

BIG NEWS

FANTASTIC PLASTIC NEWS!

PLASTIC straws, drink stirrers and plastic cotton buds are now banned in England. Red noses will also be plastic-free!

It's estimated that we use more than five billion plastic straws, 316 million plastic stirrers and almost two billion plastic cotton buds in England each year.

All are single-use plastics – items that are used once, then thrown away. Many find their way into the oceans, endangering marine life.

Since 1st October, shops and cafes in England can no longer sell or give out these items. They were banned in Scotland last year.

Comic Relief will also be going plastic-free for next year's Red Nose Day. Its new red noses will be made from a plant fibre called bagasse, instead of plastic. Bagasse comes from the sugar cane plant. It is left over when the canes are crushed up to extract the sugar.

The charity was persuaded to switch to a natural material by children at Foulanesend Community Primary School, in Cornwall.

The school even wrote to Sir David Attenborough about their red nose worries. He encouraged them to get in touch with Comic Relief to ask for change!

The charity said they had been thinking about the problem, but that the "passionate kids definitely made a difference".

Children at the school were given an exclusive first look at the brand new noses, to say thank you.



Questions on: 'Fantastic plastic news!'

1) Which three plastic items have been banned in England?

1.
2.
3.

2) Can you explain what single-use plastic is?

3) What is true about the rules in Scotland?

- ☐ Scotland plans to ban these plastic items next year.
- ☐ These items have already been banned in Scotland.
- ☐ Scotland and England banned the items on 1st October.

4) Comic Relief is the charity that organises Red Nose Day. Why has news from Comic Relief been put together with the news about the straw ban?

5) a) What encouraged the charity to stop using plastic?

b) What encouraged the children to write to the charity?

6) Complete the definition of bagasse using the words below.

Bagasse – the plant _____ that remains after _____
has been made from the _____ plant.

Choose from: ● **sugar cane** ● **fibre** ● **sugar**

7) How were the Cornish children thanked for taking action?

8) Do you think it would be right to call a red nose a 'single-use plastic', or not? Explain your opinion.

BIG NEWS

TAKE A BOW!

SCHOOLBOY BECOMES THE YOUNGEST PERSON TO SAIL ON HIS OWN AROUND BRITAIN.

FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD Timothy Long set sail from Hamble, in Hampshire, on 16th July. It took him 11 weeks to complete the 1,600-mile journey. He arrived back to a hero's welcome on 1st October.

Adding to his epic achievement, Tim has also raised more than £10,000 for charity.

The teenage sailor decided to make the trip after being inspired by record-breaking sailor Dame Ellen MacArthur. In 2005, Dame Ellen made history when she became the fastest solo sailor to sail around the world without stopping!

It was for the Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust that he raised the money. This charity supports young people to rebuild their confidence after cancer by introducing them to sailing.

After plucking up the courage to email Ellen to tell her about his plans, Ellen wrote back with the words 'Go for it!' That was all the encouragement Timothy needed.

Afterwards, Timothy said: "I can't believe I've actually done it. Ellen MacArthur has been an absolute inspiration to me."

Dame Ellen said: "I was only a few years older than Tim when I did the same and I was awestruck by the incredible beauty of the British Isles. There's something magical about looking back on your home country from the sea."

Timothy missed the start of term as he was due back to school on Monday. He said going back would be "a bit of a shock!"



Questions on: 'Take a bow!'

- 1) What record has just been set by Timothy Long?
Complete these details about his trip.

Start date:
End date:
Duration:

- 2) Why do you think Timothy – and many others – find Dame Ellen MacArthur such an inspiring person?

- 3) Look at the details about Dame Ellen's record-breaking trip.
Tick the true statements.

- ☐ She won her world record in 2005.
- ☐ She won a record for sailing around the British Isles.
- ☐ The word 'solo' tells you she sailed alone.
- ☐ She set a record for speed, not distance.

- 4) How do you know that Timothy was a bit nervous about emailing Dame Ellen? Find the words.

- 5) How does the Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust help children who have had cancer?

- ☐ It pays for them to have better treatments.
- ☐ It distracts them with fun experiences while they are ill.
- ☐ It helps them to regain confidence after their illness.

- 6) What does Dame Ellen think is “magical”?

- 7) Would you describe Timothy as an **ordinary** or an **extraordinary** teenager?

- 8) Explain your view using evidence from the story.

UK NEWS

UK

E-SCOOTERS TO GET THE GREEN LIGHT?

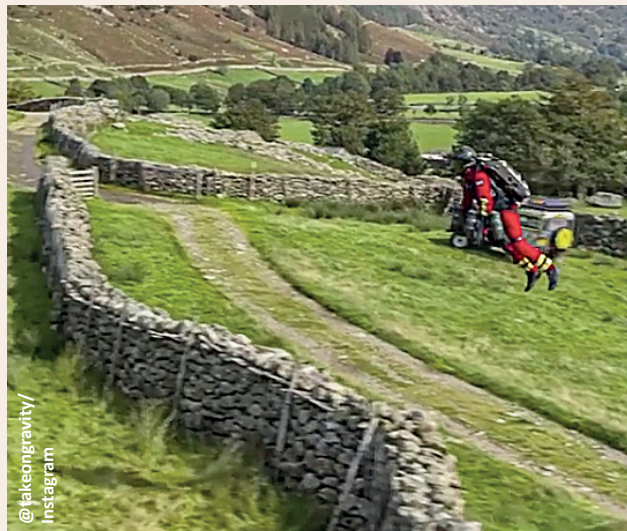
It should be legal to use e-scooters on roads, but not on pavements. That's the opinion of the Transport Committee – a group of MPs that investigates transport issues for the Government. E-scooters are scooters that have a small electric motor. They can reach speeds of 9-15 miles per hour. At the moment, e-scooters can only be used on private land. Anyone using them on roads or pavements is committing an offence! The new report said that electric scooters could be a greener option than driving a car. But using them on pavements is “dangerous and anti-social”.



