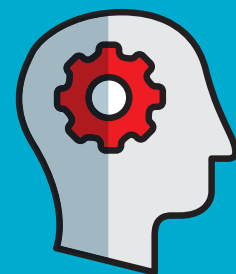


THE WEEK Junior SCHOOLS

Extend learning

beyond the curriculum





Enrich learning and improve general knowledge

Broaden your pupils'
knowledge beyond
the curriculum with
the latest news from
around the world.

The big news stories
of the week are written in
age-appropriate language
that flows easily in an
engaging style.

This week's big news



**MEGA
QUAKE**
The most powerful
earthquake ever recorded
had a magnitude of 9.5
and occurred in Chile
in 1960.

A damaged
street in
Sulawesi.

Tsunami in Indonesia devastates island



Almost 1,400 people have died and many are still missing after a tsunami (a series of giant waves) hit the island of Sulawesi, in Indonesia. At the time *The Week Junior* went to press, rescuers were still searching for people and the number of dead was expected to rise.

What happened?

A 7.5 magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of Sulawesi at around 6pm on 28 September. Earthquakes are measured on a scale and given a number between 2 and 10 according to their size. The tremors from the earthquake caused a large volume of water to move very fast, creating a series of huge waves. Less than five minutes after the earthquake, three six-metre waves travelling at around 250mph hit the city of Palu. The water rushed through the city, destroying buildings. Hundreds of people who had gathered on the beach for a festival were swept away.

What is being done to help?

Around 200,000 people are in urgent need of assistance, roughly a quarter of them children. Rescuers are struggling to reach remote areas of the island. Roads have been damaged and are blocked by debris, including cars and concrete. The

water has also caused landslides, which moved lots of mud, making it difficult to travel around. Aid organisations are trying to get food, water and support to those who have been left homeless and hungry by the disaster, and other countries are helping out. The UK Government has sent a team of expert advisers and provided £2 million of aid.

Could the disaster have been avoided?

On Boxing Day 2004, a 9.2 magnitude earthquake off the coast of Sumatra, Indonesia triggered a tsunami that left an estimated 220,000 people dead. Since then, a tsunami warning system has been in place in Indonesia to alert people if another one happens. An alert was sent out just after the earthquake, according to Indonesia's meteorological and geophysics agency, but they removed it just over 30 minutes later. They admitted they didn't know how big the waves were going to be, as there were no sensors in the area. Warnings were texted to residents, but the area's power and communications lines were damaged. The powercut also stopped sirens from working along the coast. Indonesia also has an advanced tsunami warning system, a series of floating buoys out at sea, but some have been damaged and other bits have been stolen.



Survivors of
the tsunami.

"Our national hero"



Anthonyus
Gunawan
Agung was
working as an
air
traffic
controller
at the

airport when the earthquake struck. He was in the control tower, preparing for the take-off of a plane with 147 passengers on board. As the tower started to shake and his colleagues fled, Agung stayed to make sure the plane took off safely. Unfortunately, Agung did not survive. The pilot of the departed plane, Ricosetta Mafella, believes Agung saved his life and those of the passengers. "I could have died as well," Mafella said. "He is my hero and our national hero."

This week's big news

UN event to support girls around the world

On 11 October, the seventh annual International Day of the Girl Child will be celebrated, to highlight some of the challenges facing girls around the world. The day of events is organised by the United Nations (UN), an organisation of 193 countries that takes action on human rights and peace.

In some countries girls' opinions often aren't considered important, and in many parts of the world they don't have the opportunity to go to school. In some places, parents prefer their sons to get an education and their daughters to stay at home and then get married. There are thought to be 130 million girls of school age in the world who don't go to school, making it hard for them to get good jobs later on.

This year, the event aims to create more opportunities for girls. Working with different organisations, the UN will create projects to give girls the skills they need to get better-paid jobs.

Michelle Obama, who campaigned for gender equality while her husband Barack was the US president, has organised a special concert on TV in the US, and in London a festival for teenage girls is being held on the London Eye.



Girls celebrating the
UN event last year.



IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

THIS MAN
A blind man with a fear of dogs has been given a guide horse instead. Salim Patel is the first person in the UK to be given one. The American miniature horse, called Digby, is still being trained, but can already press the button at road crossings.



**DID YOU
KNOW?**

The UN has its own stamps
and post offices in New York,
US; Geneva, Switzerland;
and Vienna, Austria.



Donald Trump
at the UN.

Trump laughed at by world leaders

Between 18 September and 5 October, the world's top leaders gathered in New York, in the US, for the 73rd session of the General Assembly of the United Nations (UN). The UN is an organisation of 193 of the world's countries that takes action on human rights, peace and climate change.

On 25 September, US president Donald Trump gave a speech during which he claimed he had "accomplished more than almost any administration (US government) in the history" of the US. This caused some of the other world leaders to laugh in disbelief as they did not agree with his boast. Trump responded to the laughter by saying, "So true," and "I wasn't expecting that reaction, but that's ok."

