

## Glitter for Lunch?

If you are visiting Blackpool Zoo at the moment, you may see something rather surprising in the elephant enclosure – glittery poo! This is because keepers at the zoo are putting glitter into the food of the female elephants in order to be able to tell which poo belongs to who. Asian elephants are currently on the ‘endangered’ list,

meaning these animals are at a very high risk of extinction in the wild. Keepers at the zoo will collect the glittery poo twice a week and send it to a research laboratory at Chester Zoo for testing. The aim is to find out if any of the female elephants are pregnant. The elephants can then be suitably cared for in the hope of increasing their numbers.



**Pictured:** Endangered Asian elephant. **Source:** Canva.



**Pictured:** Chess pieces. **Source:** Canva.

## Checkmate!

8-year-old Ashwath Kaushik, who was born in India and now lives in Singapore, has made history by becoming the youngest-ever chess player to defeat a grandmaster in classical chess. Grandmaster

(GM) is the highest title of any chess player.

The young player began learning to play chess at just four years old! He practises every day after school and spends weekends finessing his game. When asked about his performance at the tournament in Switzerland, Kaushik said. ‘It felt really exciting and amazing, I felt proud of my game’. Kaushik came 12<sup>th</sup> in the tournament overall and says his dream is to one day become a world champion in chess.

### Should mobile phones be banned in all classrooms?



*I think phones can be distracting in school but taking them off pupils could be too complicated.*

**Monika**

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## Back to Earth with a Splash!

NASA's SpaceX Crew-7 has safely landed back on Earth. The team has returned from six months of science and discovery aboard the International Space Station (ISS). The crew, from four different countries, splashed down in their Dragon spacecraft off the coast of Pensacola, Florida, USA. Whilst they were on the ISS for 199 days, Jasmin Moghbeli (USA), Andreas Mogensen (Denmark), Satoshi Furukawa (Japan) and Konstantin Borisov (Russia) completed 3,184 orbits around Earth!

NASA Administrator, Bill Nelson, spoke of the successful mission saying, 'After more than six months aboard the International Space Station, NASA's SpaceX Crew-7 has safely returned home. This international crew showed that space unites us all. It's clear that we can do more – we can learn more – when we work together. The science experiments conducted during their time in space will help prepare for NASA's bold missions at the Moon, Mars, and beyond, all while benefitting humanity here on Earth.'

**How do you think it would feel to return home after six months in space?**  
**What do you think you would miss if you were away from Earth for that long?**



**Pictured:** NASA's SpaceX Crew-7 - Borisov, Mogensen, Moghbeli and Furukawa, shortly after landing. **Source:** NASA X page.

## Solo Sailing

Cole Brauer, from New York, has become the first US woman to sail solo around the world! She was the only woman competing in one of the most extreme sailing events in the world, the Global Solo Challenge. The Global Solo Challenge is a unique sailing race that starts from A Coruña, Spain, and takes participants on a single-handed, non-stop circumnavigation across the globe. Captaining her 40-foot vessel, 'First Light', Brauer crossed three oceans. The 29-year-old travelled 30,000 miles on a journey that took 130 days and finished second in the race. Talking about the challenges of sailing alone, Cole said, 'Solo sailors, you have to be able to do everything. You need to be able to take care of yourself. You need to be able to get up, even when you're so exhausted. And you have to be able to fix everything on the boat.' She also commented on what inspires her to be determined



**Pictured:** Cole Brauer becomes the first US female to sail solo non-stop around the world. **Source:** Global Solo Challenge @marconannini X page.

saying, 'I push so much harder when someone's like, 'no, you can't do that,' or 'you're too small. It would be amazing if there was just one other girl that saw me and said 'Oh, I can do that, too.'  
**Have you ever been sailing or on a boat? Would you like to?**

### Should mobile phones be banned in all classrooms?



*I don't think that mobiles phones should be banned, people just need to be sensible and use them sensibly!*

**Nikolas**

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