



» We have had snow, ice, freezing temperatures, floods, storms, torrential rain and high winds...

ROLL ON SUMMER!

The start of the New Year has been marked by a whole range of extreme weather causing disruption around the UK.

Arctic winds brought heavy snowfalls and plummeting temperatures, leaving roads, pavements and driveways icy and dangerous.

Temperatures fell to a chilling -15°C in parts of Scotland while children in England and Wales woke to temperatures as low as -7°C as they got ready to go to school.

Some schools were forced to close for days while flights, trains and bus services were cancelled in many places.

And when the coldest weather was over, two named storms moved in to cause more chaos.

Storms Isha and Jocelyn brought torrential

Fact SHED

Why do storms have names?

Weather experts believe the public will be more aware of the dangers of storms and able to follow the news more clearly if they are given names.

British, Irish and Dutch forecasters take turns to choose names from a list suggested by the public.

This winter's named storms so far have been Agnes, Babet, Ciaran, Debi, Elin, Fergus, Gerrit, Henk, Isha and Jocelyn.

rain, high winds and floods to cause more damage.

Trees and power lines were brought down with more than 50,000 households in Northern Ireland left without power at one stage and many cars stranded on flooded roads.

NEWS

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NEWS IN BRIEF

SPACE

The Japanese space agency is hoping its Moon lander can regain power.

The unmanned craft landed safely on the Moon's surface but then had to be switched off because it was running out of power.

The agency realised it had landed with its solar panels, which produce energy, facing away from the Sun.

But scientists are now hoping the Moon's movement could save the lander. The Jaxa agency said: "If sunlight hits the Moon from the west in the future, we believe there's a possibility of power generation."

The craft, known as Slim, carries two rovers and a special camera to survey the Moon's surface.

EDUCATION

University students will have to retake an exam – after the answers were printed along with the questions on their exam paper!

The blunder affected more than 400 economics students at the University of Bath.

The university has apologised for the mistake.

ROYALS

King Charles has this week had a short stay in hospital for a minor procedure.

It came as one of three medical updates from the royal family in a matter of days.

As reported here last week, the Princess of Wales is recovering in hospital after more major surgery, while Sarah Ferguson, former wife of the Duke of York, has revealed she has skin cancer.

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

■ For contact details please see the website.

■ The hit film Barbie has been nominated in five categories in a major film awards.

The Baftas (the British Academy of Film and TV Awards) will be announced at a ceremony next month with Barbie on the shortlist for five trophies.

Although the Warner Bros film missed out on nominations for best film or best director, Margot Robbie is shortlisted for best actress for her portrayal of the title character, while Ryan Gosling, who plays Ken, is nominated for best supporting actor.

The film's other nominations are for original screenplay, costume design and production design.

In the American version, the Oscars, there are eight nominations, but not for best actress or director.



Picture: Warner Bros

Chasing Churchill's choppers not cheap



Winston Churchill and, below, the false teeth up for sale



Would you pay thousands of pounds to buy somebody's old false teeth?

It doesn't sound a very appealing idea but that is what someone is likely to do at an auction next month.

The reason for the interest is that the set of false teeth were worn by one of Britain's most revered figures, wartime leader Winston Churchill.

The former Prime Minister suffered dental problems throughout his life and the dentures helped cover up the lisp with which he naturally spoke.

The false teeth are thought to have been made for Churchill at around the start of World War Two, 85 years ago.

The fake fangs are set on a gold plate and are up for sale at The Cotswold Auction Company on February 6. The guide price – the amount of money they are expected to be sold for – is £8,000.

The auction company admits they are among the strangest items it has ever put up for sale.

Churchill was prime minister from 1940 to 1945, almost throughout World War Two, and again from 1951 to 1955.



Staff at London Zoo are celebrating the birth of a rare baby gorilla.

The infant western lowland gorilla was born at the conservation zoo to mum Mjukuu after an eight-and-a-half-month pregnancy.

Western lowland gorillas are critically endangered in the wild, so the arrival is a major boost to the zoo's conservation efforts.

Gorilla keepers were carrying out their usual morning duties when they spotted that Mjukuu was in labour. Giving the experienced mum some space, they monitored her via CCTV cameras installed in the dens.

