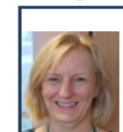


Designated Safeguarding Lead

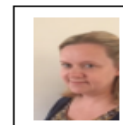


Joanne Fennelly.
Headteacher

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads



Rachel Rosevear. Deputy Headteacher



Jennifer de Board.
Assistant Headteacher



Laura Cunningham. Inclusion Lead



Hannah Garrard.
Family Support Worker

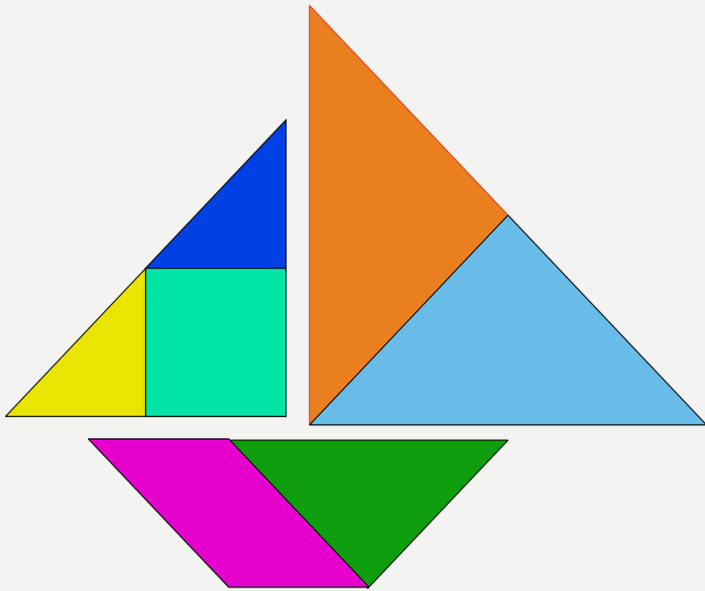


Natalie Richards. EYFS Lead

29th January is National Puzzle Day

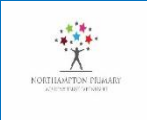
National Puzzle Day

The perfect time to do a little brain exercise. Whether it's a crossword, jigsaw, or sudoku, puzzles engage our brain in more ways than one. Scientists have discovered that when we work on a jigsaw puzzle, we utilise both sides of the brain, improving memory, cognitive function and problem- solving skills in the process. By doing puzzles, people can stimulate the brain and improve a number of skills.





Simon de Senlis Primary Weekly Update – 26th January 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

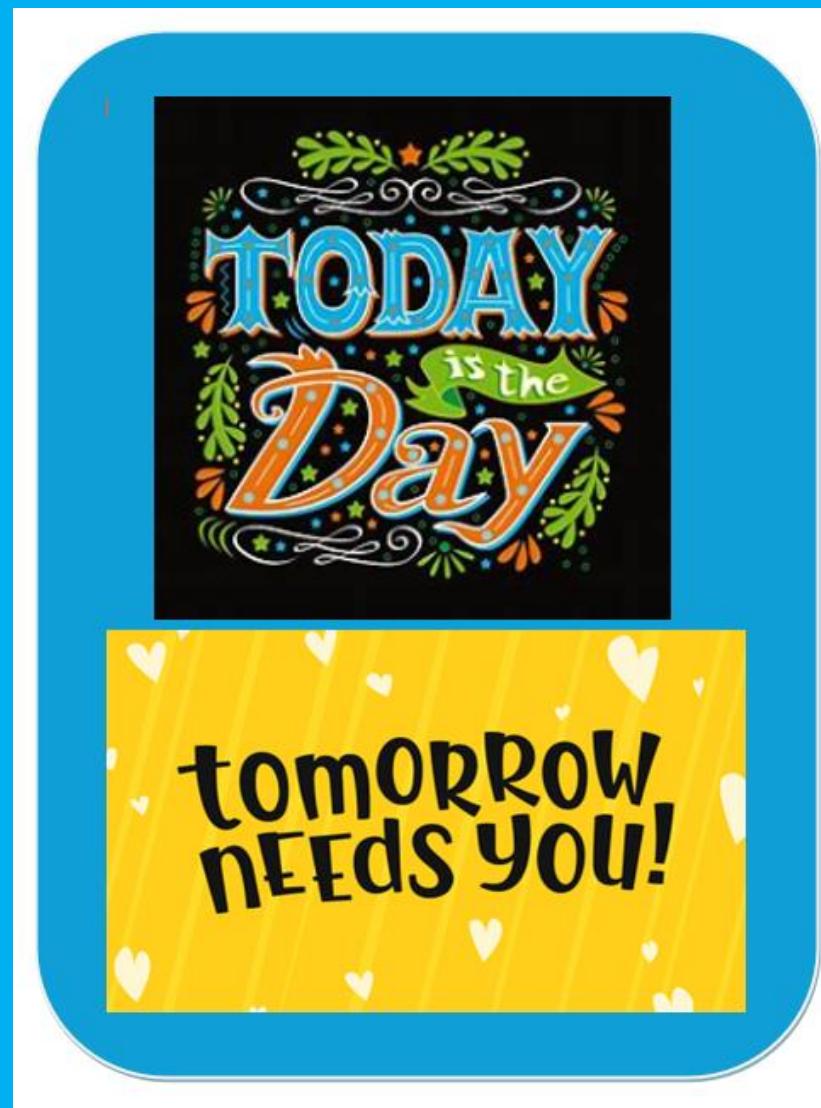
We are counting down the days to our showcase event next week and as previously, the whole school is buzzing with excitement and pride in the wonderful work that's been achieved by everyone. There is such determination and drive being shown across the classes as children ensure their work is the best it can be. I hope you can all come along at 9am next Friday to see the great work at the event.

