



HAPPY EASTER!

» We hope all our readers have a great time during your Easter holidays

» The News Shed is taking a break too - we'll be back for the summer term with our next edition out on April 19

» Some of the strange ways Easter is celebrated around the world - see page 3



Girls zoom to pole position

An all-girl team of primary school pupils has won an engineering competition linked to Formula 1 motor racing.

The team from Hempland Primary School in York came out on top from more than 40 schools at the national finals of the F1 in Schools competition.

The teams had to design, build and race miniature F1 cars, and were judged on areas including car speed, engineering quality and verbal presentation skills.

The winning team, called Dynamite, was made up of 11-year-old Effie and 10-year-olds Chloe, Macy and Lily. They will get a trip to the British Grand Prix in Silverstone as part of their prize.

Chloe, the team's head of communications, said: "It feels amazing to be the national champions. We never expected to win and I'm so proud of all the team for making it possible. We can't wait to go to Silverstone this summer and see the F1 cars in real life."

F1 in Schools, sponsored by tech company Lenovo, is an organisation which aims to encourage the learning of STEM subjects - science, technol-



ogy, engineering and maths.

The girls' win comes at a time when efforts are being made to get more girls interested in those subjects and more women to take up careers in science, technology and engineering.

There are also calls for women to be given more opportunities in the high-tech world of Formula 1 racing.

F1 in Schools manager Tom Milner said: "We're passionate about increasing the presence of women in STEM, so it's fantastic to have an all-girl team as our national champions and we know this is the start of a brilliant career journey."

The competition for secondary schools was won by a team from Simon Langton School in Canterbury.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MOUNTAINS

A mountaineer has become the first woman to climb every one of Scotland's mountains of 3,000ft or higher in a single winter.

Mountains of that height in Scotland are known as Munros, after the man who first catalogued them, and there are 282 of them.

Anna Wells, a 34-year-old mountaineering instructor from Inverness, started the gruelling adventure three days before Christmas and completed it last weekend.

It equalled the record set by climber Martin Moran, the first man to achieve the feat in one winter back in 1985.

MUSIC

Singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran wowed fans during a concert in the Indian city of Mumbai when he sang in the Punjabi language.

He had invited Indian singer Diljit Dosanjh on stage during the concert and the pair sang one of Dosanjh sing's together.

Fans on social media said Sheeran's Punjabi was 'perfect'.

Earlier this year, former One Direction singer Zayn Malik recorded in the Pakistani language Urdu alongside that country's band Aur.

WALES

Vaughan Gething has been confirmed as the new First Minister of Wales following Mark Drakeford's decision to stand down.

Mr Gething is the first black leader of any country in Europe.

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.

TALL STORY

» **New giraffe is zoo's latest breeding boost**

Chester Zoo's remarkable success in breeding animals which are rare or endangered in the wild has hit a new high.

The latest newcomer was born to a Rothschild's giraffe called Orla – and it had a spectacular entry into the world.

Zookeeper Rosie Owen explained: "Giraffes give birth standing up and so they really do enter world in dramatic fashion.

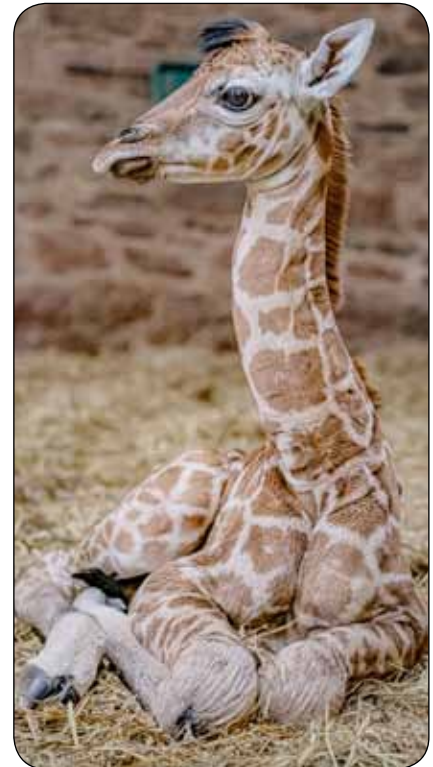
"Orla's calf landed with quite a bump when it fell around six feet onto the floor, but this is totally normal and is actually a really important part of the birth process – with the impact from the fall stimulating the calf and encouraging it to takes its very first breath.

"So far mum and baby are doing really well. Orla is an experienced mum, so we're seeing all the right signs from her."

The calf is already 6ft tall and will be 18ft when fully grown.

Tens of thousands of Rothschild's giraffes were once found in Kenya, Uganda and Sudan but their population has suffered a 90 per cent decline in recent years as a direct result of poaching and habitat loss.

With only 2,500 estimated to remain across the whole of Africa, the spe-



cies has been described as vulnerable, which means it faces a high chance of becoming extinct in the future.