Moments after giving birth in the privacy of the back den, second-time mum Mjukuu could be seen gently cradling her newborn, before allowing the troop's curious youngsters Alika and Gernot to examine the new arrival.

Zoo manager Kathryn Sanders said: "We started our day as normal – we gave the gorillas their breakfast and began our cleaning routines.

"When we returned to the back dens,

GORILLA THRILLER

we could see Mjukuu was stretching and moving into a more comfortable position for birth. After a very quick labour – just 17 minutes – Mjukuu was spotted on camera tenderly holding her newborn and demonstrating her wonderful mothering instincts – cleaning her infant and checking it over.

"To say we're happy about this new arrival would be a huge understatement – we've all been walking around grinning from ear to ear. We'll be giving mum and baby lots of time and space to get to know each other, and for the rest of the troop to get used to their new addition – they're as excited as we are and can't stop staring at the baby."

It is not yet known whether the new arrival is male or female.

Fact SHED

Western lowland gorillas

- Western lowland gorillas are one of four types of gorilla. Their numbers in the wild have dropped by 60 per cent in the last 25 years because of hunting and disease. Mountain gorillas are the only type increasing in numbers.
- Gorillas can weigh up to 200kg – around the weight of three men – and share 98.4 per cent of their DNA with humans.
- Western lowland gorillas have shorter hair than the mountain gorilla because they live in hotter rainforests.
- The western lowland gorilla eats more fruit than the mountain gorilla, with 30 per cent of its diet made up of fruit. Mountain gorillas eat mostly leaves.

Life-changing op for dog born with six legs

An abandoned dog born with six legs has had an operation to remove its extra limbs.

Ariel, a spaniel, was found abandoned in a supermarket car park in south-west Wales last year and was taken in by an animal rescue centre in Haverfordwest.

With no owner, there was no money to pay for the expensive operation but an appeal raised £15,000 in donations from around the world.

That meant surgeons at an animal hospital in Somerset were able to carry out the operation. There were worries that one of the remaining four legs might have to be amputated as well but the doctors were able to save it.

The dog was named Ariel after the character in the *Little Mermaid* film because the extra legs, partly fused together, looked a bit like a mermaid's tail. She is now back with her foster family.



Picture: Greenacres Rescue

Pale whale visit

Wildlife watchers have made a rare sighting of a beluga whale off the coast of the Shetland Islands.

The distinctive white whales are normally found in the icy Arctic Ocean and this is believed to be only the sixth time one has been spotted in Scottish waters.

Beluga whales are normally sociable creatures which live in groups but experts say they sometimes stray or get lost.



COUNTRY IN THE NEWS

ECUADOR

Ancient city is found in jungle

The remains of a huge city built in the Amazon jungle around 2,500 years ago have been discovered.

The find has been made in Ecuador by archeologists – scientists who study human development by carefully digging up historic sites.

It was previously thought communities in the massive South American jungle were limited to small groups who moved from place to place.

But the scientists say the new discovery was a city that could have housed tens of thousands of people.

As well as ground excavations, the scientists used aeroplanes equipped with special lasers which can identify the outlines of roads and buildings through the thick covering of trees and undergrowth.

One road alone stretched 16 miles (25km) through an area of more than 100 square miles.

Stephen Rostain of the France-based National Centre for Scientific Research said: “The network is incredibly complex with streets, paths to rivers, primary and secondary roads.”

It is thought the city may have been wiped out by an eruption of a nearby volcano and Rostain added: “Excavations have shown, above the last levels of habitation, several black layers which suggest volcanic eruptions.”

Fact SHED



Ecuador factfile

■ Ecuador takes its name from the equator, which runs through the country. Its full name, Republica del Ecuador, is Spanish for Republic of the Equator.

■ A country of 17 million people in the north-west corner of South America, Ecuador includes the Galapagos Islands, 620 miles (1,000km) away in the Pacific. The islands are where Charles Darwin studied unique creatures which led to his theory of evolution.

■ Although Quito is the country's capital, Ecuador's largest city is the Pacific port of Guayaquil with a population of 2,650,000.