I was reading an interesting article about children's wellbeing and language development and was interested to hear the link between access to the outdoors and to nature and how this has a positive impact on both. In the Newsletter this week there are pieces of information about the RSPB Garden Birdwatch along with a link to an outdoor play website. As the weather looks cold but sunny, this should be a great time to wrap up warm and have some outdoor fun!

Please enjoy the weekend, keep warm and I look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Mrs Fennelly

This week we thought about how positive each day is and how we can continue striving forwards when tomorrow arrives. We thought of our achievements and how proud we are of them.



Dates for your



Date	Year group	Event
January 31st	All Year Groups	Fun night – 3.15pm-5.00pm watching the film Lightyear.
February 2nd	All Year Groups	RSC Merchant of Venice whole school showcase. Come and see your child's final pieces of work.
February 6th	Year 1 Parents / Carers	Phonic knowledge 9am and 2:45pm
February 9th	All Year Groups	Short Reports Sent Home.
February 14th and 15th	All Year Groups	Nearly New Clothes Sale. Feb 14th –2pm-4pm Feb 15th 9am-11am
13th & 15th February	All Year Groups	Parents Evenings 3:30pm-6:10pm. Booking is open.
21st March	Rowling class	Recorder performance to parents at 09:30.



A reminder that if your child has sickness or diarrhoea, they must remain at home for 48 hours after the last incident of illness.



Please contact school every day of absence.



Thank you for your support.



Places have become available in our following amazing clubs:

Monday – Film Club. Films may be rated: U or PG

Tuesday – Writing Club

Thursday - Morning sports club 08:00 – 08:40

Thursday – Reading fun

Thursday – Forest Club

Friday – Morning sports club 08:00 – 08:40

All clubs are £30, if your child would like to request a place please email: info@simondesenlis.org

NEARLY NEW CHILDREN'S CLOTHING SALE AT SdS

Thank you for all the clothes that are coming into school. If you have any other old clothes at home that you think could add to our sale, please bring them in next week.

Thank you for your support!!

PRE-LOVED CLOTHING SALE

FEB 14TH 2PM-4PM
FEB 15TH 9AM-11AM
ALL ITEMS £1 CASH

**CLOTHES DONATED FROM JAN
15TH TO FEB 13TH**

PLEASE BRING DONATED CLOTHES TO YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER







A reminder to book your Appointment for Parents Evenings



Browse to: <https://simondesenlisorg.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

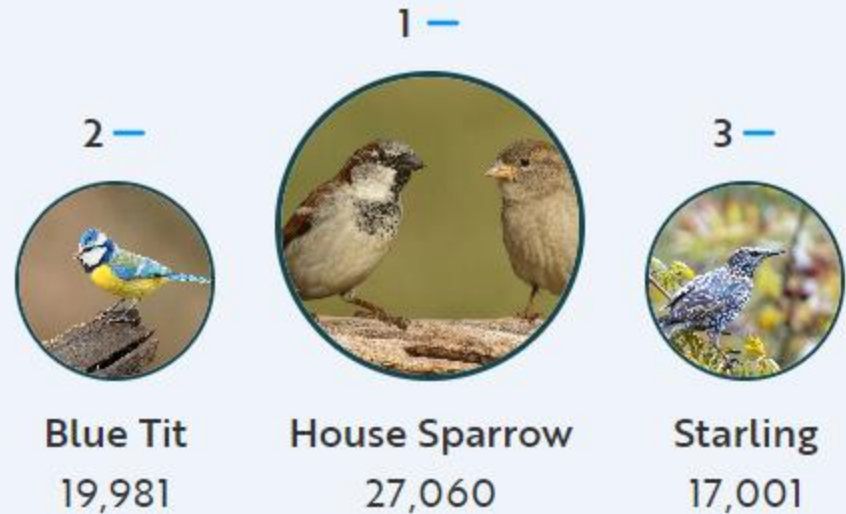
Please contact:
info@simondesenlis.org
if you would like help.



Big Garden Birdwatch

26-28th January 2024

It's Big Garden Birdwatch weekend. Get counting!



Would you like to add to the Big Garden Birdwatch?

If yes, click on the link below-

[Big Garden Birdwatch \(rspb.org.uk\)](https://rspb.org.uk)

Thunk of the Week

A **thunk** is an **unusual question** that makes you **think**. A beguiling question about everyday things that stops you in your tracks and helps you start to look at the world in a whole new light.



