



SEPT
2019

HELTER-SKELTER! PAGE 10




FERRARI SF90 PAGE 12



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THE PRIMARY PLANET

REAL READING, REAL LEARNING, REAL FUN!



RUGBY

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SPORT

The 2019 Rugby World Cup begins later this month when host nation Japan take on Russia on September 20. In all, 20 nations from all over the world will compete for the coveted Webb Ellis Cup. But did you ever wonder how a sport involving an oval ball, scrums, rucks and tries ever came about? Heave your way to pages 15-18 to find out!

IRELAND GAMES	
Sun Sep 22 Ireland v Scotland 8.45am	Sat Sep 28 Japan v Ireland 8.15am
Thu Oct 03 Ireland v Russia 11.15am	Sat Oct 12 Ireland v Samoa 11.45am



WIN TICKETS TO CINDERELLA

Check it out on page 3



NEWS

PUZZLES

SPORT

STEAM

MOVIES

SHOWBIZ

Local councils made almost €70m from parking charges in 2018.

Dublin City Council made the most money, receiving €29,380,831, and that is expected to increase in the capital by around €1.5m per year.

But while councils are enjoying watching the money roll in, businesses are warning that it is hurting their ability to attract customers – and that in turn reduces the attractiveness of town centres.

Rather than pay for parking or risk fines, people are instead turning to online shopping or out-of-town shopping malls.

Some TDs want to see public parking spaces reduced each year, encouraging people to use bicycles or public transport.

Bad Parking? Cha-Ching!

However, others have pointed out that public transport is operating at full capacity, forcing people to drive to work.

'You would need a can opener to get anyone else on board,' said Conor Faughnan of the AA.

'They are stuffed full to capacity yet they only take half of the morning's commuters.

'Virtually everyone who comes into Dublin by car in the morning is a victim. They are doing it because they don't have a Luas or a tube. Cars are not the enemy. It is like blaming sick people for overcrowding in hospitals.'



IRISHMAN STRUCK BY LIGHTNING

A County Tyrone teenager was struck by lightning while watching Rory McIlroy in action at a golf tournament in the United States.

Ryan Murphy travelled to Atlanta, Georgia, for the FedEx Championship, which McIlroy ended up winning.

However, Murphy was one of six people injured on the second-last day of the tournament after lightning struck a 20m pine tree on the golf course. The 19-year-old was walking by the tree where the five others were sheltering.

Murphy was knocked out cold but luckily scans showed there was no lasting damage.

'I don't remember much of when it actually happened,' said Murphy, who hails from Cookstown. 'I was walking across to a fan shop and next thing I know, I had fallen to the ground. My ears were ringing when I woke up and I was surrounded by people and there were ambulances.'



'It was just very chaotic.'

Murphy was released from hospital the following day and scrapped plans to travel across the US, instead returning to Ireland ahead of starting university.



DID YOU KNOW?

Play is commonly stopped in instances of bad weather during golf tournaments. In 1991, two spectators were killed at separate events in the US. But, while players and caddies are driven back to the clubhouse, spectators are forced to fend for themselves and find shelter.

Offaly Receives Power Boost

County Offaly will be home to one of the largest battery-storage power plants in Europe.

A South Korean company and their Offaly-based partners have begun construction work on two 100MW energy storage plants near Ferbane and Shannonbridge.



The work is expected to cost around €150m and will create 120 construction jobs. When up and running, each plant will employ 10 people.

The plants will store energy which has been created by Ireland's renewable energy suppliers and will then redistribute the power into the grid in response to public demand.

Battery storage technology is considered to be one of the cleanest forms of energy, with no fuel or emissions used.

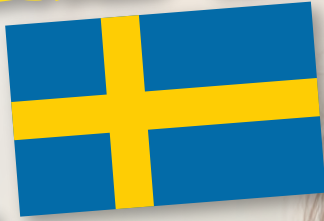
The plants are good news for Offaly as Ireland begins to transition away from peat in the Midlands.

For decades peat has been produced in bogs in the Midlands to generate electricity in power stations. However, in July an ESB power station was refused planning permission to continue using its ash disposal facility into 2021. (The burning of peat produces large amounts of ash.)

