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THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

DEBATE
Are digital ID cards a good idea? p10



ENVIRONMENT
Spy spotty fly agaric toadstools p12



WELLBEING
How outdoor play boosts your brain p21



11 October 2025 • Issue 513
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Making sense of the world

THE WEEK Junior



THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

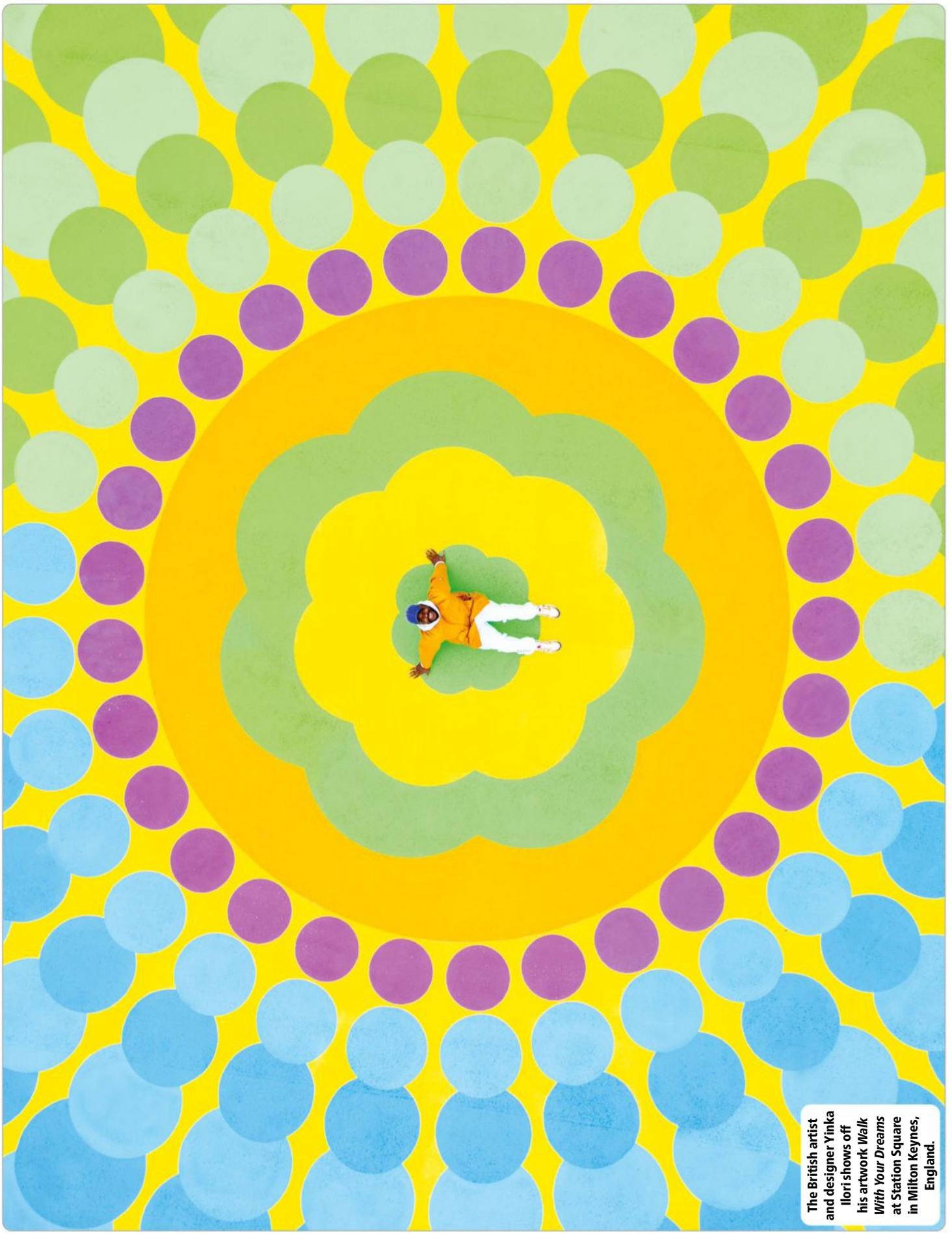
CHIMP CHAMP

Tributes paid to Dr Jane Goodall, ape expert and conservationist p5

DID YOU KNOW?

- Dr Goodall devoted her life to studying chimpanzees.
- Her organisation Roots & Shoots encourages kids to protect the planet.
- She told *The Week Junior*, "My greatest hope is our young people."

The big picture



The British artist and designer Yinka Ilori shows off his artwork *Walk With Your Dreams* at Station Square in Milton Keynes, England.

Something worth talking about

Lost for words? Try starting a conversation with one of these questions, inspired by stories in this magazine.

16 October is Conflict Resolution Day. **What do you think is the best way to resolve an argument between friends or siblings?**
See page 14 to read about how peace has been restored after wars.

Experimental crops of rice are being grown in the UK for the first time. **If you could grow any food at home, what would be your first choice?**
Read about how horned melons and wasabi are also being grown in the UK on page 12.

Alysia-Lara Ayonrinde has written a book about heroes from the past. **Who do you most admire from history?** Find out whose stories really inspired Ayonrinde on page 11.

The big debate
Are digital ID cards a good idea? Page 10.

Editor's note



"This book made me see the world differently and reminded me that everyone is someone, and is important." These are the words of Salihah as she recommended a book on page 24. That idea feels particularly important this week, as peace talks about Gaza take place in Egypt (page 4) and after the attack on the synagogue in Manchester (page 6). It so happens that Conflict Resolution Day is on 16 October. Our All About feature on page 14 explores how disagreements are settled. Whether it's an argument between friends or a fight between countries, peace comes through talking and learning to see each other's point of view. The feature also shows how other countries help, working with each side to set a path back to peace. Finally, our cover star this week, Dr Jane Goodall, was a role model for many, thanks to her kindness and skill. You'll be inspired by her story on page 5.

Vanessa Harriss
Editor

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

14 October 1926
Winnie-the-Pooh is first published



Winnie-the-Pooh and friends.

A.A. Milne's *Winnie-the-Pooh* stands the test of time as one of the best-loved books for children. Published 99 years ago this week, it's a collection of short stories about the adventures of a teddy bear called Winnie-the-Pooh and his friends. The author's young son, Christopher Robin Milne, was the inspiration for Christopher Robin, who was the only human character. The animals in the stories were inspired by the little boy's cuddly toys. A sequel called *The House at Pooh Corner* was published in 1928.

WORD OF THE WEEK

PIONEER

Jane Goodall (page 5) was regarded as a pioneer of research into primates such as chimpanzees. The word "pioneer" came into English from French: a *pionnier* was a foot soldier who went ahead of an army and cleared the path. In English it came to describe a person who makes big advances in their area of interest or knowledge and opens up a path that others can follow.



Don't just read *The Week Junior...*
Listen to it!
This week Bex, Joe and Eve reveal which wild animal they would like to see in real life.



ON THE COVER: REX SHUTTERSTOCK · ALAMY · HELLOGAMES.ORG.
THE BIG PICTURE: STEPHEN CHUNG. ON THIS PAGE: ALAMY · GETTY IMAGES



Children in Gaza.

Thunberg leaves Israel


Greta Thunberg

On 6 October, Israel deported 171 activists (forced them to leave the country), including the well-known campaigner Greta Thunberg. She was on one of 42 boats that set sail for Gaza in late August. The boats were carrying aid for people in Gaza. Activists on board wanted to raise awareness of the suffering of people living in the territory. They were stopped by Israeli forces blocking the entry of boats into Gaza. The passengers were taken onto land and some of them were sent back to their home countries.

Gaza peace talks begin

On 6 October, talks began in Egypt over a new plan to end the conflict in Gaza. Gaza is a strip of land that borders Israel and Egypt and is home to Palestinian people. The plan was put together by a team in the US and announced by the US president Donald Trump on 29 September.

What is happening in Gaza?

Intense fighting has been taking place in Gaza since 7 October 2023 – two years ago this week – when a long-running conflict between Israel and Hamas got much worse when Hamas attacked Israel. Hamas is an armed group that governs Gaza. It is classified as a terrorist group by several countries including the UK. Israel says around 1,200 people were killed and more than 250 were kidnapped and taken to Gaza. Some have since been released. Of those still in Gaza, 20 are believed to still be alive. Israel responded to the attack by launching air attacks and sending soldiers into Gaza. Fighting has been taking place there ever since. Gaza's health ministry says more than 66,000 Palestinian people have been killed. Much of Gaza has been destroyed and most of the people who live there have been forced to leave their homes.

What's in the peace plan?

The plan is made up of 20 different points. It states that, if both sides agree to the plan, the war between Israel and Hamas will immediately end. It says all the remaining hostages in Gaza will be released in exchange for Palestinian people being held in Israel. The plan says that Israel's military will mostly leave Gaza but will still have a "security perimeter presence" around the edge of the territory. It states that "full aid" will be allowed into Gaza, and that the territory will be rebuilt for the benefit of its residents, saying they have "suffered more than enough".


The Israeli prime minister and Donald Trump.

Who would govern Gaza?

According to the plan, to begin with, Gaza would be governed by a committee made up of both Palestinian and international experts. This committee will be supervised by a "Board of Peace" led by Trump. Other members of the board would include former UK Prime Minister Tony Blair. The committee would govern Gaza until the Palestinian Authority, which currently governs parts of the West Bank, can "securely and effectively" take control of Gaza. The West Bank is an area of land on the other side of Israel from Gaza. It is home to more than three million Palestinian people. The plan says Hamas would not be involved in governing Gaza "in any form".

What is happening in Egypt?

Representatives of Israel and Hamas are in Egypt to discuss the peace deal. The US, Qatar and Egypt are also taking part in the discussions. After the peace deal was announced, Israel said it agreed to it and Hamas said it agreed to parts of it. As *The Week Junior* was going to the printers, there were still important parts of the deal that both Israel and Hamas disagreed over. However, experts said it was the closest both sides have been to a peace agreement in the last two years.

Stranded hikers are rescued from Everest

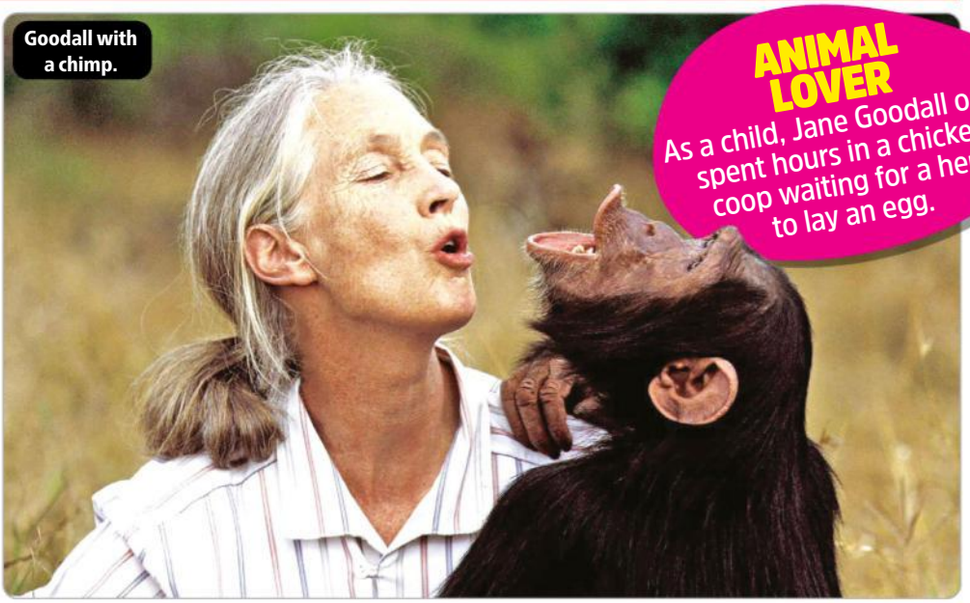
Rescue efforts took place on 3 and 4 October to save hundreds of people stranded near Mount Everest by a blizzard. A blizzard is a severe storm with heavy snow and strong winds. Mount Everest is the highest mountain in the world and stands on the border between Nepal and the Tibet region of China. Its summit (tallest point) is 8,849 metres high.

