

## CHINA NEWS 1



Edinburgh Zoo's famous giant pandas are to return home to China later this year.

Tian Tian (pictured left) and Yang Guang have been on loan in the Scottish capital for 12 years after a 10-year agreement was extended for two years because of the Covid pandemic.

Millions of visitors have seen the cute pair and David Field, chief executive of the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, which runs the zoo, said: "With more than a million species at risk of extinction and our natural world in crisis, Yang Guang and Tian Tian have had an incredible impact by inspiring millions of people to care about nature."

## CHINA NEWS 2

# It's the great HOLE of China!

Two construction workers have been arrested by police after knocking a huge hole through the Great Wall of China.

They are said to have driven a gap through the historic monument using an excavator to create a shorter route to work.

A police statement said: "They have caused irreversible damage to the integrity of the Great Wall and to the safety of the cultural relics."

The damage has been done in Shanxi province to the south-west of the capital, Beijing.

The Great Wall was built more or less continuously from 220BC to the 16th century as a defence against invasions from the north. In places, the wall features watch towers and barracks for soldiers' accommodation.



The wall stretches more than 13,000 miles (21,000km) although some parts are now missing and others are in poor condition.

The popular belief that it is the only man-made structure which can be seen from the Moon is false.

American space agency Nasa has said that even from a low Earth orbit, around 100 miles (160km) up, the wall is only occasionally visible to the naked eye in perfect conditions.

## WELCOME

Whether you are rejoining us after the summer holidays or reading for the first time in a new class, welcome to The News Shed.

We are a weekly newspaper for primary schoolchildren which can be read online or printed out.

We want to encourage children to read and also develop an interest in what is happening in the world around us.

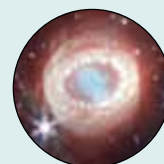
The News Shed is published every Friday during term time with regular features including news and sport from home and abroad and a look back at what happened in this week in history.

We'll also cover science and technology news and encourage an interest in nature and the environment.

We hope you enjoy reading with us each week.

## INSIDE

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**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**GAMING**

Streaming service Netflix is to branch out into more video gaming.

Best known for on-demand television series and films, Netflix already has a limited number of games available on its app but these can only be played on mobile devices.

Now Netflix is exploring ways of transferring these to our television screens and plans to offer more games as the plan develops.

It says gaming is now among the world's most popular forms of entertainment and it wants to "stay relevant" to younger generations.

**WILDLIFE**

A scheme to reintroduce golden eagles to the south of Scotland is celebrating the population there reaching its highest number for three centuries.

The South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project revealed this week that it had successfully moved eight more chicks from the Highlands to a secret location in the south of the country.

That has brought the number of the iconic birds in the area to 46.

The project has also revealed that there is now a nesting pair of golden eagles in the area, raising hopes of further chicks in the future.

**ENVIRONMENT**

Campaigners aiming to stop plans to build a road tunnel near the prehistoric Stonehenge site in Wiltshire have taken a petition to Unesco, the United Nations' cultural body. They say the plan endangers both the site and the climate.

**The NEWS Shed**

■ The News Shed is a digital newspaper, produced weekly to inform, entertain and educate pupils and to provide resources for their teachers.

■ It is among a whole host of educational resources at: [www.literacyshedplus.com](http://www.literacyshedplus.com)

■ For contact details please see the website.



Picture: Nasa/CSA/ESA

■ The James Webb Space Telescope has captured the most detailed picture yet of a supernova – an exploding star.

The telescope, operated by American space agency Nasa and its Canadian and European partners, is studying Supernova 1987A which is 168,000 light years away from Earth.

The central area, which appears blue, is gas and dust ejected by the explosion while the ring of bright lights around it are formed from material ejected tens of thousands of years before the final explosion.

# India rockets into the race to space

» Moon landing and bid to learn about Sun

India has taken a central role in space exploration with two major missions in recent days.

Space exploration has traditionally been led by the United States and Russia, followed by others such as those countries which are part of the European Space Agency.

But India is now a major player in the field too. It became the first country to land an unmanned mission at the south pole of the Moon when its Chandrayaan-3 lander safely touched down.

That came only days after a similar

mission by Russia ended in failure as ground control lost contact with its spacecraft as it began its descent to the Moon's service.

Chandrayaan-3 and its rover vehicle, Vikram, have now been put into sleep mode during the Moon's 'night' period which lasts for two weeks.

India has also successfully launched a mission to observe the Sun.

Its Aditya-L1 rocket will travel almost a million miles into space. It will take around four months to reach a point which is only one per cent of the distance between Earth and the Sun.

