because, even though they are free to leave, visiting them disturbs their day-to-day life and could have unintended effects. There are concerns about how the presence of humans could affect different species' behaviour and even population numbers. What do you think? Is it ok to swim with wildlife?

Yes - it's educational and helps wildlife

Climate change and the loss of some species are very important issues. Experiences where people get to swim with animals can raise awareness and respect for them. Seeing such incredible creatures up close is a great way to encourage people to care for and protect wildlife and the environment. When people swim alongside creatures in the wild, the animals are free to go away at any point if they want to - they often do. It's not like they're trapped in a pool. Many tour operators have strict rules for guests to keep animals safe, such as no touching. Around the world there are expert guides and boat drivers who rely on wildlife swimming experiences. If people stopped wanting to go, those people would lose their jobs.

No - it's not fair on the animals

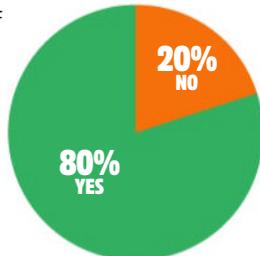
Many scientific studies have shown that the actions of humans, such as sailing huge, noisy ships, can affect marine life such as dolphins and whales. When humans swim with animals it might put them under stress and disrupt their natural behaviour. The Whale and Dolphin Conservation charity says that swimming tours can cause dolphin groups to abandon their usual feeding and breeding areas. Besides, wildlife is just that - wild. The animals haven't been trained to interact with humans. If they feel threatened they might act unpredictably, which could be risky for the animals and the tourists. Also, the boats that are used to take people to see these creatures might pollute the water - they could even bump into the animals.

THE WEEK Junior Scan the QR code to vote in the debate



LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week we asked if sandy beaches are better than pebble ones. Most of you preferred sandy beaches, which are much easier to walk and play on.



YES Three reasons people should swim with wildlife

- 1 It's a great way for people to learn more about different wildlife species. Seeing and appreciating them helps people to care about them more.
- 2 Animals in the wild aren't trapped, so they can leave if they feel threatened by swimming tours. There are rules in place to keep them safe.
- 3 Many people make money from running these experiences, so stopping them would have a negative effect.

NO Three reasons people shouldn't swim with wildlife

- 1 Animals can have their natural behaviour disrupted by swimming tours, which puts them under stress.
- 2 Wildlife is wild and therefore unpredictable, which means it could be dangerous for the tourists in the water and for the animals.
- 3 Most swimming with wildlife tours use boats, and these have moving parts that can injure animals. Boats can also produce harmful pollution.



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Now that you've read a bit more about it, tell us what you think by voting in our poll at theweekjunior.co.uk/polls. Vote YES if you think it is ok to swim with wildlife, or NO if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

GETTY IMAGES



Creating stories for everyone

Jasmine Richards makes books with new heroes.

Five years ago, a fiction studio (a company that creates stories) with a difference arrived. Storymix was set up by Jasmine Richards to put children and teens of colour at the heart of stories and to help creators who may be treated differently because of their skin colour, culture or nationality.

As a child, Richards loved visiting her local library, where the staff found books that suited her reading skills.

However, she says, "It was very rare I'd ever see a character in a book that looked like me."

The idea for Storymix landed when Richards was in a shop with her son and found no books featuring

characters of colour. She thought, "This isn't good enough, because there's no way any young person who loves reading should grow up not seeing themselves in books." Many Storymix books feature ideas that come from

Richards's own memories with her family. Guy Goyle in *Secret Beast Club: The Unicorns Of Silver Street* is based on a gargyle (a stone creature carved into a building) that she and her son saw, and the character of Tamzin from *Spellcasters* is named after her daughter.

Richards, a judge in The Week Junior Book Awards, wants families to explore stories together so Storymix has created a family book club called StoryBridg.



Readers love the Storymix books.



Jasmine Richards

ON A MISSION
So far, Storymix has created 25 books and sold more than 250,000 copies.



Isa Biçer (centre).

Helping the homeless

Isa Biçer, aged 13, from Gedling, England, is the first ever Youth Patron for Framework, a homelessness charity. He has supported Framework for several years. He has taken part in its annual Big Sleep Out, where volunteers sleep outside for a night, and designed a Christmas card. As Youth Patron, Isa will talk about Framework in his school and Scout group and encourage others to raise funds and awareness of homelessness. "When I was asked to take on this role, I said yes immediately," he said. Isa is planning to organise a virtual "Sleep Out", where young people can sign up to sleep in their garden to raise money.

A martial arts medallist

Taekwondo champion Ikrah Hussain, from Oldham, England, is 13 and won a silver medal for Great Britain in April. Taekwondo is a martial art from Korea. Ikrah's goal is to one day win an Olympic medal – and inspire others. "There are lots of stereotypes about Muslim females in sport, but I would say I am a great role model," she said. She took up Taekwondo at the age of seven after being bullied at school and she has a strict daily routine, but to relax she likes to read, watch films and spend time with her friends. Ikrah's next big competition is the British National Championships in October.



Ikrah Hussain won a silver medal.

“” THEY SAID IT!



"My relationship with my grandmothers is so full of joy and lighthearted fun."

Director Sean Wang, who made a short film about his grannies that won several international awards.

HANNAH PVE - GETTY IMAGES; CHRISTOPHER THOMOND/ GUARDIAN/EVERETT; FRAMEWORK HOUSING ASSOCIATION



Animals and the environment

SPECIAL PLACES

There are 1,223 UNESCO World Heritage Sites across the globe.



The Flow Country is of global importance.

What is peat?

Peat is made from the remains of dead plants in very wet areas. The amount of water means the plants only rot very slowly. Over thousands of years, it builds up into areas of peatland, which store lots of carbon and lots of water, which helps to prevent flooding in the surrounding area. For centuries, peat has been used for burning as fuel or as garden compost but digging it up destroys wildlife habitats and releases the stored carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Environmentalists say peat is precious and lots of companies now make peat-free garden compost.



Peat is important.

Rare Scottish bog honoured

The importance of an area in Scotland called the Flow Country has been recognised by UNESCO, which has listed it as a World Heritage Site.

UNESCO is a United Nations (UN) organisation that uses education and science to help countries work together. World Heritage status is given to places with cultural, historical or scientific significance, such as the Great Barrier Reef in Australia and Stonehenge in England.

The Flow Country is a large area of blanket bog, which is a type of wetland made from peat (see panel). Blanket bogs form when peat builds up

in very wet areas; they cover the landscape like a blanket. The Flow Country also has pools, lochs (lakes), mountains and hills.

People have been campaigning for the Flow Country to be recognised as a World Heritage Site for 40 years because of its importance for wildlife and the planet. It covers 4,000 square kilometres of land and lots of unusual plants and wildlife live there.

The plants include bogbean, carnivorous sundew and sphagnum moss. There are also rare species of birds such as golden

plovers, greenshanks and hen harriers. The blanket bog, which has built up over 9,000 years, stores 400 million tonnes of carbon. This has prevented the carbon from being released into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide, which is a greenhouse gas. These trap the Sun's heat in the Earth's atmosphere and make temperatures rise, contributing to global warming. The Flow Country holds about twice the amount of carbon in all of Britain's woodlands combined.

Graham Neville, who led the campaign for the area to become a World Heritage Site, said it was a "momentous occasion". It is hoped it will help to improve people's understanding of why peatlands are so important for providing habitats for wildlife and helping to tackle climate change.



Mosses grow on blanket bog.



Bell heather attracts bees

This month, places across the UK will turn a purple-pink as bell heather comes into bloom. It likes dry soil habitats, including heathland, open woods and sometimes coastal areas like clifftops. The shrub grows up to 50 centimetres high and its bell-shaped flowers hang in bunches. There are four spikes around the rim of the flower and

the leaves are needle-shaped. Bell heather produces lots of sweet nectar, so you'll often find the flowers humming with insects, including several types of bumblebee and ruby tiger moths. Honeybees make a dark and fragrant honey from its nectar. Bell heather was once used for bedding and to thatch the roofs of houses; the flowers were used to create purple dye.



