



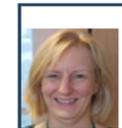
## National Umbrella Day 10th February

### 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

# NATIONAL UMBRELLA DAY TIMELINE



1830

## Umbrella Shop

One of the earliest umbrella shops opens at New Oxford Street in London, England.

1928

## Pocket Friendly

Hans Haupt's portable umbrellas hit the market.

1964

## The Umbrella in Film

The umbrella features as a vital prop in the movie "Mary Poppins".

2008

## Rihanna's Catchy Song

Rihanna releases 'Umbrella,' one of her most well-known songs ever.





Dear Parents and Carers,

Yesterday, we were very excited to welcome the Mayor and Mayoress to school to open our Outdoor Reading Area. The Reading Ambassadors did a great job of talking about the books they love and also asked our special visitors all about their own favourite books and authors. As you can imagine, the Mayor and Mayoress were so impressed with the children's behaviour and their love of reading! As a result, The Mayor has invited the School Council to visit The Guildhall and have a tour. Watch this space....

We are very thankful to The Friends who donated some of their raised money to buy the benches for the reading area. In addition, they have given money to develop the play facilities in the playground- giant construction, additional balancing games, cricket sets, playtime equipment for the class trugs. As we also further develop the playground, many thanks to The Friends who have also given money to develop a wellbeing area in the playground and wellbeing. The playground is so inviting and engaging, please ask your child about all the wonderful things they have to play with. It is a joy to see the children so engaged and having fun, thank you again to The Friends for their donations..

Please enjoy your weekend and I look forward to seeing you next week.

Mrs Fennelly

# Dates for your



Date	Year group	Event
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. Book Fair & Jules at Home will be in school
Thursday 7th March	All Year Groups	World Book Day – All children can dress up as their favourite book or book character. Book Swap and Stay and Read – more details to follow.
21st March	Rowling class	Recorder performance to parents at 09:30

# **NEARLY NEW CHILDREN'S CLOTHING SALE AT SdS**

**We are looking forward to seeing you:**  
**Wednesday 2pm-4pm**  
**Thursday 9am-11am**  
**ALL CLOTHES £1 EACH. PLEASE**  
**BRING CASH**



## Poster of the Week

This week we thought about our achievements for the past week and remembered how proud everyone is of us, our effort and hard work. We also thought ahead to next week to think about what we wanted to achieve. Well done everyone!

Thinking of your achievements this week. What are you most proud of?



What do you want to achieve next?



WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**

7 MARCH 2024

# World Book Day

## Thursday 7th March

WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**

7 MARCH 2024

**The Reading Ambassadors would like to invite you all to celebrate World Book Day this year by dressing up as your favourite book character!**

Additionally, we will also be holding a pre-loved book sale and will be inviting parents to school for a stay and read session.

More information will follow about the arrangements for the day and how to donate books to our book sale.

## **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**



## Think of the Week

A **think** 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 a car is broken down on the side of a road, is it parked?