Bord na Móna says it will fully stop harvesting peat by 2030.

AN SCÉAL MÓR

Greta, laoch aeráide



Tá Greta Thunberg, déagóir inspioráideach as an Sualainn, ag taisteal ar fud an domhain ag éileamh go rachaidh polaiteoirí i ngleic le hathrú aeráide sula mbeidh sé rómhall.

Níl sí ach 16 bliana d'aois, ach tá clú agus cáil ar Greta as an obair mhór atá ar siúl aici ar son na haeráide. Chuir sí tús le stailc scoile taobh amuigh de pharlaimint na Sualainne in 2018. Ó shin, tá na milliúin dalta scoile ar fud an domhain i ndiaidh dul ar stailc freisin chun aird a dhíriú ar an mbagairt don domhan a bhaineann le hathrú aeráide.



Ar an 16 Aibreán 2019, labhair Greta le Parlaimint na hEorpa sa Bhruiséil, sa Bheilg. D'impigh sí ar na polaiteoirí díriú ar an mbagairt don domhan a bhaineann le hathrú aeráide seachas ar cheisteanna mar an Breatimeacht (imeacht na Ríochta Aontaithe as an Aontas Eorpach).

Seachtain ina dhiaidh sin chuaigh sí go Londain agus labhair sí go díreach le polaiteoirí i bParlaimint na Breataine. An iarraidh seo, dúirt sí nach raibh a dhóthain á dhéanamh ag an rialtas chun lorg carbóin na tíre sin a laghdú.

Greta agus comhartha aici a deir 'Stailc scoile ar son na haeráide' i Sualainnis.
Image: Per Grunditz / Shutterstock.com

laoch aeráide – climate warrior
inspioráideach – inspirational
an tSualainn – Sweden
ag éileamh – demanding
dul i ngleic le – to tackle
stailc scoile – school strike
chun aird a dhíriú – to attract attention
bagairt – threat
an Bheilg – Belgium
d'impigh sí – she implored
díriú ar an mbagairt – to focus on the threat
an Breatimeacht – Brexit
an tAontas Eorpach – European Union, EU
lorg carbóin – carbon footprint

Foclóir

5 fhíric faoi Greta



1. Rugadh Greta Thunberg ar an 3 Eanáir 2003 sa tSualainn. Is amhránaí clúiteach opera í a máthair, Malena Ernman, agus is aisteoir é a hathair, Svante Thunberg.

2. Ar an 20 Lúnasa, 2018, rinne Greta agóid taobh amuigh de pharlaimint na Sualainne. Bhí comhartha aici a raibh 'Skolstrejk för klimatet' (Stailc scoile ar son na haeráide) scríofa air.

agóid – protest
comhartha – sign

3. Ar an 13 Márta 2019, d'ainmnigh triúr feisirí parlaiminte san Iorua Greta le haghaidh Dhuais Síochána Nobel. Beidh sí ar an mbuaiteoir is óige riamh má bhuann sí í.

d'ainmnigh – nominated
feisirí parlaiminte – members of parliament
Duais Síochána Nobel – Nobel Peace Prize

4. I mí na Bealtaine 2019, bhí grianghraf de Greta ar chlúdach na hirise *Time*. An mhí roimhe sin, chuir *Time* í ar liosta na ndaoine is tábhachtaí in 2019.

5. An mhí seo caite, chuaigh an déagóir ar bord *Malizia II* agus sheol sí trasna an Atlantaigh go Nua-Eabhrac. Mhair an turas coicís. Beidh Thunberg ag cainteanna na Náisiún Aontaithe faoi chúrsaí aeráide amach sa mhí. B'fhearr léi dul trasna an Atlantaigh ar bhád seachas ar eitleán mar deir sí go mbíonn lorg carbóin na n-eitleán rómhór.

sheol sí trasna an Atlantaigh – she sailed across the Atlantic
coicís – fortnight
na Náisiún Aontaithe – the United Nations
amach sa mhí – later in the month

Planet History
by Des Doyle

THE MOTHER OF ORPHANS

Person:
Margaret Haughey

Born: 1813
Died: 1882
County: Leitrim



When Margaret Gaffney was born on Christmas Day, 1813, near Carrigallen, Co. Leitrim, no one could possibly have imagined the impact she would bring to bear on so many lives.