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

WEATHER

The damage done by Storms Isha and Jocelyn means the *weather* has rarely been out of the headlines.

Definition

■ **Noun:** The state of the atmosphere at a particular place and time, in terms of rain, sunshine, wind and other conditions.

■ **Verb 1:** To wear away by the effects of atmospheric conditions.

■ **Verb 2:** To cope in a difficult situation.

Derivation

The Old English word *weder*, which eventually became *weather*, derived from the Old German *wedra* and Dutch *weder*.

Examples

■ We can go to the beach if the *weather* is nice.

■ The stones had *weathered* over the years.

■ The ship *weathered* the storm.

Synonyms

■ **Noun:** meteorology

■ **Verb 1:** erode

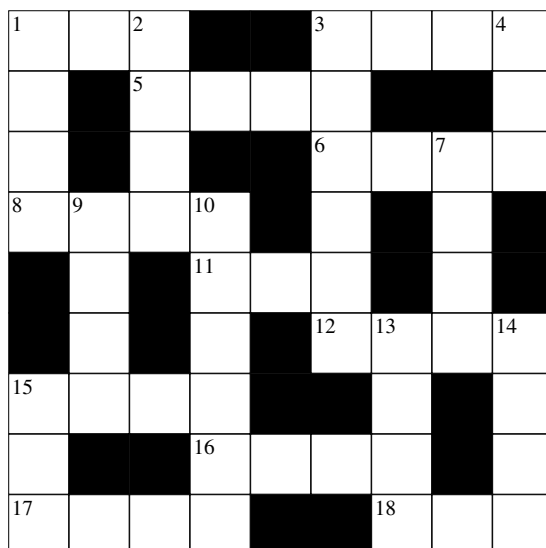
■ **Verb 2:** cope with; manage

NUMBER IN THE NEWS

99

Gusts of wind of 99mph (159kph) were recorded in Northumberland this week during Storm Isha.

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1&3 Charles III (3,4)

5 West African country, capital Bamako (4)

6 Cheesy smile (4)

8 Close by (4)

11 Big-eyed nocturnal bird (3)

12 Lazy (homophone of 7 down) (4)

15 Huge (slang) (4)

16 It connects your head to your body (4)

17 Possesses (4)

18 Consume (3)

DOWN

1 Urban area (4)

2 Actresses Watson or Thompson (4)

3 Capital of Rwanda (6)

4 Firearm (3)

7 Hero (homophone of 12 across) (4)

9 Irish name for Ireland (4)

10 They conquered Britain in the first to fourth centuries (6)

13 Nobleman, of Edinburgh or Sussex for example (4)

14 Way out (4)

15 Cow noise (3)

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

ON THIS DAY » ON THIS DAY » ON THIS DAY » ON THIS DAY**January 27,
1918**

The first Tarzan film, *Tarzan of the Apes*, had its premiere in New York. The silent movie, based on the book by Edgar Rice Burroughs, starred Elmo Lincoln in the title role.

**January
28, 1977**

The first day of the Great Lakes Blizzard in the United States, when an incredible 10 feet (3 metres) of snow fell in a single day in the north of New York State.

**January 29, 1980**

The Rubik's Cube went on sale for the first time. Invented by Hungarian architect and sculptor Erno Rubik, the colourful 3D puzzle has become the bestselling puzzle in history, with more than 450 million cubes sold.

January 30, 1969

The Beatles made their final public performance when they staged an impromptu concert on the roof of their record company Apple Records' headquarters in London.

The Fab Four, as they were known, were joined by keyboard player Billy Preston and played for 42 minutes before the police asked them to turn the volume down.

At the time, many fans believed it was a warm-up for a return to live shows, but a little over a year later John Lennon quit the band and The Beatles broke up for good.

All four members – Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr – would go on to have careers as solo artists or with other bands.

**January 31, 1874**

The outlaw Jesse James and his gang carried out one of the best-known robberies of the American Wild West when they held up a train at Gads Hill, Missouri. In what became known as the Great Missouri Train Robbery, they got away with \$12,000 – worth more than \$250,000 (£185,000) in today's money.