# Friendly February 2024

MONDAY



5 Make time to have a friendly chat with a neighbour

TUESDAY



6 Get back in touch with an old friend you've not seen for a while

WEDNESDAY



7 Show an active interest by asking questions when talking to others

THURSDAY

1 Send a message to let someone know you're thinking of them

8 Share what you're feeling with someone you really trust

FRIDAY

2 Ask a friend how they have been feeling recently

9 Thank someone and tell them how they made a difference for you

SATURDAY

3 Do an act of kindness to make life easier for someone

10 Look for good in others, particularly when you feel frustrated with them

SUNDAY

4 Invite a friend over for a 'tea break' (in person or virtual)

11 Send an encouraging note to someone who needs a boost

12 Focus on being kind rather than being right

13 Smile at the people you see and brighten their day

14 Tell a loved one or friend why they are special to you

15 Support a local business with a positive online review or friendly message

16 Check in on someone who may be struggling and offer to help

17 Appreciate the good qualities of someone in your life

18 Respond kindly to everyone you talk to today, including yourself

19 Share something you find inspiring, helpful or amusing

20 Make a plan to connect with others and do something fun

21 Really listen to what people say, without judging them

22 Give sincere compliments to people you talk to today

23 Be gentle with someone who you feel inclined to criticise

24 Tell a loved one about the strengths that you see in them

25 Thank three people you feel grateful to and tell them why



26 Make uninterrupted time for your loved ones

27 Call a friend to catch up and really listen to them

28 Give positive comments to as many people as possible today

29 Acknowledge someone's problem or pain rather than trying to fix it



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together

# IN ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK

This week is a busy week for our children with both National Internet Safety Day and Children's Mental Health Week. In our assemblies, we focussed on the Mental Health Week and talked about the things we can do to maintain and improve our mental health including sleeping and eating well and spending our free time doing the things we enjoy. We then moved to this year's focus: having our own voice. We looked at part of the United Nation's Children's Rights which explains that children have the right to express their views. In ks1, we read a story about children who use their voices to help save the local library. In ks2, we started to think about famous children who have used their voice for the good of others. We will continue to develop these thoughts in next week's assemblies too.





On behalf of The Diana Award Anti-Bullying Ambassador Programme, for obtaining all three badges this certificate is proudly presented to

**SIMON DE SENLIS**



# 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

# SPORTS – RUNNING

- Are you a fan of running outside in the open air? Why not grab those trainers and jog around the local area and set yourself a target. Can you manage a run and walk session for 20 minutes?
- If you enjoy running why not join the Northampton Athletics Club, a fun, friendly, inclusive team.
- <https://northamptonathleticclub.com/>

Stay Active

Miss Bland

## Welly Trail Race 2024

On Sunday 25th February adults will be competing in an exciting race around Chester House. So go along and cheer on the runners or encourage your adults to join up.

For more details follow the link;

<https://racesignup.co.uk/site/event.php?eventid=3881>





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.