In the rest of his speech, Trump said he wanted individual countries to do more by themselves, instead of working together. He said, "We reject the ideology of globalism." Globalism means working

together with other countries to make sure as many nations benefit from a country's plans as possible. Trump went on to say "we embrace the doctrine of patriotism" – which means the love of one's own country above all other's. Afterwards, Trump said that the other leaders "weren't laughing at me. They were laughing with me. We had fun."

The day before Trump's speech, New Zealand's prime minister, Jacinda Ardern, became the first world leader to attend a UN general assembly meeting with a baby, her three-month-old daughter Neve Te Aroha. Neve was given a security pass and a special title, "New Zealand First Baby".

In her speech to the UN on 27 September, Ardern presented her ideas for the future, which were quite different from Trump's. Her call for greater equality for women, action on climate change and more countries working together was met with loud applause.

A LUCKY TURTLE

A turtle who broke his shell is using a wheelchair made of Lego to move around. The turtle, who was found in a park in Baltimore, US is recovering in the Maryland Zoo. Garrett Fraes, a vet, said he sent sketches to a friend who made the special Lego wheelchair. It allows the turtle to move around while keeping his shell off the ground.



The turtle in
his wheelchair.

RUNNING FOR CHARITY

Around 30,000 people took part in the Great Scottish Run last weekend in Glasgow, raising plenty of money for charity. The Rich family, who have two young daughters with an incurable condition called Batten disease, were cheered along by massive crowds in the Family Mile race on 29 September.

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Sarah Brady, deputy head teacher,
St Bernadette's Primary School

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Not only does the magazine encourage creativity and curiosity, it challenges children to question things.

John Dabell, teacher, reviewer, writer and former school inspector

Encourages curiosity and questioning with articles that cover issues affecting children's lives.

Home news



Relaxation will be taught.

DID YOU KNOW?

Around one in 10 young people in the UK are affected by a mental-health issue – that's almost three people in every average school class.

Parks are out of reach



England's national parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are easier to reach from wealthier areas than poorer ones. That's according to the Campaign to Protect Rural England, which has carried out a study. The study showed that the less-well-off are missing out on the physical and mental benefits of nature. Scientists say that spending time outdoors is good for your physical health and improves your mood.

Mental-health trial in English schools

Students in England will learn relaxation techniques as part of one of the biggest mental-health studies in the world. Mental health is about how we think, feel and behave. Anxiety and depression are both examples of mental-health problems.

Pupils at up to 370 primary and secondary schools will take part in the trial, which is looking for ways to help young people cope with stress, anxiety and other common mental-health challenges. The Government announced the plan on the first day of Children's Mental Health Week, which ran 4–10 February. The aim of the week is to raise

awareness of mental-health issues facing young people, and ways to deal with them.

Damian Hinds, the Government minister of education, said, "As a society, we are much more open about our mental health than ever before, but the modern world has brought new pressures for children, while potentially making others worse." He added that although schools and teachers "don't have all the answers" when it comes to mental wellbeing, they can play a "special role".

The trial will teach pupils techniques like meditation and breathing exercises, which can have a positive and calming effect on people if they feel

overwhelmed. Mental-health experts will also visit schools to talk to students. The scheme will run until 2021 – enough time for schools to work out which techniques work best for their students.

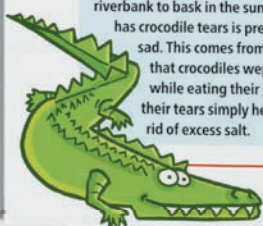
Imran Hussain, who works for children's charity Action for Children, said that many young people were "struggling to get to grips with how they fit into the increasingly complex modern world". He said pressure at school, bullying and family problems were common causes of stress and anxiety.

If you're finding it hard to cope with difficult emotions, share your feelings with someone you trust, like your parents or guardian, a school counsellor or a teacher. If you don't feel safe talking to someone you know, you can call ChildLine for free on 0800 1111. Their counsellors won't share anything you tell them.

WORD OF THE WEEK

CROCODILE

The word crocodile comes from the Greek *krokodilos*, which means worm of the stones. This referred to the reptile slithering onto the riverbank to bask in the sun. Someone who has crocodile tears is pretending to be sad. This comes from the ancient belief that crocodiles wept with sorrow while eating their prey, when in fact their tears simply help their body get rid of excess salt.



THE WEEK IN HISTORY

8 February 1952
Princess Elizabeth becomes Queen

On 8 February 1952, 25-year-old Princess Elizabeth became Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Her father, King George VI, had been seriously ill since the summer of 1951, and Elizabeth had taken on some of the royal duties on his behalf. On 6 February 1952, Elizabeth was in Kenya with her husband Prince Philip when news arrived that King George had died. She flew back to the UK and formally declared herself to be Queen, as is tradition. In 2016, she became the world's longest-reigning monarch.