Heavy snow began to fall across the Himalayan mountain range on the evening of Friday 3 October. The weather steadily got worse over the weekend, stranding about 580 people who were hiking in the area near the eastern slopes of Everest. October is a popular month for people to hike around Mount Everest because the weather is usually settled. Lots of Chinese tourists had travelled to the area because it was a holiday called Golden Week.

Hundreds of local people and rescue workers helped to clear paths through the snow. Tibetan yaks (large cow-like animals) were also used to push through piles of snow and help hikers. On Monday, authorities said that 350 people had been led to safety; and on Tuesday, rescuers guided the remaining trekkers to safety. On the other side of Mount Everest, in Nepal, at least 40 people died after heavy rain caused flooding.



Mount Everest



Goodall with a chimp.

ANIMAL LOVER

As a child, Jane Goodall once spent hours in a chicken coop waiting for a hen to lay an egg.

Tributes paid to Dr Jane Goodall

Dr Jane Goodall, the world-famous expert on primates, died on 1 October, aged 91. Goodall devoted most of her life to the study and conservation of chimpanzees. Queen Elizabeth II made her a dame in 2003 for her work. Goodall was a pioneer: her groundbreaking work changed how we think about other species – and ourselves – forever.

Goodall was the first researcher to carry out a long-term study of wild chimpanzees, in Gombe, Tanzania. One of her biggest discoveries came when she spotted chimpanzees using tools for the first time. This showed that humans weren't the only species able to use them. Despite her brilliant work, Goodall faced sexism (unfair treatment because of her sex) and criticism because she wasn't a trained scientist. When she first studied chimps, she didn't have a degree from a university, so she had to come up with her own ways of doing research. One of these was to identify every chimpanzee by a name rather than a number. Other scientists used more formal methods but her more personal way is still used by researchers today.



Dr Jane Goodall

In the late 1970s, Goodall decided to travel the world to share her passion with other people. She set up The Jane Goodall Institute, to protect wildlife and inspire young people. She once told *The Week Junior*, "My greatest hope is our young people." Goodall was still travelling the world in her 90s with her toy monkey, Mr H, at her side.

IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

A TALENTED PAINTER

Young artist Sophia has been named winner of the 2025 Copley Prize, an art competition run by the Lowry theatre in Salford, England. The 10-year-old's painting was inspired by the work of artist L.S. Lowry and will be on display at the theatre for a year.



Sophia and her painting.



The winning Wales side.

WELSH FOOTBALL

The Wales men's Over-70s football team have become world champions for a second year in a row. The team beat the US 2-0 at the World Cup final in Japan and didn't concede a goal throughout the whole tournament.

WHITE-CLAWED CRAYFISH

Rare crayfish rescued in July have been released into a river in Yorkshire, England. More than 30 white-clawed crayfish were struggling because water was short after dry weather. They have been rehomed in a tributary (stream that runs into a river) of the River Wharfe.



A tiny crayfish.

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The synagogue where the attack took place.

"We must stand together stronger"



A vigil at the synagogue.

Many Jewish people in the UK say they are worried about an increase in antisemitism. This is the term for unfair, unequal or unkind behaviour towards people because they are Jewish. After the attack at the synagogue, a Jewish dad from Manchester told *The Guardian* newspaper that he's worried about letting his children walk home on their own. He said, "We told them as Jewish people we have done nothing wrong, we're peaceful, loving people, we would love to get on with our neighbours." Levi Schapiro, from the Jewish Community Council, said things are very painful and hard at the moment. He said, "It's difficult times, but we must stand together stronger."

Vigils after synagogue attack

People gathered across the UK to pay tribute to those who died in an attack on a synagogue in Greater Manchester, in north-west England. A synagogue is a Jewish place of worship.

What happened?

The attack happened on 2 October at Heaton Park Hebrew Congregation synagogue. It was the day of Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar. During the attack, two Jewish people were killed and five more were injured. Police officers armed with guns killed the attacker at the scene. People who were worshipping in the synagogue were kept inside the building until it was safe for them to leave.

What was the response?

The UK's Chief Rabbi (a rabbi is a Jewish religious leader or teacher), Ephraim Mirvis, told BBC Radio 4, "Right now, our hearts are shattered." He travelled to Manchester the day after the attack to support those affected by the attack and visit the injured in hospital. Prime Minister Keir Starmer flew back early from a meeting in Denmark to lead an emergency response to the attack. He made a statement to the Jewish community to say that he would do everything in his power to make Jewish people feel safe, starting with more police officers around synagogues. Starmer said, "I promise you that over the coming days you will see the other Britain, the Britain of compassion, of decency, of love." Starmer added, "This Britain will come together to wrap our arms around your community and show you that Britain is a place where you and your family are safe, secure and belong." King Charles said he was deeply shocked and saddened to hear about the attack, "especially on such a significant day for the Jewish community".


Prime Minister Keir Starmer paid his respects.

How have people paid tribute?

There was a vigil in Manchester on 3 October, where hundreds of people gathered to pay their respects to those who died. During the vigil, there were speeches from several people including Rabbi Daniel Walker, who is the rabbi at the synagogue that was attacked. He thanked the emergency services for helping "in our time of greatest need". Mark Adlestone, from the Jewish Representative Council of Greater Manchester said, "We feel the comfort and support of the wider non-Jewish world."

What else have people said?

Imam Qari Asim, the head of the British Muslim Network said, "As Muslims, we stand shoulder to shoulder with the British Jewish community, bound by our shared humanity and our shared rejection of hate." The Right Reverend Toby Howarth, Bishop of Bradford, said that "people must feel safe in going to places of worship". The recently chosen new Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally, said the Church has a responsibility to "stand with the Jewish community".

If you feel upset by the news, talk to a trusted adult and go to theweekjunior.co.uk/advice for advice.



The ban aims to tackle obesity.

Unhealthy food deals end

On 1 October, a ban on "buy one, get one free" and other multi-buy deals for unhealthy food came into force in England. The rules are designed to tackle obesity (being extremely overweight) particularly in children. The rules apply to large shops, including supermarkets and online shops. The restrictions target foods including chocolate, crisps and fizzy drinks. The measures also affect restaurants, with "refillable" offers now banned for some drinks.



Cycle to school next week

Cycle to School Week will take place across the UK from 13 to 17 October. The event raises awareness of the benefits of cycling to school. Over the course of the week, children and their families are encouraged to swap their cars for pedal power. Heidi Alexander, the UK's Transport Secretary, told *The Week Junior*, "During Cycle to School Week, I hope lots of you will ride with friends or family, as every pedal helps make a cleaner, greener future."



Recycle Halloween outfits

Libraries in Devon, south-west England, are helping people to recycle their old Halloween costumes – and grab themselves a new one. Libraries Unlimited, the charity that runs the libraries, has teamed up with Recycle Devon to help people swap their unwanted costumes for free. With around 40% of Halloween costumes being worn just once then thrown away, not only is swapping outfits better for the environment, it also saves people money.


High winds also affected Wales.

FIRST NAME
The first ever named storm in the UK was in 2015 and it was called Abigail.

Clean up after Storm Amy

Work has begun to clean up damage after large parts of the UK were affected by Storm Amy. The storm arrived on 3 October and caused lots of disruption and damage over large areas. Homes were left without power across Scotland and Northern Ireland; railway lines were closed in some parts of the UK; ferries were cancelled; and roads were blocked by fallen trees and flooding.

The Met Office, the UK's national weather service, recorded wind speeds of up to 96 miles per hour across northern Scotland. The Glen Cassley area, for example, had 84.6 millimetres of rainfall in just 24 hours. In London, all eight of the royal parks, including Hyde Park, were closed because of strong winds.

Across Ireland, thousands of homes lost their power during the storm. Flooding and fallen trees also caused issues and about 90 schools in Northern Ireland lost their power. Northern Ireland's Infrastructure Minister, Liz Kimmins, thanked everyone who worked to restore power and water to people's homes, as well as clear roads. Storm Amy also caused widespread disruption in Wales, where gusts of 85 miles per hour were recorded. Officials closed a section of the M4 motorway because of high winds and a number of bridges were also closed for safety reasons. The Met Office warned people in coastal areas to be aware of large waves.



Lochwinnoch, Scotland.

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) managed to restore power to 76,000 homes by 5 October. SSEN said that as well as its own engineers, dozens of teams from other companies from across Scotland came to help restore power. The company also organised hot meals for people in need.

The storm was called Amy because every year the Met office issues a list of names for big storms. It features male and female names, which are chosen by the public and used to name storms in alphabetical order. The next big storm will be called Bram.

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Flying-insect infestation stops Cricket World Cup match" *Telegraph.co.uk*


Image made using AI.

REUTERS: REX/SHUTTERSTOCK. GETTY IMAGES. BIKEABILITYTRUST.ORG. SILLY HEADLINE IMAGE: FUTURE / GENERATED WITH ADOBE FIREFLY AI

Around the world

Vermont, US
Animals to mow ski slopes

A ski resort is using sheep and goats to clear slopes that are overgrown with plants and grass, ready for winter snow. The aim is to use fewer petrol-powered lawnmowers, which harm the environment. Andy Stenger from Jay Peak resort called the animals "great employees". He said, "They take a lot of lunch breaks, but that's kind of the idea."



A goat ready to munch.

Barbados
Freedom of movement deal

Barbados has made a deal with other countries in the Caribbean region to allow citizens to live and work freely in the other countries without special permits. A group called Caribbean Community hopes it will stop skilled workers from leaving the Caribbean. Belize, Dominica and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines are part of the agreement.



Bridgetown, Barbados.

Morocco
Protests over government spending

Demonstrations against public spending have taken place in cities across Morocco. The country is spending billions of pounds on new football stadiums and improving roads and railways because it is a host for the 2030 FIFA World Cup. The mostly young protesters think money is better spent on things such as healthcare and education.



A protest in the capital city, Rabat.



Sébastien Lecornu

Paris, France
French PM steps down

France's prime minister Sébastien Lecornu has resigned after 26 days in the role. Lecornu had just announced his cabinet (the group of people in the most senior government jobs), which was heavily criticised by lots of politicians. He said, "The conditions were not fulfilled for me to carry on as prime minister." President Emmanuel Macron must now either appoint another prime minister or call for an election.



Lesotho
Water project criticised

Around 1,600 people have made an official complaint about a large water project. The project will carry water from Lesotho to big cities in South Africa. Locals say the construction work has damaged homes, blocked access to fields and polluted water sources. The government agency that runs the project promised that any damage to houses will be fixed, and said that water quality is "within acceptable limits".



Part of the water project.

ALAMY · GETTY IMAGES · MARIA GUAGNIN · REX SHUTTERSTOCK

Around the world

Amsterdam, The Netherlands
A new Van Gogh collection

On 3 October, a new exhibition opened at the Van Gogh Museum. It brings together 26 portraits of one family painted by the artist Vincent van Gogh (1853–1890). The works focus on a postman called Joseph Roulin, who was friends with Van Gogh, and members of his family. An old armchair that features in some of the paintings is also on display for the first time.



Joseph Roulin



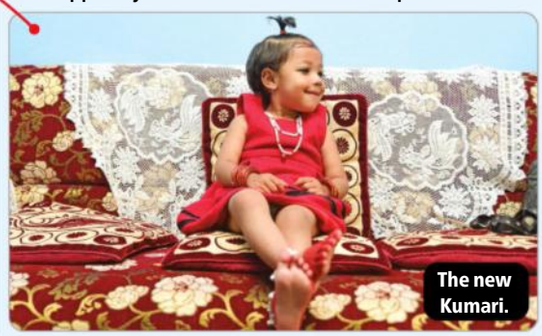
Afghanistan
Internet access is restored

Afghans celebrated after regaining access to the internet on 1 October. The country is ruled by the Taliban, a military and political group with extreme views. They shut down the internet and other communication services for 48 hours but did not explain why. Airline flights, businesses and access to emergency services were affected.


Afghans use the internet.

Kathmandu, Nepal
Living goddess chosen

Two-year-old Aryatara Shakya has been chosen as Nepal's new living goddess, or Kumari. Her parents helped parade her through the streets during the Hindu festival of Dashain. Her new home is a temple palace in Kathmandu, where she will live for several years. The Kumari is worshipped by Hindus and Buddhists in Nepal.


The new Kumari.