Leaving Leitrim

Along with her five siblings, Margaret was born into dire poverty in the early years of the 19th century. Seeing no way out of their miserable existence, her parents decided to emigrate to America, taking three of their children with them.

A Rough Crossing

In 1818, five-year-old Margaret set sail for Boston along with her parents, her brother Kevin and sister Kathleen. The six-month voyage ended in the port of Baltimore, where they decided to settle.

Alone in the World

Margaret's sister, Kathleen, died shortly after landing. In 1822, Margaret's parents died of yellow fever. Shortly afterwards, her brother Kevin went missing and was never seen again. At nine years of age, Margaret was all alone in the world.

A New Life

Taken in by a family from Ireland, Margaret worked as their maid. In 1834, she married an Irishman called Charles Haughey. They had one daughter named Frances. Charles was in poor health and so they decided to move south to New Orleans, where they thought the warmer climate might help. Sadly, both Charles and Frances passed away in 1836.

A Helping Hand

Margaret found employment in a laundry and worked long hours to make ends meet. She devoted any spare time she had helping out in a nearby orphanage, which was run by the Sisters of Charity.

Milk and Bread

Margaret bought two dairy cows and began to sell milk in the neighbourhood. Within a few years, her herd had increased to 50 cows and she travelled through the streets of New Orleans in her little cart selling milk, cream and butter.

Mother of Orphans

With the profits she made, Margaret helped to open two more orphanages in the city. Every spare minute she had was given to helping the orphans and making their lives more comfortable.



Fondly Remembered

Margaret died in 1882 at the age of 69. She was given a state funeral where thousands of mourners lined the streets of New Orleans.

The monument that stands in her honour there today is believed to be the first statue to a woman ever erected in America.



The Phoenix Park Murders

Glasnevin

believed

group

country

Phoenix

farmers

officials

violence

struggle

Margaret

The year in which _____ Haughey died – 1882 – was a troublesome year in Ireland. There was much unrest throughout the _____ due to the Land Wars. This was a _____ against the British landlords by the Irish tenant _____, to regain the land which they _____ was rightfully theirs.

Many acts of _____ took place during this struggle, but probably the most notorious was the Phoenix Park murders of 1882, when two high-ranking _____ of the British authorities, were killed as they walked through the _____ Park. The killings were carried out by a _____ known as the Invincibles.

One of the victims was Thomas Henry Burke, who was laid to rest in _____ Cemetery on May 9th, 1882.

Planet History
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DISCOVER & LEARN



WWW News
by James Mulhall

THE WEIRD, THE WONDERFUL & THE WACKY WWW NEWS

WACKY HEAVENLY HELTER-SKELTER

Many of you will have been in a church of some kind at some point in your life, but probably not one *quite* like the cathedral in Norwich, England!



A magnificent building dating back to 1096, Norwich Cathedral boasts beautifully crafted ceilings, along with ornate stone carvings and precious wall paintings.

However, to fully appreciate the craftsmanship of the high-vaulted ceilings, one would need either binoculars or a tall ladder. So, to solve this problem – ladders can be dangerous, after all – the church authorities installed a massive helter-skelter slide some 12 metres off the ground for people to climb up on and view the artwork. Coming down, of course, is the fun part!

'We all are always looking to broaden the appeal of our cathedrals because some people can feel that cathedrals are slightly exclusive, they're for a particular type of person,' explained Reverend Andy Bryant.

It should certainly make the cathedral a fun place to visit!



Rate the Wackiness: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

WEIRD PLANT HOTEL OPENS

A hotel that caters exclusively for plants has opened in London.

The owners of the Patch Plant Hotel say it's the perfect getaway for people's houseplants, for when they are going on holidays.

The five-star all-inclusive plant resort offers its 'residents' specialised packages such as custom hydration spa treatments and a one-to-one session with a plant wellness team.



There are 100 rooms available for people to book for their plants should they be heading away or feel their plant is deserving of a little holiday of its own.

Owner Freddie Blackett says, 'We all know the crushing disappointment when you return from holiday to find your plant has gone from green lusciousness to a burnt, dry bunch of twigs. We wanted to open the hotel to give a helping hand to the increasing number of plant parents.'