## 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



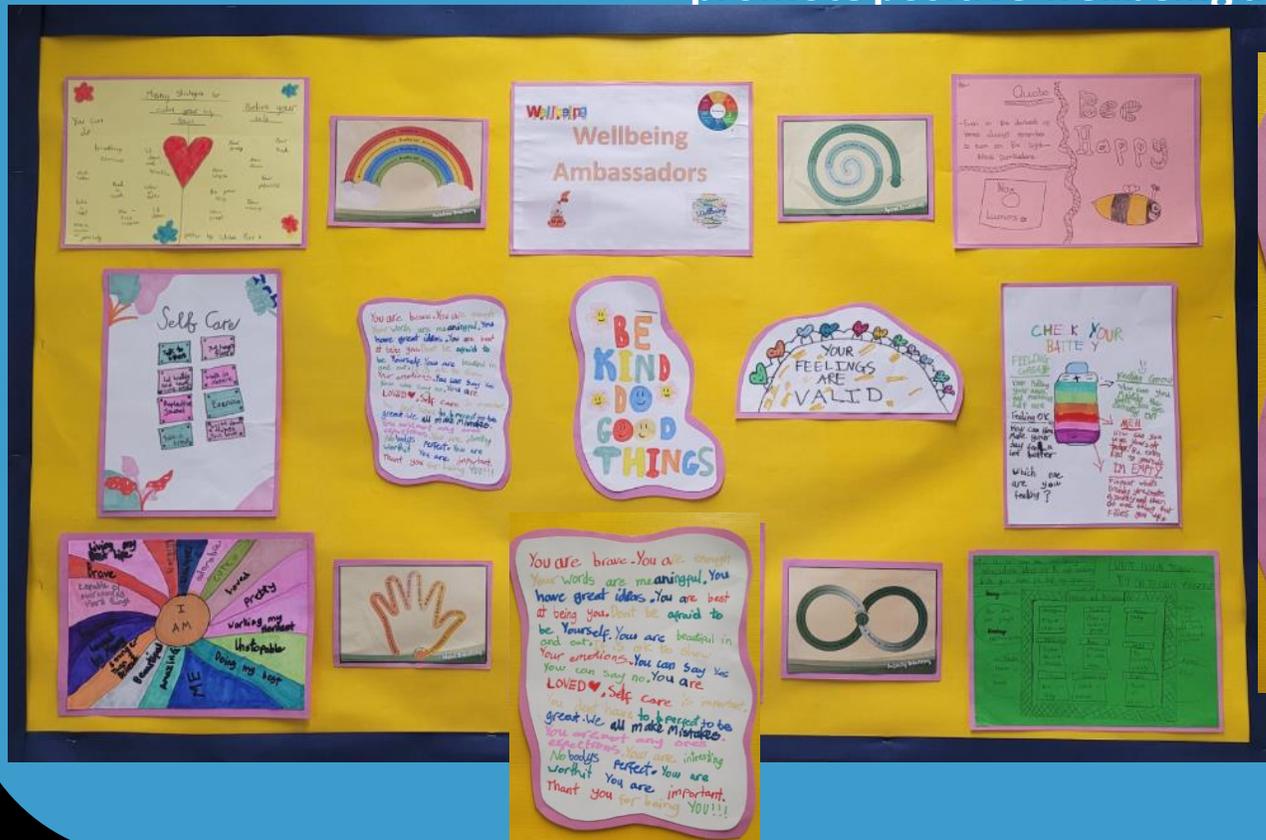
Hannah Garrard

Family Support Worker  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead  
Mental Health First Aider

# Simon de Senlis Primary

## Wellbeing Ambassadors

The Wellbeing Ambassadors have been hard at work producing some posters and information all about how we can promote positive wellbeing and why this is important.



## Children's Mental Health Week 5<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> February 2024

In school this week the children have been completing PSHE lessons focused on the theme of 'My Voice Matters'. Below are some top tips on how you can further explore this theme at home to support your child's mental health.



**TIPS FOR FAMILIES**

**Talking to your child about mental health**

**Are you a parent or carer who wants to talk to your child about mental health?**

This Children's Mental Health Week we want all children and young people, wherever they are, and wherever they are in the world, to be able to say – and believe – "My Voice Matters".

We visited primary and secondary schools to ask students what they wanted from the week – to help shape the activities we create for schools, the messaging we give to teachers, the tips we give to other children, and the advice we give to parents, carers and families.

## Here's what children and young people told us they need from you:

- ① We don't need to have 'one-off conversations about our mental health' – sometimes a chat on a journey or at bedtime is enough.
- ② I need to know it's okay to talk to you about any and all of my feelings. Please hear what I have to say, without interrupting me.
- ③ Please listen to me carefully and acknowledge how I am feeling – it might seem silly to you but what I am going through is important to me.
- ④ Playing with pets can make me feel better. Same with playing football, basketball or whatever type of sport I am into.
- ⑤ Don't compare my experiences to your own when you were a child.
- ⑥ Sometimes I just need you to listen and hear what I'm saying – I don't always need answers (or lectures)
- ⑦ Please don't worry about trying to fix things for me – I often just need to know you are there for me and understand what I am going through.
- ⑧ If you are open with me about your feelings, this can help me to be more open about mine.
- ⑨ Sometimes I don't want to talk. Please trust that I will come to you (or another grown-up or someone my own age) when I'm ready. Sometimes it's easier for me to talk to someone nearer my own age – my siblings, cousins, friends, younger teachers at school - because they 'get it'.
- ⑩ Sometimes a hug is all it takes to make me feel supported.

If your child ever has any worries they want to share with us, please let us know by emailing or phoning the school and asking for a message to be passed on to the class teacher, Miss Garrard or Ms Cunningham and we will get back to you to offer support.

Many thanks,  
Ms Cunningham

For more information please visit:

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/>

## DO YOU SOMETIMES WORRY ABOUT HOW YOU ARE FEELING?

If so, read on!



Here are some brilliant tips from children just like you\*. These children have also had ups and downs with their mental health and want to pass on some ideas that have helped them:

- Ask for help – from a teacher, parent, brother, sister, or other family member. Keep telling until someone listens to you.
- Remember you are not alone – everyone goes through tough times. Be kind to yourself – everyone is perfect in their own way.
- Stay calm – take some breaths or find somewhere to sit quietly for 2 minutes.
- Go outside and get some exercise to make yourself feel stronger.
- spend time with your family and friends (or pets).
- It's okay to not always be okay.
- Think of your favourite thing and write it down.
- Keep a diary to track all your emotions.
- Stay positive and focus on things that make you happy. If you can't think of anything, maybe a friend can help you.
- Remember you are enough, and you are the only you.
- If you are being bullied, maybe the bully is being bullied or has something going on at home and they're taking it out on someone else. Tell an adult or trusted friend.



## DO YOU SOMETIMES FEEL A BIT WORRIED ABOUT HOW SOMEONE ELSE IS FEELING?

If so, read on!

