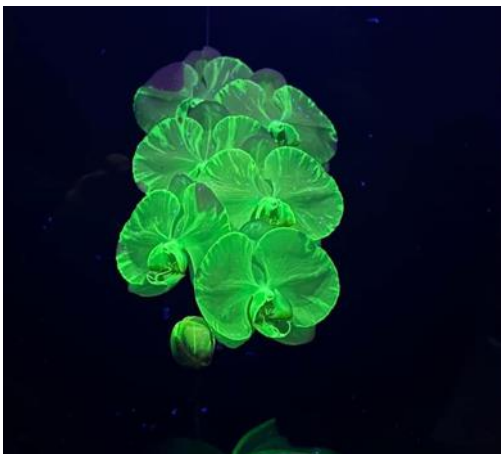




First Fluorescent Orchid

The world's first fluorescent orchid has been displayed in Tokyo at the Japan Grand Prix International Orchid and Flower Show 2024. The Glowing Phalaenopsis Orchid emits yellow-green fluorescence under black light – not just the petals but the whole plant can be seen to glow! The luminous moth orchid was developed using the gene of a fluorescent plankton by scientists from Chiba University. The flower festival is described as one of the biggest and most extravagant orchid exhibitions in the world, and this year's exhibition will feature more than a thousand different orchid species. To enter the event, visitors will pass under the beautiful 'Orchid Gate' made from 100,000 orchids. As well as exhibiting groundbreaking and beautiful flowers, the show will create a platform for the world's best flower artists to show their skills. At the festival's opening ceremony, Princess Tsuguko of Takamado said, 'I would be glad if this exhibition became an opportunity for people to consider the importance of preserving biodiversity.'



Pictured: The Glowing Phalaenopsis Orchid.
Source: Flower Show @TheFlowerShow X page.



Pictured: An Orchid. **Source:** Canva.

Britain's Funniest Class



Pictured: How to apply to be named Beano Britain's funniest class. **Source:** Beano @BeanoOfficial X page.

Beano, the world's longest-running comic, has announced its search for Britain's funniest primary school class! The comic posted on X, 'Help Class 2B in their search for Britain's Funniest Class (and teacher)! 😊 As much as The Bash Street Kids love a bit of hard work (ha!), a little help wouldn't hurt... 🙏 If you think your students have the gift of the gag, enter now.' The well-loved children's comic is celebrating the Bash Street Kids' 70th anniversary with the launch of 'Britain's Funniest Class 2024' competition. Teachers can submit their classes' hilarious gags and jokes via the website before the closing date on 7th March. The most side-splitting entries will then be put to a public vote, resulting in one comical class being named the

funniest in the country! Last year's winner was Greasley Beauvale Primary School, and their headteacher Michelle Bates, encouraged other schools to enter saying, 'The classroom and the school flourished when we rallied together as a team for the common goal of laughter. It was wonderful to see the classroom grow in confidence and creativity.' This year the winners will be rewarded with a whole range of Beano goodies and be drawn into a special edition of the comic. This will be the very first time ever that a whole class of real-life children will be included in the comic book! **Can you get your funny bones moving and think up a giggle-inducing gag? Do you think that your teacher and/or class are funny?**

Flamingo-saving Flight Attendant



Pictured left: Flamingos. **Source:** Canva. **Pictured right:** Sunny the flamingo chick. **Source:** Woodland Park Zoo Facebook page.

Fast-thinking flight attendant, Amber May, received a unique request from one of the people on board the plane she was working on. The passenger, a zookeeper, had a very unusual problem and needed help building a nest! They were transporting rare flamingo eggs from Atlanta Zoo in Georgia, USA, to Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle, when their incubator broke. They asked the surprised flight attendant to help them keep the six eggs safe and warm. With hours of flight left to go, Amber came up with a plan – filling rubber gloves with warm water to keep the eggs at the correct temperature, which she refilled as the water inside cooled. Other travellers helped too, sharing their coats and scarves to keep the precious eggs insulated. The idea worked! All six eggs made it safely to

their new home and the chicks hatched last September. There are four females called Magdalena, Amaya, Rosales, and Gonzo and two males, named Sunny and Bernardo. Amber was invited to choose a name for one of the flamingos, and she picked Sunny as it is her granddaughter's name. She and her granddaughter have even been to meet the chicks. 'The flamingo eggs would not have survived in a non-functioning portable incubator for five hours,' said Joanna Klass, a Woodland Park Zoo animal care manager. 'We're so grateful for the creative thinking that led to the safe transport of our precious eggs.'

Did you know that a group of flamingos is called a 'Flamboyance' or a 'Stand'?
Do you know any flamingo facts?

Last week's topic:

Should we learn sign language at school?



I like that the option is there for pupils to choose it, but I don't think we should all have to learn all languages.

Bekki

If you know someone deaf, I think you should.

Thibault

I think it's a good idea because we are all different and we should respect others.

Arthur

Yes, I think that everyone should learn at least one other language. Sign language should be an option at school along with others. I would be really interested in learning to sign.

Petra

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

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