But zoos such as Chester and others around the world have worked with local authorities in Uganda, where numbers are slowly starting to bounce back.

Among the other species to be bred at Chester in the last year are a spider monkey, chimpanzee, one-horned rhino, fossas, Humboldt penguins, red-bellied lemur twins, a tamarin, komodo dragon, crested macaque and a giant anteater.

Prickly problem down on the farm

Residents on a Scottish housing estate had a shock when they saw two porcupines trotting around the streets.

Normally native to South America, Africa and southern Europe, the prickly pair had escaped from a small animal farm near Dumfries, crossed a main road and made

their way to the housing estate at Heathhall.

They had managed to escape from their pen by dislodging a metal door during the night.

The centre eventually took a phone call from a resident who spotted the animals in his

back garden. They were collected and returned safely to their pen.



Massive omelettes, kites, witches, broken pots and buckets of water

» Easter customs around the world



Many people like to celebrate Easter with hot cross buns and plenty of chocolate eggs.

Egg hunts are an Easter tradition in other countries too, but there are some weird and wonderful Easter customs around the world:

France

People in the town of Haux traditionally make a massive omelette on Easter Monday. It uses up to 4,500 eggs and feeds 1,000 people.

Bermuda

Home-made kites are flown on Good Friday. It is said to have started when a Sunday school teacher used a kite to try to explain Jesus's resurrection to his pupils.

Sweden

Children dress up as witches to go around their local area, as many people do at Halloween.

Spain

Easter is celebrated for the whole of the last week in Lent with parades in prac-

tically every town and village, featuring floats depicting Bible scenes.

Germany

As with many countries in northern Europe, bonfires are a big feature of Easter in Germany. On Maundy Thursday, it is traditional to eat something green.

Italy

The Pope leads a huge mass at the Vatican on Good Friday. In Florence, it is less serious on Easter Sunday when an old wooden wagon full of fireworks is set alight in a town square.

Central and eastern Europe

Be careful if you are out and about in countries such as Poland, the Czech Republic or Slovakia where people dress up in traditional costumes and then soak each other with buckets of water!

Greece

Islanders on Corfu like to throw old pots out of their windows to smash on the ground outside.

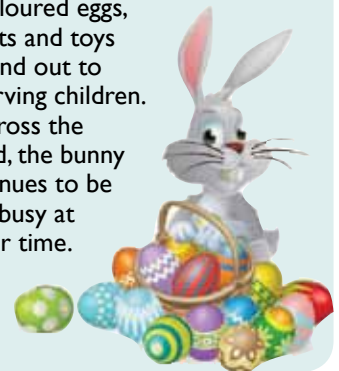
What do we know about the Easter bunny?

The Easter bunny was first recorded in German literature in the 16th or 17th century.

Just like Santa's naughty-or-nice list at Christmas, the Easter bunny judges whether children have been well-behaved or not before they get their treats.

The bunny carries a basket of coloured eggs, sweets and toys to hand out to deserving children.

Across the world, the bunny continues to be very busy at Easter time.



NEWS EGGSTRA

Who decided Humpty Dumpty was an egg? There is no mention of his egginess in the original nursery rhyme, but he was first portrayed as one in Lewis Carroll's book *Through the Looking-Glass* in 1871.

Why are eggs a symbol of Easter? It is thought to be because eggs represent birth. There are also suggestions eating eggs used to be frowned on during Lent so enjoying an egg on Easter Sunday was a treat.

The largest eggs in the world are produced by ostriches at an average 15cm long and weighing 1.4kg. The smallest are the eggs of the bee hummingbird and Vervain hummingbird, measuring less than 10mm long and weighing less than 0.4g.

COUNTRY IN THE NEWS

SOUTH SUDAN

Schools close to combat heatwave

Schools throughout the African country of South Sudan have been ordered to close to protect children from an extreme heatwave.

Temperatures are expected to hit 45°C and the heatwave is forecast to last for a fortnight.

The authorities have said that children should stay indoors to avoid the worst of the heat. They had turned up for school as usual this week but had to return home when they found their schools had been closed down.

The heatwave has also caused widespread power cuts, particularly in the capital city of Juba, meaning people could not cool down by using electric fans.

Among those worst hit is the Muslim community in the country. Because it is Ramadan, when Muslims fast during daylight hours, they are unable to drink water to stay hydrated.

Temperatures often reach into the early 40s in South Sudan but that would normally only happen during the summer, making this unusually early in the year for such hot weather.

Last year was the hottest year on record around the world, which experts blame on climate change, and South Sudan is just the latest African country to experience record temperatures.

Fact SHED



South Sudan factfile

■ South Sudan is the newest country in the world, having only come into existence on July 9, 2011, when it gained independence from Sudan, which is now its northern neighbour.