**If tomorrow could
be anything for you,
what would the day
look like?**



**Take a look at this website for ideas on fun
and play outside:**

**Fun Autumn Outdoor Activities for Kids - Thimble
and Twig**



**Everyone loves hedgehogs!!!
If you are feeling creative and want to help our little friends, how about making a hedgehog house?**

Make a simple hedgehog house

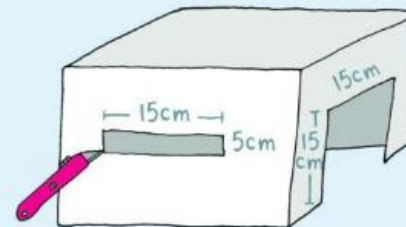
wildlife
watch



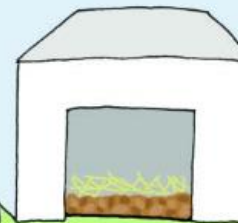
You will need:

- Medium-sized plastic storage box 
- Stanley knife 
- Leaf litter 
- Dry grass or straw 
- Carrier bag 
- Twigs and dry leaves 

1 Cut two side air vents and an entrance into the plastic box.



2 Put some leaf litter inside the box, with clean, dry grass or straw on top.



3 Tuck the box near a hedge (with the entrance facing south if possible).

4 Put an opened-up carrier bag over the top of the box, then cover with twigs, dry grass and leaves.

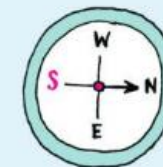
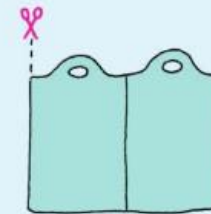


Illustration: Carinne Welch © Copyright Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts 2015

Food Aid / Community Larders. No referral required

Day	Time	Location	Membership / costs
Monday	1:30pm – 2:15pm	Roade village Hall. Bailey Brooks Lane. NN7 2LS	Access to all. £10 subscription, £5 p/w
Monday	4pm – 7pm	McCarthy Dixon Food Larder @ Swan & Helmet. Northampton Town Centre	No referral - Turn up £5 per 8 Items
Tuesday	2pm – 3pm & 6pm - 7pm	The Nest, Woodford Halse Primary Academy, Scrivens Hill, Woodford Halse, NN11 3SU.	Access to all. £10 subscription, £5 p/w
Tuesday	4pm – 7pm	McCarthy Dixon Food Larder @ Swan & Helmet. Northampton Town Centre	No referral - Turn up £5 per 8 Items
Wednesday	11am - 1pm	Dostiyo Community Fridge. Northampton Town Centre	No Criteria
Wednesday	4:15pm – 6pm	Towcester Community Larder Riverside Centre, Islington Road, Towcester, NN12 6AU	Access to all. £10 subscription, £5 p/w
Wednesday	4:30pm – 5:15pm	Brixworth Community Larder	Access to all. £10 subscription, £5 p/w

Food Aid / Community Larders. No referral required

Day	Time	Location	Membership / costs
Wednesday	5:30pm – 6:15pm	Moulton Community Larder	Access to all. £10 subscription, £5 p/w
Wednesday	4pm – 7pm	McCarthy Dixon Food Larder @ Swan & Helmet. Northampton Town Centre	No referral - Turn up £5 per 8 Items
Thursday	10am – 11:30am	Towcester Community Larder Riverside Centre, Islington Road, Towcester, NN12 6AU	Access to all. £10 subscription, £5 p/w
Thursday	11am - 1pm	Dostiyo Community Fridge. Northampton Town Centre	No Criteria
Thursday	4pm – 7pm	McCarthy Dixon Food Larder @ Swan & Helmet. Northampton Town Centre	No referral - Turn up £5 per 8 Items
Friday	4pm – 7pm	McCarthy Dixon Food Larder @ Swan & Helmet. Northampton Town Centre	No referral - Turn up £5 per 8 Items
Saturday	12pm - 2pm	McCarthy Dixon Food Larder @ Swan & Helmet. Northampton Town Centre	No referral - Turn up £5 per 8 Items
Sunday	12pm - 2pm	McCarthy Dixon Food Larder @ Swan & Helmet. Northampton Town Centre	No referral - Turn up £5 per 8 Items

Play Leader Update

During this weekly meeting, the play leaders have been looking at ways to develop confidence when approaching a task. We are finding the best way to organise and motivate pupils and keep everyone enjoying their activities.

Stay Active - Miss Bland

Reading Ambassador Update

This week we had a look at our new reading shed. We are so excited for our new books to arrive soon so we can fill it with lots of wonderful books to read. You may have noticed our new benches which will allow the children to sit and read at break time and lunch time.

We also talked about World Book Day which is coming up on March 7th. Watch this space for news about a book swap and our plans for the day!

Well done to our Reading Ambassadors, you're making a difference!! Miss Gedney



Special Constabulary - Recruitment Open

Special Constables are part-time, voluntary police officers with all the same powers as full-time regular police officers. They come from all walks of life and join us for a variety of reasons.

Becoming a Special Constable really is one of the most exciting and rewarding voluntary opportunities available.

Special Constabularies are a vital part of all Police Forces across the country, supporting and enhancing the work of regular police officers. At Northamptonshire Police, we recognise the immense value that Special Constables add.

We want people to join us, help make a difference and make our county a safer place.

The following will give you more of an insight into #DoSomethingSpecial [Special Constables | Northamptonshire Police \(northants.police.uk\)](https://www.northants.police.uk/special-constables)

[Meet our special constables | Northamptonshire Police \(northants.police.uk\)](https://www.northants.police.uk/meet-our-special-constables)

Recruitment is open until Sunday 28 January 2024 you can apply via: [Special Police Constable \(Unpaid Voluntary Role\) - Northants Police \(tal.net\)](https://www.northants.police.uk/special-police-constable-unpaid-voluntary-role)

Wellbeing Leader Update

The children will be meeting next week, and we'll update you on the actions and outcomes of their meeting.

Eco Ambassador Update

We had a great meeting and talked about the actions we need to take to organise the clothing sale in February.

In addition, we have planned to clear the pond area so that it is ready for the frogs that arrive each Spring.

