

From Hymns to Swim!

In a town called Heerlen in the Netherlands, a large, old church is being turned into a brand-new swimming pool!

The St. Francis of Assisi Church was built more than 100 years ago, but it stopped holding services in 2023. So, builders and architects (people who design buildings) worked together and won a special competition to redesign the church. Their exciting swimming pool plan is called 'Holy Water'. A very clever part of the design is that the floor of the pool can move up and down, and the water can be added or taken away. This means the space can be used for lots of different activities too, not just swimming!



Pictured: The new swimming pool inside the church. **Source:** MVRDV / Zecc Architecten.

The outside of the church still looks the same, with tall, colourful windows and a pointed roof, to help protect its special history.

'Imagine swimming the backstroke with a view of a church vault and stained-glass windows,' one of the architects said. Church buildings are sometimes used in surprising ways when they are empty. In other places, old churches have become libraries, cafes, and even playgrounds!

Jump into June!

It's June this week! The days are getting longer and sunnier, and lots of children in the UK are spending more time outside. You might spot butterflies fluttering, bees buzzing, and juicy strawberries growing. In schools, June is full of fun! Many classes are getting ready for exciting events, like sports day and school trips.

21st June is the longest day of the year – it's called the summer solstice! On this day, we get more daylight, and the sun doesn't set until very late in the evening. What will you do with all that extra sunshine?



Pictured: Sports day practice in the sunshine!
Source: Canva.

'June is one of my favourite months,' says Miss Taylor, a Year 2 teacher. 'The children love learning outdoors, and there's always something exciting going on. You can really feel the summer magic starting!' ***Did you know that in Australia, June is the start of winter?***

What everyday items could be changed to help others?



I think plastic bottles could be changed into plant pots for growing food so instead of throwing them away we can recycle them into something. **Jamie**

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



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99 Drawings for 99 Years!

Max Evans-Browning, age 5, from Pembrokeshire in Wales, has created a special birthday card to celebrate Sir David Attenborough's 99th birthday. Max is a massive fan of the presenter, broadcaster, biologist, natural historian and writer. His mum says he is obsessed with animals, watches all Sir David's nature programmes, and even dressed up as him for World Book day!



Pictured: Max Evans-Browning and the special card he created. **Source:** Samantha Evans-Browning on Facebook.

Max wanted to include 99 of the famous scientist's favourite animals on his birthday card. Max's mum, Samantha, posted a photo of the card and commented, 'Knowing that Sir David Attenborough is turning 99 tomorrow, Max decided a few days ago to "make him a really special card with 99 animals on because he will be 99".

A mammoth task for a 5-year-old, but he's done it 😊 We have spent hours at the table finding the animals he loves and researching Mr Attenborough's favourites and here it is.'

Have you made any special cards?
Who would you choose to make a card for?



Knit for Nature

Knitters, from all over the world, have been sending mini woolly jumpers to a charity in Australia for over 20 years! The Penguin Foundation raises funds to protect and preserve Phillip Island, and its colony of 40,000 little penguins. When the wildlife rehabilitation centre launched the 'Knits for Nature' programme, it asked knitters to produce jumpers to help save penguins in the event of oil spills. Penguins were dressed in the jumpers, to prevent the poisonous oil covering their bodies from being ingested, until they could be cleaned by rescue workers. Rebecca Passlow, from The Penguin Foundation, explained that the jumpers fortunately haven't been needed to help penguins after an oil spill recently but are still very important to the charity. 'To



Pictured: A Penguin wearing a knitted jumper. **Source:** Penguin Foundation on X.

continue raising vital funds for the Penguin Foundation, we gladly still accept themed jumpers, which we now sell with plush penguin toys in our retail stores. These funds directly support penguin and wildlife rehabilitation, as well as research.'

Have you ever tried knitting?
Would you like to try to knit a jumper for a penguin?

What everyday items could be changed to help others?



I think that we should look carefully at all the items we use every day and see how we can use science to improve them! Mia

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