



THE PRIORY ACADEMY

LSST

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School Trends

Sterling and Holly

Online trends in schools

However it happens, every school has the same likes and trends that seem to appear out of nowhere like North face coats, '6-7', handbags and P Louise lip balm. Many people follow trends having no idea why they exist, all they know is that it is 'cool' and that 'everyone does it'. Take '6-7' for example: no one knows where it came from exactly, but then suddenly, we have videos of even Keir Starmer encouraging it in primary schools and entire classes going crazy the second someone even mutters the numbers!

Zavetti Canada and North Face coats are there in every classroom. You do not have to look around to know that there is at least five in every classroom - but why? Well, there are many speculations as to why adolescents, in particular, follow these weird and wonderful trends. We believe that all it takes is a few people to decide to do something before others begin to copy, and then more people copy. Our brains work a bit like sheep in the sense that a few will do one thing and none will follow, but sometimes, if one goes the rest will follow: this is known as 'the band wagon effect' and is common in teens and children.

People do this because of something called “heuristics”, which is where we instinctively think popular actions are correct as well as wanting to fit in. This has been happening since the dawn of men: for example, crowding together in times of danger was the method back then, and is still the method most people use now.



Earth Feature

Freya

Is Earth the Only Planet that has Life on It?

Scientists are trying to find life on different planets in our solar system, especially on Mars, both this year and last year. They have been sending rockets with robots on board in order to send pictures back to Earth. Some scientists believe that there may be more life in our universe other than just what is on our planet. Our planet is a perfect distance from the Sun, because it is not too far away, where it would be too cold, nor is it too close, where it would be too hot. This is known as the 'Goldilocks zone'.

In our solar system, other planets, including Mercury, are too close to the Sun, meaning life could never possibly develop. The same is true with Venus. The planets found further from the sun, starting with Mars, are too far away and do not have enough heat to sustain life. Therefore, it is currently believed that Earth is the only Planet in our solar system that can support organisms, allowing plants to grow and life to flourish.

Environmental News

Scott

Storm Chandra

This winter storms have been ravaging through the UK, in loads of towns and the countryside. One of these storms, named Storm Chandra, caused overflown rivers, to the point of it drowning people's cars and drenching roads and streets. People had to evacuate their homes and move into a safe area. It caused panic across the country: it closed schools and prevented people from travelling to places for holidays. Train lines were also shut down in the northern parts of Ireland and England. More than one hundred flood warnings were in place. Wind gusts of over eighty miles per hour were recorded, setting an amber warning across parts of England.

The storm raised River Otter, which overflowed and flooded the area around it. Rough seas caused even more flooding of the terrain and even more carnage. Cars were swept up in the floods, along with people, and it caused going outside to be dangerous. It also snowed in certain towns: there have been a lot of weather warnings for rain, snow and wind this winter.

Gaming News

Gregor

Roblox removing 'Classic Faces'

Recently, Roblox, a popular hub for video games of all kinds, has been under fire for stating that they will be removing a classic avatar staple that has existed since the game's start: static faces. This has been altered in favour of 'dynamic' faces, which are intended to mimic your actual face movements if using a face cam. This has not been well received by close to the entire player base, as this update involves fully replacing and retrofitting all faces across the site to be compatible with the dynamic features. This will force all creators to run their avatar faces through an AI-powered program to make their faces compatible with this new update. This has not come without its drawbacks, however, as many examples of these faces have been very poorly made, with some looking completely different in colour schemes or overall design; pixelization is very prominent.

So why has this happened? Multiple sources have claimed that it is possible that Roblox is simply trying to appeal to investors, and that the CEO of Roblox is prioritizing profits. Other sources claim that it is to simplify the face system, and to update their systems to modern standards.

Will this change happen? Due to the immense backlash, it is reported that Roblox is toning down the severity of the update, adding options to disable the animations on dynamic faces, but all classic faces will still be removed.

Why is the community upset about this update? A large part of the community does not like the way dynamic faces look, and the total replacement of classic faces will bring around variations of the original faces. Will Roblox fix these problems?

Space Feature

Sebastian

Why should we research space?

Here on Earth, we have many issues: climate change, global warming, poverty, starvation, and many more. However, humans invest so much on space expeditions and equipment. On average the UK spends £2.2 billion on space every year, so why is this money needed? Well, this money pays many people's wages, which helps the economy. The money spent on space is not only used for curiosity: NASA's DART mission is a satellite that predicts crop harvests and droughts. This technology will help farmers worldwide with their crop yields. This will improve the food supply.

Not only does this research aid day-to-day human life, but it also gives us answers to questions we never could have imagined before. Curiosity is potentially the biggest reason for space exploration, answering questions we potentially do not need to answer but we have a burning desire to discover more about the unknown. Humans have been looking up to the stars for all our history, looking for advice, the future and for the same reason as today - curiosity. As technology improves so does our knowledge of space. Our desire for discovery partnered with our need to help humanity can propel us into the future.

So, when you next look up to the sky ponder question: what is out there?

Music News

Ava

Band sells tickets for only one pound!