The children have agreed to remind their peers to make sure rubbish at playtimes goes into the bins and that lights in classrooms are turned off when everyone leaves the room.

Well done Eco Ambassadors- you're making a real difference! Mrs Fennelly

School Council Update

This week we discussed a whole school Big Fundraiser for the summer term. Some of the ideas were a large obstacle course on the field or a football shoot out.

Well done School Council- you're making a real difference! Miss Twigg

The background of the poster is a deep purple with numerous white starbursts of varying sizes. In the upper center, there is a pink silhouette of a castle with multiple towers and flags. The title 'Sleeping Beauty' is rendered in large, 3D, gold-colored letters with a slight shadow beneath them. A white, jagged line resembling a crack or a tear runs diagonally from the left edge across the lower part of the title.

Sleeping Beauty

Celebrating 30 Years

Friday 26th January 2024 at 7.30pm
Saturday 27th January 2024 at 2pm

Cripps Hall Theatre, NN1 5RX | Adults £8 Concessions £6

POSTER COMPETITION

**WHAT: A POSTER
COMPETITION**

WHEN: FRIDAY 2ND FEB

WHO: YEAR 5 AND 6

**WHY: TO PROMOTE
ONLINE SAFETY**

**WHERE: HAND IN TO
CLASS TEACHERS**



We are asking you to design a poster that promotes online safety. There will be a winner per class, judged by the ambassadors, and the winners will be displayed around school.



Our anti-bullying ambassadors have decided to set up a poster competition to spread the message that **online bullying** is not ok following our online safety sessions with Simon Aston this week.

Good luck for the competition and thanks to Alice who wrote this information.



Your message could be about not talking to people you don't know online, not making nasty comments on games or it could be a code of conduct for using social media or online gaming.

SAVE THE DATE

The Friends of Simon de Senlis would like to give you advanced warning about the date of the school summer fete.

We are delighted to let you know that this year, the fete will be held on Saturday 29th June, 2024. We look forward to seeing you all at this amazing school community event.

See you there!



IN ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK

This week we welcomed The Wombles to our school. The adults were a little disappointed that it wasn't the furry kind, but we had a fabulous time finding out about the important work of the Northants Litter Wombles. Kevin explained why there is so much litter around and the simple rules we need to follow to keep our neighbourhood clean. We know that we should put litter in the bin or take it home. We also found out about the things that the Litter Wombles do and the safety equipment they use- protective gloves, litter pickers and sturdy footwear. We know that we shouldn't pick litter without an adult to help us stay safe.

Interesting facts include this:

Did you know it takes approximately 80 years for a trainer to rot away? And some plastic bags can take up to 1,000 years to disappear completely!

If you would like to find out more, details of the Northants Litter Wombles and a local group are on the next slide.



**THANKS TO
THE
NORTHANTS
LITTER
WOMBLES
FOR
COMING TO
TALK TO US**

CLEAN

Creating Litter Education & Awareness in Northamptonshire

FREE whole school assemblies on Litter!

The Northants Litter Wombles are a volunteer group of over 3000 members set up in 2021 to combat the amount of litter in our beautiful county, and we believe that the answer to reducing and preventing litter today and in the future is through DIRECT ACTION and EDUCATION.

Our 30 – 35 minute C.L.E.A.N. presentation is informative, engaging, interactive and challenging. By involving children in caring about litter, we aim to encourage and empower them to change their habits and those of the people around them.

We Believe Littering has to



For more information, or to book this presentation for your school or organisation, please contact Kevin Potter, our lead Womble on the project, by email:

kevin.potter@northantslitterwombles.co.uk



SEND FAMILY SWIMMING

(BOTH SWIMMING POOLS WILL BE OPEN)



**28 January &
25 February
2.30 - 3.30 pm**



**Brackley Leisure
Centre, Brackley,
NN13 6JJ**

Family ticket – £12
(2 adults & 2 children)
Adult swim – £4.75
Junior – £3.80



SPORTS - BADMINTON

- A team of children from year 5&6 attended Benham Sports Arena to learn more about Badminton, Table Tennis and Volleyball. They tried out lots of new skills and enjoyed practicing together and with other schools.
- If you would like to develop your Badminton game, then why not contact Mereway Badminton Club and join an exciting team, who have sessions for all ages.
- <https://www.merewaybadminton.co.uk/>



<https://northamptonttl.org/>

If you prefer to try Table Tennis then find out about more from Northampton Table Tennis about their Junior sessions at Malcolm Arnold School.

Sports

Looking for something active to do at Half Term?

Try out some new sporting activities at Benham Sports Arena with Northamptonshire Sport. The daily activities are themed around the multi-abilities, creating an environment where everyone feels a sense of belonging, achievement and success – regardless of ability. Skills will be taught and developed through a series of fun games and activities. Even if your child is not 'sporty' then our nurturing approach is ideal for them.

Go to the website for more details or scan the barcode. <https://www.northamptonshiresport.org/type/events/february-half-term-activity-camp/>

Stay Active.

Miss Bland

February Half Term Activity Camp

northamptonshire
sport

19 – 23 February 2024
9:00am – 4:00pm

Benham Sports Arena
5 – 11 year olds

Experienced & knowledgeable staff with enhanced DBS checks

Safe & inclusive activities designed for all ability levels

Fun & enjoyable sports & physical activities

£25 per child per day
10% discount for siblings



We are Northamptonshire's leading physical activity, health and wellbeing charity.

www.northamptonshiresport.org

UK registered charity number: 1184107



School Mental Health Leads

Ms Cunningham and Miss Garrard are the Mental Health Leads at Simon de Senlis

If you have any worries or concerns about any aspect of your child's mental wellbeing please speak to your child's class teacher or contact us in school.