The hotel is currently taking bookings in Battersea in South London.



Who knows – maybe this is the way forward and people will no longer be asking family and friends to water their flowers while they're away?

Rate the Weirdness: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Wonderful THE PIZZA KING



A British man has beaten his own pizza-making record to become Europe's fastest pizza-maker for the third year running!



Zagros Jaff from Portsmouth managed to make a fresh, handmade pizza in just 27 seconds!

The Domino's Pizza employee is a dab hand at his craft now and has been awarded a golden cast of his hands for his efforts.

He managed to fight off stiff competition at the Domino's annual European Fastest Pizza Maker Competition, which sees the best pizza chefs from across the continent put their skills to the test.

Contestants are judged on their ability to make three large 13-inch pizzas at speed, each topped with 40 slices of pepperoni, 142g of mushrooms, 198g of diced cheese and a serving of tomato pizza sauce.

'I've been making Domino's pizzas for over 10 years, and to win this title once again makes me really proud,' Zagros commented.

His unique trophy will now be on display at the Portsmouth Fratto branch of the pizza company, where he trained and perfected his skills for the past decade.

Well done, Zagros! If only I could taste your victory!

Rate the Wonderfulness: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐





Planet Food
by Fiona Barry

SIMPLE SCONES

Ideal for breakfast, lunch or supper, what's not to love about scones?

Scones are thought to have originated in Scotland in the early 1500's! They were first made with oats and baked on a **griddle**, but now they're mostly made with flour and are baked in the oven.



Plain Scones

INGREDIENTS

- 350g self-raising flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 85g softened butter (cut into cubes)
- 175ml milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Beaten egg

PREPARATION TIME:

15 minutes

SERVES:

8

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Seek adult help and supervision with the hot oven.

DID YOU KNOW?

During the 1800's, the Duchess of Bedford ordered her servants to bring her tea, bread and cake one afternoon. They brought it together with scones and a cream topping which she loved so much she ordered it every afternoon thereafter. This is where the English tradition of 'Afternoon Tea' came from.



METHOD

1. Ask an adult to help you heat the oven to 220°C/Gas Mark 7.
2. Mix the flour, salt and baking powder in a large bowl.
3. Add the cubes of butter and rub everything together with your fingers until the mix looks like crumbs. Now sprinkle the caster sugar into the bowl.
4. Put the milk into a jug and heat in the microwave for 30 seconds. Once warm, add the vanilla extract.
5. Add this liquid gradually to the bowl and combine it until it forms a soft dough.
6. Sprinkle some extra flour onto the worktop – this prevents the mixture from sticking to the surface – and tip the contents of the bowl onto it.
7. Fold the dough over a number of times before patting into a round shape, approximately 4cm deep.
8. Using a circular cutter, cut eight scones from the mixture.
9. Using a basting brush, brush the top of the scones with the beaten egg and place on the baking tray.
10. Bake for 10 minutes or until golden on top.
11. Serve with butter, jam and cream.

SCONE OR SCONE?

The trickiest part about a scone, one could argue, is its name! One pronunciation rhymes with tone, while the other rhymes with gone. The origin of the word is also argued over. Some scholars believe the word 'scone' comes from the Dutch word 'schoonbrood', which means beautiful bread. However, others claim that the name comes from the ancient town of Scone, which was the capital of Scotland.



But, enough about their history, let's get baking!

For yummy fruit scones, when you reach step three, just add 75g of sultanas to your mixture!



Griddle – hot flat iron plate used for cooking food.



Basting Brush – utensil used to spread liquid on food



KITCHEN SECRETS

BUTTER THINK AHEAD!

There's nothing more annoying than realising you've forgotten to soften the butter! This is a very important step and takes time – cold butter is hard to work with, while melted butter doesn't trap the air in. So, if you fancy a bit of baking, try to think ahead – leave the butter out an hour or two before you begin!



