

**NEWS STORY:**

**SIR David Attenborough has said that climate change is the greatest threat to people in thousands of years.**

The TV presenter said it could lead to the extinction of “much of the natural world”.

Sir David was speaking to world leaders at the opening ceremony of the United Nations climate talks in Katowice, Poland. He said: “Right now, we are facing a man-made disaster of global scale. Our greatest threat in thousands of years. Climate change.”

Sir David had “the People’s Seat” at the conference this week, meaning that he was taking the message of the people to their leaders.

“The world’s people have spoken. Their message is clear. Time is running out. They want you, the decision-makers, to act now,” he said.

The hope is that world leaders listen and act on the environmentalist’s words.

**NEWS STORY:**

**A ROW has been going on in Newton Aycliffe in County Durham about whether a woman could play Santa Claus in this year’s Christmas parade.**

It’s that time of year again when lots of people are dressing up as Father Christmas for charity events, plays and parades all over the world – but should Santa Claus always be a male role? Great Aycliffe Town Council says yes, after putting the issue to a vote.

Councillors released this statement: “The Recreation Committee confirmed by resolution that the role of Santa Claus should continue to be a male role.”

News of the vote has since hit newspapers and social media and became a nationwide gender debate, with some people arguing that men or women should be able to act as Santa Claus at official events.

What do you think?



## NEWS STORY:

**THE standard of diets around the world is “diabolical”, says the World Health Organisation (WHO).**

The WHO published 2018’s Global Nutrition Report, which is a detailed look at diets around the world – and things are not looking good. Obesity and malnutrition are still enormous global problems. In fact, malnutrition is affecting every country in the world, costs trillions of pounds every year and is a bigger killer than smoking and air pollution.

The report also revealed that more than four in ten children are drinking sugary drinks every single day and one in three do not eat fruit.

The WHO wants governments and businesses to act now to help improve global eating habits.



## NEWS STORY:

**FORENSIC scientists in France are close to developing body odour kits.**

The new kits that will allow investigators to obtain a criminal’s scent from a crime scene and use it to track them down. Their research shows every human has a unique smell that cannot be masked and can be used to identify and track them.



## NEWS STORY:

**INDIA has set a weight limit on pupils' school bags, to protect them from injury and to help lower stress levels.**

The new rules will mean that no pupil in Year 1 or Year 2 at any Indian school will have to carry a school bag weighing more than 1.5kg. That weight limit rises to 5kg for teenagers.

Homework has also been scrapped for younger pupils, so that they don't have to carry heavy books to and from school.

The new rules will come in following successful trials in a handful of states. It's hoped that the change will help improve the physical and mental health of the country's young people.

Do you think we should do something similar in the UK?



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## NEWS STORY:

**PLATYPUS numbers have been declining in Australia.**

The platypus is one of Australia's most beloved creatures, so the news has understandably come as a big worry to many Aussies this week.

According to new research by scientists at the University of NSW, platypus numbers in Australia have dropped by a third over the past 200 years, as a result of land clearing and pollution. Numbers have dropped from around 300,000 to 200,000 over the last two centuries.

Now, experts are calling for the protection status of the native platypus to be reviewed, to help protect it before it's too late.



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**NEWS STORY:**

**SCIENTISTS expect 2018 to be the fourth warmest year on record, as global temperatures continue to rise.**

The latest piece of bad news about climate change shows that extreme weather is on the increase, and average temperatures around the world this year have been nearly 10C above pre-industrial levels.

The research by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) shows that the past four years have been the hottest on record, and the 20 warmest ever have occurred in the past 22 years.

The WMO report also found that the stretch of Arctic sea ice in 2018 was much lower than normal. The number of major storms worldwide was up, with 70 tropical cyclones in the northern hemisphere so far in 2018. The average yearly figure is 53. There have also been several wildfires and floods this year.

Elena Manaenkova, Deputy Director-General of the WMO, gave a strong warning about what this means for our planet: "Every fraction of a degree of warming makes a difference to human health and access to food and fresh water, to the extinction of animals and plants, to the survival of coral reefs and marine life."

