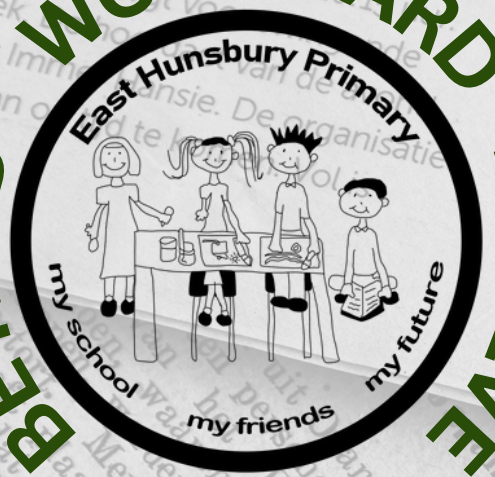


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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

YOUR WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

The weekly newspaper for children

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK?

What do you think about this week's news?

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Alligator Operation

Seventy US coins have been successfully removed from a rare alligator's stomach at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium, in Nebraska, USA. Zookeepers report that Thibodaux, the leucistic American alligator, has recovered well from surgery. Foreign metal objects were identified in his stomach during routine examinations by veterinarians at the zoo. Christina Ploog, the vet who led the procedure, said, 'A plastic pipe was placed to protect his mouth and safely pass the tools used to access the coins, such as a camera that helped us guide the retrieval of these objects.' Zookeepers think that 36-year-old Thibodaux ingested coins that had been thrown into the water in his enclosure. The zoo has asked visitors to not throw their spare change into any bodies of water at the zoo, and instead use the coin wishing well or convert them into the zoo's souvenir coins. Leucistic alligators are the rarest genetic variation of the American alligator. They normally have blue eyes and white, translucent, or pale pink skin.

How do you think staff at the zoo could stop the coins from ending up in the animals' water?



Pictured: Thibodaux, the 36-year-old leucistic American alligator (below) and the coins removed from Thibodaux's stomach (above).
Source: Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium Facebook page.



Supersonic Speeds



Pictured: A flying plane. **Source:** Canva.

Unusually high winds in the Atlantic jet stream have pushed passenger planes to supersonic speeds! Experts say the near record-breaking wind speeds are due to very cold temperatures in the northeast USA and much warmer air in the south. One commercial flight, travelling from Washington to London, was pushed to nearly 800mph. Another flight from New Jersey's Newark Airport to Lisbon, in Portugal, reached speeds of 835mph. This is much faster than a passenger aeroplane's typical flying speed, which would normally be around 575mph. 'This evening's weather balloon launch detected the 2nd strongest upper-level wind recorded in local history going back to the mid-20th

century. Around 34,000-35,000ft, winds peaked around 230 knots (265mph!). For those flying eastbound in this jet, there will be quite a tailwind,' the National Weather Service Baltimore/Washington posted. The Atlantic jet stream is a fast and narrow current of air, which flows from west to east and encircles the globe. Aeroplanes travelling east from North America often use the jet stream to help them to travel faster and cut down the amount of fuel that they need to use. Scientists, however, do warn that the downside of the increased speed is the possibility of a much bumpier ride, due to more severe turbulence.
How do you think it would feel to travel this fast?

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Long-lost Trophy Returned



Pictured: People taking part in the Highland Games held in Cabrach last year. **Source:** The Cabrach Trust X page.

Pictured: The Cabrach Rose Bowl Trophy. **Source:** The Cabrach Trust X page.

A Highland Games trophy, missing for 90 years, has been located! An appeal to find the missing Cabrach Rose Bowl trophy has resulted in the award being found in Devon, southwest England and returned home to Cabrach, a hamlet in Moray, Scotland. The Cabrach Trust, an organisation committed to regenerating local communities, brought back the Cabrach Picnic and Games in 2022, after an 87-year gap. The Cabrach Picnic and Games was a staple of the Highland Games calendar and ran annually from 1877 to 1935. The recently-found silverware was traditionally awarded to the top-performing athlete at the Games. Attendees at the event held in 2023 could enjoy 'have a go' Highland Games, tug o' war, Highland dances, music, food and drink. Highland Games events typically include the caber toss (throwing a very large log as far as possible), hammer

throw (throwing a heavy hammer as far as you can over your head backwards, whilst wearing special boots to ensure you stay firmly in one spot), stone put (very similar to shot put but using a large stone), Tug o' war and hill race. Organisers are overjoyed that the trophy has been returned in time for this year's Highland Games. Charlie Murray, chair of the Royal Scottish Highland Games Association, commented during the search for the prized bowl, saying, 'The Cabrach Rose Bowl represents a key component of the history of Scottish Highland Games. Silverware like this is steeped in the heritage of traditional Highland sport, and it is culturally very significant that such prizes remain as the reward for the finest athletes that grace our games.'
Have you ever attended a Highland Games? If not, do you think you would like to?