MATHS STORY QUESTIONS

1. The ratio of boys to girls in Ms Smith's room is 4:3. How many boys are in the class? How many girls?
2. If the length of Ms Smith's classroom is 9m and the width is 7m, how much did the new carpet cost at €11.25 per square metre?
3. Can you write down in digital 24-hour format the time the first bell rang at?
4. If the morning-break bell rings at 11 a.m., how many minutes have the children spent in school since the first bell rang?
5. Can you calculate how many (a) books (b) copies and (c) notebooks should be in the schoolbags in total?
6. If four children forgot to bring in pens, how many spare pens would Ms Smith have to give out?
7. How many copies did Ms Smith leave on the trolley?
8. If each copy weighed 50g, what was the weight of (a) the copies on the table beside the computer? (b) the copies on the trolley?
9. If a book weighed on average 250g more than a copy, what was the total weight of the books on the trolley?
10. Assuming Liam's calculation is accurate, on what day and date will Ms. Smith's class be getting their summer holidays in 2020 if the current date is September 2, 2019?

MATHS STORY #84



The First Day Back

The bell rang at exactly nine nineteen a.m. Twenty-eight schoolbags (some old, many new) lay on the freshly carpeted 5th class room, almost bursting at the seams. Holidays were over and school was back in full swing!

Each of the schoolbags was supposed to hold eight books, ten copies and three notebooks. The pupils of fifth class had been asked to bring in two pencils and three pens – a blue, a black and a red one. Teacher had a number of spares in her desk. She knew her pupils well!

The school had provided a calculator, dictionary and atlas for each child – which were to be left in school at all times.

When the checklist for everything was called out, Ms Smith asked the children to put all their books, copies and notebooks on the trolley at the back of the class.

'They better be labelled!' she warned, while staring at Pete.

When it was discovered that not all copies could fit, the teacher placed one quarter of them on the table beside the computer stand.

The trolley was almost collapsing with the weight, but the children didn't mind. Better the trolley than themselves, they thought!

Just as the teacher sat back in her chair with a look of satisfaction, a hand shot up from the back of the class.

'Yes, Liam?' Ms Smith enquired.

'Teacher,' Liam smirked, 'did you know there are only 298 days until the summer holidays?'



PLANET PUZZLES
PROUDLY SPONSORED BY



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
25	63	72	45	24	64	81	14	28	39	10	55	30
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
48	50	21	66	18	32	36	52	70	99	35	27	84

Welcome, Code Crackers! As always, each answer to the 'times table' sums correspond to a letter in the grid provided. Your answer this month should reveal an inspiring quote from American civil rights activist Malcolm X. But don't forget, once you figure out the letters, you will then need to reorder them to make the words. Only then can you decipher the code. Good luck!

13x4 9x8 6x4 9x5 6x6 8x6 7x4 5x5 25x2				8x4 4x7				4x13 10x5 6x3				5x10 3x7 4x9 8x4 5x5 2x16 7x3 9x2			
10x5 3x12				2x7 6x6 2x12				9x4 8x8 4x13 26x2 9x2 4x6				8x3 8x8 10x5			
6x8 8x4 9x9 9x7 5x10 12x2 5x11				10x5 12x3				7x2 2x12 6x6				3x7 7x3 11x5 25x2 4x6 6x4			
5x5 3x7 7x3 3x6 9x2 4x6 12x2				5x10 8x8 2x9				12x3 4x7				5x5 6x6 9x5 5x10 3x9			

The SDGs

Building a Better Future



How long is it since you had your last meal? Do you have running water in your house and a bathroom to wash in? Is there a local health centre where you can go if you get sick? Do you go to school every day so that you can get a good education?



Planet Wellbeing
by Samantha Weaver

These are all things that most of us are lucky enough to take for granted – things such as food, clean water, healthcare and education – but many people in the world don't have these things. When people have different living conditions, this is inequality and, sadly, it is a worldwide problem.

The United Nations organisation (UN) tries to solve international problems, and so, in 2015, 150 leaders from all over the world met at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Here they agreed on 17 goals to help end all poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change. These goals are called Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They are goals to make a better future for everybody by calling upon all countries to take action, whether they are rich, poor or somewhere in between.

This means that we (you and I) can be a part of the solution to these problems and help achieve these goals.

The United Nations has set a target date of the year 2030 to achieve these goals – that's a lot to do with only 11 years left to go! But there are lots of things we can all do to reach this target and help to save the world. Here are a few.

