

# What's happening in the news this week?



Let's have a look at this week's poster!

5th - 11th June 2023



## France bans short-haul flights



Pictured: Air France B777. Source: Air France @airfrance Twitter page.

France has banned domestic short flights that would take less than two-and-a-half hours by train. The rules to ban short haul flights are to help lower carbon emissions and tackle climate change. For example, air travel between Paris and other cities like Nantes, Lyon and Bordeaux will now be barred. There are stipulations that must be met, in order for the flights to be outlawed. There must be regular trains able to meet the travel requirements of passengers, who would usually fly, with the capacity to take

increased passenger numbers. Connecting flights, changing planes whilst on the same journey, will not be affected by the new rules. Politicians in the country are also working out how to reduce emissions from private jets. France is widely reported to have a fast, efficient, low-cost train system, with over 1,056 miles of dedicated high-speed lines.

**Do you think this is the best way to help lower carbon emissions?**

## World's largest play structure opens

The largest children's play park of its kind in the world has opened at Alnwick Garden, Northumberland. Lilidorei, described on its website as 'a magical, mysterious village full of play' was thought up by Jane Percy, the Duchess of Northumberland. The project received funding from the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal, as it has created 50 new jobs. It has nine magical clan houses, which include goblins, fairies, pixies, hobgoblins, trolls and elves. All the inhabitants are said to be invisible! There are also interactive storytelling areas and a 26m tall six-sided tower, known as Elfwin Drin. This giant play structure has six slides, four of which are tube slides, a sliding rail, bridges, zip wires and a firefighter's pole. The Duchess said, 'Lilidorei has lived in my imagination for the past 12 years and I am delighted to bring my creative vision to life. We want to encourage children away from screens and into this magical giant playground where their imaginations can run wild. Our ambition is for Lilidorei to be accessible to all children...' The tourist attraction has said it will be supporting 'free Fridays', allowing every primary school child in Northumberland and the surrounding area to visit the attraction for free during term-time.

Pictured: Lilidorei, at Alnwick Garden on opening day. Source: Discover Northumberland @discovernland Twitter page.





# Elephants enjoy having visitors



Pictured: Anjan the Asian elephant on his 5th birthday. Source: Chester Zoo @chesterzoo Twitter page.

A new study by Nottingham Trent University and Harper Adams University has been published in the journal, *Animals*, and concluded that elephants in zoos enjoy interacting with visitors. The animal behaviour experts from the universities examined more than 100 research papers to look into how visitors affected the behaviour of around 250 species in zoos. They observed that elephants enjoyed socialising more with each other and displayed fewer signs of boredom during public feeding times, when there were more people around. The world's largest land animal wasn't the only species that enjoyed human company. Animals also showing they enjoyed having visitors were penguins, jaguars, grizzly bears,

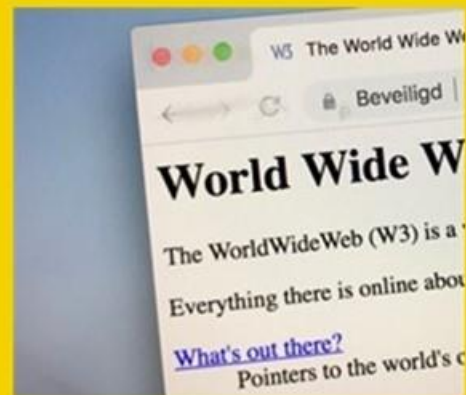
polar bears, cheetahs, servals, banteng, cockatoos and black-tailed prairie dogs. Dr Ellen Williams, a zoo animal welfare scientist at Harper Adams University, said, 'We have robust methods to measure animal welfare in zoos. Animal responses are attributed to various factors, and recognising what these may be is important to improve welfare. In elephants and birds, it was encouraging to see a reduction in those repetitive behaviours towards something more positive in the presence of people, although the absence of change in the majority of species was also really good, because it suggests enclosure design is changing to better support animals in responding to visitors.'

Last week's topic:

**Has being online changed things for the better?**

Overall, I think worse because we know too much and move too little. Everything is so easy we don't value it.

**Petori**



It has made some things better: shopping, chatting, and some things worse: online attacks, cyberbullying.

**Vanitha**

I love that I can call and message my family abroad!

**George**

I think that the internet has made the world more accessible which has made shopping easier but also closes small businesses.

**Leyla**

**Let us know what you think about this week's news?**



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# TAKEHOME



## Is it better to reuse or recycle?



## In the news this week

Ahead of World Environment Day on 5<sup>th</sup> June, a new report from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has announced that countries could cut plastic pollution by 80% in fewer than 20 years. The last few decades have seen plastic production levels increase dramatically, especially single-use plastic, and waste management systems are struggling to cope. The report offers a plan of action for governments and businesses to significantly cut levels of plastic pollution.

### Things to talk about at home ...

- Thinking about your own use of packaging, how often do you recycle?
- When you are using or buying things, do you (or the person responsible for your shopping at home) think about the materials your food and beverages come in?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

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