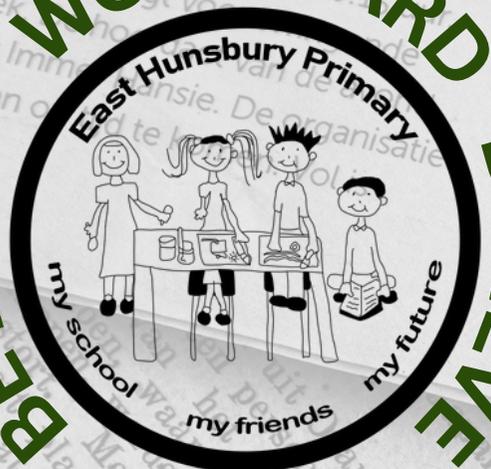


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The weekly newspaper for children

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Seal Pups on Screen

Blakeney Point in Norfolk, England, is full of winter excitement which everyone can enjoy from home. A special solar-powered webcam is streaming live from England's largest grey seal colony, giving people a close-up look at the seals and their fluffy white pups until early January 2026. In 2023, almost 9,000 pups were born at Blakeney Point. That was a 77% increase in just five years, showing how quickly the colony (a group of seals) has been growing. Edward Stubbings, the National Trust's Area Ranger for Blakeney Point said, 'We're really proud to look after the largest seal colony in England.' The live camera shows lots of moments,



Pictured: A grey seal pup in the sand dunes in Blakeney, Norfolk.
Source: Canva.

such as seal pups wobbling across the sand, mothers caring for their babies, and bulls (male seals) showing their strength. During pupping season, a rope line helps keep people back, and dogs are not allowed on Blakeney Point. Volunteers also help visitors learn how to watch the seals responsibly. **Would you like to watch the seals on the webcam?**

Carols Around the Clock!

In Lebanon, a school is getting ready for a very big festive challenge. From 16th - 23rd December, Sacred Hearts School in Kfardebian will host a special Christmas carol concert and hope to set a new Guinness World Record for the longest Christmas carol concert ever, singing for 170 hours! The event will run both

day and night. There will be famous solo singers and choirs and many more. There will be no speeches, just Christmas song after Christmas song! People can come and watch at any time, even in the middle of the night. Guinness World Records says there must be at least 12 people in the audience for the record to count. Each song must last at least two minutes and performers only have 20 seconds to be ready for the next song. A special timetable has been made that will help keep the music going for the whole 170 hours.



Pictured: Lebanon on the map and its flag.
Source: Canva.

What Christmas song would you choose in a festive singing challenge?

How important is it to feel a sense of togetherness?



Without togetherness, it feels like you have a blank space in your body that needs filling with kindness.

Evie

Runaway Reindeer

A reindeer called Buddy sparked a huge search operation after he ran away from Santa's Enchanted Forest in Formby, Merseyside, UK. Police officers, a veterinarian, the Coastguard, and members of the Royal Marines were called in to help find and return him. 'Buddy got excited and jumped the enclosure,' explained Steve Howard, from Santa's Enchanted Forest. Buddy was later discovered on Formby beach using thermal binoculars! A lifeboat



Pictured: Buddy the reindeer running away. **Source:** HM Coastguard Crosby on Facebook.

quad bike team helped to shepherd him into the dunes and a police drone then monitored him until he fell asleep on the beach. The vet, supported by Royal Marines, then helped return him home. 'We're happy to report that Buddy is now safe, warm and snuggled up back home in north Wales. After his unexpected seaside adventure, he is enjoying some well-earned rest in his cosy stable and will be taking it easy for the rest of the year,' said Buddy's owners.

Have you ever seen a reindeer? What do you think the best way to track one would be?



Pictured: Buddy the reindeer - seen here in night vision - was found on the beach. **Source:** HM Coastguard Crosby on Facebook.

Return Recycling in Romania

Romania is celebrating hitting an incredible 94% collection rate of plastic, glass, and metal containers after launching the largest return plan in the world! The country's two-year-old deposit return system means that when you buy a drink in a bottle, you pay an extra 0.50 Romanian leu (£0.09). This money is given back when you return the packaging for recycling, usually to the shop where it was bought from. The bottle must be cleaned and in its original shape when it is handed in at the collection point. Dana Chitucescu, from Pianu, Transylvania, said, 'It's a great system, everyone in our village uses it, there's always a queue at the shop.'



Pictured: School children visiting a recycling depot operated by RetuRO. **Source:** RetuRO SGR on Facebook.

'It is a zero to hero story,' said Gemma Webb, from logistics firm RetuRO, which works with the Romanian government and beverage packaging manufacturers. 'The products are clean, there is little contamination, they can be recycled easily, and we have full traceability as well, so we know every bottle that goes on the market.'

Do you recycle? Can you think of any ways to improve how we do it?

How important is it to feel a sense of togetherness?



It is very important to have togetherness, it is a great way to communicate and feel safe.

Maddison