Bell heather provides lots of nectar.



Komodo dragons have a deadly bite.

Komodo dragons have iron teeth

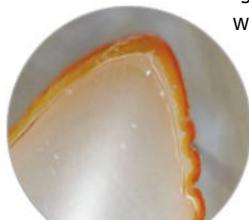
A new study has revealed that Komodo dragons have metal-tipped teeth.

Komodo dragons are the world's biggest and heaviest lizards. They live in Indonesia but there are only around 3,500 left. They are famous for their venomous (poisonous) bite and scientists wanted to know more about it.

A team studied the teeth from the remains of a Komodo dragon and they noticed that the

tips and edges of the teeth had a layer of orange. The orange layer of the enamel (outer coating of the tooth) contained iron, which stains the teeth slightly. It also makes teeth extra hard and resistant to wear, helping the animals tear their prey apart.

The team said their research could be useful, helping others find better ways of rebuilding and strengthening tooth enamel in humans.



The tooth's edge contains iron.

Animal of the week

Spoonbill



For the first time since the 17th century, spoonbills have been spotted nesting in Cambridgeshire, England. Spoonbills used to be quite common in the UK but their habitats were destroyed and they were hunted for meat. Conservation efforts have boosted their numbers again.

- **HABITAT:** Marshes and wetlands.
- **SIZE:** 80–90 centimetres long with a wingspan of 120–135 centimetres.
- **DIET:** Beetles, small fish, frogs, tadpoles and worms.
- **FUN FACT:** A nickname for a baby spoonbill is a "teaspoon" because its beak is so small.

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Illustration: Andy Robert Davies



All about Pokémon



The creatures that took

This month, look out for the Pokémon World Championships.

From 16 to 18 August the best Pokémon players from around the world will come together for the Pokémon World Championships in Honolulu, Hawaii. There they will battle for prizes and Pokémon World Champion titles. What are Pokémon, though, and how did the game start?

Where did it all begin?

In 1989, two friends, Satoshi Tajiri and Ken Sugimori, decided to turn their gaming magazine, *Game Freak*, into a gaming company. After the success of some early games (including Yoshi), Tajiri came up with an idea for a game called Pocket Monsters, which was later shortened to "Pokémon". The creatures in the game were inspired by the bugs Tajiri found while exploring forests as a child. In fact, the Pokémon Poliwhag is based on a tadpole.

What exactly are Pokémon?

Each of the mysterious creatures belong to a different type, based on their characteristics. There are 18 Pokémon types and some characters even belong to two types. The types are: bug, dark, dragon, electric, fairy, fighting, fire, flying, ghost, grass, ground, ice, normal, poison, psychic, rock, steel and water. During their lives, some Pokémon evolve (grow and change). The best known Pokémon is Pikachu, an electric type that looks a bit like a yellow mouse (see panel, below). Pikachu is so popular that the character has its own parade every year in Japan.

The world of Pokémon

Pokémon started with 151 creatures but now there are 1,025. In the main Pokémon world there are 10 regions: Alola, Galar, Hisui, Hoenn, Johto, Kalos, Kanto, Paldea, Sinnoh and Unova. There, humans can become Pokémon trainers who go on adventures, train creatures and take part in battles where the Pokémon use their powers against each other. Trainers can capture and store Pokémon in Poké Balls.

COOL CREATION
The first Pokémon ever designed was Rhydon.

NATURE LOVER
As a child, Pokémon creator Tajiri so enjoyed collecting insects that his friends called him "Dr Bug".

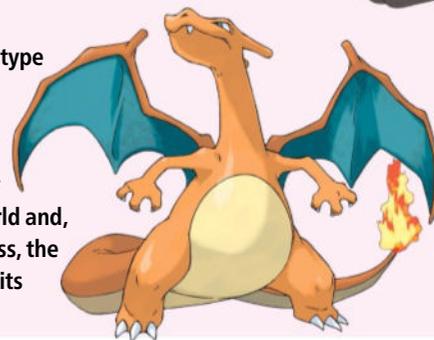
Could you catch them all?



Pokémon the movie: The Power of Us.

Some of the best-known Pokémon

Charizard
This fire and flying type Pokémon is truly fierce. Charizard's flame can melt through nearly any material in the world and, when it's really cross, the flame on the tip of its tail turns blue.



Eevee
Eevee is a small fox-like creature. It has a special structure that means it can possibly evolve into eight different forms. It can often be found in towns and cities.





over the world



Ways to play

In Japan in 1996, Nintendo released the first Pokémon games – Red and Green versions – on a hand-held console called a GameBoy. The games took six years to make and went on to sell millions of copies. They were released in the UK in 1999 as Pokémon Red and Pokémon Blue. Since then there have been around 16 more games.

Trading cards, TV shows and movies

Following the success of the first games, the Pokémon Trading Card Game was launched in Japan in October 1996. These collections of cards feature all the different Pokémon and fans can collect and trade them. Then in April 1997 the TV series *Pokémon* started on TV Tokyo in Japan. The animated show featured a boy called Ash Ketchum who, along with his Pokémon Pikachu, was on a quest to be a Pokémon master (an expert Pokémon trainer). There have been lots of Pokémon films too.

What are the Pokémon World Championships?

For the championships, people from around the world compete in Pokémon Trading Card tournaments and video game contests. Juniors are aged six to 12 but all competitors have to be invited to take part. Winners get special trophies, prizes and cash. This year, look out for 12-year-old Harrison Holden-Smith from Ashford, England, who is competing in the championships. He is ranked 12th in the UK for the Pokémon Trading Card Game. He says he owns about 10,000 Pokémon cards and has been playing for five years.



Bulbasaur

Bulbasaur is a grass and poison type. It eventually evolves into Venusaur, which has a flower growing out of its back.



Pikachu

This Pokémon is actually based on a squirrel. Although Pikachu looks cute, when it is angry the creature releases the energy stored in the pouches in its cheeks.





What life could have looked like two billion years ago.

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS
The earliest known life on Earth (simple microscopic organisms) dates back more than 3.5 billion years.

The start of complex life

Until now, scientists had thought that complex life (living things made up of more than one cell – see panel) first appeared on Earth 635 million years ago. A study led by Cardiff University in Wales has now suggested this actually happened more than 1.5 billion years earlier – although not all scientists agree.

The team looked at rock samples from the Franceville basin in Gabon, Africa, to work out what conditions were like there billions of years ago. Fossils (preserved traces of animals or plants) found at this site were used as evidence that complex life had developed there. Some experts said they couldn't be fossils because they were too big to be creatures from so long ago in the Earth's history. However, the Cardiff team's study might change their minds.

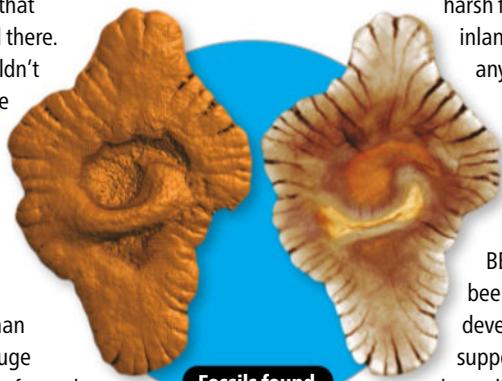
From the rock samples, the team think that more than two billion years ago two huge masses of land collided. This formed underwater volcanoes that cut off a

section of water from rest of the ocean, creating a warm, shallow inland sea (one surrounded by land).

Thanks to all the volcanic activity, there was a lot of oxygen and phosphorus in the water. Dr Ernest Chi Fru, who headed the study, says phosphorus is an important ingredient that allows single-celled organisms to change into more complicated creatures. In other words, this sea had the ingredients needed for complex life to develop for the first time.

However, conditions everywhere else were too harsh for complex life, and the inland sea was very isolated, so anything that developed there didn't have a chance to go anywhere else.