The Queen in 1955.

The Week Junior • 9 February 2019

Home news



Tributes at Cardiff City.

Footballer's plane is found
On 3 February, a search team found the missing plane that had been carrying Cardiff City footballer Emiliano Sala. It was found on the seabed off Guernsey, in the English Channel. At least one body is believed to be inside. The light aircraft had been missing since 21 January, when Sala took a flight from his old club, Nantes, in France, to join his new team in Cardiff, Wales. Rescue teams have begun attempts to recover the body and the plane.



Fish may actually be shark

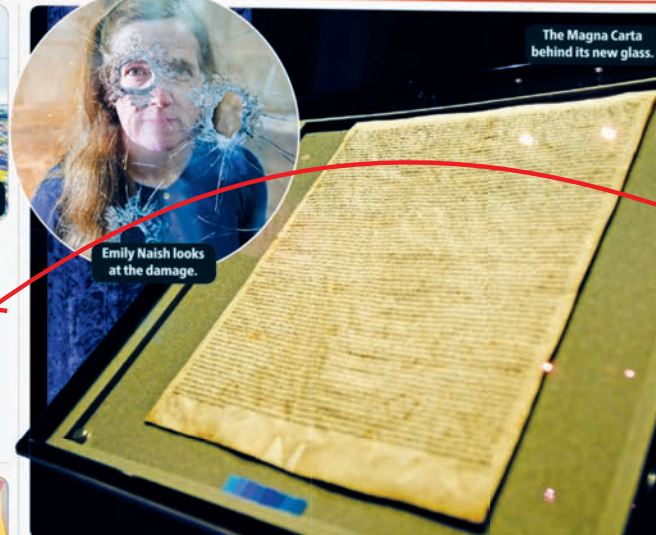
UK fish and chip shops have been found to be selling endangered sharks to unwitting customers. Fishmongers are selling spiny dogfish, a rare species of shark, as huss, rock, flake or rock salmon. Scientists from the University of Exeter also found endangered scalloped hammerhead fins being sold as other fish. Under UK law, some types of shark can be sold under names like rock, but the researchers want these rules tightened to protect more species.



Dragon chaos for drivers

Drivers are being warned by police not to slow down to look at a dragon alongside the A5 road near Tregarth, Gwynedd, in Wales. The seven-metre-long wooden statue was carved into a fallen oak tree and is called Y Ddraig Derw, which means The Oak Dragon in Welsh. The figure has distracted motorists and there have been several accidents at the spot. Simon O'Rourke, who sculpted the dragon, asked motorists to pay attention to the road, not the statue.

9 February 2019 • The Week Junior



Emily Naish looks at the damage.

The Magna Carta behind its new glass.

Magna Carta back on display

The Magna Carta, one of the UK's most important historical documents, is back on display in Salisbury Cathedral three months after someone tried to steal it. On 25 October last year, a man smashed the glass case in which the 803-year-old document was kept. He was wrestled to the ground by staff when he tried to flee. After the incident, the document was removed from public view so experts could carefully check if it had been damaged during the attack.

The Magna Carta, which means Great Charter, was issued in 1215 by England's King John. It is an important legal document that gave some citizens certain rights. It was drawn up because people were unhappy with how King John was ruling the country. He was a powerful monarch who took money and property from people and made them give him lots of their crops and food.

Many people were unhappy with this, including knights, churchmen and landowners known as barons. They rebelled and King John was forced to agree to the Magna Carta to try to stop war breaking out between him and the barons.

The document limited the power of the king and gave ordinary people some rights. These included not being punished without a fair trial. The Magna Carta stated that the law applied to everyone, including the king. It is seen as the start of the belief that all people should be treated equally.

The Magna Carta on display in Salisbury Cathedral is one of four versions of the original document and it is said to be the best preserved. The cathedral has said that it will now be protected in a new case with "hidden safety features".

Emily Naish, an archivist (keeper of historic records) at Salisbury Cathedral, described the attack last year as a nightmare, and said it was a great relief to know that the manuscript had not been damaged. "Luckily, no glass dust or shards had penetrated the seal on the inner case," Naish said.

She added, "I am thankful that both cases did the job they were designed to do and the document emerged unharmed." The broken glass from the original damaged case is to go on display alongside the Magna Carta.

WOW!
In 2007, a copy of the Magna Carta dating from 1297 was sold for £10.6 million.

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Robbery foiled by flying banana"
theweek.co.uk



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Since we began receiving weekly copies of *The Week Junior*, we have seen a students enthusiastically engage with the topics covered in the magazine and grow their confidence in public speaking and debating.

Joanne Denham, librarian, Wodensborough
Ormiston Academy



The big debate

Should plastic packaging be banned?

Two important awareness days this week are encouraging people to tackle plastic pollution and to find alternatives to plastic packaging.