**February 1, 2013**

The Shard building in London opened its viewing gallery to the public. At 72 storeys and 1,016ft (309.6 metres), it is the tallest building in Britain and the seventh-tallest in Europe. The tallest building in Europe is the Lakhta Centre in St Petersburg, Russia, at 87 storeys and 1,516ft (462m).

FEBRUARY 2, 1901**END OF AN ERA****» Victoria's reign ends after 63 years**

There was no lying in state or grand London funeral when one of the great reigns of British history came to an end.

Queen Victoria died at the age of 81 at her Isle of Wight home, Osborne House, on January 22, 1901, after 63 years, seven months and two days on the throne. It was the longest reign of any British monarch until it was overtaken by Queen Elizabeth II.

Victoria's coffin was taken by boat to the mainland and then by train to Victoria Station. Its only appearance in London came when it was moved by gun carriage from Victoria to Paddington Station from where it was taken to Windsor.

The state funeral was held at St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle on February 2, 1901, before Victoria was buried alongside her husband, Prince Albert, two days later in the royal mausoleum at Frogmore on the

Windsor estate. The last 40 years of her reign had been spent as a widow following Albert's death in 1861.

That there was no lying in state or Westminster Abbey funeral had been at her own request.

It was only an unlikely sequence of events that saw Victoria become queen at all. Her father, the Duke of Kent, was only the fourth son of George III but when he and then her uncles, George IV and William IV, died and her father's four other brothers died without having had any children, Victoria became next in line and ascended to the throne at the age of 18 in 1837.

The next 63 years of her reign, known as the Victorian era, was a key time in the country's development as it saw huge advances in science, technology and industry as Britain became a major world power with an empire stretching across the globe.





SIX OF THE BEST

» Rugby's big guns meet in flying start

The Six Nations Championship rugby union competition kicks off next Friday with a blockbuster meeting between last year's top two sides, Ireland and France.

It is possible that the very first game of the six-week competition could eventually turn out to be the decider.

Unusually, the game will be played in Marseille. France's usual home ground, the Stade de France in the Paris suburb of Saint-Denis, is being prepared as the main venue for this

summer's Olympic Games, so France will play their home games in Marseille, Lille and Lyon.

Remarkably, five of the six teams will be playing under new captains this season. Italy's Michele Lamaro is the only surviving skipper from last year's championship as the other five change leadership through injury, retirement or rest.

■ The Women's Six Nations will be played in March and April and a full preview will appear nearer the time.

ENGLAND

Last year's finish: Fourth
World Cup finish: Semi-final
Championship wins: 29

Steve Borthwick's side shrugged off a poor build-up to reach the World Cup semi-finals last autumn and will aim to build on that form. But they must do it without Owen Farrell who is now unavailable for internationals.



FRANCE

Last year's finish: Second
World Cup finish: Quarter-final
Championship wins: 18

France begin the tournament as favourites to go one better than last season, when they finished second behind Ireland. Gregory



Alldritt takes over as captain from Antoine Dupont, who is preparing to play Sevens.

IRELAND

Last year's finish: First
World Cup finish: Quarter-final
Championship wins: 15

Ireland are the team to beat after completing the Grand Slam – winning all five games – last season.



That form has seen coach Andy Farrell chosen to lead the British and Irish Lions on their tour of Australia in 2025.

ITALY

Last year's finish: Sixth
World Cup finish: Group stage
Championship wins: 0

Since joining the competition in 2000, Italy have finished bottom 18 times out of 24 and have lost



all five games in a season 13 times. Just finishing off the bottom of the table this time will be considered a success.

SCOTLAND

Last year's finish: Third
World Cup finish: Group stage
Championship wins: 14

Scotland are another team to change the captaincy with Finn Russell and Rory Darge named as co-captains to replace Jamie Ritchie. Wing or full-back Darcy Graham misses the opening two matches.



WALES

Last year's finish: Fifth
World Cup finish: Quarter-final
Championship wins: 28

Coach Warren Gatland is adamant Wales can be a force despite losing a host of players to injury – including captain Jac Morgan – or retirement. Flying wing Louis Rees-Zammit has quit to try to break into American football.