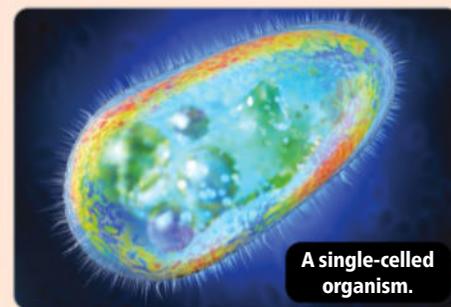
Living things need nutrients (nourishment) to survive. Dr Fru told the BBC there wouldn't have been enough new nutrients developing in the sea to support complex life. It would have died out – and it didn't evolve again for millions of years.



Fossils found in Gabon.

What is meant by complex life?

In the study, the researchers looked at how the simplest organisms, made up of just one cell, develop into larger organisms with multiple cells. Cells are the basic microscopic units that make up all living things. A 10-year-old human body is made up of around 17 trillion cells. Single-celled organisms still exist on Earth, such as bacteria. Tiny organisms often have to be viewed through a microscope, although they can sometimes be seen by eye when lots are clumped together.



A single-celled organism.

PROFESSOR ABDERRAZZAK EL-ALBANI - GETTY IMAGES



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The link between names and faces

According to a new study, a person's name may affect their physical appearance as an adult.

For the study, a group of adults and children were shown pictures of various faces. They had to answer questions to choose the names they thought best matched the faces. When shown photos of grown-ups, both the children and adults were very good at matching the correct names. However, when they were shown photographs of children, they found it hard. The researchers say this suggests that a person's appearance changes to suit their name after childhood.

A computer program was also shown a series of faces and it found that adults with the same name look more similar to each other than adults with different names. It didn't find

the same results when it looked at children's faces.

Previously, studies found evidence that someone's face could suggest to other people what their name was. However, it wasn't clear whether this was because babies are given names based on their facial features, or if someone's appearance might change to suit their name better.

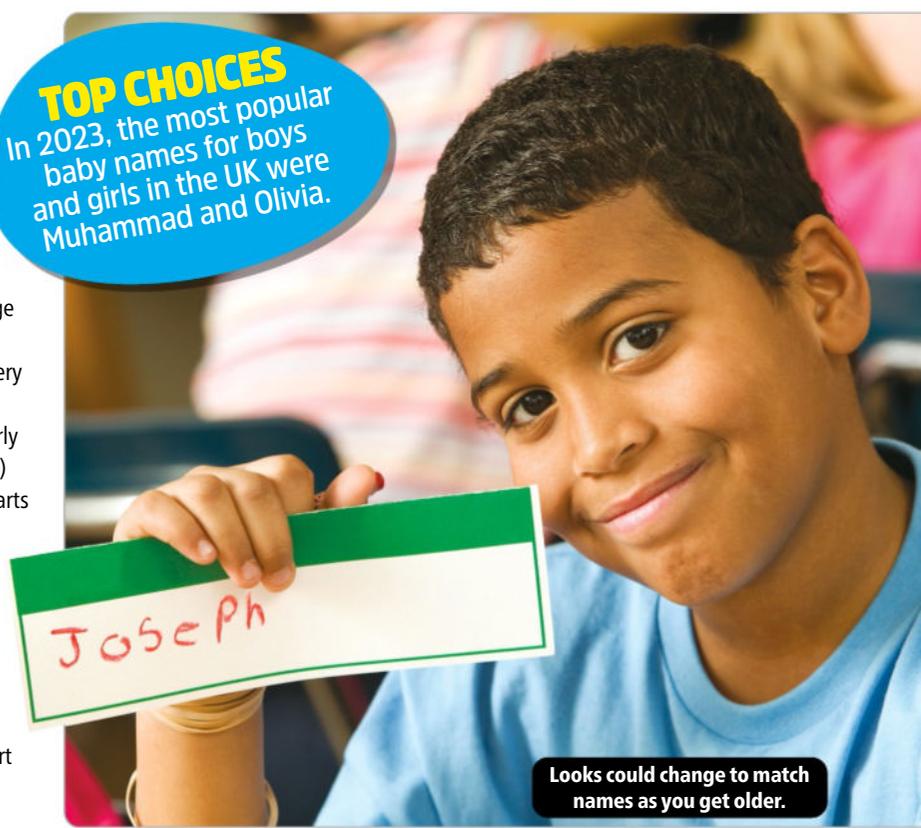
Researchers say this new discovery suggests that people might follow certain stereotypes (a fixed and overly simple belief about a type of person) linked to their name, by changing parts

of their appearance to match what people expect them to look like. Scientists now want to find out at what stage people start showing changes linked to their name.



Could you guess a baby's name?

TOP CHOICES
In 2023, the most popular baby names for boys and girls in the UK were Muhammad and Olivia.



Looks could change to match names as you get older.

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Photos of the week

Snake surprise

Marco Maggesi saw this snake on the hunt.



Frozen in time

Poppies in ice, by Ian Gilmour.

Alien world

Slime moulds and raindrops, by Barry Webb.



Pretty petals

Claudia Gaupp captured this love-in-a-mist flower.





All eyes on you
A damselfly covered in dew, by Pete Burford.



Walking on water
Sebastien Blomme took 100 goes to get this mosquito image.



Dazzling droplets
Alexis Tinker-Tsavalas saw this bristly springtail.



Sport



WOOD YOU BELIEVE IT?
The caber (pictured) can weigh up to 80 kilograms and be around six metres long.

Tossing the caber.

Around the world



Highland Games in the US.

The Highland Games are a well-known tradition in Scotland but they are also popular around the world. They first happened in the US in 1836, in New York, and the Scottish Highland Gathering and Games has been held in California for more than 150 years. Australia, Canada and New Zealand also stage their own versions of the Scottish sporting festival.

Historic Highland Games

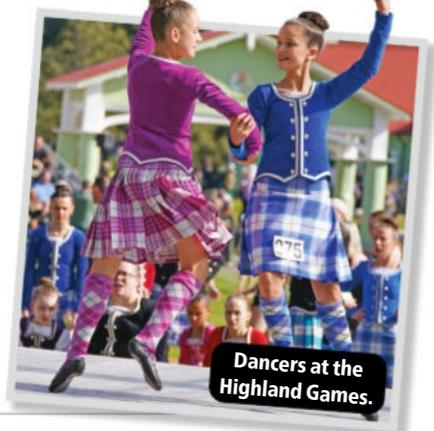
Highland Games began hundreds of years ago in Scotland, and they still take place there every year from May to September. The Games include traditional sports, as well as dancing and music competitions, and they attract hundreds of competitors and thousands of spectators.

Events you can expect to see include caber tossing (flipping a trimmed tree trunk), dancing, hammer throwing, running races, tug-of-war and wrestling. Piping involves groups of musicians playing the bagpipes – an instrument with a long tradition in Scotland.

Some Highland Games also offer young people the chance to get involved. The Braemar Junior Highland Games

took place earlier this summer in Aberdeenshire, north-east Scotland. The goal of the event was to give children and young people the chance to try different activities with help and support from adults. Children as young as five could take part. Events included caber tossing, stone putting (throwing a round stone ball), long jump and the sack race.

The most famous Highland Games is the Braemar Gathering, which this year happens on 7 September. The competition is nearly 200 years old and since 1848, the Braemar Gathering has been attended regularly by the British King or Queen. King Charles, Queen Camilla and Princess Anne watched the sporting activities last year.

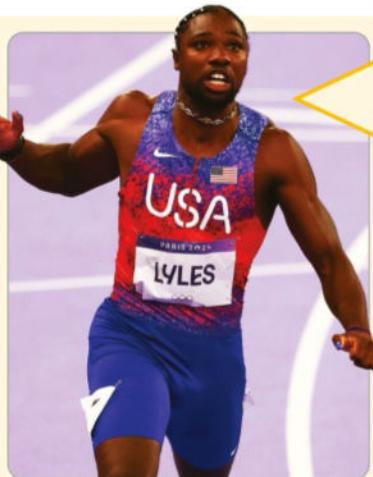


Dancers at the Highland Games.

