



Schools reopen in Wales

Schools in Wales reopened on 29 June for all year groups, but only a third of pupils are allowed in at one time. The Welsh authorities wanted pupils to have a taste of school before the new year begins in September. Martha, a seven-year-old pupil at Roath Park Primary school in Cardiff told the BBC she was excited to see her friends and teacher. In England, some nursery, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils are in school. In Scotland, schools are set to reopen in August.



More money given to zoos

Zoos and aquariums in England will receive up to £100 million from the Government to help cover costs. Throughout lockdown, zoos and aquariums have had to spend the same amount of money to keep animals fed, warm and safe, but without any of their usual income from visitors. Zoos in England were allowed to open their outdoor areas from 15 June. Scottish zoos opened on 29 June and Northern Irish zoos on 3 July. Welsh zoos will open on 6 July.



Book deal for 10-year-old

A 10-year-old boy from Shrewsbury in England has been given the opportunity to illustrate children's books in the US. Joe Whale was told off by his teachers for drawing during lessons. However, his doodles went viral after his art teacher posted them on her Instagram account. Now, a US book publisher has asked him to illustrate a series of children's books. Whale says that he draws for up to two hours each day and loves drawing aliens and monsters.



Holidays abroad could be back on.

Government to update summer holiday rules

The UK Government is set to announce a plan that will allow people to travel abroad more easily during the summer holidays.

At the time *The Week Junior* went to press, most people entering the UK from abroad have to spend two weeks in quarantine. This is when they stay in one place and do not mix with other people. The Government's plan is to create a list of safe locations that people can travel between without having to spend time in quarantine.

Countries will be graded by a traffic light system of green, amber and red. The countries with low levels of coronavirus will be classed as green or amber, and the idea is that people will not have to quarantine once they arrive back in the UK from these countries. People travelling from "red" countries will have to quarantine. No announcement about which countries were green had been made at the time *The Week Junior* went to press. However, the green list is expected to include France, Germany, Italy and Spain.

It is not yet clear if this system applies to the whole UK or just England. The UK Government oversees border

control, but health decisions – which include quarantines – are made individually by England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Meanwhile, pubs, restaurants, cafés and hairdressers are set to open in England on 4 July. Extra safety measures will be used, such as hand-washing facilities, and people will be encouraged to order food and drink via apps on their phone. Tables will be spaced further apart.

However, as *The Week Junior* went to press, there were signs of case numbers rising in some parts of England, and the city of Leicester was put under strict lockdown. This meant schools and non-essential shops (those that don't sell necessary items such as food, medicine and toilet paper) had to close.

In Scotland, people can travel more than five miles from their homes from 3 July, and pubs, restaurants and cinemas can reopen on 15 July. In Northern Ireland, hairdressers can reopen from 6 July, gyms can open on 10 July and schools are due to reopen for some pupils on 24 August. The Welsh government said it would review its rules on 9 July and let people know if restaurants, pubs and hairdressers can reopen.

ON HOLIDAY
In 2019, the average number of holidays people in the UK took abroad was 1.9 each.

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Fearless seagull filmed shoplifting bag of crisps from Dublin shop" *irishpost.com*



Government to update summer holiday rules

Once you have read the article, try any of the following activities...

Hold a debate

No doubt, we could all do with a holiday. But is this really the right time? There are plenty of signs that the virus is still 'out there'. Surely, the last thing we want to do is get it spreading again by encouraging people from lots of different places to mingle? And anyway, would it really feel like a holiday if everyone is keeping a strange distance from each other on the beach or around the pool? Or do you think this is the right time to be returning to normal? Do you believe that infections are probably decreasing enough to make it likely that you will be safe? In any case, most countries in Europe have done a better job of controlling the virus than we have in the UK, so you're probably safer abroad than you are here! What do you think?

Writing challenge!

Choose one of the following writing warm-ups.

1 Write an advertisement for taking a holiday in your own house. You can be as serious or funny as you like but make sure you use persuasive writing techniques such as appealing descriptions, questions (Are you looking for the perfect getaway?) and the second person.

or

2 Write an imagined postcard from an overseas holiday destination during this lockdown period. Describe what it is like with people keeping a safe distance from each other, wearing masks and so on.

Investigate

This virus is not the first pandemic to have affected the world. Investigate the Black Death and write a fact file about it, including key details like when it happened and how it spread.