CUMBRIA

JETPACK RESCUES

An ambulance service in the Lake District has been testing out jetpacks that can help them get to patients faster. The Lake District is a mountainous area in northwest England that is popular with walkers. It can take a mountain rescue team 30 minutes to reach an injured person on foot. But during the jetpack test flight, the pilot flew over the Lake District and reached the ‘patient’ in 90 seconds. The jetpack can reach speeds of 85 miles per hour. More tests have to be done before flying paramedics become a reality.



LINCOLNSHIRE

NAUGHTY PARROTS

Five African grey parrots at the Lincolnshire Wildlife Centre have had to be separated because they kept encouraging each other to swear. The foulmouthed feathered friends, Billy, Eric, Tyson, Jade and Elsie, are now in different bits of the park so they don't set each other off and offend visitors.



Questions on: 'UK News'

1) Name two forms of unusual transport in the news this week.

Look at the news from the UK.

2) At the moment, where can and can't you use an e-scooter?

Allowed	Not allowed

3) What change is the Transport Committee recommending?

Look at the news from Cumbria.

4) Why do you think it can take rescue teams so long to reach a person who needs help in the Lake District?

5) What is the name for a person who is trained to help in a medical emergency and is usually the first person who goes to help?

Look at the news from Lincolnshire.

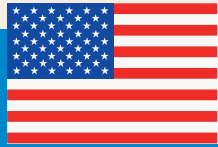
6) Why are these parrots 'naughty'?

7) What funny, three-word description has been used instead of the word 'parrots'? (Clue: it uses alliteration – where words start with the same sound.)

8) Do you think the parrots are trying to be naughty?

WORLD NEWS

USA



MELTING MESSAGE

A wax sculpture has been left to melt on a bench in Orlando, America, to raise awareness of climate change. The artwork shows a man and his granddaughter enjoying an ice cream. It is designed to melt in a few days, revealing the words: “More heat, less health.”



cleoinstitute/Instagram

AUSTRALIA



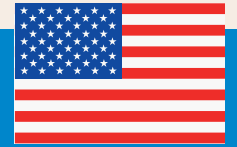
THOR HELPS LITTLE DEVILS

Tasmanian devils have been reintroduced into the wild in Australia for the first time in 3,000 years – with help from Thor. Chris Hemsworth, the Australian actor who plays Thor in the *Avengers* series, helped experts release the endangered mammals. Since they became extinct on the mainland, Tasmanian devils have only been found on the Australian island of Tasmania. Even here, most of the population has been wiped out by disease. Tasmanian devils are known for their extremely loud growl, powerful jaws and feisty nature.



@GlobalWildLifeConservation/YouTube

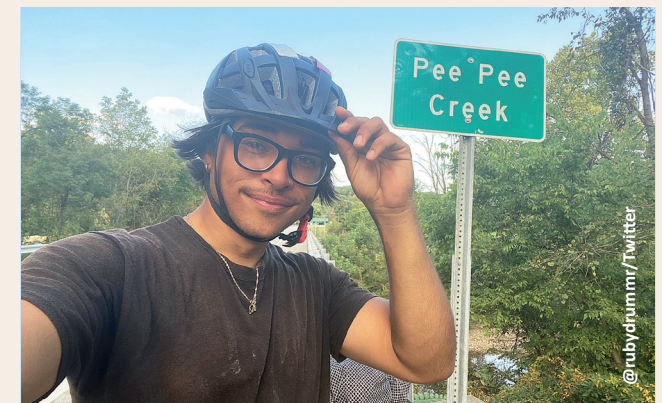
USA



FROM POO POO TO PEE PEE

Ruben Lopez has cycled 2,500 miles across America to raise money for people suffering in Yemen. Knowing that picking locations with funny names would spread awareness of his journey, and help him to raise money, he decided to start his journey in Poo Poo Point, Washington! He has cycled through ten American states and arrived at Pee Pee Creek in Ohio! But Ruben has a different end point in mind. His goal is to cycle a whopping 5,000 miles in total and end his journey at Pee Pee Island, off the east coast of Canada!

Yemen is a country in the Middle East that has been torn apart by six years of war. Millions of people are in need of food, water and aid.



@rubydummi/Twitter

Questions on: 'World News'

1) Match the headline to the news topic.

Headline

News topic

From Poo Poo to Pee Pee

Cycling for charity

Thor helps little devils

Art with an important message

Melting message

Endangered animals released

Look at the news from Australia.

2) Can you explain why the headline 'Thor helps little devils' makes sense?

3) Why do you think these creatures are called Tasmanian devils? Explain both parts of the name.

Look at the story 'Melting message'.

4) What do you think you would see if you visited this bench in the days after the sculpture was placed there?

Day 1:

Day 3:

Day 5:

5) Why do you think the artist chose to make the sculpture of a man and his granddaughter eating an ice cream?

Look at the story 'From Poo Poo to Pee Pee'.

6) Fill the gaps with the correct **countries** and **places**.

Ruben Lopez is cycling in the _____ to try to raise money for people in _____.

Ruben started at _____, Washington. He's already made it to Pee Pee Creek in _____, but he's hoping to reach _____, off the coast of _____!

7) Why did Ruben decide to cycle between these particular places? Find **two** reasons.

Consider all the news.

8) Which story do you think could be turned into an interesting TV programme?

What would you see in the programme?

Who would be interviewed?

What extra information would you want to find out?