THE WEEK'S WINNERS...

Emma Finucane, Sophie Capewell, Katy Marchant
The cyclists won Great Britain's first Olympic women's team sprint gold medal and set a new world record.

Keely Hodgkinson
The 22-year-old middle distance runner won her first Olympic gold medal in the women's 800 metres race.



Noah Lyles
The US sprinter narrowly won gold at the Paris Olympics in the men's 100 metres race. He was just 0.005 seconds ahead of the second-placed athlete.

Sky Brown
Despite having an injured shoulder, Brown won a bronze medal at the Olympics in the women's skateboarding park final on 6 August.

ALAMY-GETTY IMAGES-REX SHUTTERSTOCK



Feel the fear



Learning to deal with first-time nerves will boost your confidence.

Back-to-school jitters



Pupils in Scotland go back to school this month, and Catherine Hayes Fisher from Place2Be says being prepared helps you deal with first-day nerves. Try writing a list of good things that could happen, like making friends or learning new subjects. Then write down your worries and what you can do to stop them. If you're nervous about travelling to a new school, try a practice run and work out the route before term starts.

Belly breathing



- **Belly breathing slows your heart rate and calms nerves.**
- **Put your hands on your belly and breathe in slowly and deeply for four seconds.**
- **Feel your stomach moving out as you breathe in the air.**
- **Hold your breath for four seconds, then breathe out until all the air is gone.**
- **Repeat a few times until your body feels relaxed.**
- **Practising it regularly makes belly breathing easier in stressful moments.**

Trying something new builds your resilience.



WHAT A NERVE!

The word "nervous" comes from the Latin *nervōsus*, meaning muscular and vigorous, but that gradually changed to its modern meaning.

Have you ever felt nervous about trying something for the first time? It's the same for everyone, and overcoming fears and taking healthy risks can open up new experiences.

Step out of your comfort zone

Summer is a great time to try something new, like learning a skill or making new friends. It can feel exciting but scary, because doing something new means taking a risk that it won't work out. Scientists say feeling nervous is our body dealing with danger; it releases chemicals that make the heart race and the skin feel prickly. However, Catherine Hayes Fisher from the mental health charity Place2Be tells *The Week Junior* not to let it stop you. "Not loving something at first doesn't mean you've made a terrible mistake to try it," she says. "It's part of being human."

Have a go anyway

Feeling the fear but having a go anyway is a great way to boost your confidence and build up resilience. This gives you the strength to overcome challenges, bounce back

from difficult experiences and stay strong inside. It also means making the most of exciting opportunities. Think of a time you took a risk and it paid off, like joining a team and scoring a goal or talking to someone next to you and making a new friend. Then think what you would miss out on if you'd let fear get in the way. However, not all risks are a good idea so if you're unsure about anything ask a trusted adult first.

Manage your worries

How you approach a challenge is important, says Hayes Fisher. So be kind and tell yourself, "I don't know how to do this yet, I'm going to make mistakes, but it'll be fun figuring it out." She also warns about the "spotlight effect", explaining, "It's easy to convince ourselves that everybody is watching when we're in a new situation." But remember that most people are probably busy worrying about what they're doing. Everyone overcomes fear differently, so find what works for you. You could try belly breathing (see panel) or talking to someone about your feelings.



Facing your fears feels good.



Travel through time

Discover how Earth evolved and immerse yourself in nature.



FOSSIL FINDER
The word "dinosaur" was invented by the founder of the Natural History Museum, Richard Owen, in 1842.

Children with the diplodocus, Fern.

Would you like to travel millions of years through time? The Natural History Museum in London has opened two new gardens that take visitors on an incredible journey through Earth's history.

The Evolution Garden shows how life on this planet has changed over millions of years. Visitors can join a path that is surrounded by rocks formed 2.7 billion years ago, and as they follow it, the rocks change – from chunky slabs of white chalk to fossil-filled



Checking out the pond.

limestone. "You travel five million years every metre," said Dr Paul Kenrick, a scientist at the museum. During their journey, visitors are surrounded by mosses, flowers and woodland, as well as being watched over by ancient creatures like Fern, a giant bronze model of a *Diplodocus* dinosaur's skeleton.

The museum has also created the Nature Discovery Garden, a living laboratory that features sunken pathways and ponds designed to attract wildlife, including insects such as

water boatmen and dragonflies. The gardens are fitted with sensors so that scientists can listen to the sounds of underwater life in the ponds, the buzzing of insects, birdsong and the noise of traffic. This will help them study how nature is changing in our towns and cities and help to protect it for the future.

Covering an area the size of three football pitches, the project took five years to complete. Neil Davidson, one of the landscape architects (people who design outdoor spaces), said the gardens are already filling up with wildlife. "New things are discovered here all the time," he said.

Free outdoor activities are taking place at the Natural History Museum until 1 September.

Three roarsome places to see dinosaurs

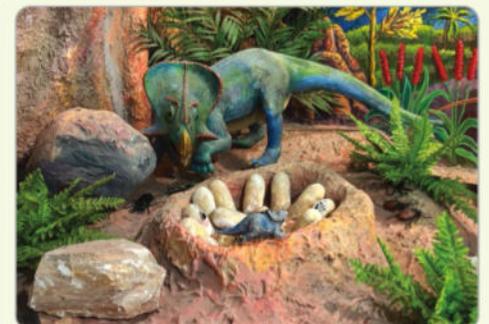
Ulster Museum

The only dinosaur bones ever found in Ireland are on display at Ulster Museum in Belfast. As well as ancient fossils, the museum has bones from modern creatures too, including a whale backbone. Visitors can also see human, mouse and bat skeletons.



National Museum of Scotland

The Natural World galleries at the National Museum of Scotland, in Edinburgh, explore the history of life on Earth. Among the different animal models is a 12-metre *Tyrannosaurus rex* skeleton, which is a replica of a specimen that was discovered in 1988 in Montana, US.



The Stone Science Museum

At the Stone Science Museum in Anglesey, Wales, visitors are transported back 650 million years to learn about stone and bone. There are fossils to see and touch, plus dinosaur eggs and prehistoric poo.

THE TRUSTEES OF THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM, LONDON. ALAMY - STONESCIENCE.CO.UK - NATIONAL MUSEUMS SCOTLAND

RSPCA

YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER AWARDS 2024

It's back! The RSPCA Young Photographer Awards is our annual animal photography competition for anyone aged 18 years or younger and it's FREE to enter.

This year's competition opened in May and closes on **15 August 2024.**

If you love animals and the natural world, and want to develop your photography skills, this is a fantastic opportunity to get creative this summer.

We crown a winner in each category and an overall winner.

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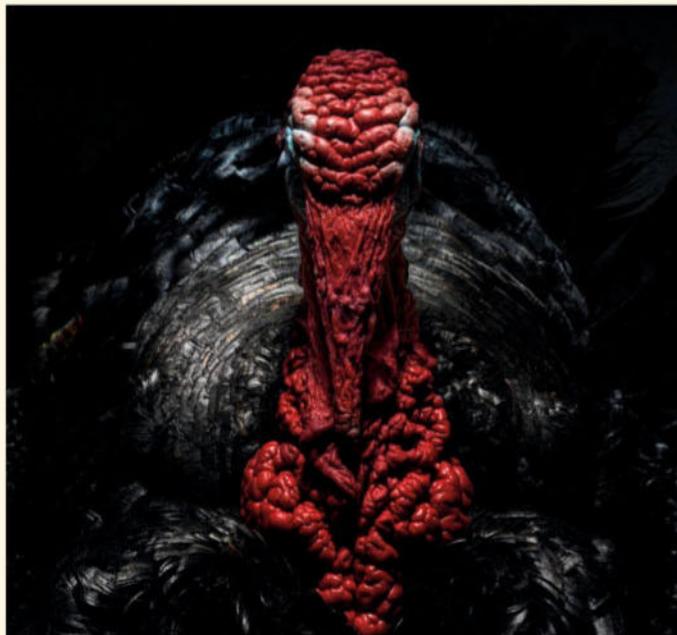
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- SMALL WORLD
- PORTFOLIO
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- **NEW!** CITY LIFE
- MOBILE PHONE DEVICES:
Under 12s, 12-15, 16-18



FANTASTIC PRIZES TO BE WON!