What you need to know

- The first synthetic plastic – known as celluloid – was developed in the 1860s.
- The theme for this year's World Environment Day, on 5 June, is Beat Plastic Pollution. World Oceans Day is on 8 June and encourages people to help prevent plastic pollution and find solutions to create a healthy ocean.
- Plastic pollution is the term used to describe the build-up of plastic products, such as packaging, in the environment to the extent that they are causing problems for wildlife and its habitats, and humans.

WOW! On 27 May, 6,000 volunteers picked up more than 200 tonnes of rubbish on Versova beach on the west coast of India.

In search of a bear

A video of a Eurasian Turkey has gone viral. The creature was captured in a car park with a white bear was upright or pushing the bin of the woods. Isa Oran, wildlife mammal, said, "Hur come here during the usually search for this one took the wh

Plastic is a material that is both durable (meaning that it will last a long time) and versatile, in that it has thousands of uses, making it perfect for packaging. Since it can be melted and moulded into millions of different things, plastic has fundamentally changed the way people live. More recently, however, the dangers of plastic waste have been highlighted through television programmes such as the BBC's *Blue Planet II*. Every year, about eight million tonnes of plastic – including bottles, containers and bags – ends up in the oceans. By 2050, it is believed that there will be more plastic in the planet's waters than fish. So is the answer to ban plastic packaging altogether?

Yes – ditch plastic packaging

Marine life is at risk from the plastic packaging that pollutes the oceans because creatures often get tangled in it or eat it by mistake, both of which can be fatal. The majority of plastic is made from oil, which is a non-renewable resource (it is irreplaceable and will eventually run out), so why is it being used for things such as single-use plastic bottles and not being saved for vital items, such as medical supplies? Plastic takes a long time to break down, and remains on the planet for hundreds of years. What's more, there are plenty of environmentally friendly alternatives to plastic packaging. Plastic might be cheap and convenient, but it could end up costing us the Earth.

No – plastic makes life easier

Plastic is used to make a wide variety of items, such as packaging and containers, many of which make our lives easier. For example, plastic packaging keeps food fresher for longer; it helps reduce the amount of food waste that is created when food becomes inedible after being exposed to oxygen or moisture. Using plastic to protect products such as food or expensive pieces of technology helps prevent damage. Environmentally friendly options just aren't as effective; paper bags, for example, are liable to tear when they get wet. Besides, since plastic lasts for a long time, some of it can be reused, recycled and transformed into new products.

YES Three reasons why plastic packaging should be banned

- 1 Plastic is harmful to wildlife, including fish, mammals and seabirds.
- 2 Most plastic is made from non-renewable resources.
- 3 It remains with us for a long time – plastic bags, for example, are not truly degradable, meaning that tiny fragments continue to pollute the environment.

NO Three reasons why plastic packaging should not be banned

- 1 It helps store food hygienically, allowing it to remain fresher for longer and thus preventing food waste. It also helps protect delicate products.
- 2 Plastic lasts a long time and can be reused and recycled.
- 3 Alternatives to plastic packaging are not as effective.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if you thought all children should walk to school. It was very close but more of you think that walking to school wouldn't work for everyone.

49% YES **51% NO**

What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about it, tell us what you think by voting in our poll at theweekjunior.co.uk/polls. Vote YES if you think that plastic packaging should be banned, or NO if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The aim of the Big Debate page is to present two sides of an issue fairly and objectively, in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on the page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties. The page is created in association with the English-Speaking Union, an educational charity helping young people discover their voice and realise their full potential. For more information, please see esun.org

ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION

The Week Junior • 2 June 2018

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Pupils can have their say on issues of the day by voting in the weekly poll.

The big debate

Should products be made to last longer?

Some people say goods should be easier to repair, too.

What you need to know

- Manufacturers may soon be required to make sure goods such as light bulbs, televisions and phones last longer and are easier to repair.
- European politicians are concerned that companies are making products that are only designed to last for a few years, and are not easy to fix, which means people have to buy new ones. This is good for the company because it makes more money, but it is bad for the environment.
- As a result, these politicians have come up with a series of rules that would force companies to make some items last longer and be easier to mend. At least 18 US states are considering similar laws.

WOW! Still shining after 117 years, you can watch the world's oldest light bulb at tinyurl.com/TWJ-lightbulb

Lots of household appliances end up as rubbish.

Yes – products should be made to last

Making products that only last for a few years is bad for the environment. The manufacturing process produces greenhouse gases that harm the planet and contribute to climate change (the change in weather patterns, mostly caused by harmful gases released by burning fossil fuels such as coal, gas and oil). It also uses up resources, such as rare metals (found in smartphones), which are running out and cannot be replaced. Besides, consumers pay more if they have to buy new products every few years, which isn't fair. Libby Peake from Green Alliance, an environmental charity, said if companies were forced to make goods last longer it would "benefit the environment and save resources".