Cebu, Philippines
Powerful earthquake strikes

Officials say that 72 people have died after a powerful earthquake hit on 30 September near the north coast of Cebu island. More than 500 others were injured and 20,000 people have been forced to leave their homes. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr announced plans to open a tent city for people whose houses were damaged.


A collapsed building.


A scientist at the site.

Saudi Arabia
Ancient carvings found

Scientists have discovered rock carvings in the Saudi Arabian desert dating back to around 12,000 years. The artwork, which includes pictures of camels, gazelles and other desert animals, is more than 1.8 metres high and is believed to have been created using a wedge-shaped rock. The carvings prove that people were living in the area about 2,000 years earlier than experts had thought.

Are digital ID cards a good idea?

The Prime Minister wants the cards to be stored on phones.

What you need to know

- **On 26 September, Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced a digital identity (ID) card scheme for people living in the UK. The system is expected to be introduced before August 2029.**
- **Each person will have the digital ID card stored on their phone. It will show personal information such as their name, date of birth, nationality and a photo.**
- **The Government said all employers will have to check digital IDs before someone starts a new job, to make sure they have the right to work in this country.**
- **Starmer said the ID cards would stop people from working illegally in the UK.**



Not everyone likes the idea of digital ID cards.

People use all sorts of different official documents to prove their identity, including passports and driving licences. Now, the Government plans to introduce an extra form of ID that everyone must have before they start a new job. The Government said the digital ID cards will discourage people from moving to the UK illegally to work, because the cards will replace other types of checks that are easier to fake. Lots of other countries, including Australia and Estonia, already have some form of digital ID scheme. However, some people are worried about how safely their information will be stored and are not happy about giving away so much of their personal information. What do you think – are digital ID cards a good idea?

Yes – they'll be very useful for modern life

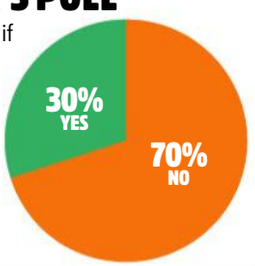
Many people already store lots of information digitally, such as debit card details on banking apps and passport details on airline apps. This is just a smarter way of having all your personal information together in one place. Besides, digital ID cards will be very handy. Before someone can start work in a new job, they have to show that they have certain documents. Once ID cards are introduced, this process will become quicker and easier, with fewer bits of paper involved – which are easy to lose. Digital IDs will be difficult to fake, making it trickier for people to work in the UK if they are not allowed to. Digital cards will also be used to help people access services such as childcare, which will speed up the process.

No – not everyone is good with technology

Some people don't have smartphones and aren't comfortable using technology. The Government has said it will hold discussions with groups such as older people to see what can be done to help, but it is still the case that the cards won't suit everyone. In fact, lots of people are against the idea – a petition has attracted almost three million signatures. Some people are concerned about how secure their data will be, because it could be vulnerable to cybercriminals who illegally access digital information. Others are worried about privacy. They feel that digital ID cards are a way for the Government to interfere more in people's lives, and that the Government might later ask for more private details.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if teachers should be able to work from home. Most of you think teachers are needed in school, to avoid disrupting students' education.



"Teachers should get one day a week to have some quiet time working at home."

"Teachers should not work at home. They would miss out on time with their students."

YES Three reasons why digital ID cards are a good idea

1. **People already store lots of information on their phones and online. This is simply another way of doing something that's already being done.**
2. **It will be easier for people to provide ID when they are starting new jobs. This could make it more difficult for people who aren't allowed to work to get jobs.**
3. **Digital ID cards will allow people to access services quicker, such as help with childcare.**

NO Three reasons why digital ID cards aren't a good idea

1. **Digital ID cards could be difficult for people who aren't comfortable with technology or don't have smartphones.**
2. **People's personal data could get into the wrong hands through cybercrime (stealing data online).**
3. **Digital ID cards are an intrusion into people's privacy. What if there are other laws in future that ask people to hand over even more information about themselves?**

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Tell us what you think by voting in our poll. Go to theweekjunior.co.uk/polls or scan the QR code.
Vote YES if you think digital ID cards are a good idea, or NO if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

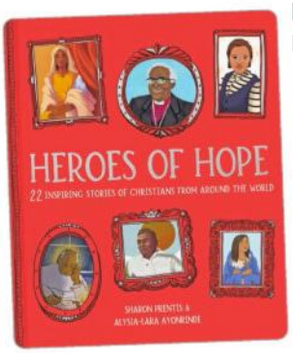
GETTY IMAGES

The aim of the Big debate page is to present two sides of an issue fairly and objectively, in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on the page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.

Telling stories of inspiring people

Alysia-Lara Ayonrinde loves heroes from history.

When author Alysia-Lara Ayonrinde was 13 years old, she met Nelson Mandela, the former president of South Africa. Mandela campaigned for black people in South Africa to have the same rights as white people. Meeting him was a very special moment for Ayonrinde, and she told *The Week Junior,* "It continues to inspire me today."



Inspirational people are the focus of Ayonrinde's new book, *Heroes of Hope*, which she wrote with Sharon Prentis. Ayonrinde said the book was written because she feels it is important to tell stories about people and cultures from all around the world. She said, "Too often, young people don't see themselves in the stories they're told or the people who are celebrated."

There are 22 heroes celebrated in the book, and Ayonrinde said she's most excited for readers to learn about Pauli Murray (1910–1985). Murray lived in the US and campaigned for equal rights for women and people of colour. Ayonrinde says she feels a personal connection to Murray, who was a writer as well as an activist. "Like Murray," Ayonrinde said, "I've always been drawn to stories." She added that Murray's books are a reminder that "stories aren't just words on a page, they can be acts of courage, hope and transformation".


Alysia-Lara Ayonrinde

TALE OF ADVENTURE
Alice in Wonderland was Ayonrinde's favourite book when she was little.


Reid on the athletics track.

Athlete's shoe campaign

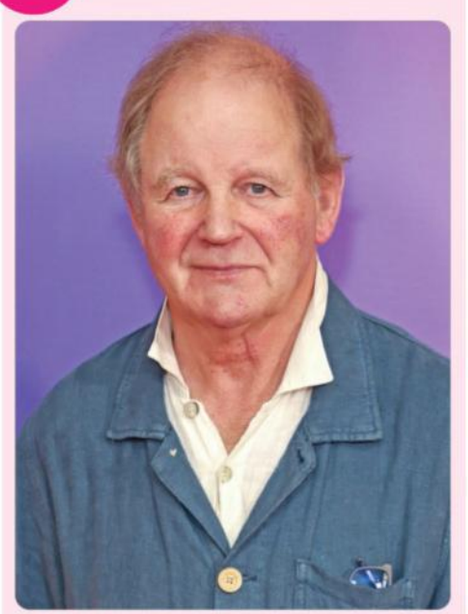
Paralympic medallist Stef Reid is on a mission to get companies to sell single shoes, not just pairs. As a teenager, Reid had to have her right foot removed after an accident. She went on to win sprinting and long jump medals at the Paralympic Games. Her campaign to get brands to sell single shoes isn't just about saving people money. She thinks it's wrong that some companies use mannequins (models of people used to advertise clothes) with artificial legs but they don't sell single shoes. She told BBC News that she wants companies' advertising to match "the actual buying experience".

A charitable bike rider

Kidus Tesera, a student from London, recently cycled the length of the UK. His aim was to raise money for two charities that support elderly people. Adding to the challenge, Tesera built the bike himself, almost entirely from recycled materials, including scrap wood and old bits of metal. He even used parts from his nine-year-old cousin's bike after buying it for £9. On his way from John o'Groats in Scotland to Dover in England, a journey of more than 780 miles, his unusual bike attracted the attention of lots of friendly passers by. "People were so lovely," Tesera told *Cycling Weekly* magazine.


Tesera on his home-made bike.

"" THEY SAID IT!



"It doesn't matter how you get the story."

Children's author Michael Morpurgo spoke to *The Times* newspaper about the importance of children having access to stories that they can enjoy. "What's important is that they become readers," he said.

JONATHAN CHERRY - SPCK.ORG.UK - GETTY IMAGES - TOM MADDICK/SWNS - ALAMY

BIG MEAL
Every year, the world produces more than 500 million tonnes of rice.



The rice paddies in Cambridgeshire.

Exotic crops in England

In Dorset and Hampshire, the Wasabi Company has been growing wasabi, a popular ingredient in Japanese food, for more than 10 years. The company used to produce watercress, which is grown in a similar way in flowing fresh water. In 2019, Norfolk farmers harvested the UK's first crop of chickpeas, a type of pea used in African and Middle Eastern dishes. In Cambridgeshire, a farmer originally from Zimbabwe, Africa, is growing the foods he misses, such as white maize (a type of corn) and horned melons.



A wasabi root grown in the UK.

Rice crops come to the UK

Farmers are growing rice in the UK for the first time. More than half of the world's population eats the grain, including most people in Britain. In the past it wasn't possible to grow it in the UK because it can be too cold, but the warming climate means that rice now stands a chance.

Farmers in the Cambridgeshire Fens are trying nine types of rice, as well as traditional crops such as lettuce, to test how different crops could work. The rice types include risotto, basmati and sushi rice. The farmers are working with the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, which researches nature and water systems.



Rice seeds ready to be planted.

Rice looks like thick grass but it has small brown beads running up the stalk. These are grains of rice, and they turn white when they're ready to be picked. They usually grow in flooded fields called paddies and can reach about 1.2 metres tall.

Growing rice could also help to slow climate change. The Cambridgeshire Fens are naturally occurring marshland containing peat. This is a substance made up of lots of organic matter, like dead leaves and plants, which has broken down over a long time and it contains a lot of carbon. Peat is very good for growing plants, and over the last 400 years, the Fens have been drained to allow crops to be planted. Unfortunately, as the land dries out, carbon in the peat escapes into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide, a harmful gas that causes climate change. Growing rice means the land can stay wet, which keeps the carbon locked away.

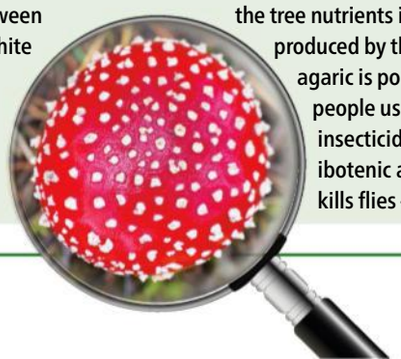
For the rice experiment, water was added back into parts of the Fens, and the record hot summer this year means that rice crops have flourished.

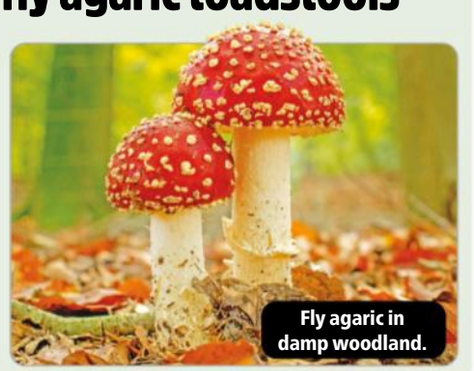
"Nobody has tried this before, but with climate change, we have crops that 10 years ago, we wouldn't have thought would be viable," scientist Nadine Mitschunas told BBC News. "In 10 years' time, rice could be a completely perfect crop for us."

NATURE SPY

Spot but don't touch colourful fly agaric toadstools

This fungus looks straight out of a fairy tale but is found across the UK in woodland, parks and heaths with trees. Fly agaric often appears in autumn, most likely beneath birch, pine or spruce trees. The mushroom grows to between eight and 18 centimetres, with a white stalk and an orange or bright red cap between eight and 20 centimetres across. The cap has white "gills" underneath and often white wart-like spots on the top. Fly agaric grows from an underground network called mycelium, which is made up of thread-like fibres called hyphae. These threads often wrap themselves around tree roots, giving the tree nutrients in return for sugars produced by the tree. Be careful! Fly agaric is poisonous. In the past, people used it to make an insecticide because it contains ibotenic acid, which attracts and kills flies – hence the name.





Fly agaric in damp woodland.

TIGHT SQUEEZE
Smooth snakes mostly eat small mammals and lizards. They kill by coiling around their prey.



Smooth snakes are about 60cm long.

Smooth snakes making a comeback

Britain's rarest snake is thriving in Devon, England, after a successful reintroduction project. Experts are celebrating as smooth snake numbers reached record highs, 16 years after conservation efforts began.