There are some fantastic prizes to be won, including a UK weekend photography break (for the overall winner and a parent/guardian) with Natures Images. There are also certificates, trophies and over £3,000 in Amazon vouchers up for grabs. Our panel of award-winning and professional wildlife photographers will judge the entries in September. Our awards ceremony takes place in December, hosted by RSPCA President Chris Packham, who is also on the judging panel.



CHECK OUT: [RSPCA.ORG.UK/YPA](https://www.rspca.org.uk/yfa)



Book club

5 marvellous makers

A cast of creative characters star in this selection of summer reads.

Marvin and the Book of Magic



by Jenny Pearson. Illustrated by Aleksei Bitskoff (Barrington Stoke)

After being humiliated by a squirrel on television, Marvellous Marvin vows never to perform magic in public again. Then he acquires a mysterious book and his best friend Asha persuades him to make a comeback in the school talent show. Marvin will find the magic that can be found in true friendship.

Rani Reports on the Missing Millions



by Gabrielle and Satish Shewhorak. Illustrated by Navya Raju (Oneworld)

Rani Ramgoolam is a young reporter with a plan to write the perfect story for a junior journalism competition. With the help of her Nani, who is visiting from Mauritius, can she figure out the clues to a mysterious treasure hunt – and get her hands on the top prize?

Nina Peanut Is Amazing



by Sarah Bowie (Scholastic)

Nina loves making videos but only her nan and best friend Brian ever watch them. Then Nina's stinky cat Les makes an unexpected appearance – and suddenly the two of them are internet famous. Nina soon learns, though, that stardom may not be quite as wonderful as she always imagined.

The Spectaculars: The Four Curses



by Jodie Garnish (Usborne)

When Harper joins magical performers The Spectaculars at a boarding school, she can't wait to learn all kinds of magic. There are songs that lift you into the air and dances that can conjure a snowstorm, but when the song of the Four Curses comes to life and a terrifying creature appears, can Harper use her powers to save her school?

Little House



by Katya Balen. Illustrated by Richard Johnson (Barrington Stoke)

Juno isn't happy about having to spend the summer staying with her grandfather instead of being with her mum. She finds an old dolls' house in his attic and as she slowly restores it, Juno begins to work through her worries and maybe learn to forgive her mum.

BOOK OF THE WEEK

The Secret of Golden Island

by Natasha Farrant (Faber Children's)

Did you know that there are more than 6,000 islands in the British Isles? In this story, Skylar is fascinated by one of them – the tiny Golden Island, which is wild, hidden by cliffs and has just one house that's surrounded by a secret garden. She's heard all about the island from her beloved grandpa, who visited it once, long ago but things have changed since grandpa's stroke, and now Skylar is struggling at home and at school. When she meets Yakov, a refugee who has been forced from his home by war and longs to go back, the two of them forge an instant friendship. Then they see an extraordinary notice in the newspaper, advertising a competition to win Golden Island. It feels like it's meant just for them. This uplifting story of adventure and friendship makes perfect summer holiday reading.



WIN! We have five copies of *The Secret of Golden Island* to give away to readers.

For a chance to win a copy, just fill in the entry form at theweekjunior.co.uk/book-giveaway before the closing date of 16 August at 11.59pm. Make sure you have a parent or guardian's permission to enter.

ASK THE AUTHOR



Natasha Farrant

The author of *The Secret of Golden Island* on why stories are magic.

Where did you get your inspiration for the book?

The war in Ukraine, my own father being ill and a tiny, tiny island with a single house on it, which I saw from afar on a holiday in France.

Who's your favourite, Skylar or Yakov? Why?

I love them equally! Skylar is more fierce and I love that. Yakov is more of a dreamer and I love that too.

What would you take to a deserted island?

Assuming I have food, shelter and water, I'd take a pen, paper and a good pillow.

When and why did you start writing?

I've always made up stories but my first book was published when I was 39. Why did I want to write? Because stories are magic!

Best childhood memory?

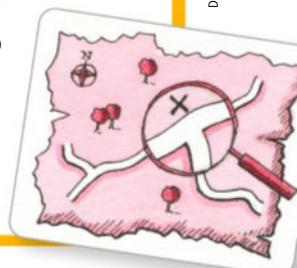
Holidays on the Isle of Mull in Scotland, staying in a cottage between the sea and the mountains. My sister and I were free to have adventures.



This summer, to celebrate books and reading, we're challenging you to complete 12 activities.

9. Create a magical world

Mapping out your imaginary world on paper is a great story starter. You'll find fantastic advice from bestselling author Cressida Cowell online at tinyurl.com/TWJ-world. Send us a photo of your magical maps to hello@theweekjunior.co.uk for a chance to see them in the magazine.



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Book club

Incredible older fiction

The titles shortlisted for our Children's Book of the Year: Older Fiction award carry readers out of the real world and into their imaginations with stunning stories.



The books in this category are perfect for readers aged from nine to 12. The winner will demonstrate superb storytelling with exceptional writing, engaging characters and a well-crafted plot.

YOU choose!



We need your help to decide which book will win our Children's Choice book award. Scan the QR code or go to tinyurl.com/twj-vote-2024 to cast your vote. The winner will be the shortlisted book that receives the most votes overall. You can vote as many times as you like for your favourite book.

Cast your vote to WIN PRIZES!

All Children's Choice award votes will be entered into a prize draw to win a £300 book bundle. Voting closes at 11.59pm on 5 September 2024.

Terms and conditions apply.*



The Week Junior Book Awards are brought to you by *The Week Junior* and *The Bookseller*, and partners WHSmith, LoveReading4Kids and World Book Day.

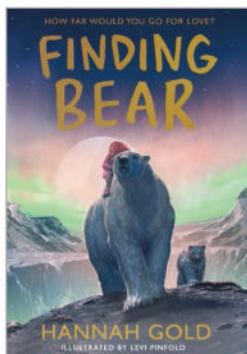
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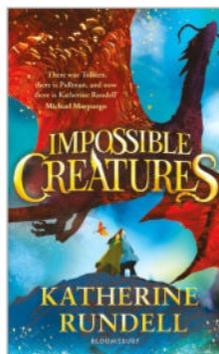
* Make sure you have your parent/guardian's permission to vote. If you are the prize winner, we will only use the details you provide to contact you and arrange delivery of your competition prize. Further details about how we manage the data you provide can be found at www.futureplc.com/privacy-policy



Finding Bear

By Hannah Gold. Illustrated by Levi Pinfold (HarperCollins Children's Books)

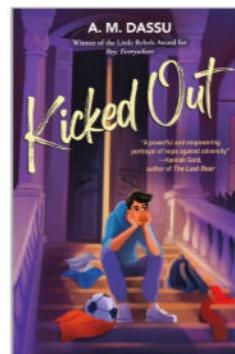
This heartwarming sequel to *The Last Bear* follows April as she journeys to Svalbard to rescue her friend, Bear, in this tale of survival, hope and love.



Impossible Creatures

By Katherine Rundell. Illustrated by Tomislav Tomic, Virginia Allyn, Daniel Egneus (Bloomsbury Children's Books)

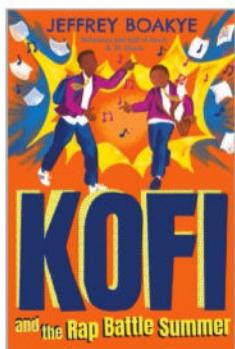
This extraordinary fantasy will immerse readers in a wondrous world filled with an abundance of magical creatures.