■ That made it the 195th officially recognised country in the world and the 54th in Africa.

■ It has an estimated population of around 12 million people, a little over 500,000 of them in the capital city of Juba.

■ Civil war since independence has left South Sudan as one of the poorest and least developed countries in the world.



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

EASTER

Good Friday this year is on March 29 and Easter Sunday two days later on March 31.

Definition

Easter is a Christian festival commemorating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

Derivation

Although *Easter* is a Christian festival, the word is believed to come from the name of a pre-Christian goddess in England called *Eostre*, who was celebrated in the Spring.

When is Easter?

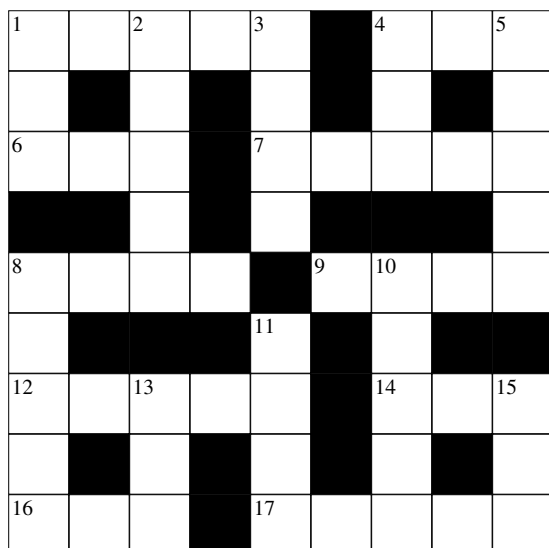
Unlike Christmas Day, always celebrated on December 25 in the western world, Easter Sunday moves about the calendar, following a tricky calculation: it is on the first Sunday after the full Moon that happens on or after the spring equinox. Next year it won't be until April 20.

NUMBER IN THE NEWS

20.4

The weight in grams of a world record blueberry grown in Australia. At almost 4cm across it is around the size of a table tennis ball, 10 times the size of a normal blueberry.

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1&4 Canine security worker (5,3)
- 6 Expected score in golf (3)
- 7 Capital of 5 down (5)
- 8 1,760 yards (4)
- 9 Molten rock (4)
- 12 Sharp part of a plant (5)
- 14 Peppa or George (3)
- 16 Celebration to mark the end of Ramadan (3)
- 17 River running through Nottingham (5)

DOWN

- 1 Space between two things (3)
- 2 Fourth month of the year (5)
- 3 Pull something along the floor (4)
- 4 Medical person (abbreviation) (3)
- 5 West African country with a black star on its flag (5)
- 8 100cm (5)
- 10 Popular green or red fruit (5)
- 11 Make something with wool (4)
- 13 Strange; not even (3)
- 15 Obtain (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

March 23, 1965

Nasa launched the first two-man space flight when astronauts Gus Grissom and John Young made three orbits of the Earth in their Gemini 3 spacecraft.

Several earlier flights had been made by solitary American astronauts or Russian cosmonauts.

Grissom and Young were told off when they returned to Earth for smuggling a corned beef sandwich aboard. There were fears floating crumbs could have damaged the spacecraft's electronics.

March 24, 1944

During World War Two, 76 Allied prisoners from 13 different countries escaped from the Stalag Luft III prisoner-of-war camp.

The daring escape, using a tunnel dug between a hut in the camp and a spot outside the perimeter, was dramatised in the classic film *The Great Escape*.

The camp was near Sagan in what was then part of Germany but is now Zagan in Poland.

Of the 76 who escaped, 73 were captured and only three pilots made it to freedom, two Norwegians and a Dutchman.

March 25, 1957

The European Economic Community, which became the European Union, was formed by Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands and West Germany. There are now 27 members.

March 26, 1934

The driving test was introduced in the United Kingdom. Until then, any adult could have a driving licence without having to show they could drive a car properly.

March 27, 2004

A former Royal Navy ship, HMS Scylla, was deliberately sunk off the coast of Cornwall to create an artificial reef.

The frigate was bought for £200,000 by the National Marine Aquarium, which sank it to the seabed 80 feet (24 metres) below the surface.

The artificial reef was intended to attract marine creatures and, within months, sea anemone, scallops, mussels, starfish and sea urchin were found in large numbers and there are now thought to be 250 species on the site.

MARCH 28, 1990

Jesse Owens' athletics career was marked by world records and gold medals – and also a fight against discrimination.

But it was not until March 28, 1990 – 10 years, almost to the day, after he had died – that his achievements were finally recognised by the United States government.

That was the day Owens was posthumously awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honour that can be given to an American citizen.

It was an award that marked an amazing career in track and field athletics.

Competing at an athletics meeting in Michigan in 1935, Owens set new world records in the long jump, 220 yards sprint and 220 yards hurdles and



One last gold for track star Jesse

equalled the world record in the 100 yards – all in the space of 45 minutes!