Once there, it will be able to orbit the Sun at the same rate as the Earth while it focuses on the solar system's central star and makes scientific studies.

# Quiet memory of Queen

## » No public event for anniversary

**T**he first anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's death will pass today with no official public events.

Queen Elizabeth II died peacefully on the afternoon of Thursday, September 8, at her Scottish home, Balmoral Castle. She was 96 years old and had been on the throne for more than 70 years.

It was also the moment her eldest son, then the Prince of Wales, became King Charles III.

A royal spokesman said the King would spend the day "quietly and privately", following the tradition his mother set on the anniversary of her father's death when she ascended to the throne.

There were suggestions that the late queen would be remembered by the creation of a new permanent bank holiday but that idea has been shelved. Instead, the government said some form of permanent national memorial will be created in time.

Charles spent more than 70 years as heir to the throne, longer than any



other heir, and at the age of 73 was the oldest person ever to become a British monarch.

That was because his mother's record-breaking longevity.

Her reign – 70 years and 214 days – was the longest in British history and she was the longest serving head of state of any country anywhere in the world. In world history, only Louis XIV of France reigned for a longer period – 72 years and 110 days.

The first year of Charles' reign has been marked by two major royal events.



**Queen Elizabeth II's image appeared on more UK coins than any other British monarch, with approximately 27 billion coins still in active circulation.**

**The great length of her reign meant five different images were**

**used over the years by the Royal Mint, the organisation which makes our money.**

**Coins featuring King Charles have his image facing the other way – it is traditional to alternate from one monarch to the next.**

On Monday, September 19, last year, the late queen's funeral took place at Westminster Abbey, attended by dignitaries and heads of state from around the world. In the build-up, tens of thousands of people queued for many hours to pay their respects by filing past her coffin as the late monarch lay in state.

Then, on May 6 this year, came Charles' coronation, also at Westminster Abbey. Although he became King at the moment of his mother's death and was formally proclaimed as the monarch by a special council two days later, the coronation was the public ceremony when he and Queen Camilla were crowned and took oaths.

## Hair-raising world record for Tami

**An American woman has been recognised by Guinness World Records for having the longest mullet hairstyle in the world.**

A mullet is a style in which the front and sides are kept short but the back is left to grow long.

That usually means over the collar or shoulder length but Tennessee woman Tami Manis's hair is an amazing 5ft 8in (172.72cm) long.

She last had the back of her hair cut on February 9, 1990 – more than 33 years ago – and considers that her mullet's birthday!

The mullet was a popular style among young people in the 1980s.



## The man who first spotted Great Fire

**A historian has managed to identify the man who first raised the alarm when the Great Fire of London started.**

Every schoolchild knows the fire started in a bakery in Pudding Lane in 1666, burning for four days and destroying large parts of the capital city.

It is also widely known Thomas Farriner was the baker who owned the property. Now we also know it was his employee, Thomas Dagger, who raised the alarm when he was woken by smoke.

Professor Kate Loveman of Leicester University tracked him down using ancient records.

## COUNTRY IN THE NEWS

### CANADA

# Road accident has sting in tail

**D**rivers in Canada had good reason to keep their car windows closed when crates carrying five million bees fell off a truck and split open.

The accident happened in Burlington, Ontario, when straps holding the crates came loose, causing them to fall onto the road. Inside the crates were beehives which broke apart, releasing the bees.

Police advised people to stay well clear of the area and asked for expert beekeepers in the area to come and help.

One of the beekeepers arrived to find a cloud of bees which were “very angry, confused and homeless”.

Around a dozen beekeepers wearing special protective suits were able to get the hives together and most of the bees were able to eventually find their homes.

The truck driver wasn't so lucky. Without a beekeeper's outfit, he was stung more than a hundred times.

Bees are often hired out to farmers on a temporary basis to help pollinate their crops but these are believed to have been in the process of being moved south to a warmer part of the vast country ready for winter.



## Fact SHED



### Canada factfile

■ Stretching from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic in the northern half of North America, Canada is the second largest country in the world by area, behind only Russia. It covers 3,855,100 square miles (9,984,670 sq km).

■ Toronto is Canada's biggest city, with a population of almost 2.8 million people, but the capital is Ottawa which has a population of just over a million.

■ It has two official languages, English and French.

■ Current prime minister Justin Trudeau is the son of former prime minister Pierre Trudeau.



## WORD IN THE NEWS

■ A weekly feature in which we turn the spotlight on a single word which has been used in the news, looking at its meaning and where it comes from

### UNIFORM

As children return to school, the rising cost of school *uniforms* has been a problem for some parents already affected by the cost of living crisis.