The snakes were reintroduced to Devon in 2009, when 17 were relocated from a site in Dorset, England. The species had been missing from Devon for 50 years. Last year, conservationists counted 39 smooth snakes at Pebblebed Heaths in Devon, a 25% increase from the previous high of 31 in 2023, according to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).



Looking under a snake refuge.

Smooth snakes are non-venomous and harmless to humans. They are a grey or brown, about 60 or 70 centimetres long, and are named for their flat, smooth scales. The snakes have a heart-shaped marking on their heads, and each is unique, which helps to identify individuals.

Local volunteers have been an important part of the project's success. Roger and Liz Hamling have been monitoring the snakes for 15 years. Roger has taken more than 150 photographs of smooth snakes since 2010 to track their numbers. So far, 28 individual snakes can now be identified. Liz says it is "such a privilege" to look after the creatures.

The project's success has also been helped by restoring the snakes' habitat. RSPB volunteers have been managing the heathland that is essential for the species survival by removing certain plants and encouraging others. The team also installed special "snake refuges". These are sheets of rippled metal laid on the ground, where the snakes can hide underneath and warm themselves.

ANIMAL OF THE WEEK: Coppery titi monkey

Chester Zoo has celebrated the birth of its first coppery titi monkey. The species is threatened from its forest homes being cut down. They help keep forests healthy by spreading seeds.

- **LIFESPAN:** Up to 20 years.
- **HABITAT:** Amazon rainforest in Peru and Brazil.
- **SIZE:** They are around 33cm long and they weigh up to 1.2kg
- **DIET:** More than 100 different types of fruit, including figs.
- **FUN FACT:** Coppery titis wrap their tails around each other to strengthen relationships and keep their balance.



GOOD WEEK



Socorro doves

A Socorro dove chick has hatched at Whipsnade Zoo in Bedfordshire, England, offering hope for the species that's been extinct in the wild since 1972. There are thought to be only 209 of the doves in zoos and wildlife parks worldwide. The chick represents an important step towards reintroducing the species to the wild on their native Socorro Island, in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Mexico. Zoo staff report that the chick is thriving but still relying on its parents for food.

BAD WEEK



Etosha National Park

A huge fire has burned through one third of Namibia's Etosha National Park. Etosha is known for its large salt pan (a flat area covered with natural salt) and native wildlife. The blaze burned through around 7,750 square kilometres of grass, plants and trees in the park, endangering the 114 mammal species that live there, including rare black rhinos. Namibia's government sent more than 500 soldiers with helicopters to help firefighters put it out.

CEH.AC.UK · ALAMY · REX SHUTTERSTOCK · ANDY SANDS/NATUREPL.COM · WHIPSNADE ZOO · ROGER HAMLING · CHESTERZOO.ORG

Solving disagreement,

It takes effort, skill and help to resolve conflict and restore calm.

On 16 October it is Conflict Resolution Day. An organisation called the Association for Conflict Resolution (ACR) began marking it in 2005. The aim is to promote peaceful ways of solving conflict wherever they happen: in schools or families, communities or nations – or even between friends.

What creates conflict?

There are lots of types of conflict but they all involve people disagreeing. Two people might argue over which is the best football team or the best way to get somewhere. In serious disagreements people might stop speaking to each other or even fight.

Conflict on a bigger scale can lead to violence or war. An example of this in the UK was "the Troubles", a conflict centred in Northern Ireland in the late 20th century. Two religious groups – Catholics and Protestants (both are types of Christianity) disagreed. Lots of Catholic people wanted Northern Ireland to become a part of Ireland, but lots of Protestant people wanted their country to remain in the UK. This led to years of violence, until political leaders on both sides agreed a solution (see panel).

The current war between Russia and Ukraine is an example of international conflict. Before 1991, Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union, a group of countries ruled from Moscow, Russia's capital. Russian leader Vladimir Putin wants Ukraine to be part of Russia again and launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Most Ukrainians want their country to remain independent.

How is conflict resolved?

No matter how big or small a conflict, finding a peaceful way to end it usually follows the same process. It takes negotiation. That means working out a solution that everyone can agree is fair. All sides



UN peacekeepers work to protect communities.

COME TOGETHER
In 1979, leaders from Egypt and Israel signed a peace treaty that ended a 30-year conflict.

CONFLICT


The UN Security Council, New York, US.

GETTY IMAGES · REX SHUTTERSTOCK · ALAMY



A mural in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Three famous peace processes

The Good Friday Agreement

Signed on 10 April 1998, this officially ended the Troubles in Northern Ireland (see above). Politicians from both sides agreed to share power in a newly formed government.



The Dayton Accords

On 14 December 1995, leaders of Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia signed the Dayton Accords in the US. This ended a conflict that is commonly said to have started in April 1992. Conflicts arose after countries that were part of Yugoslavia wanted independence.



building peace


Security Council members vote.

SOLDIERS OF PEACE

More than two million men and women have been UN peacekeepers since 1948.



Protests in London after Russia invaded Ukraine.


Resolving differences requires listening.

must come to see each other's point of view and understand the source of the conflict.

What about international disputes?

The United Nations (UN) is the biggest organisation involved in global conflict resolution. The UN is a group of 193 countries that works to tackle the challenges that face humanity. Its current form was set up after the Second World War (1939–1945) to maintain global peace. If it can't prevent conflict, it helps countries build peace. The organisation dedicated to conflict resolution is the UN Security Council, based in New York, US. It's like a parliament, where member countries vote on how to achieve peace. It has 15 members – five permanent (China, France, Russia, the UK and the US) – and 10 that are elected every two years.

How is peace achieved and kept?

Peace negotiations are usually helped by a neutral party – a person or group who won't take sides. The UN Security Council can appoint a special envoy – a person in charge of negotiating on a single issue or conflict. Hans Grundberg from Sweden is the special envoy for the conflict in Yemen. For the conflict between Israel and Gaza, negotiations have been assisted by representatives from Qatar, Egypt, Turkey and the US. The representatives are called mediators and they deliver messages between conflicting sides until peace can be agreed.

After a conflict is resolved, the UN often sends in peacekeepers, called Blue Helmets. This is a force made up of soldiers from many countries. They help to protect communities, prevent conflict breaking out again and give people time to rebuild their lives.



Truth and Reconciliation Commission

It was set up in South Africa in 1995, after the end of apartheid (a system in which non-white people were badly treated). It worked to build trust and unity between all South Africans by listening to their views and experiences.




Peacekeepers in Lebanon.

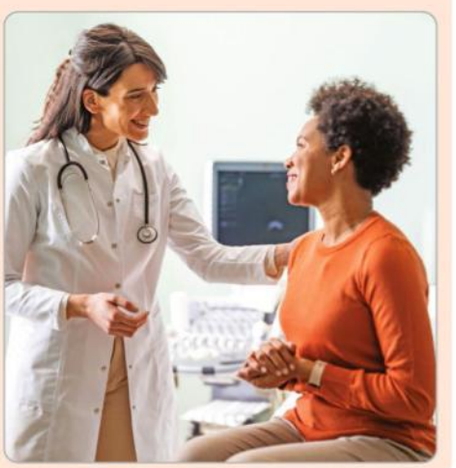


Professors Ed Wild and Sarah Tabrizi led the UK part of the trial.

YOUNG STAR
George Huntington was the first person to describe the disease in adults. He was only 22 at the time.

Rare diseases in numbers

- **In the UK, a rare disease is classed as an illness that affects no more than one person out of every 2,000.**
- **One in 17 people are affected by a rare disease during their lifetime.**
- **There are more than 3.5 million people in the UK living with a rare condition.**
- **Some rare disorders affect only one or two people in the entire UK.**
- **80% of rare diseases are caused by changes in genes. Genes contain instructions for how an individual creature will develop and grow.**

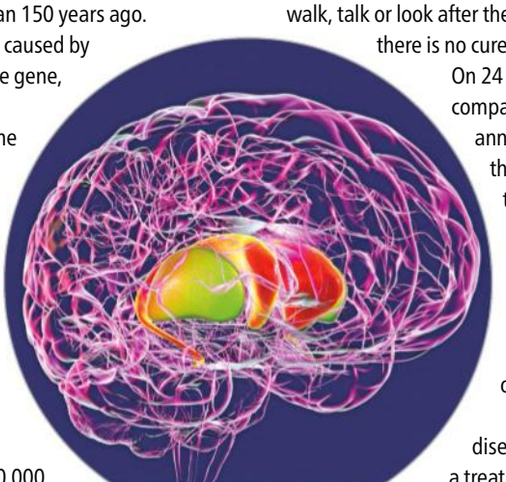


Hope for brain therapy

Scientists say they have developed a therapy that can slow down a disease that has no cure. Huntington's disease is a brain illness that is passed down through families. It is named after the American doctor George Huntington, who wrote about the disease more than 150 years ago.

Huntington's disease is caused by an accidental change in one gene, called the huntingtin gene. A person's genes contain the instructions on how the person will develop and grow. The change in the huntingtin gene causes damage to a person's brain, which gets worse over time.

There are between 6,000 and 10,000 people living with Huntington's disease in the UK. About 20,000 others have the changed gene and could develop the disease.



Huntington's disease affects the brain.

Symptoms of the disease usually start between the ages of 30 and 50. The person starts having small twitches or jerky movements that they cannot control. They can also become clumsy and forgetful. Eventually, people with Huntington's disease cannot walk, talk or look after themselves. At the moment there is no cure.

On 24 September, a Dutch company called uniQure announced that its gene therapy had managed to slow the progress of the disease, keeping people healthy and active for longer. Gene therapies try to change people's genes to treat or cure diseases.

For Huntington's disease, uniQure developed a treatment called AMT-130. A single dose is injected into the patient's brain, which takes 12 to 18 hours of surgery. It introduces a new piece of DNA into a person's cells. DNA is the natural chemical that makes up genes.

The small study included 29 patients, who were monitored by doctors for three years. Scientists could see a real difference in patients who had received a high dose of AMT-130, compared to other studies that look at how the disease affects people. They scored the patients on how well they could think, walk and move, and compared their results with other people who have Huntington's disease.

UniQure said that the treatment had slowed the disease by 75%. This means that if it currently takes a year for a person to develop certain symptoms, the treatment would mean that it would now take four years for them to get to that stage of the disease.

"This result changes everything," said Professor Ed Wild, a scientist at University College London who has been working on the study. He described the breakthrough as "truly world-changing stuff".

The study will now be looked at by other scientists to make sure the treatment is as good as uniQure and the researchers say it is.

Royal Mint reclaims gold from gadgets

The Royal Mint has created a special collection of wedding and engagement jewellery made from recycled electronics. The Royal Mint is the UK's official maker of coins and it is in Llantrisant, in Wales.

Every year, millions of tonnes of electronic items are thrown away. This is known as "e-waste", and it can contain small amounts of precious metals. The Royal Mint has a special factory that uses technology to extract some of the precious metals to use them again.



Gold from a circuit board.

The new wedding jewellery is part of the Royal Mint's 886 brand, which features bracelets, earrings, necklaces and rings. The pieces are made from gold that has been recovered from mobile phones and laptops. The gold comes from the circuit boards inside old gadgets – but each device only contains a very small amount.

There's also jewellery made from silver, which is recovered from old X-ray photos that have been used in hospitals.

The collection also offers two types of diamond rings – with natural diamonds, starting at £10,995, and with lab-grown diamonds, from £2,895. Lab-grown diamonds are made by humans, although they have exactly the same structure as natural diamonds that are dug out of the ground. They are much cheaper than natural diamonds.



CASH CREATORS
The first coins made by the Royal Mint are believed to date back to King Alfred the Great in AD880.

Some of the Royal Mint's jewellery.



The wooden canoe.

Hurricane reveals unusual old canoe

Scientists in Florida, US, have been puzzled by a old wooden canoe, which was found after a serious storm. Archaeologists (experts who study ancient remains) now want to work out where it came from.

The canoe was carved from a single tree trunk. It was found in Fort Myers during a clean-up after Hurricane Ian (a powerful storm in 2022). Archaeologists think it could be a cayuco, a type of craft made by Spanish invaders who settled in the region in the 16th century. Experts said it was the first one they had seen that was made from mahogany wood.