Kicked Out

By A.M. Dassu. Illustrated by Daby Zainab Faidhi (Old Barn Books Ltd)

This sequel to Dassu's *Boy, Everywhere* rejoins Syrian refugee Sami and his friends in this powerful story about finding your place in the world.



Kofi and the Rap Battle Summer

By Jeffrey Boakye (Faber)

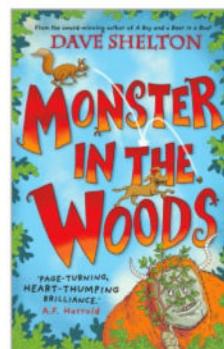
Follow enterprising school friends Kofi and Kelvin as they create a new rap fanzine full of song lyrics in this uplifting, funny musical adventure.



Man-Man and the Tree of Memories

By Yaba Badoe. Illustrated by Joelle Avelino (Head of Zeus)

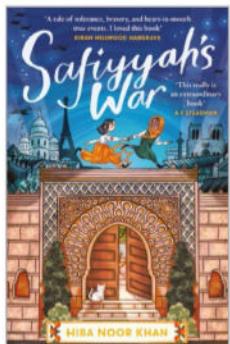
Illustrated in full colour and set in contemporary Notting Hill, this is a story of carnival, dance, magic and a family escaping the legacy of slavery to celebrate a future of freedom.



Monster in the Woods

By Dave Shelton (David Fickling Books)

Rumour has it there's a monster in the woods. Frith sets out to save the day in this deliciously funny story about family, friendship and first impressions.



Safiyyah's War

By Hiba Noor Khan (Andersen Press)

Set in wartime Paris, this story tells of Safiyyah. She runs dangerous errands around the city after her father is arrested by the Nazis in this inspiring tale of heroism and humanity.

THE JUDGES



Deborah Maclaren

Co-owner, LoveReading4Kids



SF Said

Author



Jasmine Richards

Founder, Storymix



Alison David

Consumer insight director, Farshore

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On screen



Explore at your own pace.

PURR-FECT TIMING

Cat Quest III was released on 8 August – International Cat Day.

Miaow-vellous pirates

In Cat Quest III some furry friends set sail for adventure on the high seas.

Cats aren't exactly famous for their love of the sea, or any kind of water. They also aren't known for their skills at sailing ships, hunting for treasure or shooting fireballs. Unless that's what they do when you're asleep.

No, of course cats shouldn't make good pirates – but in Cat Quest III that's exactly what they are. It's the third in a series of action role-playing games with fearless felines as the heroes, and it is out on PlayStation, Xbox and Switch consoles, as well as PCs.



Go hunting for treasure.

Your job is to sail the Purribbean sea (a pun on Caribbean, which was famous for its pirates in past centuries) exploring, digging for loot, fighting – both on land and with your ship – and meeting a colourful cast of cats along the way.

There's a story that involves finding long-lost treasure called the Northern Star. However, you can take as much time as you like with that main quest. If you prefer to explore every corner of the game along the way, that's fine.

It's an "open world" game, so you can go

where you want from the start, rather than be stuck somewhere until you unlock the next bit of the game map. As you play, you'll find weapons and magic spells to help your character, from swords to the fireballs mentioned earlier. You can also learn combos (combinations of attacks) to make yourself even more powerful – or should that be paw-erful?

You can play on your own, although if you have a second controller there is a "local co-op" (short for "cooperative") mode where you can play with a friend or family member. Apart from being fun, teaming up can often be a good way to get past difficult fights, or just to have someone to suggest where you should be pirating next.



APP OF THE WEEK

ROIA

This Android and Apple game is truly relaxing. It's about guiding a river down a mountain to reach the sea by shaping the landscape with your finger – meeting sheep, kayakers and a friendly bird along the way.



PODCAST OF THE WEEK

WILD INTEREST

This US podcast is hosted by young people who talk about lots of topics in each episode. Past shows have covered banjos, an elephant orphanage, ice cream cake, leap years, solar eclipses and yawning.



WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

WWF UK

The UK site of environmental charity WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) is packed with information about animals, climate change, landscapes and how we can protect our planet. There are also success stories to inspire people to action.



THEGENTLEBROS.COM • WWW.ORG.UK • WILDINTEREST.COM • ENOAK.COM



Make Buddy's eggy bread

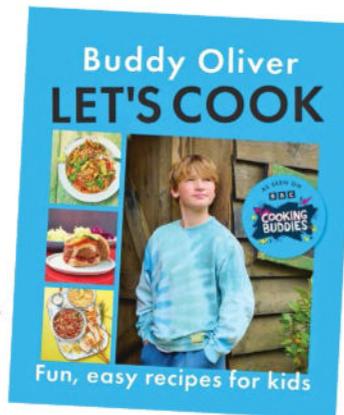
What you need

- 2 large **free-range eggs**
- 2 **tbsp milk**
- 2 **slices of bread**
- **Olive oil**
- 2 **tsp of your favourite nut butter**
- 160g **raspberries**
- 2 **heaped tbsp natural yoghurt**
- **Runny honey**, to serve

This delicious breakfast dish is perfect for holidays or weekends, when – hopefully – you have a bit more free time in the mornings. Served with home-made raspberry ripple yoghurt and nut butter, it's just one of the recipes in *Let's Cook: Fun, Easy Recipes for Kids* by Buddy Oliver. The young chef and YouTube star also has a television show on CBBC called *Cooking Buddies*, and episodes are available to watch now on BBC iPlayer.

Buddy creates recipes that are simple and achievable, including speedy after-school snacks, pasta

dinners and party treats. His book is also full of handy tips to build healthy eating habits for a happy life. Try making this naturally sweet summer breakfast. It serves two people and takes about 15 minutes to make.



Instructions

- 1 Crack the eggs into a shallow bowl, add the milk, then whisk together.
- 2 Place a large non-stick frying pan on a medium heat to heat up.
- 3 Add the bread to the bowl and gently squash so it soaks up the egg, turning a few times.
- 4 Drizzle half a tablespoon of olive oil into the frying pan and carefully swirl the pan around to evenly coat the inside.
- 5 One at a time, lift the bread slices up from the bowl and allow excess mixture to drip off, then place in the pan. Cook for two to three minutes on each side, or until golden, then put them onto plates and spread with the nut butter.
- 6 Mash half the raspberries with the yoghurt and divide between the plates, scattering the other berries on top.
- 7 Drizzle both dishes lightly with honey to finish.

Allergy information

Ingredients in **bold** are allergens. Allergens are substances that can cause allergic reactions in some people. If you have a food allergy, carefully check the items listed. You can find more information at tinyurl.com/TWJ-allergy



WARNING!
Ask an adult before you start cooking.

TOP TIP

Add a pinch of ground cinnamon to the egg mixture for extra flavour.

Head to theweekjunior.co.uk/activityhub for more crafts and recipes.



SCAN ME



Puzzles

Word fill in

All these words fit in the grid. Can you work out where each word goes to complete it?

