



Danish penguin breaks world record

A geriatric gentoo penguin, aptly named Olde ('great-grandmother' in Danish) became the oldest living penguin in captivity last month, winning a prized place in Guinness Book of World Records. At 41 years of age, Olde has outlived her relatives by decades; typically gentoo penguins, a species native to Antarctica, will only live for 15-20 years in the wild. Olde is a well-travelled gentoo. She was hatched at Edinburgh Zoo in Scotland on 16 May 1979. She was then moved to Montreal, Canada, where she lived for 23 years, before making her final move to Odense Zoo in Denmark in 2003. She has resided there ever since. Olde has also been a generous contributor to the gentoo breeding programme over the years, hatching sixteen chicks of her own. Her off-spring now live on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean in Canada, Scotland, Ireland, Spain, the Netherlands and the USA.



*Pictured: Gentoo penguins usually live up to 30 years in captivity.
Source: Christopher Michel*

NASA spacecraft grabs asteroid Bennu



*Pictured: NASA spacecraft Osiris-Rex orbiting asteroid Bennu
Source: Chris Meaney/NASA/Shutterstock*

The NASA spacecraft Osiris-Rex has successfully grabbed rock samples from a 500-metre wide asteroid known as Bennu this week. In a 'Touch-and-Go (TAG) manoeuvre which took four and a half hours, the spacecraft could have collected up to a kilogram of grit and dust from Bennu's surface. The US-led mission has been on-going for decades and Osiris-Rex is not due to touch down on Earth until 2023. Scientists from America and UK will examine the samples, including Sara Russell from London's British Museum, who said: "Asteroids like Bennu formed in the very, very earliest times of the Solar System. They are basically the building blocks of the planets - a time capsule that will tell us how the Sun and the planets came into being and evolved.'



Gold Impact Award for kind Year 2 Class!

When Mrs Cole's Year 2 class were asked 'Should visits to care homes be allowed?' and they realised that local residents were lonely, the children decided to show their kindness in letters written on special paper. One pupil suggested, 'Can we send a pocket hug?' so the class lovingly decorated wooden hearts with rainbows and words of hope, then wrapped them up like a game of Pass the Parcel to bring more happiness to their elderly neighbours. After leaving the gifts in quarantine for 72 hours, the pupils took the parcels to the residents themselves. Teacher, Mrs Cole told us, 'Nobody was prepared for how emotional the outcome would be!' One elderly lady cheered as the parcels were handed over and another one told staff, 'This is the happiest I've been in weeks!' The children brought such joy to the residents that they are already planning to return for a fancy dress carol singing concert in December. Well done to Gee Cross Holy Trinity for making such an amazing impact!



Pictured: Compassionate Year 2s at Gee Cross Holy Trinity School with their trophy Source: School's own collection

Last week's news story wins first Gold Impact Award...



Pictured: Children from Furlanesend CP School with their Gold Impact Award Source: Furlanesend School collection



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