#### Definition

**Noun:** Distinctive *clothing* worn by members of the same organisation or by children attending many schools.

**Adjective:** Remaining the *same* in all cases; *unchanging* in form.

#### Derivation

From the Latin word *uniformis*, meaning having only one shape, via the early French word *uniforme*.

#### Examples

1. The soldiers looked smart in their immaculate *uniforms*.
2. The bricks in the wall were all of a *uniform* shape and size.

#### Synonyms

**Noun:** Outfit, costume.

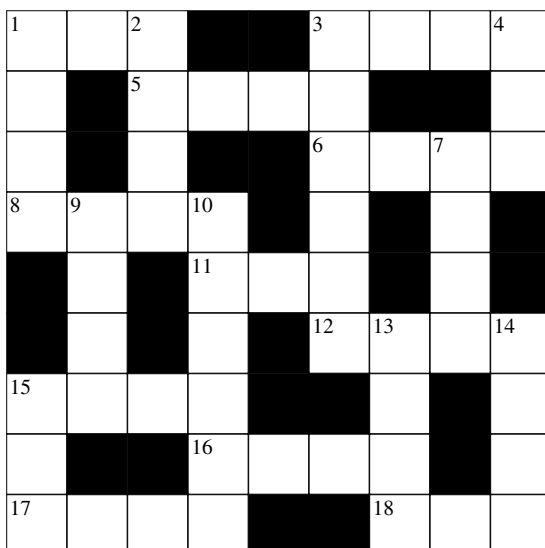
**Adjective:** Consistent, unchanging.

## NUMBER IN THE NEWS

### 2.36 BILLION

The record amount spent, in pounds, by Premier League football clubs in the summer transfer window which closed on September 1.

## CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

- 1,3&8** Part of the A2 route in South London; cheapest property on a Monopoly board (3,4,4)  
**5** On one occasion (4)  
**6** Midday (4)  
**11** Powerful western country (1,1,1)  
**12** Require (4)  
**15** Spanner or spade, say (4)  
**16** Imperial measurement = 2.54cm (4)  
**17** Where cakes are baked (4)  
**18** Acorn-bearing tree (3)

### DOWN

- 1** Six balls in cricket (4)  
**2** Capital of Qatar (4)  
**3** Citizen of Nairobi (6)  
**4** Can; metallic element (3)  
**7** Scary giant (4)  
**9** Capital of Norway (4)  
**10** Capital of Ireland (6)  
**13** Repeated sound (4)  
**14** Twilight (4)  
**15**  $158 \div 79 =$  (3)

Ask your teacher to find the solutions online with the reading comprehension answers

**September 9, 1791**

Washington DC was named in honour of the United States' first president, George Washington. The DC stands for District of Columbia, a special area created so the capital city was not part of any of the USA's states.

**September 10, 2001**

Charles Ingram won the £1 million prize on *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?* but was later found to have cheated by listening to coded coughing by friends in the audience.



**September 11, 2001**

Terrorist attacks in the United States saw two hijacked planes crash into the World Trade Centre in New York, destroying both towers, and a third hit The Pentagon, headquarters of the Department of Defence. A fourth plane crashed into a field in Pennsylvania.

**SEPTEMBER 13, 1985**

The Mario series is the biggest selling video game franchise of all time with more than 776 million games sold down the years.

But it had humble beginnings. Mario originally appeared only as a character in several Donkey Kong games before Mario Bros was launched by Nintendo as an arcade game in 1983.

But the series, in which Italian twin brother plumbers Mario and Luigi must tackle creatures emerging from the New York sewers, really took off on September 13, 1985, when the Super Mario Bros platform games were released for the Nintendo Entertainment System.

In the years since, more than 200 different games and sub-series have hit children's screens.

Like many other franchises, Mario has spread from gaming platforms to all areas of media, such as film, television, magazines, books and toys.



The Super Mario Bros Super Show, launched in 1989, was the first of many television series, but the first move to the cinema screen was less successful.

Super Mario Bros was a 1993 film starring Bob Hoskins as Mario and John Leguizamo as Luigi but it did not go down well. The film got a poor reception from critics and, having cost \$48million to make, made only \$21million at the box office.

There was much better news for this year's animated film, *The Super Mario Bros Movie*, which proved a big hit with children and set several box office records.

**September 15, 1978**

Muhammad Ali, rated by many as the greatest heavyweight boxer of all time, became the first man to win the world heavyweight title for a third time when he beat Leon Spinks on a points decision in New Orleans.

**THIS WEEK IN HISTORY SEPTEMBER 12, 1940**



**ROCK STARS**

» Boys discover prehistoric cave paintings

One of the world's best displays of prehistoric cave paintings was discovered completely by accident by four teenage boys.