No – it's important to keep on creating

Computers, phones, televisions and many other items are only designed to last a few years because new technology is developing all the time. If the items were made to last for a long time, there would be less reason for designers and inventors to create new products that may be more efficient and better for the customer. We all like new gadgets, so we need manufacturers to keep on making the best ones possible to replace those that are old and outdated. If they aren't making new things, it could mean that companies sell fewer products and people could lose their jobs. Besides, many manufacturers are trying to make their processes as environmentally friendly as possible.

YES Three reasons why products should be made to last longer

- 1 Buying new items every few years is bad for the environment. A lot of harmful greenhouse gases are produced during the manufacturing process.
- 2 It costs people money if they keep on having to buy new things.
- 3 There are limited resources on the planet; we shouldn't waste them.

NO Three reasons why products should not be made to last longer

- 1 It's a good thing that technology is developing all the time. New products are more efficient and benefit the customer.
- 2 If a company makes more money from selling new products, it keeps people in jobs.
- 3 Manufacturers are doing more and more to make sure their processes are as environmentally friendly as possible.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked you whether it should cost money to be a football mascot. The majority of you said no; it's not fair for play for football clubs to profit in this way.

20% YES **80% NO**

What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about it, tell us what you think by voting in our poll at theweekjunior.co.uk/polls. Vote YES if you think that products should be made to last longer, or NO if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

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Maddy Barnes, assistant head teacher and English consultant

In-depth articles allow pupils to immerse themselves in topics from across the curriculum and beyond.



All about the Great Wall of China

The wall that built China

How one of the world's greatest engineering feats united a country.

China is famous for many things, including its food, its pandas and its New Year celebrations (which happened on 5 February) but top of the list has to be the Great Wall of China. This treasured monument stretches nearly all the way across the enormous country, split into different sections. More than half of it no longer exists, yet the sections that still stand have told historians a lot about the country's astonishing past.

DID YOU KNOW?
Many people claim that the wall can be seen from the Moon, but this is a myth.

Watchtowers

From the start of construction, thousands of beacon towers were built at regular intervals along the wall. Guards were stationed in these towers, and they sent smoke signals or raised flags to indicate attacks. These signals were seen up to nine miles away; word could spread quickly.

Guards sent messages by smoke signal.



The wall stretches almost 13,171 miles.

The Qin dynasty (221-206BC)

Emperor Qin Shi Huang is widely regarded as the ruler who began construction of the Great Wall. Emperor Huang was hoping to unify China, which at that time was separated into seven kingdoms. The Qin dynasty (when generations of the same family rule a country) had the first wall built mainly from mud. Most of it was north of today's Great Wall, although its exact location is unknown because almost no evidence of it remains.



The Han dynasty (202BC-AD221)

Qin's wall was extended west as a defence from attacks from the Xiongnu (people from what is now the Asian country of Mongolia). Western China is mainly desert, so builders had to weave frames for the wall out of rose willow and weeds. They poured gravel into the framework, then sand, and built the wall up in layers. Remarkably, more than 2,000 years later, sections of this wall are still standing.

Han dynasty soldiers defend their land.



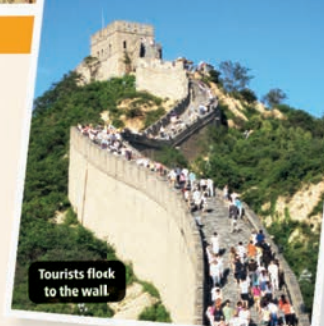
The Ming dynasty (1368-1644)

The Ming rulers were largely responsible for the Great Wall as we know it today. Large sections were made of soil that had been pushed together until it became solid, but some of the wall was created around a stone base with bricks built up around it, making it much stronger than the previous versions. The emperor wanted it to withstand not only attacks, but also the effects of time. The wall was now more than 7.6 metres high and more than nine metres thick in places.



The wall today

The pictures of the wall most commonly seen today are from the section near Beijing, China's capital. The most famous section is at Badaling, about 45 miles from the centre of the city. It opened to tourists in 1957 and is now the most popular section in China. It is estimated that 37,000 people visited in one day alone last October. When you are on the wall you can see it snaking over the mountains into the distance.



Tourists flock to the wall.

How big is it?

The wall as it stands runs from Shanhaiguan, in western China, all the way to the Gobi desert in the east. A Chinese survey in 2012 revealed that the total length of the entire wall, including all of its sections, is precisely 13,170.69 miles long. The newer Ming dynasty section is more than 4,970 miles long. However, new sections are still being discovered, so that figure is likely to rise. Although the wall is undoubtedly long, parts of it are very narrow. In certain areas it is only wide enough for people walking in single file, and other bits don't even have a walkway.

SMELLY SMOKE
The early smoke signals produced in the wall's beacons were created by burning wolf poo.

Jiayuguan Fort in western China.



GOING, GOING, GONE?
Almost a third of the Ming-era wall has disappeared, partly because of natural damage, but also because of tourists stealing bricks.