A year later he was in the American team for the Olympics in Berlin and at the centre of controversy as a black athlete competing when there was so much discrimination in Adolf Hitler's Nazi Germany as well as at home.

Nevertheless, Owens proved what a great athlete he was by winning four gold medals. He won the 100 metres, long jump and 200 metres on three successive days and then, four days later, was part of the winning American team in the 4x100 metres relay.

Although he was known around the world as Jesse, that was not his real name. He was christened James Cleveland, which became shortened to JC, which in turn became into Jesse.



MARCH 29, 1974

Farmers drilling a well near Xi'an, China, found an underground chamber which led to the discovery of the Terracotta Army – 8,000 life-size terracotta soldiers, 130 chariots and 670 horses – in the tomb of Emperor Qin Shi Huang.

Life-size figures of entertainers such as acrobats, strongmen and musicians were also discovered.

A selection of the figures have since been exhibited in museums around the world.

RUGBY UNION WOMEN'S SIX NATIONS



Ton-up Marlie

» Major milestone for England captain

England captain Marlie Packer will make her 100th international appearance when she leads her country out for their opening match of this year's Women's Six Nations rugby championship.

Her international career has spanned 16 years since she made her debut as an 18-year-old back in 2008.

Packer (pictured) will lead a team looking for a sixth successive title and third straight grand slam – winning all five matches. In the competition's various formats over the past 28 years, England have won it 19 times.

England's game this weekend, away to Italy in Parma on Sunday, will follow tomorrow's opening fixtures when Ireland travel to France and Wales host Scotland.

There will be one big change in the England camp for this year's competition with new coach John Mitchell



taking charge for his first Six Nations.

A former defence coach of the England men's team, the New Zealander took over after

Simon Middleton stepped down after a highly successful eight years in the role.

Fixture **SHED**

Women's Six Nations 2024

Sat, Mar 23	France v Ireland	2.15
	Wales v Scotland	4.45
Sun, Mar 24	Italy v England	3.0
Sat, Mar 30	Scotland v France	2.15
	England v Wales	4.45
Sun, Mar 31	Ireland v Italy	3.0
Sat, Apr 13	Scotland v England	2.15
	Ireland v Wales	4.45
Sun, Apr 14	France v Italy	12.30
Sat, Apr 20	England v Ireland	2.15
	Italy v Scotland	4.45
Sun, Apr 21	Wales v France	3.15
Sat, Apr 27	Wales v Italy	12.15
	Ireland v Scotland	2.30
	France v England	4.45

MEN'S SIX NATIONS



Ireland completed back-to-back titles in the men's Six Nations championship when they edged past Scotland in the final round of games.

But they were unable to repeat their 2023 feat of winning all five games – the grand slam – having lost 23-22 to England at Twickenham in their previous game. They were on course for victory until Marcus Smith scored a dramatic drop-goal for England with the final kick of the game.

At the other end of the table, Wales finished bottom for the first time in 21 years having lost all five games.

Their home defeat to Italy in the final round of games completed the Italians' best championship since they joined in 2000. They finished with two wins and a draw, keeping them off the bottom for the first time in nine years.

SPORT IN BRIEF

CYCLING

Britain's most successful female Olympian, track cyclist Laura Kenny, has decided to retire from the sport.

Across the last three Olympic Games, she won five gold medals and a silver. The 31-year-old mother of two had been expected to go for a fourth Olympics in Paris this summer but has decided to retire instead.

As well as Olympic success, Laura won seven world championships, 14 European championships and two Commonwealth Games gold medals.

Announcing her decision on the BBC, she said: "The sacrifices of leaving the children and your family at home are really quite big and it really is a big decision to make. More and more, I was struggling to do that."

■ Britain's most successful Olympian overall, with seven golds and two silvers, is... Laura's husband Jason Kenny, also a cyclist.

FOOTBALL

Coventry City are the only team from outside the Premier League to have made it through to the FA Cup semi-finals.

It is the first time they have reached that stage since they won the competition back in 1987. They will now face Manchester United for a place in the final.

Both sides made it to the last four with dramatic quarter-final wins, Coventry beating Wolverhampton Wanderers 3-2 with a winner 10 minutes into injury time while Manchester United beat bitter rivals Liverpool 4-3 with an Amad Diallo goal in the last minute of extra-time.

Coventry are managed by Mark Robins who, as a player, helped United win the 1990 World Cup.

The other semi-final will be between holders Manchester City and Chelsea. Both ties will be played at Wembley on the weekend of April 20 and 21.

TENNIS

Carlos Alcaraz won his first tournament since last year's Wimbledon when he beat Daniil Medvedev in the final of the prestigious Indian Wells tournament in California. The world No.2 is still only 20 years old.