The four young friends were exploring caves near the village of Montignac in south-west France on September 12, 1940, when they came across the ancient artwork on walls in what are now known as the Lascaux Caves.

More than 600 paintings cover the rock walls and ceiling of the caves and are estimated to have been created by

several generations more than 17,000 years ago.

Most of the paintings are of large animals such as horses, deer and aurochs – wild European oxen which have now been extinct for more than 400 years.

The caves have been closed to the public since 1963 because their condition was deteriorating and they were declared a Unesco world heritage site in 1979.

Three replicas – exact copies of some of the original paintings – have been created for public display.

**September 14, 1752**

Great Britain switched from using the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar system we use today. It meant skipping 11 days so Wednesday, September 2, of that year was followed by Thursday, September 14.

# Hail Mary!

» England keeper stars as women's sport gets big lift

England goalkeeper Mary Earps won the Golden Glove at the Women's World Cup



England may have fallen just short in two major competitions but this summer has seen an explosion in interest in women's sport.

In football's Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand, European champions England reached the final for the first time in their history, narrowly losing 1-0 to Spain.

It meant coach Sarina Wiegman had led teams to the final of four consecutive major tournaments, winning two European Championships and losing in two World Cup finals, one of each with England and, before that, her native Netherlands.

A remarkable 18 million people in the UK watched television coverage of the final against Spain and crowds are expected to continue growing when the Women's Super League kicks off at the beginning of next month.

England even achieved a small but

significant victory over the all-powerful kit manufacturers.

England's kit suppliers Nike produced replica strips for fans to buy but decided not to make replicas of Mary Earps' goalkeeping kit available.

There were protests from players and fans alike and Earps' big personality and performances at the World Cup – she was awarded the Golden Glove as the tournament's best goalkeeper – eventually forced Nike to back down and produce replica kits for her fans.

Interest in women's cricket also grew enormously this summer as England took on all-conquering Australia in the multi-format Ashes series.

With four points awarded to the winners of the solitary five-day Test match and two points for each of

the three Twenty20 games and three 50-over one-day internationals (ODIs), the series finished level on eight points each which meant Australia, as holders, retained the Ashes.

The Aussies won the Test match but Heather Knight's England team won both limited overs series 2-1. It was the first time Australia had lost a Twenty20 series for five years and their first ODI series defeat for 10 years.

The matches were watched by sell-out crowds at many venues and there were record attendances for women's games at major grounds such as Lord's and The Oval.

A further boost came with the announcement that, from now on, England's women players will receive the same match fees as their male counterparts.

## SPORT SHORT

Max Verstappen set a new Formula 1 record when he won his 10th consecutive race at the Italian Grand Prix at Monza.

## RUGBY UNION

The Rugby World Cup kicks off today with the four British Isles teams in contrasting form.

Ireland – who represent two countries, the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland – go into the competition as the top-ranked team in the world.

By contrast, England are under severe pressure. Since Steve Borthwick took over as head coach at the turn of the year, they have won only three of their nine games.

That poor sequence includes losing three of their last four games in preparation for the World Cup, most recently going down 30-22 at home to Fiji, their first ever defeat to the South Pacific islanders.

Scotland are in a healthier position under coach Gregor Townsend, currently standing as high as fifth

## Fact SHED

### Rugby World Cup 2023

**Pool A:** New Zealand (4), France (3), Italy (13), Uruguay (17), Namibia (21).

**Pool B:** South Africa (2), Ireland (1), Scotland (5), Tonga (15), Romania (19).

**Pool C:** Wales (10), Australia (9), Fiji (7), Georgia (11), Portugal (16).

**Pool D:** England (8), Japan (14), Argentina (6), Samoa (12), Chile (22).

Numbers in brackets indicate current world rankings.

place in the world rankings.

But Wales are in a rebuilding phase after the retirement of iconic captain Alun Wyn Jones, flanker Justin Tipuric and scrum-half Rhys Webb.

They go into the tournament on the

back of a difficult year with major problems in their domestic game, but showed signs of recovery in this summer's warm-up matches.

A quirk of the draw means the top two ranked countries in the world, Ireland and defending champions South Africa, have been drawn together in Pool B.

Similarly, hosts France and three-time winners New Zealand, ranked third and fourth respectively, are together in Pool A. They play each other in tonight's opening match.

Ireland and England begin their campaigns tomorrow, against Romania and Argentina respectively, while Scotland face South Africa and Wales take on Fiji on Sunday.

The World Cup final is seven weeks away, on October 28 at Stade de France in Saint-Denis.