

What's happening in the world today?



We encourage children to read this together with their adults at home to develop their understanding of current news items and topics for discussion. We have included links to the UN Sustainable Development Goals against each story, which will help the children to see how they can have a positive impact in the wider world.

Earthshot Prize Prince William introduced the Earthshot Prize as a way to celebrate and invest in the work of those trying to solve different environmental challenges. It is an annual prize that will be awarded every year until 2030, with this year being the first ever ceremony. Each year there will be winners in five categories and winners will be awarded £1 million each to invest in their ideas. Here are this year's categories and winners:



1. Protect and Restore Nature - This was won by The Republic of Costa Rica, which had lost a lot of their trees through deforestation, but have now doubled the size of their forests. Its programme pays the people of Costa Rica to look after their environment through planting trees and restoring ecosystems.



2. Clean our Air – India won the prize for their machine that converts farm waste into useful fuels and fertiliser that can be reused or sold by farmers in India. This means that farmers do not need to burn the waste which causes lots of pollution.



3. Revive our Oceans - Two best friends in the Bahamas have developed a way to quickly restore the world's coral reefs which have been damaged by pollution. They have made special tanks that can grow coral 50 times faster than it would ordinarily grow in nature.



4. Build a Waste-Free World - The City of Milan in Italy have won the prize for collecting unused food in the city and giving it out for free to those in need.



5. Fix our Climate – A German company have developed an environmentally friendly way to create hydrogen by splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen. Hydrogen is a clean fuel, but it is often created by burning fossil fuels.

Think about this... Prince William arrived at the ceremony by electric car, and music performances by band Coldplay and singer Ed Sheeran were powered by the energy of 60 cyclists on bikes! Can you think of any other ways that the event could have had low or no impact on the environment?



A little help with deliveries for Father Christmas

As we head towards Christmas, many businesses are starting to get busier and are looking to take on extra staff to help with the extra work. Amazon, the large online shopping site, will be offering one-off payments of up to £3,000 to attract new staff to come and work for them. Asda, the supermarket, are taking on 15,000 extra staff to work in stores, depots and help with home deliveries.



Where else might become busier over Christmas? What would you do to attract people to come and work for you?

Have you “herd” about the Worcester elephants?

The giant elephant sculptures that had been displayed around Worcester as part of an art trail have been sold at auction. 30 of the individually-designed pieces forming the town's Big Parade raised £368,800 for St Richard's Hospice. Below are “Wellyphant” and “Strawberrephant”.

How would you decorate your elephant and what would you call it?