A wide-variety of subject areas are covered each week, introducing pupils to a vast range of new and interesting vocabulary to identify and explore in context.



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Nurture reading for pleasure

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The Week Junior magazine has really helped us to promote reading for pleasure, as even our most reluctant readers have been enthralled by the bright, vibrant and engaging content in the magazine!

Lindsay Davies, Enrichment Lead,
Packmore Ormiston Academy

Differing article lengths mean that all pupils can access parts of the magazine.





IT BEGINS
The first international rugby match was played in 1871, with Scotland beating England in Edinburgh.

Sport

Quick rugby guide

Scotland score a try against Italy.

Rugby is played between two teams of 15. Games are divided into two halves of 40 minutes each. The aim is to carry the ball past the other team's goal line to score a try (five points) and then kick a conversion over the crossbar (two points). During a game, three points can also be scored by a drop goal or penalty kick between the posts. Players must pass the ball backwards with their hands or they can kick it forwards.

Ireland's men played England.

England roars in Six Nations

On 1 February, the rugby union men's and women's Six Nations tournaments kicked off. England women enjoyed a big 51-7 win over Ireland in Dublin, and England men's team beat Ireland, 30-22 on 2 February.

The Six Nations is an annual rugby tournament between England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, France and Italy. The teams play each other once, either in their own country or their opponent's, over five weekends. The last round of games will be played on 16 March.

The men's and women's teams with the most points after all five games are crowned Six Nations champions. Four points are awarded to a winning team, two points if the game is a draw and zero to a losing team. A bonus point is given to a team that scores four or more tries. A point is also awarded if a team loses by only seven points or fewer.

Ireland are the current men's champions and France hold the women's title. England was the only nation to have both teams win in the first week, but the Wales men's team enjoyed a dramatic victory over France in Paris. Wales were losing 16-0 at half-time but clawed back a win by 24 points to 19, and Scotland's men beat Italy 33-20 in Edinburgh.

THE WEEK'S WINNERS...

Salford Red Devils
The rugby league Super League season started and Salford Red Devils topped the table after a 34-14 win against Huddersfield Giants.



Tom Daley
The diver picked up two gold medals at the British National Diving Cup in Plymouth, England, his home city.

New England Patriots
They won the Super Bowl by beating the Los Angeles Rams 13-3. Tom Brady, their star player, is the first ever to win six Super Bowls.



Tom Brady and daughter Vivian.

British mixed relay skating team
Jack Burrows, Elise Christie, Kathryn Thomson and Farrell Treacy won bronze at the Short Track World Cup in Dresden, Germany.

Book club

BOOK OF THE WEEK

The Girl with the Shark's Teeth

by Cerrie Burnell
(Oxford University Press)



WIN! We're giving away six copies of *The Girl with the Shark's Teeth*

For a chance to win a copy, just send your name and address to competitions@theweekjunior.co.uk and put SHARK in the subject line. Closing date: midnight Friday 15 February. See theweekjunior.co.uk/terms for rules.

5 books about ancient creatures

These stories will introduce you to some of the amazing vanished animals of the past.

Forgotten Beasts
by Matt Sewell
(Pavilion Books)
Delve into the pages of this large-format book to find out more about the awe-inspiring creatures that time forgot. It includes well-known animals like the sabre-toothed tiger and the woolly mammoth, as well as the megatherium – a giant sloth as large as an elephant – and the megalodon, a supertank shark.

Dictionary of Dinosaurs
by Dr Matthew G Baron.
Illustrated by Dieter Braun
(Wide Eyed Editions)
This illustrated A to Z of every dinosaur ever discovered is a must for any dino enthusiast's bookshelf. Featuring many different dinosaurs from the Aardonyx to the Zuniceratops, it contains information about when and where they lived and what they ate – plus lots of fascinating facts from experts.

Mega Meltdown
by Jack Tite
(Templar Publishing)
Travel back in time to the Ice Age and meet weird and wonderful beasts with this illustrated book. You'll find out about amazing megafauna, such as North America's short-faced bear, which stood 3.7 metres tall, and the mastodon, which weighed twice as much as a T.rex.

Dinosaurium
by Chris Wormell and Lily Murray
(Templar Publishing)
Explore the fascinating world of dinosaurs with this book, which is like browsing a beautiful museum exhibit. Incredible, detailed artwork is accompanied by lots of intriguing information about a whole range of different dinosaur species.

Prehistoric: Actual Size
by Steve Jenkins
(Frances Lincoln)
Can you imagine a millipede that is nearly two metres long – or a dinosaur that is smaller than a chicken? This fascinating illustrated book will bring you face to face with all kinds of prehistoric creatures, giving you an idea of what they might have looked like up close.