Laura Cunningham

Inclusion Leader
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
Senior Mental Health Lead



Hannah Garrard

Family Support Worker
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mental Health First Aider

January can be a difficult time of the year, take a look at these 10 key suggestions for happier living taken from the Action for Happiness website-

[About Us](#) | [Action for Happiness](#)



Giving

Do kind things for others



Relating

Connect with people



Exercising

Take care of your body



Awareness

Live life mindfully



Trying Out

Keep learning new things



Direction

Have goals to look forward to



Resilience

Find ways to bounce back



Emotions

Look for what's good



Acceptance

Be comfortable with who you are



Meaning

Be part of something bigger



Simon de Senlis Primary



Dear parents and carers, as you are aware we have recently joined a school SEND partnership with Hunsbury Park Primary. As a result of this, we are able to offer parents access to some free online workshops run by a host of SEN practitioners across the year.

This term we are pleased to offer you a Zoom online session with Mosaic Psychology Service on Tuesday 6th February 2024 from 7-9pm. Details of the session content are below:

Neurodiversity: ADHD, ASD and Understanding Neurodivergent Masking

This session is completely free to all parents with children at Simon de Senlis. To register your interest you must consent to share your email address with Kate Burt from Hunsbury Park Primary School. Closer to the time we will then send out a Zoom link. This link must not be shared with anyone else whose children do not attend our school as Kate Burt will collate a list of parent's email addresses and these will be checked during the meeting.

We hope that you will take up this exciting offer.



Please register your interest by replying to the email (sent to all parents on Parentmail) by Friday 2nd February.

Any questions please contact me via the school.

Many thanks, Laura Cunningham

School SEND Partnership Offer
Academic Year: September 2023 – July 2024

Next online parent event:

 MOSAIC PSYCHOLOGY	Mosaic Psychology Service 	<u>Tuesday 6th February</u> 7-9pm "Neurodiversity: ADHD, ASD Understanding Neurodivergent Masking" Online via Zoom
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Happier January 2024

SUNDAY



MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1 Find three things to look forward to this year

2 Make time today to do something kind for yourself

3 Do a kind act for someone else to help brighten their day

4 Write a list of things you feel grateful for and why

5 Look for the good in others and notice their strengths

6 Take five minutes to sit still and just breathe

7 Learn something new and share it with others

8 Say positive things to the people you meet today

9 Get moving. Do something active (ideally outdoors)

10 Thank someone you're grateful to and tell them why

11 Switch off all your tech at least an hour before bedtime

12 Connect with someone near you - share a smile or chat

13 Take a different route today and see what you notice

14 Eat healthy food which really nourishes you today

15 Get outside and notice five things that are beautiful

16 Contribute positively to your local community

17 Be gentle with yourself when you make mistakes

18 Get back in contact with an old friend

19 Focus on what's good, even if today feels tough

20 Go to bed in good time and allow yourself to recharge

21 Try out something new to get out of your comfort zone

22 Plan something fun and invite others to join you

23 Put away digital devices and focus on being in the moment

24 Take a small step towards an important goal

25 Decide to lift people up rather than put them down

26 Choose one of your strengths and find a way to use it today

27 Challenge your negative thoughts and look for the upside

28 Ask other people about things they've enjoyed recently

29 Say hello to a neighbour and get to know them better

30 See how many people you can smile at today

31 Write down your hopes or plans for the future



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together



Players Wanted U9

Grange Park Rangers Football Club

Training is on Wednesdays 6-7pm at Woodland
View PS MUGA, NN4 5FZ

Matches are played on Saturday mornings.

Home Ground is Foxfield Country Park NN4 5BE

If you are interested contact the Coach via
telephone: 07708 637 654 or
email: e.coughlan1982@live.ie



YOUTH Inspired

Youth Clubs in

- Daventry
- Kilsby
- Crick
- Kingsthorpe
- Litchborough
- Spratton
- Hartwell
- Rothwell

clubsfor young people
Northamptonshire **involve ■ enjoy ■ achieve**



Spratton Parish Council
Litchborough Village Parish Council
Crick Parish Council

Kilsby Parish Council
Hartwell Parish Council
Serving the people of Hartwell

07760891181 / 07422573625

sarah@cypn.org

FACEBOOK

@youthinspireduk

INSTAGRAM

@youthinspired

TIKTOK

@youthinspirednhants

SNAPCHAT

@youth_inpired

The DfE's 10 top tips for parents to support children to read at home.

1. Encourage your child to read

Reading helps your child's wellbeing, develops imagination and has educational benefits too. Just a few minutes a day can have a big impact on children of all ages.

2. Read aloud regularly

Try to read to your child every day. It's a special time to snuggle up and enjoy a story. Stories matter and children love re-reading them and poring over the pictures. Try adding funny voices to bring characters to life.

3. Encourage reading choice

Give children lots of opportunities to read different things in their own time - it doesn't just have to be books. There's fiction, non-fiction, poetry, comics, magazines, recipes and much more. Try leaving interesting reading material in different places around the home and see who picks it up.

4. Read together

Choose a favourite time to read together as a family and enjoy it. This might be everyone reading the same book together, reading different things at the same time, or getting your children to read to each other. This time spent reading together can be relaxing for all.