Old canoes found near Fort Myers are usually linked to the Calusa people (Native Americans who lived in Florida until the mid 18th century). However, the boat's unusual shape, and marks on it from iron tools, suggest it was not made locally. Europeans introduced iron tools to America when they first arrived there about 500 years ago.

The 2.7-metre boat will now join Florida's collection of 450 log canoes, which have been found at 200 different sites across the state. The oldest canoes date back around 7,000 years. Native Americans, and later the Europeans, used canoes to get around.

FIND OUT MORE

The NEW issue of *The Week Junior Science+Nature* is fizzing with surprises. From the sparkling secrets of fireworks to spooky activities, it's set to go off with a BANG!

OUT NOW!



Discover the foul world of fungi





Halloween things to make and do



Get up close with a tiny crab

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Will you create our Christmas cover this year?

We want a bright, beautiful and colourful image for our special festive issue.

We're already very excited for the festive season, but we need your help. We want YOU to create the front cover for our Christmas issue, with the theme "Peace on Earth". Your image could be a symbol of peace and love; it could be a scene of friendship between people; it could show togetherness at Christmas – or it could be your own invention. It's up to you. Whatever you decide to create, make sure it is clear, eye-catching and colourful. The judges include a team from *The Week Junior* and artist Rebecca Cobb, who illustrated *There's a Tiger on the Train*, written by Mariesa Dulak. It won the Book of the Year: Picture Book category at The Week Junior Book Awards 2025.

The prize

The winning design will be featured on the cover of the Christmas issue of *The Week Junior* – and the winner will receive a framed print of their artwork.

What to do

You'll find the template for your design opposite but you can download more at theweekjunior.co.uk/cover25 if you'd like to try out some ideas. When you're happy with your design, fill in the form at the bottom of the page and post the whole page to us at: Christmas Cover Competition, *The Week Junior*, 121 Westbourne Terrace, London, W2 6JR.

The closing date is 11.59pm on 2 November. Entrants must be aged 14 or under and be a UK resident. Please make sure you have a parent or guardian's permission to enter the competition. For the rules and conditions, go to theweekjunior.co.uk/terms



Here's the winning entry from 2024



MEET THE JUDGES

Our judges will be illustrator Rebecca Cobb, and from *The Week Junior*, Anna Bassi (editorial director), Vanessa Harriss (editor), Dave Kelsall (group art director) and Mandy Rowson (picture editor). They will be looking for a bright, clear design showing the theme of Peace on Earth. Make it lovely and bright – you can use pencils, pens, crayons or paint.



Rebecca Cobb | Anna Bassi | Vanessa Harriss | Dave Kelsall | Mandy Rowson

REX SHUTTERSTOCK

HOW TO ENTER

Here's the template for your design. You can download more at theweekjunior.co.uk/cover25 The judges are looking for a bright, clear and festive design. We can only accept original work on paper, not photos of your artwork. Fill in the form and post the whole page to: Christmas Cover Competition, *The Week Junior*, 121 Westbourne Terrace, London, W2 6JR. The deadline is 11.59pm on 2 November.

Making sense of the world

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

THE WEEK Junior

JUST £3.75

You fill this bit!

Name*:_____ Age:_____ Name of parent/guardian:_____

Parent/guardian email address and telephone number:_____

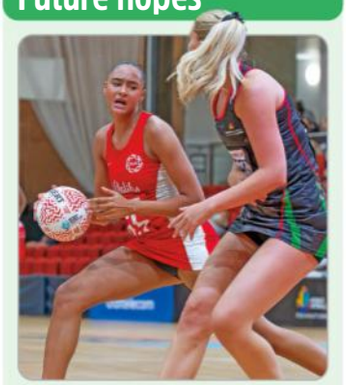
*If you are the competition winner, we will only use the details you provide to contact you and arrange delivery of your competition prize. Further details about how we manage the data you provide can be found at futureplc.com/privacy-policy



Australia celebrate.

FUN GAME
More than three million people play netball in England.

Future hopes



England came third at the 2025 Netball World Youth Cup, beating South Africa 55-35 in a play-off. The young players hope to appear for the senior England team (the Roses) in the future. In November, the Roses play three home matches against New Zealand. In December, the Roses will play Jamaica twice in Kingston, Jamaica, and then twice more in London.

Australia net world title

The top young netball teams competed for the Netball World Youth Cup recently. It's the biggest international prize for players aged 21 or younger. Eighteen countries took part in the nine-day event held in Gibraltar, which included England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland. Australia defeated New Zealand in the final to win the trophy for the fifth time.

At the beginning of the competition the teams were placed into four groups, called pools. Each team played against all the others in their pool. England and Wales were in the same pool and their game finished with England winning by 65 points to 28. England came top of their pool and Wales were third. Scotland won three of their four pool games to finish second. Northern Ireland failed to win any of their pool matches.


Australia playing Samoa.

The top two teams in each pool after all the games had been played progressed to the quarter-finals. England beat Scotland 64-33 and then took on New Zealand in the semi-final. In a very close game, New Zealand enjoyed a win by 51 points to 49.

Australia were very strong throughout the World Youth Cup and they outclassed Jamaica (85-33) and then South Africa (67-36) to reach the final. Australia and New Zealand have a big rivalry and have played each other in five finals at this competition. This time, Australia came out on top with a 63-48 victory.

"I am so proud of each and every one of you," said Australia captain Sophie Casey about her team after the final.

THE WEEK'S WINNERS...

Miriam Chebet and Yismaw Dillu
Chebet was the women's champion and Dillu took the men's title at the Cardiff Half Marathon event in Wales.

Brazil para athletics squad
Brazil finished top of the medal table at the World Para Athletics Championships with 15 gold, 20 silver and nine bronze medals.





Ipswich Town
They beat their local rivals Norwich City 3-1 in the Championship football competition. It is the first time they have defeated Norwich for 16 years.

Linsey Smith
Smith took three wickets to help England beat South Africa in their first game at the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup.

WORLD NETBALL/NETBALL WORLD CUP - GETTY IMAGES

Fresh air and fun



Playing outdoors feels good and even boosts your brain.



Outdoor play helps develop important social skills.

WAY OF LIFE

In Norway they call spending time outdoors in nature *friluftsliv*, which means "open-air living".

Spending time outside is not just fun, it's also good for your physical and mental health as well as your development. However, a recent study by the University of Exeter found that a third of young people don't play outdoors after school and one in five don't play outside at weekends.

Why is there less outdoor play?

There are several reasons why children today may spend less time outdoors, explains Dr Daniel Gordon from DGA Health. He says, "Phones, tablets and games consoles are very tempting and can take up a lot of free time. Homework, clubs and activities can take up so much time that we often forget to leave free time for just playing outdoors for the fun of it."

A report earlier this year found that there aren't enough places for children to play outside safely, such as playgrounds and parks.



Outdoor play can help you feel calmer.

Why should you go outdoors more?

Researchers from the University of Exeter found that playing outside can help something called social-emotional skills, through physical activity, adventurous play and playing with other children. Social-emotional skills help you to understand, manage and express your emotions, as well as build positive relationships with other children and interact with the world around you. Being outside is also great for your mental health. "Nature and fresh air can help reduce stress, lower anxiety and boost your energy levels. Research also shows that children who play outdoors sleep better and concentrate more easily at school," says Dr Gordon. "Outdoor play can help make you feel calmer, happier and stronger when things are tough."

Give your body a boost

There are a lot of health benefits from spending time outside too. "Activities like running, climbing and cycling get your heart pumping, which keeps it strong and lowers the chance of health problems when you grow older," says Dr Gordon. "Natural sunlight helps your body make vitamin D, which is important for strong bones and a healthy immune system (the body's defence against infections)."

"I enjoy playing outside"



Edward, 11, from West Berkshire, England, explains how he spends time outdoors. "I really enjoy playing outside. I play football and cricket for local teams and at lunchtime with friends at school. My favourite thing is to practise shooting into the goal."

Outdoor games for autumn and winter



Make sure you're playing in a safe space and that your parents or carers know where you are. Also wrap up well.

- **Climb a tree or go on a nature hunt** See what creatures you can spot.
- **Collect conkers** Have a race with your friends to see who can find the most.
- **Build a den** Collect sticks and branches to create your own special base.
- **Put on a show** Shows and concerts don't always have to be staged indoors.

REX SHUTTERSTOCK · ADOBE STOCK



PACK LEADER Hamza Yassin's favourite animal is the silverback gorilla.

Yassin wants viewers to learn about wildlife.

Wildlife-watching tips



Yassin usually packs a hat, walking stick, binoculars, boots, food and a camera but he says what you really need is enthusiasm. Binoculars are useful to see animals in detail. He says phones can be handy too, because apps such as Merlin Bird ID can identify bird songs. His final tip is to go with a friend or family member "because it's much more fun sharing it with someone else".

Discover hidden wildlife

Hamza Yassin's new TV show is all about connecting people with nature.

The UK is home to more than 70,000 known wildlife species. Lots of them are hard to spot; they might be tucked away or in the open but well disguised. Wildlife cameraman Hamza Yassin's new TV show, *Hamza's Hidden Wild Isles*, reveals hidden gems from across the British Isles. There are lots of things to look out for, including badgers, snakes and tuna fish. Along the way, Yassin meets people who are doing their bit to protect wildlife.



Yassin loves the cold.

Yassin told *The Week Junior* that he hopes viewers will learn to love the UK's under-appreciated wildlife. One example is the adder, a type of snake that he said is often "villainised" and seen as scary. In the show, Yassin meets Nigel, a conservationist helping to protect adders. "Nigel is a prime example of someone championing an animal that is so underrated," said Yassin. "He shows you that they just want to be left alone."

Meeting people like Nigel was something Yassin enjoyed while making the show, because he got to learn so much about wildlife. He has dyslexia, which makes it difficult to read and write, but he said he learns best when he's talking to people. He said if someone were to explain to him what happens in an ant colony, instead of giving him a book about it, he would absorb "so much more".

There are four episodes, one for each season of the year. Yassin said his favourite season is winter, because he loves the cold. Filming in winter was hard because the days are short, but Yassin said what they managed to get was "absolutely phenomenal".

Hamza's Hidden Wild Isles begins on BBC One and BBC iPlayer on 12 October.

Three species featured in the new series



Badgers

Badgers are the UK's largest land predator and live in burrows called "setts". Found in most parts of the UK, they like to eat earthworms and can scoff several hundred in one night.

Swifts

Although they spend winter in Africa, swifts travel to the UK every year in April and May. They can sleep and drink while flying, and like to nest in small holes in the roof spaces of buildings.





Bluefin tuna

Overfishing led to a decline of these fish around the UK but in recent years there have been more sightings. They are one of the fastest fish in the oceans, able to swim at up to 43 miles per hour.

ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

BIG COST
The Mandalorian makers had to pay about £3.7 million for the main Grogu puppet.

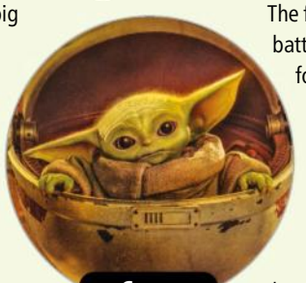


Mando and Grogu are teaming up again.

Mando and Grogu head to cinemas

Fans of *Star Wars* can enjoy a new big screen adventure next year with *The Mandalorian and Grogu* film.

Directed by Jon Favreau, the film brings the main character from the Disney+ series to the big screen. Pedro Pascal returns as the Mandalorian bounty hunter (a person who locates people for a reward) tasked with looking after Grogu – nicknamed "Baby Yoda".



Grogu (Baby Yoda).

The film's first trailer shows the duo battling robots and monsters. The story follows "Mando" and Grogu as they fight against warlords who once ruled the galaxy.

The cast includes Sigourney Weaver as a pilot and Jeremy Allen White as Rotta the Hutt.