**NEWS STORY:**

**THE first clear image of Mars has been taken by NASA's InSight lander, which arrived at the Red Planet last week.**

The image shows part of the Elysium Planitia, where the lander arrived. The snap was taken using a robotic arm-mounted camera. It was sent from the Martian surface to the Odyssey spacecraft, which is orbiting Mars, and from there it was sent to Earth, some 146 million kilometres away.

*(Photo available from NASA for the newspaper)*



**NEWS STORY:****HUGE termite mounds up to four metres high have been discovered in Brazil.**

In fact, the mounds, which cover an area the size of Britain, are so big that they are even visible from space. The mounds are thought to be thousands of years old and were made by a species called *Syntermes dirus*. However, unlike other termite mounds, they are not homes for the insects but are actually made up of waste brought to the surface by the termites as they carve out the underground tunnels they live in.

**NEWS STORY:****TO celebrate the 75th anniversary of the PDSA Dickin Medal – a prize given to really brave animals – the vet charity gathered animal and Armed Forces representatives together to remember the courageous actions of all the animals who have received the award.**

Seventy-five years ago a messenger pigeon named Winkie became the first ever recipient of the PDSA Dickin Medal. She delivered a message under exceptionally difficult conditions, which contributed to the rescue of an air crew, while serving with the RAF during World War 2. Since then the charity has honoured 72 incredible animals – 34 dogs, 32 pigeons, four horses and one cat, plus an honorary PDSA Dickin Medal was given to ‘the real war horse’, Warrior, on 2 September 2014, on behalf of all 16 million animals that served in World War 1.

A dog, pigeon, horse and cat stood alongside members of the RAF, Army and Royal Navy at the Imperial War Museum to honour those animals who serve.



## NEWS STORY:

### **THE fastest shark in the world is at risk of extinction.**

Mako sharks, which can swim at up to 43mph, are classed as endangered because of excessive fishing and hunting. Also, shortfin mako don't produce many young and mature later than other shark species, which makes them even more vulnerable to overfishing. The Shark Trust is calling on all EU member states to demand that the European Commission immediately takes action to protect the species.

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## NEWS STORY:

### **DID you know that every year the UK's top toilets are given special awards?!**

We kid you not, folks! The best washrooms from across the country are honoured at the Loo Of The Year awards. Toilets can be nominated from all sorts of different places, including restaurants, theme parks, museums, shopping centres, supermarkets, cinemas, hospitals, trains and even schools!

The toilets are judged on a range of criteria. Among the top priorities are how the toilets are decorated and looked after, how well signposted they are and what the air quality is like.

The awards take place on 7 December.

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**NEWS STORY:**

**CROATIA and Real Madrid midfielder Luka Modrić has won the Ballon d’Or, a prestigious annual award for the world’s best footballer.**

His win makes him the first player other than Lionel Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo to win the prize since 2007. Modrić won the Champions League for a fourth time earlier this year, then captained his country to their first ever World Cup final, beating England along the way.

Ronaldo, a former Real star who joined Juventus last summer, came second. France and Atlético Madrid striker Antoine Griezmann was in third place.

Surprisingly, despite winning the Spanish league and cup double, and finishing last season as top scorer, Messi only came fifth. The award, organised by a French football magazine, is voted for by journalists from around the world.

Modrić dedicated his award to “all the players who probably deserved to win it and didn’t”.

The first ever Women’s Ballon d’Or was awarded to Lyon and Norway striker Ada Hegerberg.

**NEWS STORY:**

**ON Tuesday (4 December), the prime minister kicked off an epic five days of Brexit discussions in Parliament.**

After two years of painful negotiations with the EU, Theresa May now has the very tricky task of persuading MPs that her Brexit deal will be good for the UK. The PM says that her deal “takes back control of our borders, laws and money”, but many MPs (even in her own party) disagree.

The problem is a lot of people think that leaving without a deal will be worse. Many remain voters are still asking for a second referendum on Brexit, but the Labour Party is said to be hoping that the Government