5. Create a comfortable environment

Make a calm, comfortable place for your family to relax and read independently - or together.

6. Make use of your local library

Libraries in England are able to open from 4 July, so visit them when you're able to and explore all sorts of reading ideas. Local libraries also offer brilliant online materials, including audiobooks and ebooks to borrow. See [Libraries Connected](#) for more digital library services and resources.

7. Talk about books

This is a great way to make connections, develop understanding and make reading even more enjoyable. Start by discussing the front cover and talking about what it reveals and suggests the book could be about. Then talk about what you've been reading and share ideas. You could discuss something that happened that surprised you, or something new that you found out. You could talk about how the book makes you feel and whether it reminds you of anything.

8. Bring reading to life

You could try cooking a recipe you've read together. Would you recommend it to a friend? Alternatively, play a game where you pretend to be the characters in a book, or discuss an interesting article you've read.

9. Make reading active

Play games that involve making connections between pictures, objects and words, such as reading about an object and finding similar things in your home. You could organise treasure hunts related to what you're reading. Try creating your child's very own book by using photos from your day and adding captions.

10. Engage your child in reading in a way that suits them

You know your child best and you'll know the best times for your child to read. If they have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) then short, creative activities may be the way to get them most interested. If English is an additional language, encourage reading in a child's first language, as well as in English. What matters most is that they enjoy it.

<div></div> Pupil Days	<div></div> Bank Holidays
<div></div> School Holidays	<div></div> Teacher Training Days

NPAT Academic Calendar 24/25

Teacher Training Days
 Monday 2 September 2024
 Tuesday 3 September 2024
 Monday 4 November 2024
 Monday 24 February 2025
 Monday 2 June 2025

September 2024						
Mon		2	9	16	23	
Tues		3	10	17	24	
Wed		4	11	18	25	
Thu		5	12	19	26	
Fri	30	6	13	20	27	

October 2024						
Mon	30	7	14	21	28	
Tues	1	8	15	22	29	
Wed	2	9	16	23	30	
Thu	3	10	17	24	31	
Fri	4	11	18	25		

November 2024						
Mon		4	11	18	25	
Tues		5	12	19	26	
Wed		6	13	20	27	
Thu		7	14	21	28	
Fri	1	8	15	22	29	

December 2024						
Mon	2	9	16	23	30	
Tues	3	10	17	24	31	
Wed	4	11	18	25		
Thu	5	12	19	26		
Fri	6	13	20	27		

January 2025						
Mon		6	13	20	27	
Tues		7	14	21	28	
Wed	1	8	15	22	29	
Thu	2	9	16	23	30	
Fri	3	10	17	24	31	

February 2025						
Mon	3	10	17	24		
Tues	4	11	18	25		
Wed	5	12	19	26		
Thu	6	13	20	27		
Fri	7	14	21	28		

March 2025						
Mon		3	10	17	24	31
Tues		4	11	18	25	
Wed		5	12	19	26	
Thu		6	13	20	27	
Fri		7	14	21	28	

April 2025						
Mon		7	14	21	28	
Tues	1	8	15	22	29	
Wed	2	9	16	23	30	
Thu	3	10	17	24		
Fri	4	11	18	25		

May 2025						
Mon		5	12	19	26	
Tues		6	13	20	27	
Wed		7	14	21	28	
Thu	1	8	15	22	29	
Fri	2	9	16	23	30	

June 2025						
Mon		2	9	16	23	
Tues		3	10	17	24	
Wed		4	11	18	25	
Thu		5	12	19	26	
Fri		6	13	20	27	

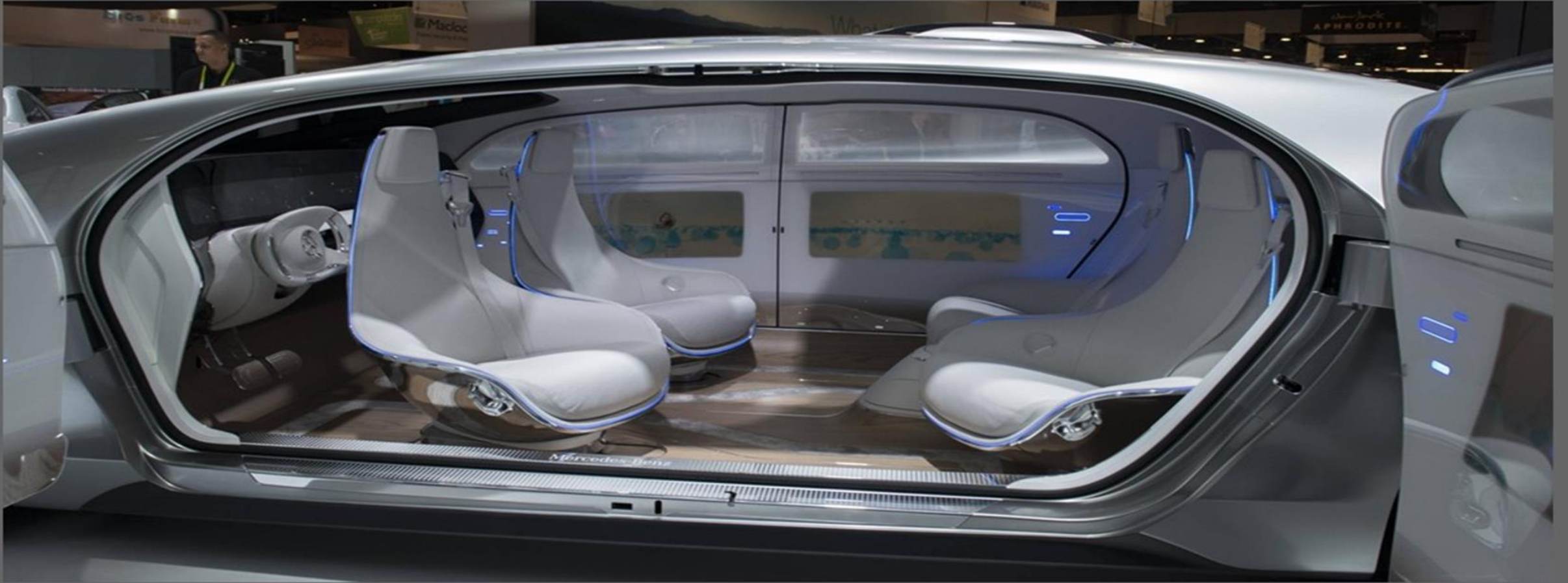
July 2025						
Mon	30	7	14	21	28	
Tues	1	8	15	22	29	
Wed	2	9	16	23	30	
Thu	3	10	17	24	31	
Fri	4	11	18	25		