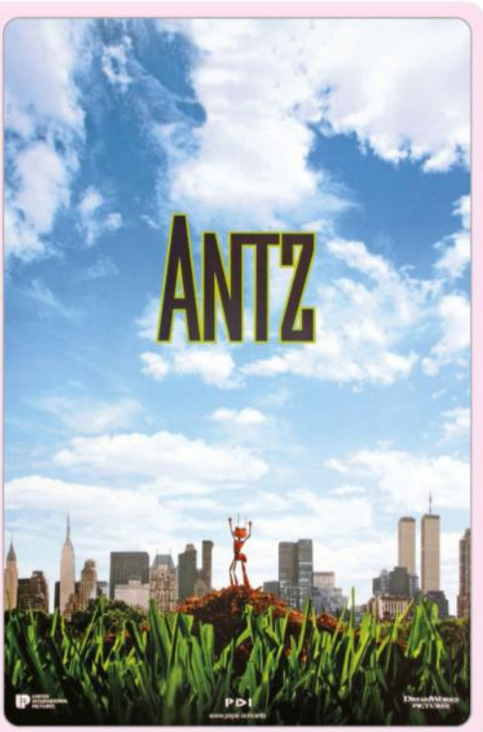
The release on 22 May 2026 will be the first *Star Wars* film since 2019's *The Rise of Skywalker*.

FILM CLUB

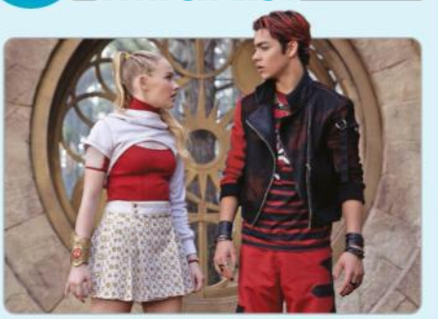
An ant wants to stand out from the crowd

Antz
Netflix PG

Deep within an ant colony, a worker ant called Z decides he doesn't just want to be like all the other worker ants. Instead, he has dreams of expressing himself and standing out from the crowd. His life becomes especially tricky when he meets the royal ant Princess Bala and falls in love with her. He does everything to see her again, getting into trouble, including a showdown with some fearsome termites. Meanwhile, the treacherous General Mandible, who is due to marry Bala, has an evil plan for the colony. Will Z work out what's going on before it's too late and save his fellow ants? Now more than 25 years old, *Antz* is a classic animated movie about freedom, bravery and being true to yourself.



THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST



Zombies 4: Dawn of the Vampires (Disney+) PG

The fourth part of the Disney+ musical franchise follows Zed and Addison as they become camp counsellors to rival monster groups. The musical features nine new songs as the heroes try to unite Daywalkers and Vampires against a common threat.



Is it Cake? Halloween
(Netflix)

In these four Halloween specials , talented contestants craft cakes that look like real objects. Celebrity judges and viewers try to spot which items – such as owls, black cats and even TV sets – are actually cake. The show combines fun party games with skilled baking.



Little Lunch
(BBC iPlayer)

This Australian comedy series follows primary school children during their 15-minute break time. The 12-minute episodes feature stories about cheering up Rory after his visit to the headteacher's office, a trip to the lost and found, and the school's dress-up day.

BBC/SILVERBACK FILMS/CHRIS HOWARD/LAURA HOWARD - REX SHUTTERSTOCK - GETTY IMAGES - LUCASFILM LTD - DISNEY+ - NETFLIX - ALAMY - BBC - DREAMWORKS ANIMATION

5 thrilling ends to book series

Take the plunge into the epic finales of these wildly gripping fantasy stories.

The Fate of Podkin One-Ear



by Kieran Larwood. Illustrated by David Wyatt

(Faber Children's)

Brave rabbit hero Podkin and his crew have brought all their gifts together to transform them into a suit of armour that will only fit a rabbit with one ear. Now Podkin must put it on and call together all the armies of the Five Realms to defeat their great enemy.

The Ship of Strays



by Kiran Millwood Hargrave

(Hachette Children's)

In the final part of the *Geomancer* fantasy trilogy, Ysolda has unlocked earth magic, and its powers are rising within her. With the help of a rebel princess, she sets out to race against the fearsome wolf queen. On their stormy journey over the sea, they face pirates and peril, and the future of the whole world is at stake.

Greenwild: The Forest in the Sky



by Pari Thomson. Illustrated by Elisa Paganelli

(Macmillan Children's Books)

Daisy and her friends are setting out to rescue the botanists trapped in the heart of the Amazon rainforest – including Daisy's mother. When an unexpected attack sends the rescue mission off course, Daisy must draw on her courage to fight for the Greenwild.

The Book of Stolen Dreams: The Final Battle



by David Farr

(Usborne Publishing)

It seems that life is finally going back to normal for Rachel... though maybe not just yet! Something strange happens to a famous film star, so Rachel and her brother Robert will have to return to the Hinterland to expose the truth – and defeat a villain with an evil plan.

Skandar and the Spirit War



by A.F. Steadman

(Simon & Schuster)

After the events of the Chaos Cup, young unicorn rider Skandar is in hiding. Now, he must build new alliances and harness all the power of elemental magic if he is to become the leader who can save both the Mainland and the heart of the Island itself. The final book in the series is perfect autumn reading for Skandar fans.

TOM CLOHOSY COLE - CHARLOTTE KNEE - CHICKENHOUSEBOOKS.COM

BOOK OF THE WEEK

The Girl Who Raced the World

by Nat Harrison

(Piccadilly Press)



Around the World in Eighty Days is a classic adventure novel by the French author Jules Verne, first published in 1872. It's about a man named Phileas Fogg who sets out to prove that he can travel around the world in 80 days, at a time when cars and aeroplanes didn't exist. This reimagining of the story is told from the point of view of Maggie – an orphan who has escaped from a Victorian workhouse. When she crosses paths with the mysterious Phileas Fogg and his servant, Passepartout, she joins them on an extraordinary journey. They travel through Italy, Hong Kong, Japan, America and India, with a bank robber on the loose and an angry detective on their tail. Nat Harrison's thrilling adventure allows you to imagine what it might have been like to travel around the globe in the 19th century.

WIN! We're giving away five copies of *The Girl Who Raced the World*

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 October at midday. Make sure you have a parent or guardian's permission to enter.* Congratulations to Justin, Lyra & Seren, Sam, Sarah and Sonny, who won *The Week Junior Big Book of Even More Knowledge* (issue 511).



ASK THE AUTHOR

Nat Harrison

The author talks about the importance of trying things that scare you.

This is your first published book. Have you written any others?
I've written lots of stories but most are either unfinished or have bits missing. I went back to school to learn how to write a complete novel – and this is my first!

What's your favourite place in the world?
If I have to pick just one, it would be Lake Annecy in the French Alps. It's a great place to have incredible adventures.

What are your three travel essentials?
Headphones so I can disappear into a story; a deck of cards because I love a good game to pass the time; and always a notebook and pen.

Do you have anything in common with Maggie?
Courage is very important to Maggie and to me. I think there's a special power in being scared of something and doing it anyway.

What was your inspiration for this novel?
When I was 10, we moved to Hong Kong. It felt like stepping through a doorway into another world. I hope that feeling of wonder and excitement shines through on every page.



READERS RECOMMEND

Name: **Salihah**



The Queen's Fool

by Ally Sherrick

"Funny, relatable and unexpected. This book made me see the world differently and reminded me that everyone is someone, and is important."

YOUR TURN

Please email your book review to *hello@theweekjunior.co.uk*. If it is printed in the magazine you will receive a Roving Reporter badge. Describe your chosen book in three words, tell us what you liked about it and why you would recommend it to others. Don't forget to include your name and address.*

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IT'S A DEADLY RACE AGAINST TIME . . .

Tom thought going to a luxury ski chalet was the holiday he and his mum needed.

But he didn't expect hijackers to arrive, searching for the dangerous new technology her boss created, or for a gunshot to trigger an avalanche trapping them all.

With no way for help to reach them, Tom only has the element of surprise on his side ... but will it be enough?

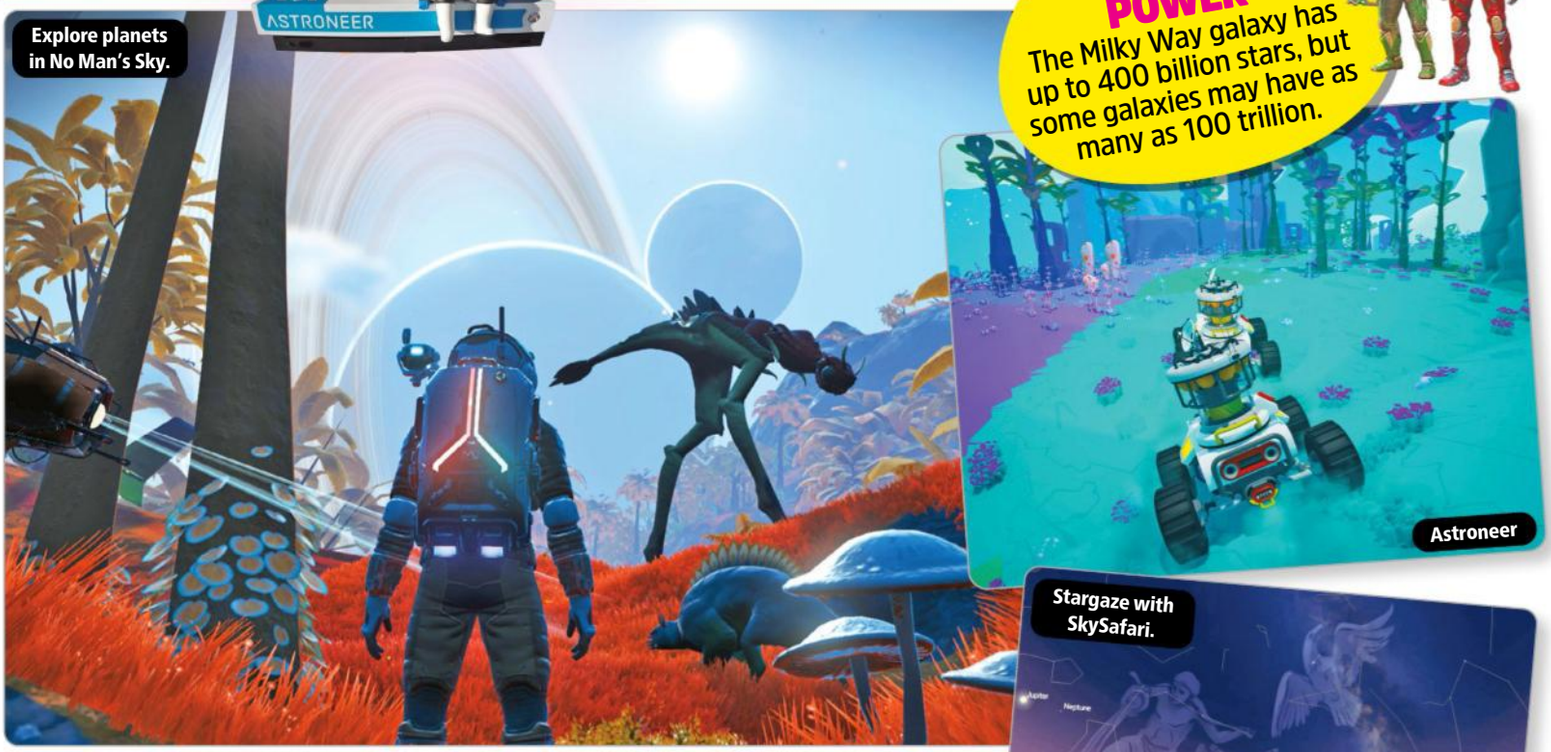
LISTEN TO AN EXCLUSIVE EXTRACT!

More action-packed thrillers by SIMON FOX





nosy crow



STAR POWER
The Milky Way galaxy has up to 400 billion stars, but some galaxies may have as many as 100 trillion.



Blast into space

Look beyond our planet with these space-themed games, apps and websites.

Would you like to explore space without actually having to blast off on a rocket? These games, apps, podcasts and websites can help.

US space agency NASA's mobile app has photos and videos, news about space missions, information about astronauts and much more.

Apps such as SkySafari, Star Walk 2 and Night Sky can help anyone become a stargazer. You can use them at night to point your phone at the sky and identify stars, planets and constellations (groups of stars such as Leo, the Lion and Cancer, the Crab). These apps can even track satellites, so you will know when the International Space Station is overhead.


ESA Kids

NASA has a good website called Space Place, with games and information about space and the science that helps humans to explore it. ESA Kids is the site for the European Space Agency, helping you learn about its missions as well as other topics. National Geographic's Passport to Space is packed with games, photos and facts to help you "journey beyond Earth".