READERS RECOMMEND

Name: Martin



Bodyguard: Hostage
by Chris Bradford

"My favourite book is *Bodyguard: Hostage* because it has a lot of action. It is a similar style to *Alex Rider*. The story is about a boy called Connor who is 14 and gets recruited by a secret organisation. They are trained to protect other non-adults. In this book, he is assigned to protect the US president's daughter but someone is planning to take her hostage!"

ASK THE AUTHOR

Cerrie Burnell
The Girl with the Shark's Teeth author on dream swims, pancakes and superpowers.

Where is your favourite place to go swimming?
I love going swimming outside! Sea swimming is my absolute favourite thing in the world, I love Brighton or Saltdean beach. Or Brockwell Lido in south London is a lovely big pool and if you swim there in the summer, bright green parakeets swoop over your head and it feels tropical. Or if I'm on a dream holiday, I would swim anywhere in the Caribbean.

What is your favourite film?
I love *The Princess Bride*, *Tae Moomins* and *How to Train Your Dragon*.

If you could live off one food for the rest of your life what would it be?
Pancakes with bananas and maple syrup.

If you could have one superpower what would it be?
My superpower would be to breathe underwater – like Minnow.

Where did you get the idea for this book?
From my love of the sea. Mermaid fairytales and mythology, and fun, fabulous facts about sharks.

The extensive range of subjects covered ensures every child will find something that interests and excites them.

Fun activities give pupils ideas for creative projects that can be completed at home or in school.

Wide-ranging topics covered each week:

- News
- The big debate
- Interesting people
- Animals and environment
- Science and technology
- Sport
- Books
- Arts and entertainment
- Word of the week
- Amazing photos
- Comprehension quiz
- Things to make and do

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THE WEEK
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Using *The Week Junior* in a guided reading session at St Bedes Junior School



Animals and the environment

ANCIENT ONES
Octopuses have been around for a very long time. The earliest known fossil octopus lived some 296 million years ago.



Octopuses travel backwards using jet propulsion.

Strange but true

Octopus are genuinely bizarre creatures. Impress your friends with these weird and wonderful facts.

- Octopus blood is blue.
- They have three hearts – two that pump blood through the animal's gills and a third to keep blood flowing to its organs.
- They also have nine brains – a central brain and one cluster of neurons for each of its eight arms.
- Octopuses pull off great escapes. Because they have no hard parts, like bones or a shell, a 300-kilogram octopus can squeeze through a hole the size of a 10p piece.
- Many octopuses are masters of disguise and can change colour or even the way they look to blend in with their surroundings.

Octopuses have arms, not tentacles.

Are octopuses from outer space?

Octopuses look like creatures from outer space with their large bulbous bodies and long arms covered in suckers. Now, a team of 33 scientists from around the world say that these weird creatures are actually aliens that arrived on the planet millions of years ago.

The scientific paper claims that a sudden burst of life that happened around 540 million years ago, called the Cambrian explosion, was triggered by out-of-this-world events. They say that alien viruses may have arrived on a meteorite. These viruses then infected a

population of squid, triggering them to evolve into octopuses. The researchers also proposed a more wacky theory that frozen squid or octopus eggs were delivered in an icy comet.

Many other scientists have fiercely criticised their claims. Mark Camall from the Oxford University Museum of Natural History pointed out that none of the paper's authors are zoologists (an expert that studies animals). Biologist P.Z. Myers said that if octopuses really were from outer space, then "they would be completely unrelated to any other [type of] animal" on the planet. This is not the case, he says.



A drooling octo-alien from *The Simpsons*.



The good thing with this technique is that it can be used on each article, so the amount of work you could get from the magazine is immense!

Joanne Kaye, class teacher at St Bedes Junior School

FIND OUT MORE

More examples of how *The Week Junior* can be used to enhance learning across the curriculum can be found here:
schools.theweekjunior.co.uk/lesson-ideas

Text Title: The Week Junior Newspaper 'Are octopuses from outer space?'



Strange but true:

- Which word suggests that octopuses are experts at blending into their environments?
- What do the words 'pull off a great escape' suggest about an octopus' ability?
- Which word suggests that octopuses are unusual creatures?

Main article:

- What does the word bulbous mean?
- In paragraph two, which word has a similar meaning to 'start'?
- Which word in paragraph one suggests that octopuses are from outer space?
- In the final part of the article, which words suggest that scientists disagree with each other?



- The text is not arranged like a narrative story – why?
- Where and why have bullet points been used?
- Why is there an interview in the final paragraph (think also why it's in the final paragraph and not the first)?
- The headline is a question – why is that effective?
- Explain how the reporter has tried to convince the reader of a point of view.
- Explain how the images are effective.
- Explain which part of the article is most interesting – give reasons.



INFER – how do you know...

- Why do you think the reporter has used the headline 'Are octopuses from outer space?' What effect does this have on the reader?
- Why has the reporter included a section called 'strange but true'?
- What impact does the sentence '33 scientists from around the world agree these creatures are aliens' have on the reader?
- Why has the reporter included a quote in the article?



