

A Platform Palaver!

Every year on September 1st, Harry Potter fans gather at King's Cross Station in London to hear a special announcement about the Hogwarts Express. At 11.00 a.m., there's usually a fun message that makes everyone feel like they're on Platform 9¾, just like in the world of Harry Potter! But this year, the magical Hogwarts Express announcement was cancelled. The station explained that it has been stopped due to safety concerns, as the station can get very crowded with fans. Harry Potter fan, Emily, who has visited the event before, said, 'I'm really sad that the announcement isn't happening this year. It's such a magical moment for fans. But I



Pictured: Platform 9¾ at King's Cross Station, London. **Source:** Canva.

understand that they want to keep everyone safe.' Visitors can still go to King's Cross to see the famous Platform 9¾ sign. While it's disappointing the tradition didn't happen this time, many fans are hopeful it will return next year, bringing the magic back to King's Cross!

Plastic Pollution

A new study has found that Coca-Cola, PepsiCo, Nestlé, and Danone are the biggest sources of plastic pollution in the world. The study was done by a group called Break Free From Plastic. They looked at plastic waste in 84 countries between 2018 and 2022. Over 100,000 volunteers collected 1.8 million pieces of plastic from beaches, rivers, and parks. Many of these were single-use containers. Plastic pollution is dangerous for wildlife and adds to global warming. Companies like Coca-Cola and PepsiCo are

trying to improve recycling, but only 9% of plastic is recycled. Experts say reducing plastic use is the best idea. Researcher, Natalie, remains hopeful, saying plastic pollution 'is a challenge we can solve'. World leaders will meet in November to discuss ways to reduce plastic waste.



Pictured: Plastic waste. **Source:** Canva.

How can communities help each other in times of difficulty?



We can help our teachers at school by listening and trying our best.

Freddie

Clever Canines!

Researchers, at the Eotvos Lorand University in Hungary, have discovered that talented dogs can remember the names of toys for at least two years! Five special border collies: Gaia, Max, Whiskey, Squall and Rico learned the names of multiple toys and were tested to see how many they remembered two years later. The study is part of the Genius Dog Challenge (GDC) and the dogs involved did really well. The results showed that four of the five dogs remembered the names of 60-75% of the toys. GDC is encouraging owners to contact the website if their dogs can identify toys by name. Two of the dogs are pictured.



Dr Claudia Fugazza, from Eotvos Lorand University in Hungary, commented on the study, saying, 'We know that dogs can remember events for at least 24 hours and odours for up to one year, but this is the first study showing that some talented dogs can remember words for at least two years.' She also explained that the dogs participating in the study had been identified as having a talent for learning words previously, saying, 'The findings of our current study cannot be generalised to other dogs because we only tested GWL (gifted word learner) dogs, individuals that show a special talent for acquiring object words.'

Do you know any clever canines? What would you like to teach a pet to do?



Pictured right: Coraline with some of her toys.
Pictured above: Jesse and his 130 toys.
Source: Genius Dog Challenge on Facebook.

LEGO Replay!

LEGO have announced that they will be making their bricks from 50% recycled plastic by 2026! They also said that this move is going to cost them more money because the renewable resin that they will use is 70% more expensive. LEGO don't want to pass the increase in price on to their customers. 'The costs of these materials will not be passed on to the consumers, it will be absorbed by the LEGO Group on our bottom line,' the company said. LEGO has set the target date of 2032 to reach a goal of using entirely renewable and recycled materials.

LEGO's Replay program has also extended. Replay allows people to send the LEGO bricks that they no longer require to be reused or recycled by the company. LEGO even pay for the postage! The bricks are washed, sorted into new sets and donated to be



Pictured: A Lego scene of Notre Dame.
Source: Lego on Facebook.

played with again. Over 400,000 sets of repurposed bricks have been given away so far. When LEGO Replay was launched in the UK, Tim Brooks from LEGO said, 'We want to rehome, repurpose or recycle every LEGO brick to keep them in play for longer. We hope LEGO Replay will help even more people donate their LEGO bricks with ease and feel proud they are supporting playful learning for children across the country.'

Can you think of other ways to recycle toys?

How can communities help each other in times of difficulty?



My granny always says to treat others how we would like to be treated, and I think that is great advice.

Ed

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



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