4 Letters

- Dirt
- Mule

7 Letters

- Holster
- Prairie

5 Letters

- Horse
- Ranch
- Spurs
- Steer
- Trail

8 Letters

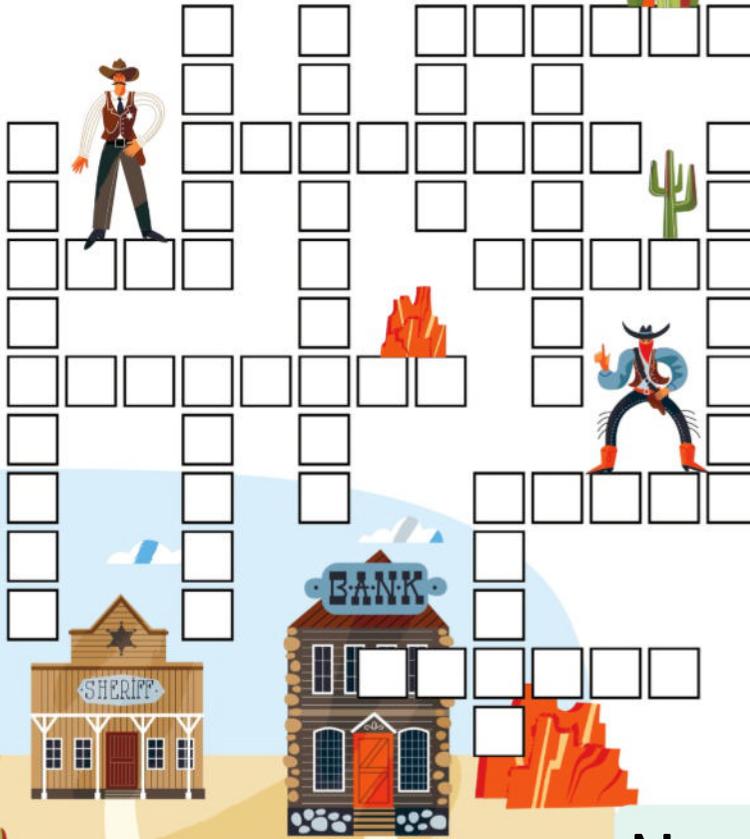
- Railroad
- Stirrups

9 Letters

- Homestead
- Jailhouse

6 Letters

- Corral
- Deputy



Wordsearch

Can you find all of the words listed here? They are hidden horizontally, vertically or diagonally and may read forwards or backwards.

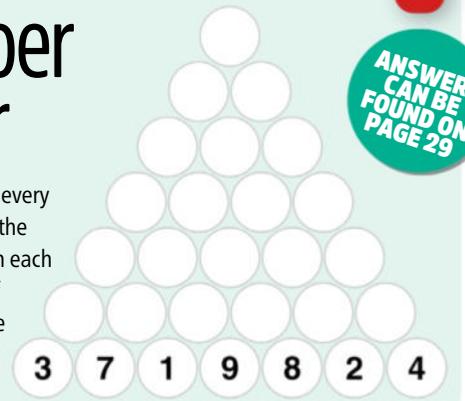


- | | | | |
|---------|--------------|---------|---------|
| ALARM | EMERGENCY | HOSE | UNIFORM |
| ASH | EQUIPMENT | LADDER | WATER |
| BLANKET | ESCAPE | PUMP | |
| BLAZE | EXTINGUISHER | RESCUE | |
| BUCKET | FOAM | SERVICE | |
| CRANE | HELMET | STATION | |

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29

Number tower

Place a number in every circle to complete the tower. The value in each circle is the sum of the numbers in the two circles directly beneath it.



Spot the difference

These two pictures appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you spot them?



REX SHUTTERSTOCK

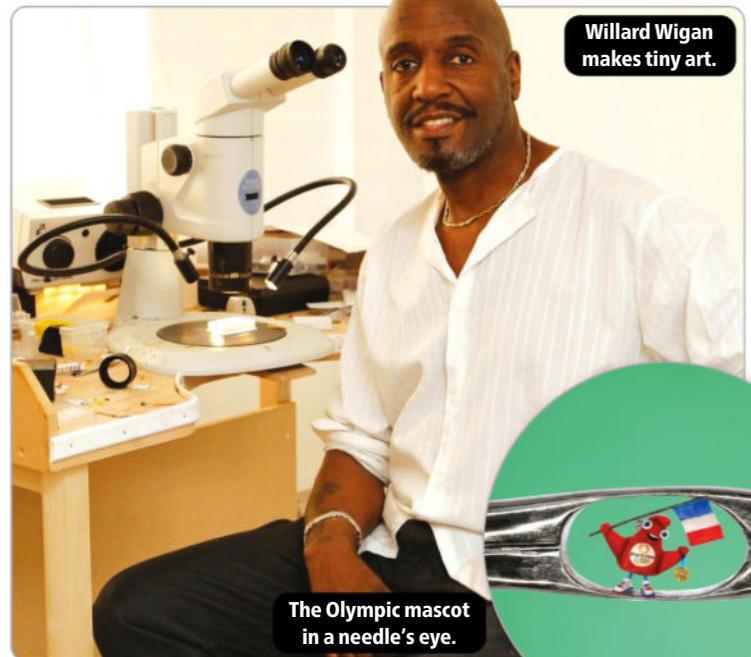


Customers try traditional taste

Travellers on some trains in Wales were recently offered a seaweed dish as part of a special menu. To coincide with the National Eisteddfod (a festival of Welsh culture, see page 5), the menu had a range of Welsh food including laverbread, a traditional dish made from edible seaweed called laver. The seaweed is boiled for hours then mashed until smooth. Piers Croft from Transport for Wales said, "This celebrates everything that Wales has to offer while enjoying a delicious and authentic meal." The menu was available until 10 August.



Passengers could enjoy seaweed.



Willard Wigan makes tiny art.

The Olympic mascot in a needle's eye.

Art in the eye of a needle

The "world's greatest micro sculptor" has created a tiny tribute to the Paris Olympics in the eye of a needle. Willard Wigan makes his masterpieces under a microscope, using a tiny needle and an eyelash as a paintbrush. His sculpture features the Paris 2024 mascot and includes the Olympic rings, the French flag and a gold medal. Wigan said, "You have to be very still and hold your breath, and work between heartbeats." His other sporting sculptures include boxer Tyson Fury, footballer Cristiano Ronaldo and athlete Katarina Johnson-Thompson.

Teacher crafts model pupils

A primary school teacher created mini versions of her pupils as an end-of-year gift. Sara Shabir, a teacher at Tyndale Community School in Oxford, England, started the project in May, using crochet (crafting with wool, a bit like knitting). Each of the 30 dolls took eight hours to create. Shabir said, "First, I showed the photos of them and they had to guess which one was which. I then gave them the dolls; they were shocked and amazed. They are such a lovely class," she said.



Sara Shabir crocheted the class.

GETTY IMAGES - REX SHUTTERSTOCK - WILLARD WIGAN/PAUL WARD PHOTOGRAPHY/COVER IMAGES - SWINS



The service will bless all ocean life.

Real or rubbish?

Sea creatures great and small

A special church service will be held at Peterborough Cathedral in England later this summer to bless all the creatures in the sea – even prehistoric ones. Millions of years ago, the whole area was under a warm, shallow sea and there are lots of rich fossil remains from that time on display in the city's museum. Church ministers wanted to remember Peterborough's past – and the creatures of today that are under threat from climate change. Churches around the UK often hold services to bless pets that owners bring along, but gigantic sea creatures are obviously too big for that. Instead, staff have hung models of them in the cathedral. Is this story real or have we plunged you into a lie?*

*Rubbish! There is no service to bless dinosaurs – but there is an exhibition called *Monsters of the Sea* at the cathedral with moving models of sea creatures.



Over to you

Editor's note



The news of the unrest in several cities around the country has been worrying but it is uplifting to see how communities have pulled together to support each other. On the cover and page 4, you can read about the locals who have come out with brooms and litter pickers to clear up mess and repair damage, and the thousands of people across the country who have donated money to help businesses and services open up again and go back to serving their community. It shows how strong our society is when we come together in friendship and respect. This week we have lots of stories of people gathering to compete and to celebrate. We've got the Olympics, of course (page 3), where there have been some amazing achievements; the Eisteddfod in Wales (page 5) that celebrates Welsh culture, and the Highland Games (page 18) – the famous Scottish festivals of skills and strength. We've also got some pirate cats (page 24), some iron-toothed dragons (page 11) and a very clever crafting teacher (page 27). As a treat, why not try out the delicious eggy bread recipe on page 25? It's perfect to make during the holidays or at weekends when you have time. See you next week!