Last week's topic: How important is packaging?



I think this is a good idea for the environment not for people with bad eyesight like me.

Ella

I think that plastic bottles should be banned and we should use only glass!

Jamie

I think that less packaging is really important for the environment and a good idea.

Patrick

I think we should keep the plastic labels because it will be easier to recognise what I am drinking and the colours will make more people want to buy the drinks.

Carmen

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Pedalling to Paris

Two Penny Farthing enthusiasts are taking on a challenge to raise money for the charity, Macmillan Cancer Support. Matt Richardson and Bill Pollard are collecting sponsorship to ride on their Penny Farthing bicycles from Henley to Paris! In June, the two friends will pedal their way from Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, UK to the capital of France, in memory of Mr Richardson's father. The two gentlemen can be seen wearing traditional dress whilst training for the event. 'As the ride will be in June, it'll hopefully be warm, so I have a vintage desert jacket and a pith helmet,' said Matt. A Penny Farthing is an early type of bicycle that was popular over a hundred and fifty years ago in the 1870s. Its name came from the largest and smallest British coins that were in use at the time - a penny, representing the huge front wheel and a much smaller farthing coin, the tiny back wheel. The front wheel often measured just over 2 metres in diameter.

Would you like to learn how to ride a Penny Farthing?
How do you think it would feel to travel this way?



Pictured: Matt Richardson and Bill Pollard (above) and a Penny Farthing (below).
Source: Henley to Paris on Penny Farthing Facebook page.



Spiney Sightings



Pictured: Hedgehogs **Source:** Canva.



BBC Gardeners' World Magazine has announced that sightings of hedgehogs in people's gardens are on the rise! It is hoped that, after years of hedgehog numbers decreasing, the spikey mammals' numbers could be increasing in urban areas. The researchers, who conducted a survey of 2,000 people, said they are 'cautiously optimistic', following small signs that hedgehogs could be making a comeback. Garden sightings in urban areas of the arguably adorable creatures have gone up by two percent in the last year! The report shows thirty-three percent of people asked said they had spotted hedgehogs in their garden in 2023, up from thirty-one percent in 2022. The report also reveals actions that have helped the hedgehogs, for example creating wild

patches of 'messy' garden for hedgehogs to dig in, and making 'hedgehog highways' by installing 'hedgehog doors' or holes in fences so that they can travel around more safely. Kevin Smith, from BBC Gardeners' World Magazine, said, 'The recent surge in hedgehog sightings is a positive indication that we're making progress in coexisting with nature.' Did you know that hedgehogs are nocturnal animals? They eat insects, worms, slugs and berries, and their bodies have over 5,000 spines. Their name comes from where they build their nests, in 'hedges', and the noise they make, a small snorting, grunting sound similar to the noise made by a pig or warthog, 'hog'.
Have you ever seen a hedgehog? Can you think of anything you could do to make your local area more hedgehog-friendly?

Free Tuition Thanks To \$1bn Donation



Pictured: The University Hospital building and students at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, New York, USA. **Source:** Albert Einstein College of Medicine – Official @EinsteinMed X page.

Medical students at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, New York, USA, have been rejoicing as they have recently been told that they don't have to pay their tuition fees! This has been made possible due to a huge donation of \$1 billion made by a former professor at the college. All current fourth-year students will be refunded their spring 2024 tuition fees and, from August of this year, all students at the medical college will receive free tuition! Dr Ruth Gottesman made the very generous gift on behalf of her late Wall Street investor husband. It is thought to be the largest donation made to any medical school in the country. Dr Gottesman said, 'I am very thankful to my late husband, Sandy, for leaving these funds in my care,

and I feel blessed to be given the great privilege of making this gift to such a worthy cause.' Dr. Yaron Tomer, a Dean at the University, commented on the 'transformational gift' saying, 'This donation radically revolutionises our ability to continue attracting students who are committed to our mission, not just those who can afford it. Additionally, it will free up and lift our students, enabling them to pursue projects and ideas that might otherwise be prohibitive. We will be reminded of the legacy this historic gift represents each spring as we send another diverse class of physicians out across the Bronx and around the world to provide compassionate care and transform their communities.'

Last week's topic:

How can you make your voice heard?



I agree that climate change is very important, but I don't agree with blocking the road because I think they should do something different. I agree with them because the government are not making sure the farmers are looked after properly and things need to be more fair.

2K Julian's Primary School

You can maybe get someone to help you be heard because two voices [are] better than one usually.

Ava

I believe this is a bad way to make your voice heard for instance if an ambulance came by or a fire engine came by as well as a police car, they would all need to get past quickly. Actions speak louder than words sometimes.

Katie

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