Things you can say to help support someone else:



\*With thanks to the pupils at Seascape Primary School and Ark Globe Primary School.

Beano Characters: A Beano Studios Product ©DC Thomson Ltd (2021)

BEANO



# Simon de Senlis Primary

Here is just some of the great work the children in school have produced this Children's Mental Health Week.



Things that matter to me!

1. fish
2. Maths
3. Dad
4. Mum
5. dog
6. Sisters

**MY DREAM DAY**

Read all the magazines books editing ice cream

My Dream Day

Sun

christmas tree

Roblox

slide

Minecraft

My Dream day: things that matter to me!

Meeting my friend

Playing football

Helping my mum

When I hang out with my friend

Going to school

My Dream Day.

Things that matter to me!

Book About gymnastics

my gran

me

my sister



## PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) DURING FEBRUARY HALF TERM 2024

[moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free](https://moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free)



### ASDA

Kids eat for £1 All Day, Every Day at Asda cafes, with no adult spend required.

### TESCO

Kids eat free with a purchase of 60p+ from From Mon 12th - Fri 23rd February 2024

### SAINSBURYS CAFES

Kids eat for £1 with the purchase of an adult hot main. From 11:30am every day.

### BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE

Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

### THE REAL GREEK

Kids under 12 eat FREE every Sunday for every £10 spent by an adult

### GREENE KING PUBS

Kids Eat Free all-day with the purchase of an adult's meal. Deal, Monday-Friday, between Mon 12th - Friday 23rd February 2024

### TRAVELODGE & PREMIER INN

Buy 1 Adult Breakfast from just £8.99 & up to two kids eat breakfast for free

### SIZZLING PUBS

Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm, kids' mains are £1 with every adult meal.

### TGI FRIDAYS

Kids Eat Free When 'Stripes Rewards Members' purchase a full priced adult's main meal (App needed)

### IKEA

Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

### MORRISONS

Spend £4.49 and get one free kids meal all day, every day.

### GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS

Kids under 8 eat FREE all day, every day at selected Gordon Ramsay restaurants

### PRETO

Kids up to age 10 eat free all day, every day with paying adults at Preto in Half Terms

### YO! SUSHI

From Mon 12th - Fri 23rd February 2024 kids eat free with every £10 adult spend

### BELLA ITALIA

Children eat for £1 with any adult main. The offer is valid 4-6pm Mon to Thurs.

### WHITBREAD INNS

Two kids under 16 eat for FREE with every adult breakfast purchased

### DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRES

At Dobbies, for every adult breakfast or lunch purchase, kids eat for FREE. Every Day!

### TABLE TABLE

Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

### PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM

Kids get 1 mini main, 2 snacks & a drink FREE with every £4 spend after 3pm

### HUNGRY HORSE

Kids eat for £1 on Mondays

### FUTURE INNS

Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal.