PREDICT

- What do you think this report is about?
- If the reporter wrote another report about octopuses, who else might be interviewed? Why?
- Which other information might be included in the reporter's next octopus article?



RETRIEVE

- Find the meaning of word: zoologist
- How many arms do octopuses have?
- How many hearts do they have?
- How many brains do they have?
- Who did the reporter quote? Why?
- How old is the earliest known octopus fossil?
- How many scientists from around the world wrote a paper?
- What happened 540 million years ago?
- Name two ideas that scientists say are the reason octopuses are aliens.
- What do octopuses use to travel backwards?

Can you write some questions for your group to find the answers to?



SUMMARISE

- Summarise paragraph one
- Summarise paragraph two
- Summarise paragraph three
- Summarise biologist P.Z. Myers' idea
- Why do you think Cors Dyfi Nature Reserve is Place of the Week?

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Case Studies



School Name: Tennyson Road Primary School | Teacher: Carla Gotch, assistant head teacher

About the school

Tennyson Road Primary School is an outstanding school in Luton. We have a growing number of pupils on roll, now spanning two sites with 510 pupils (almost three-form entry). We have a high proportion of pupil premium and EAL pupils.

Why we subscribe to *The Week Junior*

We currently take three copies of *The Week Junior*, which are shared between our Year 4 and Year 6 classes, and we keep an archive of the magazines to share with the rest of the school.

We began subscribing to *The Week Junior* two years ago, and it is a great resource to have in school for a number of reasons. We found that *The Week Junior*:

- ✓ helps to broaden pupils' knowledge of current affairs
- ✓ provides an unbiased, educated view of world events
- ✓ is very factual and reliable
- ✓ is simple to read, with an inviting layout

But most of all our children love reading it. It is one of the first things my pupils go for during independent reading time; I often find they try to hide it so they have it first in the next reading session!

How we use *The Week Junior*

We use *The Week Junior* in a variety of ways; it's an incredibly flexible resource that can be used across the curriculum. In our school it is mainly used for independent reading because the children love reading it so much — it always gets picked up.

However, there are always pertinent topics and articles that we use — either in English lessons for comprehension or writing stimuli, or during our afternoon subjects and termly topics.

We also love the big debate each week, and have seen great improvements in spoken language skills as the issues chosen for debate are always very topical and get our pupils talking — a couple of favourites were 'bottle flipping' and 'boys vs girls'.



Our verdict

The best thing about *The Week Junior* is the content, it's trustworthy, age-appropriate, high-quality current affairs for children. The layout is excellent with lots of ways into each article, which is particularly good for those children who are more reluctant to read. It's also always varied, fun and exciting with really random information thrown in, which my pupils love.



School Name: Sacred Heart Catholic Primary | Teacher: Maddy Barnes, assistant head teacher



How have you used *The Week Junior* in your school?

I've used copies of the magazine as my guided reading text in various ways for children of different reading abilities. For those in whom we wanted to encourage reading in greater depth, we gave them 30 minutes to read the magazine independently in silence (whilst I worked with a different group). Immediately after, they were asked to select an article they'd particularly enjoyed or disliked, summarise the general gist and prepare to answer questions about it. The more often we did the exercise, the better they became at pre-empting the questions in their summaries.

For average readers, I selected up to three double-page spreads for them to read independently. Together, we then discussed the overall thrust of each article and any vocabulary issues, before modelling SATs-style questions relating to those articles on a flipchart and having the children answer them. With less able readers, I read a single article to them and again modelled SATs-style questions. I tried choosing three articles ranging in difficulty — easier, medium and hard — to mirror the demands of the test and build the pupils' confidence.

Has it affected the way you teach literacy?

It's definitely impacted on our vocabulary teaching, challenging pupils to learn new words and work out what they mean. They're now better able to read articles about unknown topics and summarise their contents, while also gaining a better understanding of true journalistic writing.

How do pupils benefit from being more aware of current affairs?

In our catchment area the children don't always get a very balanced view of current affairs. What *The Week Junior* can do is offer a non-biased approach to news reporting, which is something every child should be entitled to. In areas like ours we have a duty to ensure they can benefit from such material in a non-pressurised way, and *The Week Junior* does this perfectly.

What impact has using *The Week Junior* had on your pupils' attainment, results or progress?

We had 35% more 'greater depth' readers this year, having used the magazine in the way described above. It gave them a renewed interest in reading, and for our reluctant readers in particular, brought back a sense of purpose and pleasure when it comes to reading. They all particularly enjoyed a set of Royal Family caricatures that appeared in one edition — it felt a bit naughty, while still being age-appropriate for our children!

Would you recommend *The Week Junior* to other schools?

Yes, definitely. The resource represents good value for money, and feels and works like a real magazine. We don't know what topics will be included on the reading tests in any given year, but this resource is the perfect tool for encouraging children to read about unknown topics with confidence.

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