



THE PRIORY ACADEMY

LSST

Priory Press

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Environmental News

Rachel Ballantyne

UK bans wet-wipes containing plastic

Wet-wipes are currently the third most littered items on UK beaches (behind cigarette butts and plastic pieces). This most commonly occurs due to these wipes being flushed into the sewer system. Although some wet wipes are biodegradable, that in itself doesn't necessarily mean that they can be flushed, as different parts may take longer to break down than others. Plastic containing wipes are devastating for marine life, as not only can they take up to five hundred years to break down, but when ingested by marine life microplastics can stay in their systems for the rest of their lifespans. This can cause potential illness, which can then go on to be consumed by humans. This is why the recent UK ban on plastic containing wet wipes being sold or distributed is so important; the legislation will give around eighteen months before implementation in order for retailers and companies to make necessary adjustments, before going into action. The UK has been described as 'world-leading' in this endeavor, as the UK has a combined coastline of approximately thirty thousand km, and the coastal tourism industry makes approximately four billion pounds a year. Although the ban on plastic-containing wet-wipes won't completely stop the littering of other plastic free products, it will reduce it, which both improves the appearance of the environment and the safety of ecosystems for the animals that live there. Making this decision on 2024's Earth Day was a positive step forward in stopping microplastic pollution!

Science News

Isaac Eccles

What really is 'mass'?

On the 19th April 2024, the neutrino particle was weighed by a PENTATRAP (machine with five 'traps'). A neutrino is a type of particle that doesn't interact with other things, however it is unlike a photon (light affectively) as it cannot be seen. It is nicknamed the 'ghost particle' due to this. If a particle doesn't interact, one would assume that it weighs nothing because if it doesn't interact it can't contain matter. However, the mass that has been measured by the experiment is none when moving. The reason it is difficult to measure the mass of a subatomic particle is the uncertainty law, meaning the better we know the position of something the less we know about its momentum. This is cleverly combatted by moving the neutrino around to the point where it is impossible to tell where it is, but still be able to measure its velocity. Velocity can be calculated by mass multiplied by speed, and thus if we know how fast the neutrino was moving when we released it then we can flip this equation to discover the mass. This is an incredibly accurate way to measure a subatomic particle and will likely be used on similar particles in future. Nonetheless, taking a step back from everything, we must ask: this is a ghost particle so why does it have a mass? And even more confusingly, why does it only have a mass when in motion? When a neutrino is still it has no mass. Scientists are still working on finding the answer to this, with the hope of answers in standard measurements such as the metre.

Political News

Max Stothard

Could Sunak plan a reform on term-time for summer holidays?

There could be a major shake-up to the school calendar as we know it in the near future, as a new report calls for pupils' summer holidays to be shortened from the traditional six weeks to just four! The report, which is to be published by Nuffield foundation next month, looks at education inequalities in post-pandemic times and how these have had an impact on the lives of pupils and teachers. It suggests that schools in England "should ditch the traditional six-week break that's been stuck in place since Victorian times", with experts recommending an overhaul of all school holidays in a bid to improve the lives of pupils and teachers.

It could see major changes being implemented to the school calendar, which include summer holidays being cut and longer half term breaks in autumn and spring.

The report has called for a shorter summer holiday for pupils in England, transforming term time to include longer half-term breaks instead – with two weeks instead of one – in October and February. Experts are calling for the changes to be made to help improve pupils' wellbeing and the working lives of teachers, as well as to aid in improving academic results for children who struggle to get back into learning after a long summer break. Despite this, some parents feel they should leave it the same. This opposition is generally due to everybody already being used to the schedules and the impact this will have on working parents, including any holidays that are pre-booked.

Technology News

William Fitzgerald

First Neuralink brain chip installed

Noland Arbaugh, the 29-year-old patient who was paralysed from the shoulders down after a diving accident, received an implant from Neuralink in January.

The chip allows for electrical activity in the brain to be interpreted and translated into action on a computer interface.

From what was said, Arbaugh stated things have gone smoothly. He notably mentioned a lack of pain and the seamlessness of the integration between his brain and the actions by the cursor.

The only downside briefly mentioned is a couple bugs but according to Elon, that is to be expected though.

Many have spoken out against this since with comments such as “violation of human rights!” and concerns of privacy and the possibility of the company holding too much control over individuals’ brains.

World News

John Hutchings

FBI opens criminal investigation about Baltimore Bridge Collapse.

On 26th March, the Francis Scott Key Bridge was struck by the Dali container vessel, causing a total collapse. Six people died as a result of this. Sources told the BBC's US partner CBS that the FBI has opened a criminal investigation into the incident and will investigate the circumstances leading up to the event. Eight construction workers perished in the collapse sending them to the waters below. Two were rescued on the day of the collapse, while the bodies of two more were found about two days later. Maynor Yasir Suazo Sandoval was the third person to be discovered earlier this month. The fourth victim was identified on Monday by the chief medical examiner's office, but the family of the victim has requested officials leading salvage work to keep the name hidden from the public. "As we mourn the lives lost and continue the recovery operation, we recognize each missing individual is someone's beloved friend or family member."

Music News

Poppy Willoughby-Crow

Arctic Monkeys in 2024

Arctic Monkeys are currently number fifty in the world according to Spotify as of 2024 in terms of streams. They dominated the music scene in 2006 with their debut of *'Whatever people say I am that's what I'm not'* which for a brief time held the record for fastest selling British album. The song *'Bet You Look Good on the Dancefloor'* topped UK and US rock charts and took home the mercury prize.

A brief timeline:

'Whatever people say I am, that's what I'm not' (2006), *'Favorite worst nightmare'* (2007), *'Humbug'* (2009), *'Suck it and see'* (2011), *'AM'* (2013), *'Tranquility Base Hotel and Casino'* (2018) and finally *'The Car'* (circa 2022). With every album, on the record there is a B-side. Every B-side is named after a song on the album, with some having multiple B-sides. For example, FWN has 3 B-sides, *'Fluorescent Adolescent'*, *'Teddy picker'* and *'Brianstorm'*.

My opinion

If you like a range of music in every album, this is the band for you. Indie rock, post-punk revival, garage rock, alt rock, lounge pop, psychedelic rock. These are the genres they cover, with every album being different.

School News

Liam Ballard

Upcoming Competition

For any of you who play Pokémon VGC (video game championships)*, this competition is for you!

On Monday, 29th April, after school, the library hosted a Pokémon Battle tournament.

Battles were held on Pokémon Showdown, which is easily accessible through any web browser.

To build your team, go to the teambuilder section, set the format as VGC Reg G, and then choose your Pokémon!

Each team is allowed one restricted legendary. These include Calyrex, Lunala, Solgaleo, Kyogre, Groudon, Zacian and Zamazenta.

The first battles were Swiss rounds, so everyone battled everyone else. Then the people with the eight highest number of wins made it to top cut, where they played elimination rounds to try and get to the final.

Years 7-10 competed in an afternoon of great fun!