If you enjoy listening to podcasts, *NASA's Curious Universe* features episodes on lots of topics, including "exoplanets" far away from Earth, and how "microgravity" in space affects astronauts' bodies. As for games, if you're fascinated by space, try Astroneer. You can explore colourful planets, dig for resources and build your own bases. No Man's Sky has an enormous universe to discover, full of unique planets and bizarre alien creatures – which you can adopt as pets as you play.

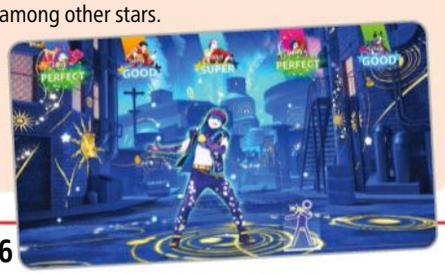
The Kerbal Space Program games are more serious simulations of rocket building and space flight. Mobile game Spaceteam is a silly and fun multi-player game where you and your friends or family try to fix your spaceship – by shouting.

SYSTEMERA.NET · HELLOGAMES.ORG · SKYSAFARIASTRONOMY.COM · ESA.INT · CHESSKIDS.ORG.UK · HYPERLUMINALGAMES.COM · UBISOFT.COM

GAME OF THE WEEK

JUST DANCE 2026 EDITION

Are you ready to throw some serious moves in your living room or bedroom while trying not to bump into your friends or family in the excitement? This year's update for Just Dance has songs from Dua Lipa, Lady Gaga and Coldplay, among other stars.



APP OF THE WEEK

PINE HEARTS



Is this a mobile game or a "cosy hiking adventure"? It's both. You play Tyke, a boy exploring a nature reserve while bumping into ghosts, a brass band and competitive vegetable growers. It's free to try, and a single purchase unlocks the whole game. Be sure to talk to an adult before paying for anything.

WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

CHESSKID

Whether you've been playing chess for a while or are just starting to learn, this very popular site helps you to improve by playing matches – against bots or against other young people around the world. It's safe too, as there are no chat features.



Write a letter in Braille

Get involved with National Braille Week by creating your own message.

What you need

- A piece of white card
- A notebook
- A pencil or pen
- Eraser
- Ruler
- Glue
- Dried lentils
- Clear nail varnish

From 14 to 19 October it will be National Braille Week. Braille is a writing system for people who are blind or visually impaired. It uses raised dots to replace written letters so that people can feel with their fingers to read words. National Braille Week aims to celebrate and raise awareness of Braille as a vital tool that helps people read books for fun and for learning, and aids communication too.

Braille was invented in 1824. It is named after a French man called Louis Braille. He was blind from the age of three but left his home town aged 10 to attend a school for blind pupils in Paris. They had a basic system of raised dots for reading but, aged 15, Louis began to develop his own.

Today, technologies like voice-to-text software and smartphones mean Braille is used less often than it once was, but it remains an important tool. It is usually written by embossing (punching the raised dots into paper) by hand or machine. Here, we show you how to do it with dried lentils.

VERSATILE
Braille has been adapted for use in more than 130 languages.



Use this Braille alphabet for your own message.



1 Think of the message you want to send and write it out in clear letters in your notebook so you can refer to it. Start off with a short, simple message.



2 Use the Braille alphabet above to translate your message into the correct dot pattern on your card. Make sure you leave space between each letter and word.



3 Dab a little glue on one side of a lentil – this can be fiddly, so go slowly – and stick it on a dot. Repeat this until all your dots are covered with lentils. Wait for it to dry.



4 Once the glue is dry, paint over the note with clear nail varnish. This will help to keep the lentils in place when someone is running their fingers over them.

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

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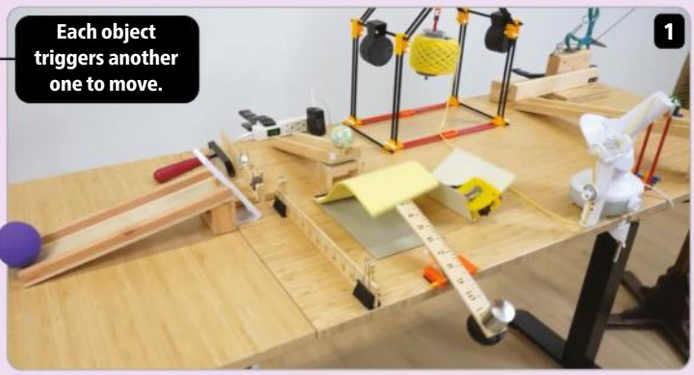
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A jacket-unzipping machine

Steve Price, who goes by the social media name of Sprice Machines, has created a crazy machine that unzips his jacket for him. Through a complex chain reaction (a process where one event triggers the next), marbles roll along tracks, notepads fall and scissors snip through yarn, before the machine finally unzips his jacket. It ends with a mannequin (dummy) hand giving a thumbs-up sign. His other inventions have included machines that can pop balloons, deliver snacks or slice a loaf of bread.











Railway bench seats 239 people

On 30 September, 239 people sat on what is said to be the "world's longest station bench" to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of modern railways. The bench is on a platform at Scarborough railway station in North Yorkshire, England, and is 139 metres long – that's as long as 12 double-decker buses. It was built in 1883 to make room for lots of tourists visiting the seaside by train. Residents and visitors took part in the event, with some dressed up in Victorian-style costumes. Town crier David Birdsall announced the total number of people sitting on the bench. He said it was a fantastic sight and everyone looked so happy sitting together.

Art you can touch, but not see

Usually, museums and galleries don't allow visitors to touch the objects on display in case they damage the artworks. This isn't the case at the Nature in Art Museum and Art Gallery near Gloucester, England, where an exhibition called *Totally Tactile* invites people to touch the exhibits. The exhibition is designed with blind and partially sighted people in mind but visitors without sight impairments can also join in by wearing a blindfold provided by the gallery. There are 1,150 objects on display to touch, including realistic sculptures of animals and pieces of abstract art. The exhibition runs until 19 October.



CATERSNEWS.COM · CHARLEY ATKINS/TOM WREN/SWNS · GETTY IMAGES

Real or rubbish?



Toilets introduce loo-roll rules

In some public toilets in China, there are toilet-roll dispensers that make users watch videos to get extra sheets. While users are in the bathroom, they have to scan a QR code on a machine and watch an advert before a few squares of tissue pop out. If they want to skip the ads, they can pay five pence instead. For those who need more toilet roll, they have to pay more money. Authorities say that people have been taking large amounts of free toilet roll, so the system is designed to reduce waste. Is this story true or just a bit of toilet humour?*

*Real! A video shared by the social media account *China Insider* shows users scanning QR codes to either watch an advert or pay money for their toilet paper. The system has received lots of criticism for not giving paper for free.

Wordsearch

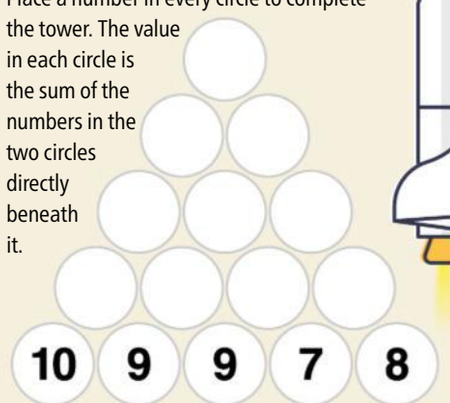
Can you find all of the words listed? They are hidden horizontally, vertically or diagonally and may read forwards or backwards.

AEROPLANE
AIRSHIP
BALLOON
BAT
BEE
BIRD
BLIMP
BUTTERFLY
DRONE
HELICOPTER
INSECT
JET
JUMBO
KITE
MOSQUITO
MOTH
ROCKET
SHUTTLE
SPACESHIP
WASP

O	Y	F	S	T	P	S	A	W	W	Q	D
T	D	P	A	P	K	I	M	O	T	H	R
I	S	B	M	I	A	O	H	A	N	E	O
U	H	I	T	I	B	C	E	S	T	D	N
Q	U	E	N	M	L	R	E	P	R	R	E
S	T	N	U	S	O	B	O	S	D	I	R
O	T	J	A	P	E	C	N	A	H	B	A
M	L	T	L	R	I	C	N	S	A	I	Y
C	E	A	E	L	D	R	T	E	E	B	P
I	N	N	E	J	R	O	C	K	E	T	A
E	S	H	R	F	B	A	L	L	O	O	N
I	Y	L	F	R	E	T	T	U	B	E	L

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.



Word fill in

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

ANSWERS ARE ON PAGE 33

4 letters
GOLF
POOL

5 letters
BOWLS
RUGBY

6 letters
HOCKEY
SQUASH

7 letters
CRICKET
CROQUET
HURLING
NETBALL
SNOOKER

8 letters
FOOTBALL
LACROSSE





Shortcode

Eight letters of the alphabet have been replaced by numbers. Crack the code to find the words.

	6	2	5	8 R
8		4		7
3	1	7	8	5
5 A		7		1
8	5	1	6	

~~A~~ E O P ~~R~~ S T W

1	2	3	4
5 A	6	7	8 R

Crossword

Read the clues carefully and write the answers into the grid.

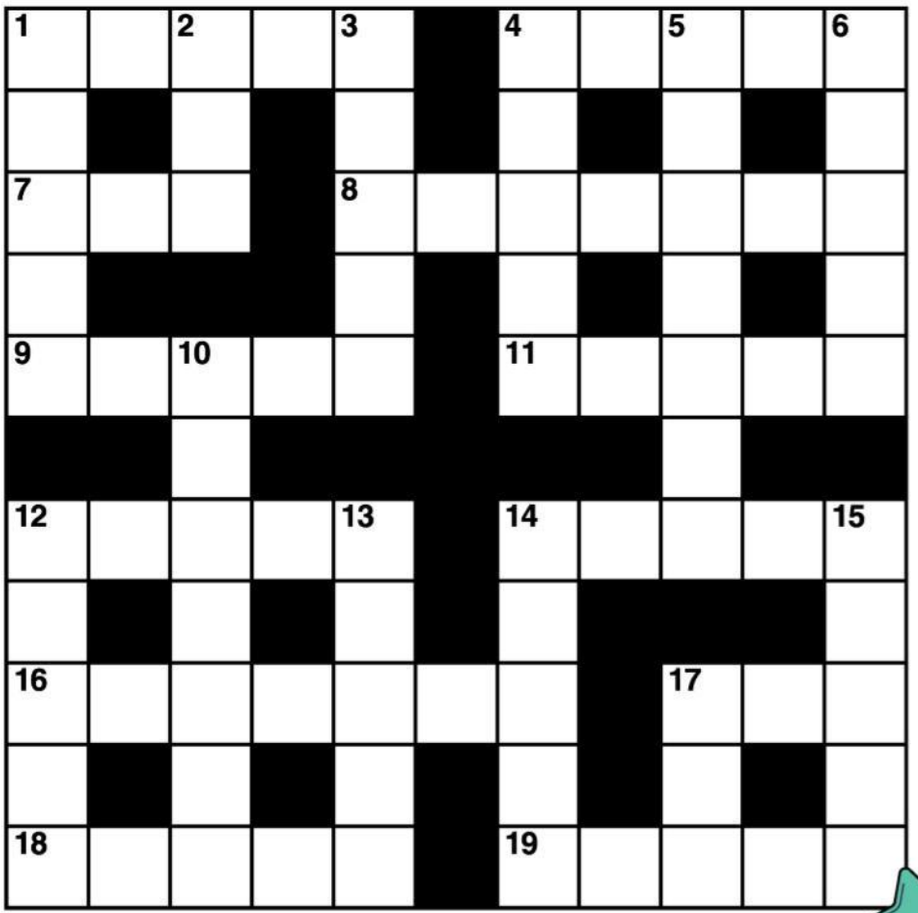
Across

1 Kayak (5)
4 Hooded snake of India (5)
7 Painting or sculpture, for example (3)
8 Mechanic's tool (7)
9 Award (silver or gold, eg) (5)
11 Red-breasted bird (5)
12 Grilled bread (5)
14 Thick slice (5)
16 Bunch of flowers (7)
17 Easter ___, chocolate treat (3)
18 Flicker (5)
19 Building to live in (5)

Down

1 Small ornament on a bracelet (5)
2 Cashew or Brazil, eg (3)
3 Upright tripod (5)
4 Seat for one (5)
5 Sleeping arrangement for two children (4-3)
6 Item of protective clothing (5)
10 Famous vampire (7)
12 Pipes (5)
13 Elephant's nose (5)
14 Timer worn on the wrist (5)
15 Sharp-eyed bird of prey (5)
17 Large non-flying bird (3)





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

43-day summer basketball challenge



Hugo loves playing basketball.