Turn off the lights
when not necessary

Don't waste
paper

Take showers
instead of baths

Carpool to school
when you can

Compost food
scraps

Harvest your
rainwater

Recycle plastic, glass
and aluminium

Buy things with
less packaging

Use your bike,
walk or take
public transport

Use a refillable
water bottle

Shop
local

Buy second-hand
goods

Use your own
bags for
shopping

Donate what you
don't use



Over the next 20 issues, we're going to take a look at each of these Sustainable Development Goals and see how we can get involved in helping make the world a better place – not just for us, but for many generations to come. It's a mighty task, but if we all play our part it's one that we can achieve together.

Great Irish Sports Stars: Cora Staunton

BY EIMEAR RYAN (O'BRIEN PRESS)

This is by far the best book we have ever read. It is about Cora Staunton's life, both personal and sporting. Cora is a GAA legend in Ladies Football.

The book tells us about the build-up before the games as well as the highs and lows of not just the games but of life as well. Cora went through some tough personal times, but we won't mention any spoilers.

When Cora started playing, she played with both boys and girls. She played with Alan Dillon, who went on to play with the Mayo Senior Men's team.

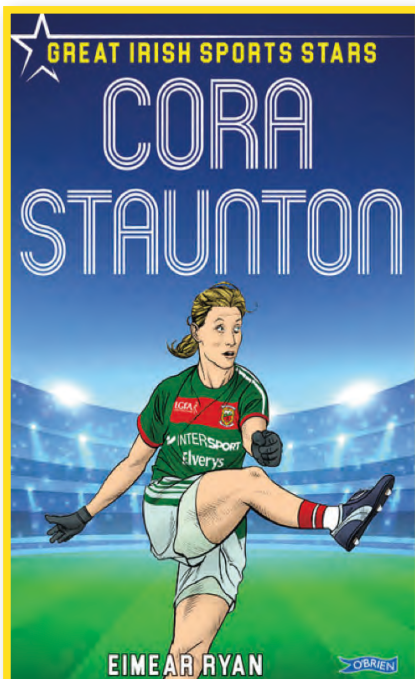
Cora worked really hard at her skills and practised lots. She even broke a couple of windows when practising at home. She admits that she is hugely competitive and says she had to learn how to deal with losing.

Her choice of secondary school was determined by which school had the best football team. She chose Ballina – where our daddy went to school!

We would highly recommend this book to all sporting enthusiasts, or anyone who wants to be inspired ... even if you are not a Mayo fan, which we are! We give this book 10 stars.

Reviewed by Ava and Rachel O'Loughlin, 5th Class, Scoil Mhuire, Newtownforbes, Co. Longford

P.S. Up, Mayo!



DID YOU KNOW?

Author Eimear Ryan is based in Cork and is a lifelong camogie player. As well as fiction, Eimear also writes a sports column for the *Irish Examiner*, mostly about the GAA.

A Murder Most Unladylike

BY ROBIN STEVENS (PENGUIN)

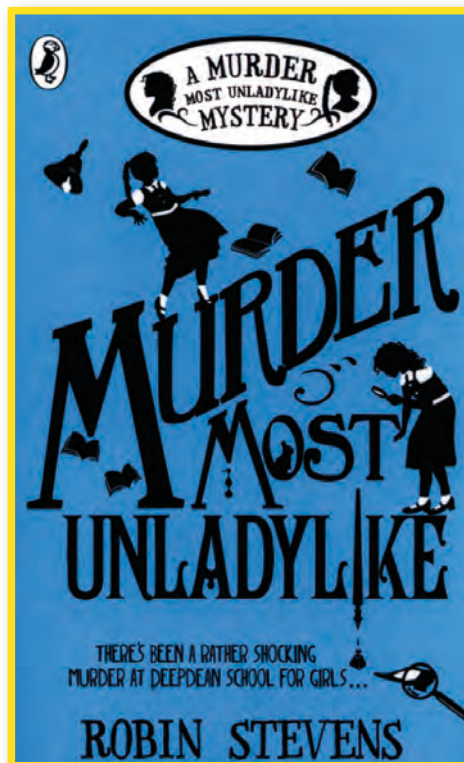
Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong have set up a detective society, but they can't find anything interesting to investigate – except for the case of Lavinia's missing tie!