# YOUTH Inspired

Youth Clubs in

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

**clubs for 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  
INSTAGRAM  
TIKTOK  
SNAPCHAT

@youthinspireduk  
@youthinspired  
@youthinspirednhants  
@youth\_inpired



# 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](mailto:e.coughlan1982@live.ie)

# 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

## 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](http://www.northamptonshiresport.org)

UK registered charity number: 1184107





## 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	

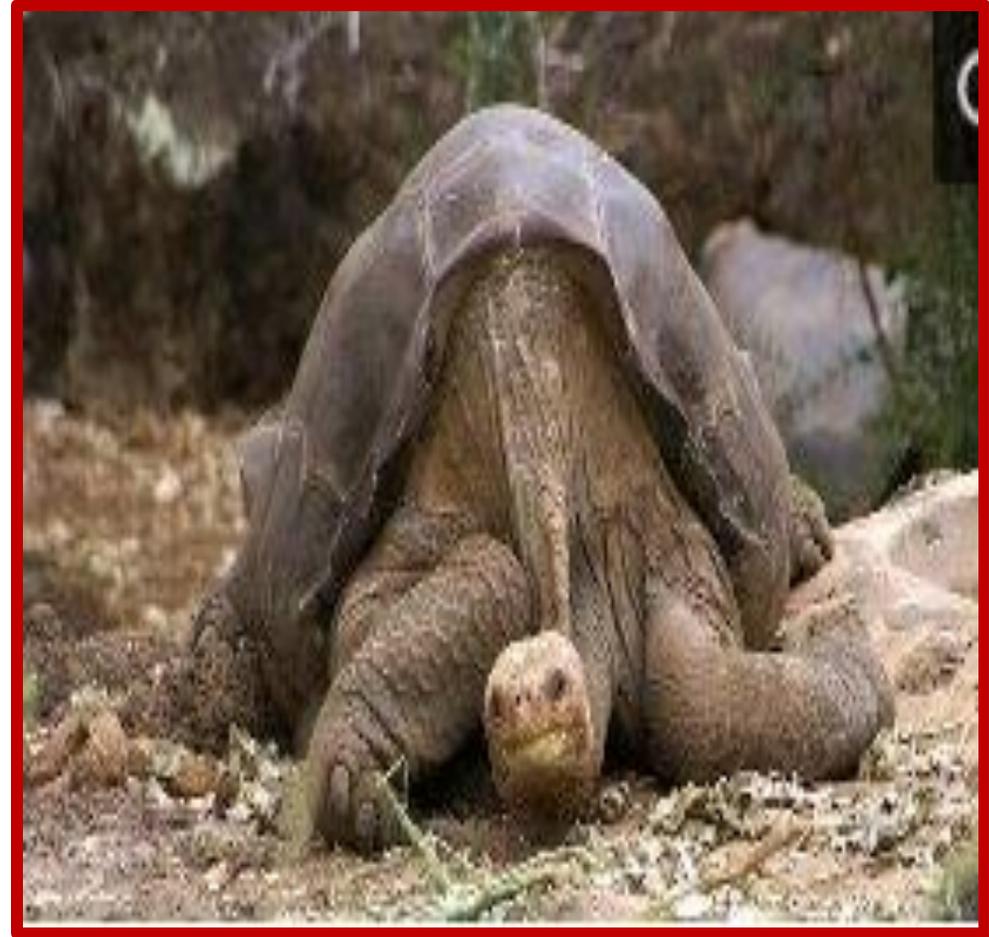
May 2025					
Mon		5	12	19	26
Tues		6	13	20	27
Wed		7	14	21	28
Thu	1	8	15	22	29
Fri	2	9	16	23	30

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!**

**5th - 11th February 2024**

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





## Let's look at this week's story

45-year-old Mar Galcerán from Spain has become the country's first elected parliamentarian with Down's syndrome. Maria del Mar Galcerán Gadea is thought to be the first person with the genetic disorder to join a European regional or national parliament. She has been involved with politics since she was 18, when she joined Spain's conservative People's Party. Speaking to the media, Mar Galcerán said she wants to be seen as a person, and not for her disability.



**What makes  
someone  
inspirational?**

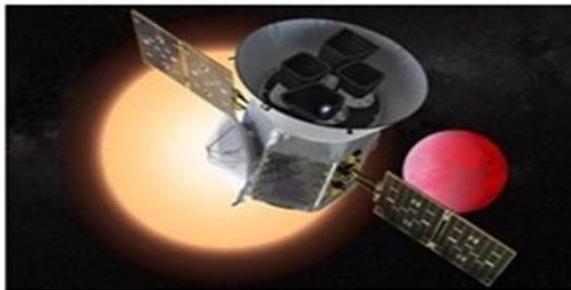


## 85 Possible Planets

Astronomers from the University of Warwick have discovered 85 possible planets with temperatures potentially cool enough to sustain life. Of the potential exoplanets (an exoplanet is any planet beyond our solar system), 25 were previously found by independent research teams. However, 60 are new discoveries found using data gathered by NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS). TESS is designed to discover and monitor thousands of exoplanets and other objects in orbit around the brightest dwarf stars in the sky, by recording changes in light. The observed dips in the brightness of stars are called transits and show that objects, such as exoplanets, are passing in front of them. Scientists think that the new exoplanets are similar in size to Saturn, the second largest planet in our solar system. Saturn is over nine times wider than Earth! Professor Daniel Bayliss, of the University of Warwick said, 'It's very exciting to find these planets, and to know that many of them may be in the right temperature zone to sustain life. Encompassing the collaborative spirit of



**Pictured Left:** NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite. **Source:** NASA\_TESS @NASA\_TESS X page.



the TESS mission, we have also made our discoveries public so that astronomers across the globe can study these unique exoplanets in more detail. We hope this will drive further research into these fascinating exoplanets.'

