

Mars Moss

Scientists in China discovered that a type of moss, called *Syntrichia caninervis*, can survive on Mars! This tough moss usually grows in harsh places like Antarctica and the Mojave Desert in America. Now, it's shown it can handle Mars-like conditions, including drought, extreme cold, and high radiation. Scientists tested the moss with an atmosphere of

95% carbon dioxide, temperatures as low as -196°C , high UV radiation, and low pressure. The moss survived and, in fact, quickly recovered! Professor Stuart McDaniel says, 'This is exciting because it shows the moss can survive the tough conditions of life on Mars.' Researchers hope to test this moss on the Moon or Mars soon, offering hope for making parts of Mars liveable for humans one day!



Pictured: Imagined image of the surface of Mars. **Source:** Canva.

Olympic Coin

The Royal Mint has made a special 50p coin to celebrate the Paris Olympics and Paralympics. This shiny collectible coin has a special design unique to the 2024 Games. One side shows an Olympic and a Paralympic athlete standing next to each other with the Union Flag in the background. At the bottom of the coin, there is a silhouette of the Eiffel Tower, alluding to the location of the Games this year. 'Team GB and ParalympicsGB athletes will each receive their own personal coin in their kit bags', said the Royal Mint.



Pictured: British Paralympic table tennis star, Will Bayley. **Source:** @ParalympicsGB on X.

August and September will see athletes, from all over the world, gather in Paris to compete at the highest possible level in exciting sports like running, swimming, and cycling. Look out for this special 50p coin – maybe you'll find one in your pocket money soon!

What does it take to be an Olympian or Paralympian?



You have to believe in yourself, and also spend a lot of time practising. I think you can do anything if you believe in yourself. Trevor

Mount Everest Drone Delivery

The world's first drone delivery on Mount Everest has been reported as a success. Last month, a DJI FlyCart 30 drone carried three oxygen bottles to climbers on Mount Everest, in Nepal. The drone set off from Base Camp (at an altitude of 5,300 metres) and carried the oxygen bottles and other supplies to Camp 1 (at an altitude of 6,000 meters). The drone was then used to bring 15kg of rubbish back down to base camp. Using drones to transport essential supplies to climbers, and remove waste from the camp, will



mean that the dangerous 6–8-hour trek could be replaced with a 10-minute drone delivery. Christina Zhang, from DJI said, 'The ability to safely transport equipment, supplies, and waste by drone has the potential to revolutionize Everest mountaineering logistics, facilitate trash cleanup efforts, and improve safety for all involved.'

Have you ever climbed a mountain?

Would you like to?

Can you think of any other ways drones could be used to help people?



Pictured: DJI FlyCart 30 (above left) and the drone delivering oxygen canisters on Mount Everest (above right). **Source:** DJI Delivery on X.

Chess Champion

A nine-year-old chess player is going to become the youngest person ever to represent England in any international sport! Bodhana Sivanandan, from Harrow, in northwest London, has been selected to be in the England team, as they compete at the Chess Olympiad in Budapest, Hungary, in September. Bodhana holds the title of Woman FIDE Master and is one of five players for England's women's team. Chess Olympiad is being held for the 45th time this year. She started playing during the COVID lockdown, aged five, after finding a chess set packed away in a box of toys. Bodhana is aiming high; she stated that she would like to be world champion chess player by the time she is a teenager! Lawrence Trent, chess commentator and international master posted, 'Bodhana Sivanandan is one of the greatest talents I've witnessed in recent memory. The maturity of her play, her sublime touch, it's truly breathtaking. I have no doubt she will be England's greatest player



Pictured: Bodhana Sivanandan playing chess. **Source:** Women's Chess Coverage on X.

and most likely one of the greatest the game has ever seen.' When Bodhana was told she had been picked for the team she said, 'I'm so pleased to be picked for England. It's a great honour and I'm looking forward to being part of a team.'

Do you enjoy playing chess or would you like to learn?

How do you think it would feel to be selected to represent your country?

What does it take to be an Olympian or Paralympian?



You need to be very determined and focused on what you want to become the best at. You also need to be talented and spend a lot of time practicing. Freya