FIXTURE GUIDE

Fri, Feb 2	France v Ireland	8pm
Sat, Feb 3	Italy v England	2.15pm
	Wales v Scotland	4.45pm
Sat, Feb 10	Scotland v France	2.15pm
	England v Wales	4.45pm
Sun, Feb 11	Ireland v Italy	3pm
Sat, Feb 24	Ireland v Wales	2.15pm
	Scotland v England	4.45pm
Sun, Feb 25	France v Italy	3pm
Sat, Mar 9	Italy v Scotland	2.15pm
	England v Ireland	4.45pm
Sun, Mar 10	Wales v France	3pm
Sat, Mar 16	Wales v Italy	2.15pm
	Ireland v Scotland	4.45pm
	France v England	8pm



How do you know from the headline that the writer of this article is eager for winter to end?

.....

Which of these definitions best describes *plummeting*?

crashing waves caused
by strong winds

falling or dropping
down at high speed

processing the data
to forecast weather

Which two storms have caused lots of damage this mornth?

.....

Which letter will the name of the next storm begin with? Why do you think this?

.....

.....

Why are storms given names?

.....

.....

Write your own definition of the word *torrential*. You may need a dictionary.

.....

.....

Use the word *torrential* in a sentence that is not about rain?

.....

.....



Why do you think the writer called Churchill's teeth *choppers* in the headline?

.....

.....

.....

.....

In which of the following places are you most likely to buy and sell old or rare items? (tick one)

- ☐ supermarket
- ☐ auction
- ☐ museum

Which device has been used at the beginning of the Churchill article to hook the reader's attention and encourage engagement?

.....

Why did Bath University need to apologise to some students this week?

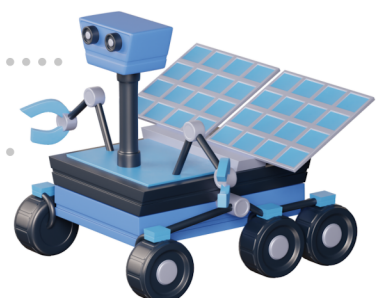
.....

.....

Why did the Slim rover lose power on the surface of the moon?

.....

.....





Which device has been used in the headline for the gorilla story?

.....

What is the collective noun for a group of gorillas?

.....

Find and copy one word which shows that Mjukuu held her baby gently and lovingly.

.....

Why do western lowland gorillas have shorter hair than mountain gorillas?

.....

What are the main causes attributed to the decline in the lowland gorilla population?

.....

The Shetland Islands are islands off the coast of which British country?

.....

Why is unusual that the beluga was spotted here?

.....





Which of these definitions best describes
archeologists?

scientists who study
the equator and send
back samples

scientists who study
human development
by digging in
historical sites

scientists who lived
1000s of years ago
and left many
artefacts

What about this city site has surprised the archeologists?

.....

.....

What equipment did the scientists use to survey the vast area?

.....

.....

What do scientists believe destroyed the settlement?

.....

Which imaginary line is Equador
named after?

Which rainforest is partially in
Ecuador?

.....

.....

Which ecologically rich island group is also part of Equador?

.....





Who wrote the Tarzan stories?

.....

Who was the leader of the gang who carried out the Great Missouri Train Robbery?

.....



Find the numbers on the page.

The number of storeys in the Shard.

The number of buildings in Europe that are taller than the Shard.

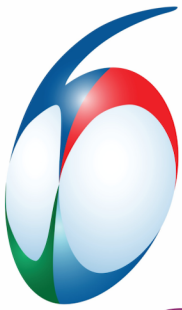
The number of years that Queen Victoria was on the throne.

The number of minutes The Beatles played for on the roof before police stopped them.

Which of the events on the page took place during Queen Victoria's reign?

.....





Place the six teams in the order of where they finished in the 2023 Six Nations tournament.

1	4
2	5
3	6

Which two teams are described in the article as *big guns*?

.....

Why will the usual venue for French rugby be unavailable for this year's Six Nation's tournament?

.....

Which of the countries has won the championship on the most occasions?

On which date will the first 6 Nations game be played this year?

.....

.....

Who is the coach of Wales?

Which national coach will also coach the British and Irish Lions?

.....

.....