August 2025						
Mon			4	11	18	25
Tues			5	12	19	26
Wed			6	13	20	27
Thu			7	14	21	28
Fri		1	8	15	22	29

News For your Children



What's happening in the news this week?



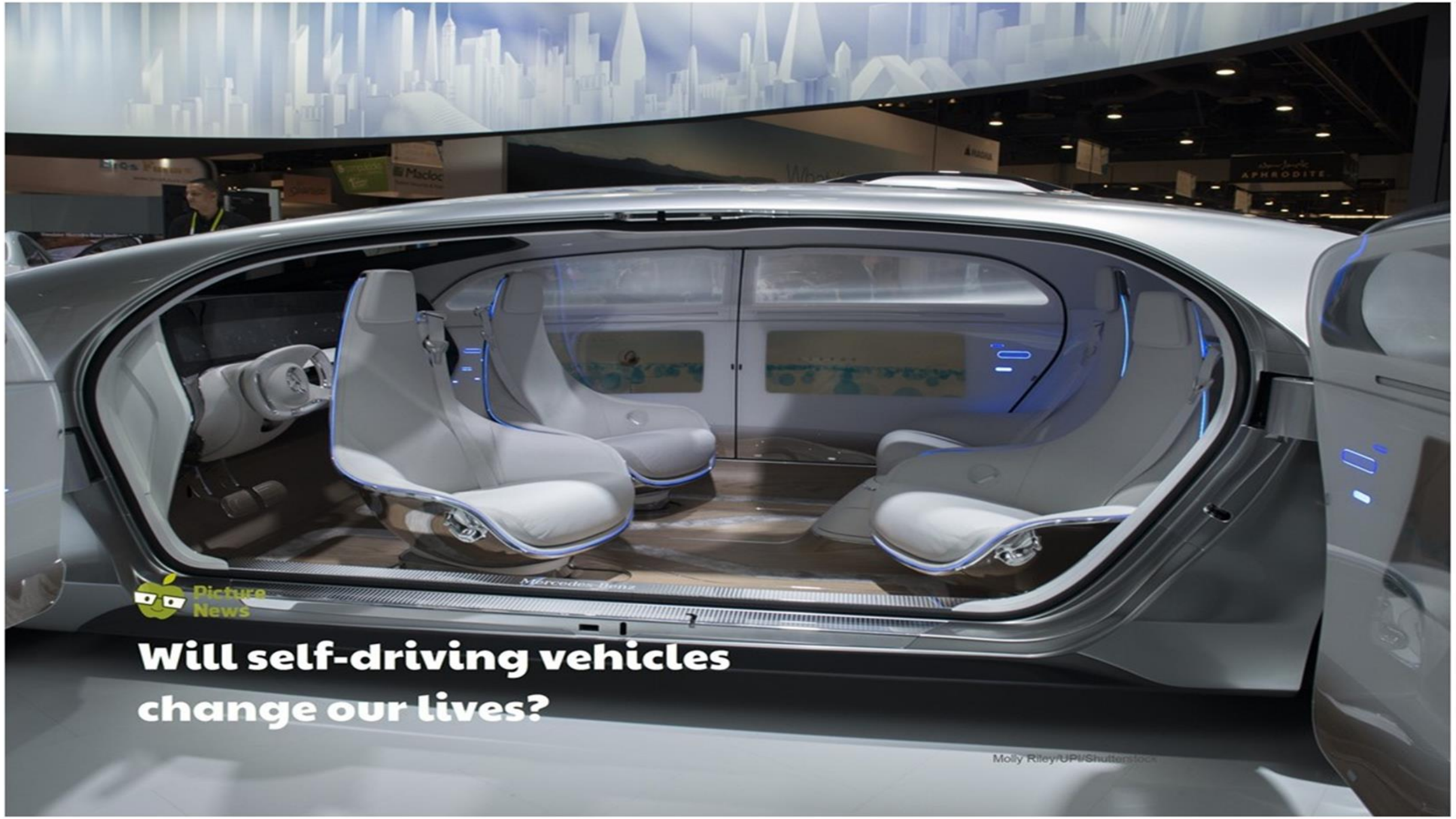
Let's have a look at this week's poster!