Vanessa Harriss
Editor

Baking for the election officials

Name: James

“I read the ‘Behind the scenes at polling stations’ article before the general election. At the end of the article it says the people who work at the polling station love it when people bring them a home-made cake, so I decided to bake cookies and bring them to the polling station in the morning before school. The volunteers were really pleased to receive them and they said they usually try to bring sweets with them to give to children who come with their parents to vote. I was able to see how it all works and was curious about the security of the box. I was surprised at how little it took my mum to vote. I helped her put her ballot in the box.”



James baked treats for workers.



JOKE OF THE WEEK

“When does a medieval soldier sleep?
Knight time.”
Lara



What have you been up to lately? Which books have you enjoyed reading? What have you made? Have you written a poem or drawn a picture that you'd like to see published on this page? Whatever you have to show or tell us, get in touch at hello@theweekjunior.co.uk



CHARITY OF THE WEEK



Bendrigg Trust

Bendrigg Trust is an outdoors centre in the countryside of the Lake District. The team provides adventure breaks for people with disabilities, making sure that the outdoors is available to all. Everything from caving for wheelchair users, to rock climbing as an amputee (someone who has had a limb removed) is possible. The charity also works with other centres to help them provide these experiences through specialist training. Adults can find out more at bendrigg.org.uk



GET INVOLVED

The Copley Prize

Artist L.S. Lowry's particular style has made him one of the most celebrated and beloved British painters of the 20th century. Copley Prize invites children to recreate their own modern-day versions of Lowry's work in ways that represent the world that they live in. The competition is open to primary school children, and the winning artwork will be framed and hung in The Lowry galleries in Salford, England, alongside Lowry's work. Find out how to take part at tinyurl.com/TWJ-Lowry



Last year's winner Sophia and her painting.



GET INVOLVED

Email your news, views and pictures to hello@theweekjunior.co.uk



YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see your snaps. Send them to us at hello@theweekjunior.co.uk
Don't forget to tell us why you took them.



"I love reading *The Week Junior*, I've been reading it for a year now. Mostly I really enjoy the sections on books and computer games, and doing the puzzles with my dad."

Tom

"I was really interested in the fruity ice lollies recipe so decided to try it out. They were a real success and my whole family enjoyed them as well."

Mollie



"I shared my copies of *The Week Junior* with my team at a recent football tournament."

Esmé

READERS RESPOND

We love hearing from you! It's easy – just write a comment when you vote in our online Big Debate poll, or even record a voice note for *The Week Junior Show*.

Last week we asked you whether sandy beaches are better than pebble ones...

"Yes, the feel of sand is much nicer on your feet than pebbles."

"No, in pebble beaches you don't need to worry about getting the sand off."

"Yes, pebbles hurt more than sand and they get slippery when wet."

"No, because it's fun finding cool pebbles."

Tell us what you think of this week's issue and we'll print some of the best comments here.



Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's name: **Mr Moore**

School: **Ardreck School, Crieff, Scotland**

"Mr Moore is the best teacher because he is kind and has neverending patience. He also makes learning fun by doing kung-fu punctuation with us, heeee-hi! Most of all, he is so funny and has a magnificent moustache! Once, we were white-water rafting and Mr Moore had a bug on his shoe. We named it "Buggy" and Mr Moore took a selfie. Wouldn't you want Mr Moore (and his magnificent moustache) to be your teacher?"

Ardreck School's Form 3 class

If we pick your teacher as Teacher of the Week, we'll send your school three free issues of *The Week Junior*. Send your nominations, along with a picture of your teacher and your school's full name and address, to hello@theweekjunior.co.uk

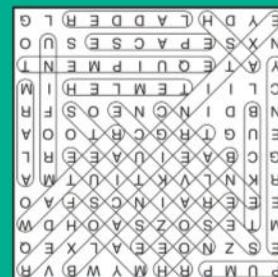
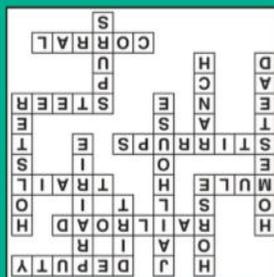
BENRIGG.ORG.UK - PHIL TRACEN



Puzzles page and quiz answers



| | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|----|----|----|---|---|
| 3 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 4 |
| 10 | 8 | 10 | 17 | 10 | 6 | |
| 18 | 18 | 27 | 27 | 16 | | |
| 36 | 45 | 54 | 43 | | | |
| 81 | 99 | 97 | | | | |
| 180 | 196 | | | | | |
| 376 | | | | | | |



- 1 b) Two 2 False, it features a pigeon 3 Australia 4 c) 243,000 5 True
- 6 Komodo dragon 7 a) Pocket Monsters 8 True 9 Muhammad 10 Noah
- Lyles 11 b) Bagpipes 12 False, it was invented by the founder of the
- Natural History Museum 13 Diplodocus 14 c) Cat 15 Seaweed

THE WEEK Junior SHOW



If you've enjoyed this issue, why not listen to our podcast, *The Week Junior Show*? Go to tinyurl.com/TWJ-show or scan the QR code above. We'd also like you to take part. Give us your views on the Big Debate in this issue or tell us which was your favourite story and why. Send us a voice note by asking a parent to go to tinyurl.com/TWJ-show, scroll down and click on the red button.



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Quiz of the week

1 How many times has Andy Murray won Wimbledon?

- a) One
- b) Two
- c) Three

2 True or false? The London Museum's new logo features a magpie.

- True False

3 Which country has launched a new scheme to prevent peanut allergies?

4 How many known wildlife species are there in the oceans?

- a) 43,000
- b) 143,000
- c) 243,000

5 True or false? Taekwondo originated in Korea.

- True False

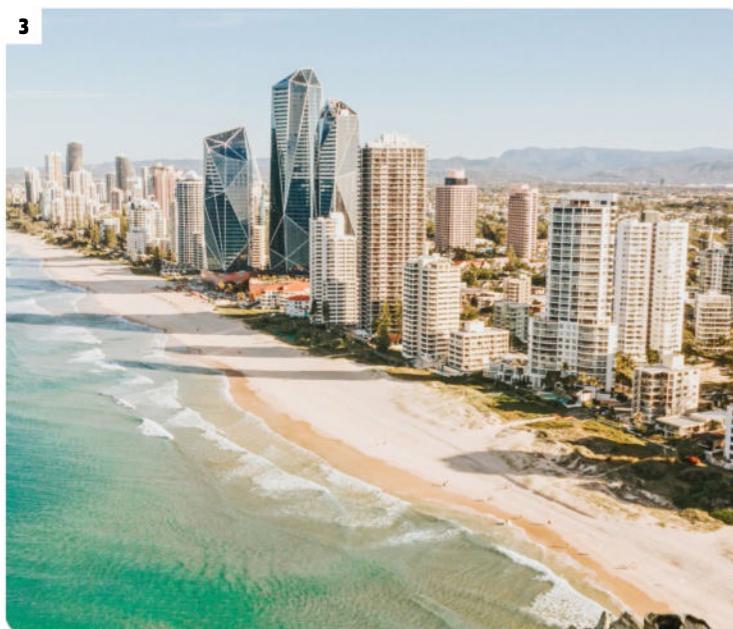
6 What is the world's biggest and heaviest species of lizard?

7 What is Pokémon short for?

- a) Pocket Monsters
- b) Poking Monsters
- c) Pikachu's Monsters

8 True or false? The earliest known life dates back more than 3.5 billion years.

- True False



9 What was the most popular baby name for boys in the UK in 2023?

10 Who won the men's 100 metres gold at the Paris Olympics?

11 At the Highland Games, which instrument do people play when they're "piping"?

- a) Trumpet
- b) Bagpipes
- c) Piano

12 True or false? The word "dinosaur" was invented by the founder of the Science Museum.

- True False

13 What sort of dinosaur is Fern, the model in the Natural History Museum's Evolution Garden?

14 Which animal has a day dedicated to it on 8 August?

- a) Elephant
- b) Dog
- c) Cat

15 What is the main ingredient of laverbread?

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29

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AWARDS 2023 CHILDREN'S BRAND OF THE YEAR 2023



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