**Do you think it would be exciting to discover planets that could be lived on outside of our solar system?**

## World's First Magma Observatory

The Krafla Magma Testbed (KMT), in a remote area of Iceland, has been announced as the world's first magma observatory. KMT's website said the research facility, open to all, will have access to a magma chamber (an underground reservoir of molten rock). Scientists plan to drill down to the magma chamber, so that they can observe and experiment on the magma to see how it behaves and reacts whilst underground. This will give them a greater understanding of magma, volcanoes and help to improve volcano prediction. The world's first tunnel to a magma chamber also has the potential to unleash unlimited energy, using geothermal power. Geothermal energy is the heat produced deep in the Earth's core. It is a clean, renewable resource that can be used for heat and electricity. Two boreholes will be drilled, one will give scientists their first direct measurements of magma and the second could help to supercharge geothermal power, giving access to tons of green



**Pictured:** Magma flow. **Source:** Canva.

energy. 'What we know about magma comes from interpreting activity measured at the surface, the geology of fossil magma chambers, and laboratory experiments. The Krafla drilling project will provide direct samples and observations, helping the world to read signs of volcanic unrest better,' explained John Eichelberger, a volcanologist (a geologist, who focuses on understanding volcanoes) at the University of Alaska.

**Do you know the difference between lava and magma?**

**It's all about location - magma is molten rock that is trapped underground, it becomes lava when it erupts to the surface and keeps flowing like a liquid!**



**Pictured:** Krafla volcano, Iceland. **Source:** Krafla Magma Testbed - KMT Facebook page.

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

[www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss)



# Giant Tortoises Airlifted Home

136 Giant Galápagos Tortoises have been returned to their natural habitat by conservationists. The Galápagos National Park Directorate, working with the Galápagos Conservancy, successfully transported the young tortoises by helicopter! Flying was determined to be the safest and least impactful way to transfer the endangered animals. The other option being multiple expeditions, involving a journey by sea followed by each tortoise being carried on a person's shoulders for several kilometres over lava fields and challenging terrain. The reptiles, which are all between 5 and 9 years old, were airlifted from Arnaldo Tupiza Chamaidan Breeding and Rearing Centre to the Cinco Cerros area on Isabela Island's Cerro Azul volcano. They have been hatched and brought up at the centre by park rangers, who have ensured they are healthy, microchipped for identification and prepared for release. These most famous residents of the Galápagos Islands, in the Pacific Ocean, are herbivores (meaning they mainly eat plants) and their reintroduction to their native habitat will help maintain ecosystem stability. Dr Jorge Carrión, the Director of Conservation at the Galapagos Conservancy, described their repatriation as, 'a crucial milestone in



**Pictured:** Galápagos tortoises being airlifted and released on the island. **Source:** Galápagos Conservancy Facebook page.

our conservation mission in Galápagos.' They are the largest living species of tortoise, have an average lifespan of over 100 years, can grow as large as 1.8 metres long and weigh over 400 kilograms! **Did you know that the word 'Galápagos' comes from an old Spanish word for tortoises?** **Do you know any other interesting facts about the islands?**

Last week's topic:

## Will self-driving vehicles change our lives?



I think self-driving cars will change our lives in a good way as they prevent those who drive recklessly from driving reckless and because of their amazing sensors and technology, they will be safe.

**Jack**

They're good because older people who can no longer drive can use them to be transported.

**Sam**

No because what would happen if the car malfunctions or doesn't stop when it should.

**River**

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



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# TAKEHOME



## In the news this week

45-year-old Mar Galcerán from Spain has become the country's first elected parliamentarian with Down's syndrome. Maria del Mar Galcerán Gadea is thought to be the first person with the genetic disorder to join a European regional or national parliament. She has been involved with politics since she was 18, when she joined Spain's conservative People's Party. Speaking to the media, Mar Galcerán said she wants to be seen as a person, and not for her disability.

### Things to talk about at home ...

- > Make a list of people you find inspirational. What about them inspires you?
- > Think about some of the places you find leaders (e.g., schools, councils, clubs). For each place, how are the leaders chosen? Share how important you think it is for leaders to be from a diverse range of backgrounds and with different experiences.

### What makes someone inspirational?



Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

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