



Baby Yoda joins SpaceX mission

This November, four astronauts were the first ever to travel in a privately owned space taxi to the International Space Station (ISS). After a 27-hour journey in the capsule, 'Crew Dragon', the astronauts joined three other scientists, who are already conducting experiments to see how microgravity (when objects seem weightless and float about) affects human health and disease. Victor Glover is the first African-American to set foot on ISS whilst Japanese astronaut, Soichi Noguchi, is returning to ISS after almost a decade. His Baby Yoda mascot is vital as a zero gravity indicator. The astronauts, using the tagline Crew-1, will spend six months in space. The 'Crew Dragon' is owned by the American company, SpaceX. They have been developing space craft since 2002. The company's hope for the future is to make space travel so accessible that humans will eventually live on other planets. They are planning to take passengers to the moon later this decade.



*Pictured: Baby Yoda and Crew-1 take a trip in SpaceX to ISS
Source: Top: Space.com Twitter feed Bottom: Steve Jurvetson*

Disney roller coaster in parents' backyard



Pictured: Family enjoying Sean's new ride Source: LaPha Jr. @smilingfirefly

When his three children's favourite theme park closed due to the global pandemic, Sean LaRoche, along with his wife and children, were locked down with grandparents. With extra time on his hands, he decided to build a giant roller coaster in his parents' backyard. When Sean's parents agreed to the idea, they did not imagine how big it was going to be! Sean, who is studying architecture at university in California, designed a roller coaster that loops around rock formations and waterfalls. The coaster was built by thirty of Sean's friends and ended up being approximately 122 metres in length. Only one rider goes at a time and it takes 50 seconds to ride from start to finish. It is based on the Matterhorn ride at Disneyland. The ride was inspired by a European mountain in the Alps between Italy and Switzerland.



Extinct bird species returns to Britain

As part of a campaign to rewild UK marshlands the charity, the Wildlife Trust, is planning to reintroduce a giant bird that was hunted to extinction in the UK over 2000 years ago. The Dalmatian pelican is one of the heaviest flying birds. Its weight rivals that of the giant sea bird, the albatross and its size dwarfs the UK's common crane. This prehistoric bird has a wingspan of 3.5 metres and can grow to over 1.5 metres in length. The last fossils of the ancient bird species to be discovered date back to 43AD. This was during the Roman occupation of the UK, when wetlands were drained to make space for farmland and settlements. Naturalist, Ben Macdonald, who works for the Wildlife Trust, described the plan as 'extraordinarily exciting'. He explained: 'What we forget is that originally we had these giant birds here in the United Kingdom, floating over our marshes.'



*Pictured: Dalmatian pelicans dwarf the size of the UK's common crane
Source: Arjan Haverkamp*

Your thoughts on the news...

To be active as a family and encourage each other, we are doing the couch to 5k . My mummy and I also use the calm app. I'm missing my friends who I usually play with but hopefully I'll see them soon.

Alexander – age 10



What was your opinion on this week's news? Visit our discussion area, found here:

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to share your thoughts!

We should go on walks in the forest and bike rides with our family to keep active when we can't play football with our team.

Liam – age 8

Go for walks, a bike ride or a run. Play outside in the garden. Do Yoga.

Armane – age 12



YOUR COMMENTS

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