Name: Hugo

"Over the summer holidays I decided to set a "no days off basketball" challenge where I had to play basketball for at least 30 minutes a day, 43 days in a row. I was raising money for my school's charity, PAWS, to buy new equipment and encourage more people to play the sport. I loved the challenge so much that I played 60 minutes a day, sometimes even 90! It was tough, as a few days into the challenge I got a really bad flu, lost my voice and had to play through muscle fatigue too. I feel proud knowing that I did good, fundraising over £880 while getting better every day playing the sport that I love."

TEACHER OF THE WEEK



Teacher's name: **Mr Redmond**

School: **St John Fisher Catholic Primary School, Widnes, England**

"I would like to nominate Mr Redmond because he is the best teacher I've ever had. He's very funny and makes everybody laugh. Mr Redmond makes subjects more fun to learn about. At extra break he plays football with the whole class, or we teach him gymnastics. When I'm upset, he makes me smile and laugh again. When I go back to school, I'm going to give him the biggest hug ever."

Mollie

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*



JOKE OF THE WEEK

"What do you call a deer with no eyes? No idea!"

Avnie

CHARITY OF THE WEEK



Facing the World

This charity helps children in Vietnam who are born with severe facial conditions and struggle to eat, speak or go to school. The charity trains local doctors so they can give children life-changing surgery. The organisation makes more than 10,000 surgeries possible every year. To find out more, ask an adult to visit facingtheworld.net

GET INVOLVED

BBC 500 Words

If you are a budding writer aged five to 11, then the BBC's 500 Words competition is for you. Write a story you would love to read in up to 500 words. Don't worry about spelling, grammar or punctuation mistakes – just let your imagination flow. If you're one of 50 finalists, you will be invited to the grand final at Windsor Castle, where the winners will be announced. Judges include children's author Francesca Simon and Children's Laureate Frank Cottrell-Boyce. The deadline for entries is 7 November. To find out more, ask an adult to visit the competition website at tinyurl.com/TWJ-500story



TV presenter Alex Jones will chair the judging panel.

THE WEEK Junior Roving Reporter

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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.**



"We completed our word searches at a recent ballroom dancing competition. We are dance partners and we love reading *The Week Junior* when we're not on the dance floor." Emily and Katie

"When I saw the project to make an owl bookend (issue 511) I thought it looked really cool and I love owls. I had all the things I needed and so I made it on a Saturday afternoon. I've called him Barney." Owen



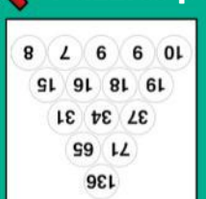


"Reading *The Week Junior* while suspended on my swing!" Hafsah

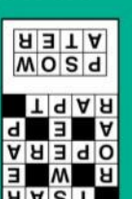


"We organised a fundraiser to help buy an air conditioner for school. We ran an origami lesson, from butterflies to dragons, and we raised over £20 in just 10 minutes." Marie and Hanae

Puzzles page and quiz answers













1 c) Chimpanzees **2** True **3** Saudi Arabia **4** b) 2029 **5** True **6** Stef Reid **7** b) 2019 **8** True **9** A doctor called George Huntington **10** b) 18 **11** False, the puppet cost around £3.7 million **12** *Around the World in Eighty Days* **13** True **14** a) 1824 **15** 239 people

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Quiz of the week

1 Dr Jane Goodall is famous for working with which animals?

- [ ] a) Whales
- [ ] b) Elephants
- [ ] c) Chimpanzees

2 True or false? Heidi Alexander is the UK's Transport Secretary.

- [ ] True
- [ ] False

3 Rock carvings of animals dating back 12,000 years have been discovered in which country?

4 When is the digital ID scheme expected to be introduced in the UK?

- [ ] a) Next month
- [ ] b) 2029
- [ ] c) 2039

ANSWERS ARE ON PAGE 33

5 True or false? Estonia has had digital ID cards for more than 20 years.

- [ ] True
- [ ] False

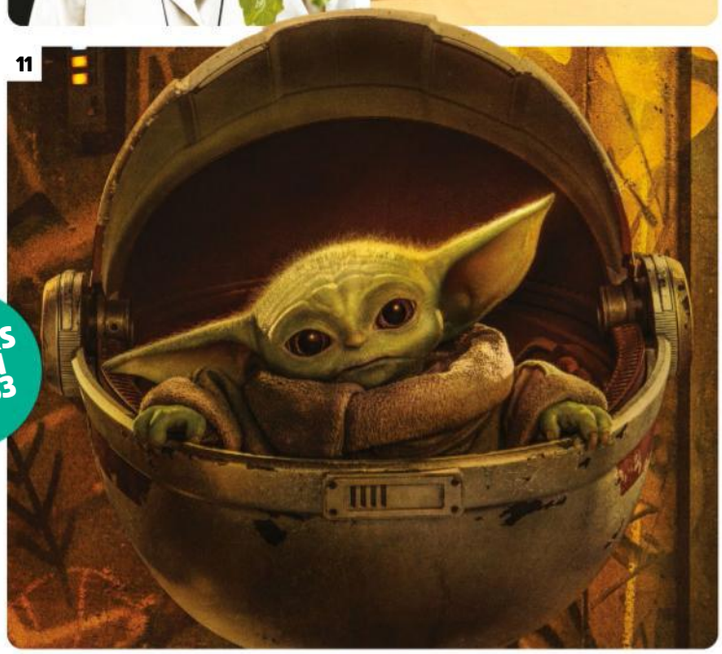
6 Which Paralympic medallist is on a mission to get companies to sell single shoes, not just pairs?

7 When did farmers harvest the UK's first crop of chickpeas?

- [ ] a) 1999
- [ ] b) 2019
- [ ] c) 2022


1


3


11


13


14

8 True or false? Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

- [ ] True
- [ ] False

9 Huntington's disease is named after which person?

10 How many countries took part in the Netball World Youth Cup?

- [ ] a) 10
- [ ] b) 18
- [ ] c) 22

11 True or false? The main Grogu puppet in *The Mandalorian* television series cost around £1.5 million.

- [ ] True
- [ ] False

12 Our Book of the Week, *The Girl Who Raced the World*, is based on which novel that was originally published in 1872?

13 True or false? The Milky Way galaxy contains up to 400 billion stars.

- [ ] True
- [ ] False

14 In which year was the Braille writing system invented?

- [ ] a) 1824
- [ ] b) 1901
- [ ] c) 1950

15 How many people sat on what is probably the world's longest station bench, in Scarborough, England?

THE WEEK Junior

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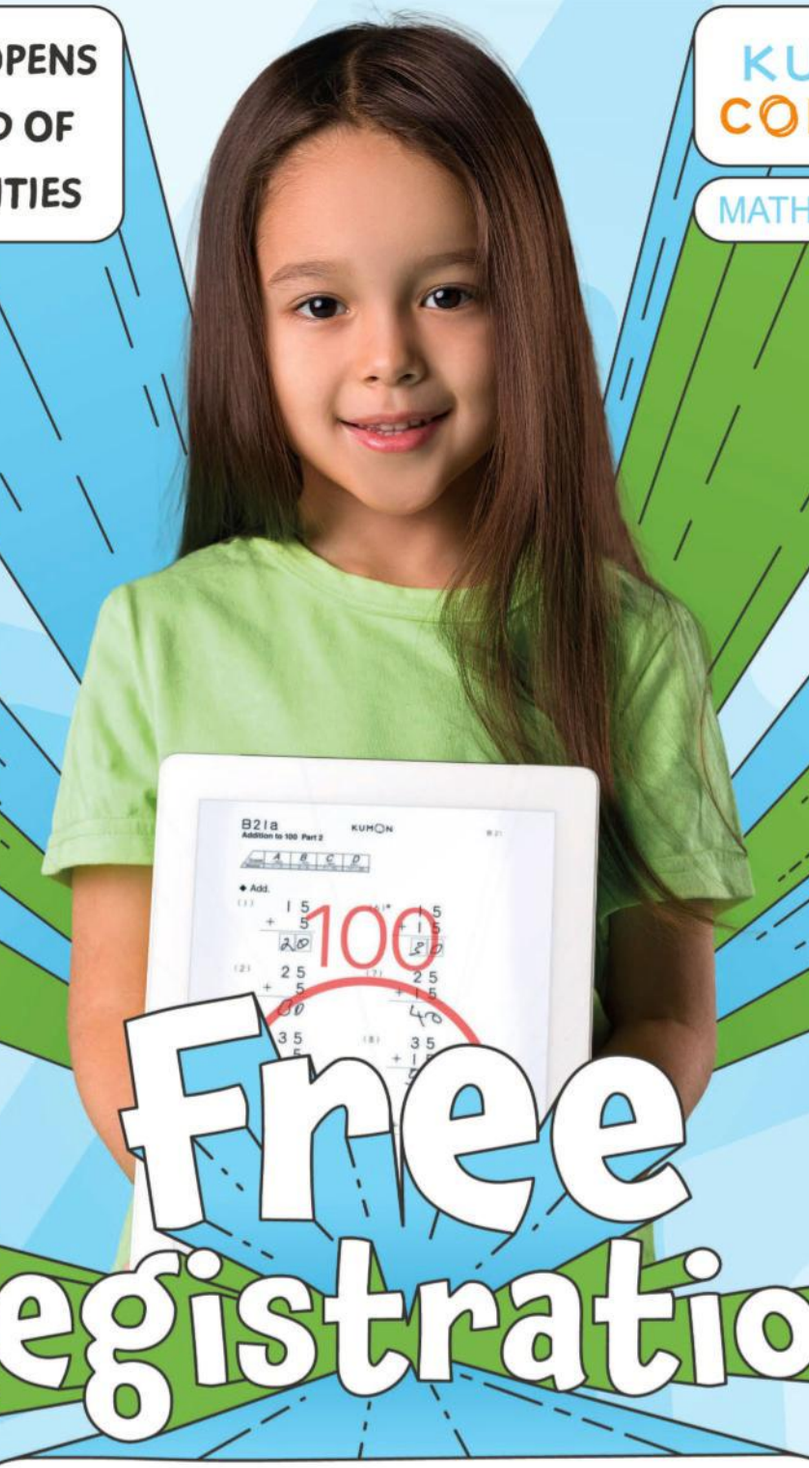
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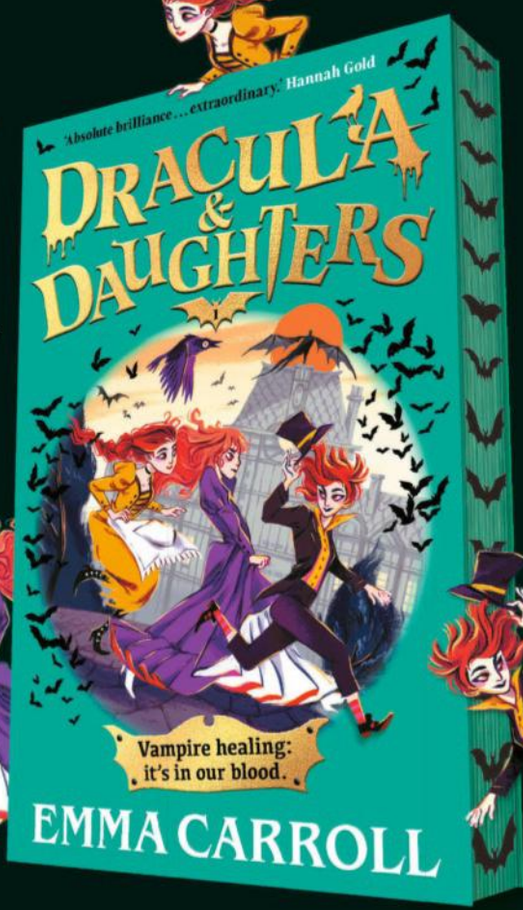
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