22nd – 28th January 2024



Let's look at this week's story

Motorists in Britain could be completing journeys using driverless cars by 2026 the transport secretary, Mark Harper, has predicted. He believes that fully autonomous vehicles, in which people become passengers in their own cars, will arrive in the UK that year and follow a gradual rollout. The government introduced a bill in a speech by King Charles III that paved the way for autonomous cars, without a safety driver, after pressure from industry, MPs, and Sir Patrick Vallance in his recent review of technology regulation.



**Will self-driving vehicles
change our lives?**

Molly Riley/UPI/Shutterstock

This week's story looks at events related to ...



Reflection



Self-driving transport has the power to revolutionise how we travel and could allow people to hand the control over to technology.



Welsh Tidy Mouse



Pictured: A mouse in a shed. **Source:** Canva.

A mouse caught on camera tidying up in a shed in Builth Wells, Powys, Wales, has been nicknamed Welsh Tidy Mouse. The tidy rodent has been 'mousekeeping' since October in a workshop belonging to Rodney Holbrook, a retired postman and keen wildlife photographer. Rodney said, 'One morning I went in early October and there were no nuts in there and I thought I put nuts in yesterday. I had lots of bits of stuff I had on my bench all put in there and I thought I'm going to set up a night camera. So, I set that up and that's where I get these incredible videos of the mouse doing what it does.' He went on to say, 'I'm just leaving it as it is. People have said to me about putting things in to get some

sort of funny videos. But I just leave it naturally. Just naturally let whatever's going to happen, happen.' The video camera has captured the mouse picking up clothes pegs, corks, nuts and bolts. Megan Jackson from the University of Bristol, who studied the mouse's behaviour commented that, 'It might be that the mouse is actually finding this rewarding. It does look like maybe the mouse is scouting out its environment to find things that it thinks might be useful for a nest and bringing it back to a place that seems to be safe.'

Do you know of any animals that like to tidy up or move things around? Why do you think they like to move things?

Last week's topic:

Are emojis an important part of communication?



Yes because: 1. They help us to express our feelings. 2. They help us to communicate better. 3. They also serve as a short and precise way of communication and expression.
Kimberly

Yes, especially if the symbols are in different colours.
Lynnfield Primary School

I think that it is important that we continue to use words as our main form of communication. Emojis are good because they can be understood by everyone!

Aleks

Let us know what you think about this week's news?



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Teenager 'beats' Tetris

Pictured (top): Willis Gibson aka Blue Scuti. **Source:** Blue Scuti - Willis Gibson @bluescuti1771 X page.
Pictured (bottom): Image of Willis playing Tetris from his YouTube video 'The First Time Somebody Has Ever "Beat" Tetris'. **Source:** YouTube.

13-year-old Willis Gibson, aka Blue Scuti, has made gaming history by becoming the first person to complete the original version of the popular computer puzzle game, Tetris. The Tetris player prodigy from Oklahoma, USA uploaded a video, which documented his victory, titled 'The First Time Somebody Has Ever "Beat" Tetris' to YouTube. Willis stated, 'When I started playing this game, I never expected to ever crash the game, or beat it. This run was also the Overall Score, Level, Lines, and 19 Score world record.' The gaming superstar advanced so far in the original Nintendo version of the game that, after reaching level 157, it froze, and his score read 999999. The classic video game's website describes itself saying, 'The goal of Tetris is to score as many points as possible by clearing horizontal lines of



Blocks. The player must rotate, move, and drop the falling Tetriminos inside the Matrix (playing field). Lines are cleared when they are filled with Blocks and have no empty spaces. As lines are cleared, the level increases and Tetriminos fall faster, making the game progressively more challenging. If the Blocks land above the top of the playing field, the game is over.' The game was first released 34 years ago and has been described until now as 'unbeatable'.

Have you ever played Tetris? How do you think it felt to complete a game that people have been playing without finishing for so many years?

Happy Birthday Gruffalo!

Julia Donaldson's much-loved book, The Gruffalo, is 25 years old this year, and the celebrations have begun! The famous children's author has started the special year by returning to a very significant location – the primary school in Scotland where she first read her unpublished book. Julia visited Auchterhouse Primary School in 1997. She asked for the pupils' opinions on the story and encouraged them to draw pictures of what they thought the Gruffalo would look like, promising that if the book was ever published, she would dedicate it to the school. She was true to her word and the Angus primary school has been celebrated at the front of every version of the story that has been printed since it was first published in 1999! The Gruffalo became incredibly successful, has been translated into 107 different languages and dialects, and has sold millions of copies around the world! Ms Donaldson said, 'The Gruffalo's origins go back to when I first tried the story out in primary schools in Scotland, with a memorable visit to Auchterhouse, under the wing of Scottish Book Trust. Scottish Book Trust has been doing great work for 25 years supporting children with literacy and improving access to books.'



Pictured: The 25th anniversary edition of The Gruffalo. **Source:** Scottish Book Trust @scottishbktrust X page.



Pictured: The Gruffalo with Julia Donaldson and pupils at Auchterhouse Primary School. **Source:** Scottish Book Trust @scottishbktrust X page.

Have you ever thought about writing a book? Do you think any of your story ideas could be turned into a book to be published for everyone to read?

TAKEHOME

22-28 Jan



In the news this week

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Things to talk about at home ...

- > Do you think you would like to travel in a self-driving vehicle?
- > Make a list of the positives and negatives of self-driving vehicles.
- > Do you believe we will see more self-driving vehicles on the roads over the next few years?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Will self-driving vehicles change our lives?



Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