But then, something horrible happens. Hazel had gone to the school gym to retrieve her pullover (which she had forgotten), only to find the body of Miss Bell, the science mistress. She is dead, after being pushed off the gym's balcony. However, just five minutes later, the body mysteriously disappears!

The teachers are the suspects (for no student could have pushed Miss Bell off the balcony) and it is up to Daisy and Hazel to solve the mystery and find out who the murderer is before time runs out!

This book is thrilling, intriguing and mysterious. *A Murder Most Unladylike* is also the first murder mystery I have read and now I'm hooked! I give this book a 10-star rating!

Reviewed by Kate Maher, Roscomroe NS, Tullamore, Co. Offaly



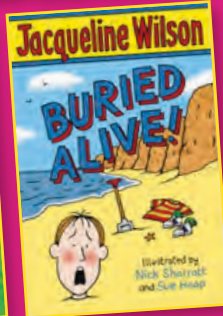
DID YOU KNOW?



Robin Stevens, author of *A Murder Most Unladylike*, was born in California but moved to England when she was three. She now works as a full-time author and has a pet bearded dragon named Watson! *A Murder Most Unladylike* is part of an 8-book set.

We have some books that need reviewing. So, if you want to read one of these titles and, more importantly, would like to write a review for Planet Books, then send us an email with your name and school address. We will pop the book in the post and look forward to receiving your review soon after.

BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW!



Email schools@theprimaryplanet.ie



THE WRITING CORNER ... PICTURED!

For Season 9, we're mixing things up once again here in the Writing Corner! Instead of giving you emojis, each month we will choose a picture for you to base your story or poem on. So, get creative with this month's choice and your story could be published in next month's issue. Keep your stories to around 400 words and email them to schools@theprimaryplanet.ie. Each published writer will receive a super-cool TPP hoodie for their efforts!

Kitten Calamity

BY KATE MAHER

Jacob had been looking forward to his birthday all year as his mam and dad had promised to get him a new bike.

When he crept downstairs on the morning of Sept 12, he saw what he had been waiting for – a shiny new red bike!

After thanking his mam and dad, they all had breakfast. Straight after, Jacob decided to go downtown for a cycle.

Within 5 minutes he had reached the main street. The wheels went tick, tick, tick as he swiftly turned off the main street and onto the roundabout heading for home.

On his way home, Jacob passed the big hotel and the new outdoor centre. However, as he was nearing home, from the corner of his eye he spotted a small white kitten, right next to the traffic lights. However, there was a car waiting to turn onto the road where the kitten was and Jacob was sure the kitten knew nothing about it.

Dropping his new bike, Jacob sprinted over to the spot and scooped up the kitten just as the lights turned green. He then ran onto the footpath just in time. All was well.

Actually, no, it wasn't!



THIS MONTH'S PICTURE

Jacob heard a loud crunch. He didn't have to look – he knew it was his new bike! When he had dropped it to save the kitten, he had forgotten to move it off the road!

What a sight! The handlebars were wrenched sideways, the back wheel was battered into an odd shape and three heavy dents could be seen on the frame. It suddenly looked ancient, not new!

When Jacob arrived home, his mam was standing outside the front door waiting to greet him.

'How was your ... your bike! What the heck happened to your bike?'

After he explained what had happened, Jacob and his mother brought the kitten to the vet ... just to be sure, and to check for a microchip. There was none. As a result, and thanks to a lot of pleading, Jacob was allowed to keep the little kitten!

He called it Lucky as he felt it was lucky that he had been there to save it. The same couldn't be said for his new bike, however!

By Kate Maher
Roscomroe NS, Roscrea, Co. Offaly

NEXT MONTH'S PICTURE

Check out next month's picture to the right. Use it as the inspiration for your short story or poem. One way of doing this is to jot down the first ten words that you think of when you look at the picture. Then, begin to create a story frame from this by asking yourself questions like: Who can this person be? What might he have in his hand? What kind of a person is he? What could he be up to? This should help you get started.

Closing Date for entries: Sept 25, 2019