Indie pop band Only the Poets performed at the legendary venue, O2 Brixton Academy on the 2nd of February, which might seem unremarkable: but here's the catch – their tickets were sold for only one pound each! The band is made up of singer Tommy Longhurst, lead vocalist and guitarist, Andy "Roo" Burge, bassist and vocalist, Clem Cherry, guitarist and vocalist, and Marcus Yates, drummer and vocalist. You may recognize them from their gigs with Yungblud, Bastille and Lewis Capaldi, or when they were first given publicity on 'BBC Introducing'. Supporting them will be Belle-Dame and SEREN, who were selected out of one thousand other bands who applied to perform before Only the Poets. Longhurst explained that "Live music should not be a luxury," and that "It offers so much to so many, especially young people. If we can start a conversation that's bigger than us in the week of our debut album, playing our dream venue, then I think that's something to be proud of. We've always felt very passionate about this."

Space News

Aashritha

Scientists discover a new chilly Earth-like planet

Scientists have made a ground-breaking discovery - a new Earth-like planet, named 'HD 137010 b', which is found 146 light-years away. This chilly world is about six percent larger than our planet and orbits a Sun-like star, taking 355 days to complete one revolution.

Key Features:

- Size: Like Earth, with a radius about six percent larger.
- Orbit: Comparable to Earth's, with a year lasting 355 days.
- Temperature: Surface temperature could drop to around negative seventy degrees Celsius, comparable to Mars.
- Habitability: fifty percent chance of being in the habitable zone, where liquid water could exist.

The discovery was made using data from NASA's Kepler space telescope's extended K2 mission. Researchers are excited about HD 137010 b's proximity to our solar system, making it a prime target for future observations with next-generation telescopes.

While it is not confirmed as a habitable planet, HD 137010 b sparks hope in the search for life beyond Earth. As Dr. Chelsea Huang notes, "It's inspirational to know what type of worlds are out there".

World News

By Gregor

ICE mass deporting many immigrants

ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) is a government organization in the USA that controls all products entering and exiting the United States. They are also responsible for all emigration and immigration in the country. Additionally, they are responsible for the deportation of anyone who shouldn't be in the USA. Recently, they have come under heavy fire from some quarters, after a significant rise in deportation, which has been described as a 'wave' by those who object these actions. They reportedly detained a five year old child and his father in Minnesota in their driveway. This was part of a new crackdown on illegal citizens linked to the shooting of two National Guard members in Washington DC. These shootings were allegedly conducted by a migrant, hence the rise in deportations.

ICE agents have been recently granted permission to raid homes to search for any illegal citizens without a judicial warrant, leading to some people making extreme comparisons, such as comparing ICE to the Gestapo, a Nazi secret police responsible for enforcing harsh laws. Videos have surfaced of ICE detaining citizens claiming to have US citizenship, and an incident involving a Minnesotan man being executed on the spot, with ICE and Minnesotan authorities claiming contrasting reasons for the shooting. Protests started the same day throughout the state, and an angry protest was shut down by ICE with tear gas and flashbangs. Protests have also arisen outside airports to attempt to stop the airlines contracted by the government from deporting immigrants, justified or not.

Although these events grab the headlines, there are also those who would support tough measures against illegal immigration as they think immigration rules mean nothing if they are broken. This looks like being an ongoing debate for the United States and elsewhere in the world.

Paleontological Feature

Sebastian

Why is paleontology so important

Paleontology is a profession where people dig up and analyze fossils in the hope that we can learn more about the past and the species it held. Commonly, paleontology, the study of fossils, is mistaken with archaeology, the study of humanity's past. Paleontology is most famously known for the study of dinosaurs, but it also inquires the study of ancient plants and other species of animals such as pterosaurs (flying creatures), marine reptiles (aquatic creatures), and many others.

The first record of paleontology was in sixth century BCE but was not formally recognized until the eighteenth century. The first record of a fossil was made by a Greek philosopher called Xenophanes, who discovered the remains of shellfish. Now, in 2026, there have been multiple novels and films written about it, such as the Jurassic Park franchise, Walking With Dinosaurs (a David Attenborough documentary), and Prehistoric Planet.

There are 547 million people who work in paleontology. To work in this field, you need a PHD, eight years at university, a degree in botany or zoology, and five GCSEs at grades 9-4 including Mathematics, Science, and English. Also, employers in this field value linguists (with the ability to speak more than one language). So the next time you look down to the ground, think about what really sleeps below us.

Heroic News

Isaac

Australian Boy Swims 13 Miles to get Help

Austin Applebee was having a normal day at the beach with his sister, brother, and mother, when the paddle boards they were on drifted out too far, and kept going: that's when Austin sprang into action.

Austin swam thirteen miles to get help, and the entire time he said that he was thinking of his Mum and family, because at that time, for all he could have known, they might have been dead. As Austin began to swim the last four kilometers, he abandoned his life jacket so that then he was relying on his own strength.

Austin told the interviewer "I don't think I'm a hero", but to everyone else, he certainly is.