



## **Millthorpe Library News** **Weekly News to your Library!**

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# **Readers Write!**

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**Thank you to all readers who entered last week's competition, we have our winning piece of writing displayed on the following page.**

### **Wagner rebellion**

The Russian Wagner group advanced on Moscow earlier this week before being turned back by their leader. They have now been consigned to Belarus, which could spell trouble for NATO.  
**(Read page 3 to find out more).**

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### **In this issue:**

- Readers Write Winning Page
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- Science & Environment News
- Around The World
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- Book of The Week
- Media Review
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- AI - Language Learning Apps
- Saudi Arabian Football League
- Puzzles
- Website Links & Credits

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## **Issue No.35 29/06/23**

By Oliver Lynch, Jared Van Scalkwyk, Will Bruce, Tom Brook, Frank Walker, Freddie Newton, George Moir, William Bradley & Annalise Buchanan.

## Top 5 least edible plants!

By:  
Melissa Dodd &  
Jess O'Mahon

1. **The Gympie-Gympie plant:**

This plant has tiny hairs that pierce your skin and break off and are really hard to remove. The pain can last months!



2. **Abrus Precatorius - Crab's Eye or Rosary Pea:**  
Symptoms of consuming the Crab's Eye include vomiting, nausea, liver failure and death. A single seed is enough to kill an adult human. Inhaling the dust of this plant is toxic and can be fatal.



3. **Arnica Montana - Mountain Arnica:**  
Contains the toxin helenalin which is fatal if eaten. Contact with this plant can cause irritation and when eaten can cause internal bleeding, muscular weakness and death. It is also mutagenic (can alter DNA).



4. **Oleander (Nerium Oleander):**  
This plant has striking flowers, but don't be fooled by its beauty. Just touching this plant is enough to kill you, as the plant has poisonous sap. It also has toxic fumes.



5. **Cactus:**  
Just don't eat this. No need to explain.



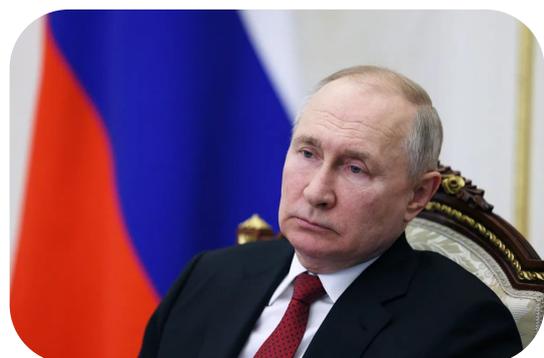


# Wagner Rebels against Putin

This week's military news started off on Friday, when the private military company Wagner Group claimed control over military facilities and an airport in Rostov-on-Don, the largest city in Southern Russia. They then drove in a column through the Voronezh region and managed to reach as far north as the Lipetsk region and get within 120 miles of Moscow, Russia's capital, before turning back on Saturday, a move the founder of the Wagner Group, Yevgeny Prigozhin, said would avoid bloodshed.

Since then, mercenaries have been presented with three clear options: sign regular army contracts, go home, or head to Belarus. It has been confirmed that the Wagner chief has landed in Belarus and clearly taken that option. Presidents of bordering countries, chiefly Poland and Lithuania, have stated that "the presence of the Wagner group in Belarus may be a potential threat to Poland, Lithuania, and potentially Latvia". NATO is "ready to defend itself against any threat" with four multinational battalions (roughly 1000 soldiers) in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland, along with a land, Sea, and air presence in the southeast. As of May, allies have begun exercising the ability to rapidly deploy reinforcements in order to expand the battalions up to brigade size (roughly 5000 soldiers).

Also, France has begun testing a hypersonic glider warhead capable of changing direction mid-flight, enabling it to zigzag past air defences. It can exceed speeds of 3700 mph, or Mach 5. No outcomes of the test have been revealed as of yet.





# Titanic submersible implodes



The Titan submersible, as covered in issue 34, presumably imploded on Sunday last week. US authorities have concluded that the submersible suffered a catastrophic implosion (a violent collapse inward because of pressure change), killing all 5 passengers, after a debris field was located in the North Atlantic. The US Navy has claimed that they picked up sounds consistent with implosion shortly after the sub went missing and lost contact, but the information wasn't released until Thursday. The sub is said to have imploded at a depth of 3,800m below sea level at a decent to the wreck of the Titanic.

The loss of the Titan was confirmed after a search of the coast of Newfoundland, Canada. The passengers included British businessman Hamish Harding, Pakistani investor Shahzada Dawood and his 19 year old son, Suleman, French diver Paul-Henri Nargeolet, and OceanGate CEO Stockton Rush. All have unfortunately died in the implosion on Sunday. Suleman's aunt said that Suleman was terrified to embark on the trip, but did so anyway so he wouldn't disappoint his Titanic-obsessed dad. The hull of Titan has thought to have collapsed due to high water pressure, imploding inwards and collapsing on itself at a speed of about 1,500 mph (2,414 km/h), causing it to collapse in a time period of just 1 millisecond (1/1000 of a second). Human stimulus occurs after 25 milliseconds, meaning that the passengers won't have actually suffered during the collapse, and many family members of the passengers have claimed this was the best possible outcome. On 28th June, the wreckage and debris of the implosion was brought ashore to St John's, Newfoundland, Canada around 370 miles (596 km) away from the Titanic shipwreck. Questions have been raised about the design of the deep-diving craft itself, of which are normally built with robust metals such as titanium and are shaped like a sphere to spread pressure around the cabin evenly. However, to fit more people inside, the Titan adopted a cylindrical shape to fit more people inside, and used a carbon fibre tube between titanium end caps. The actual robustness of the carbon fibre has thought to have been reduced over repeated dives, unfortunately leading to an implosion. An investigation has been launched by the US Coast guard into this catastrophe and the engineering of the submersible.





## ‘Miracle Material’ could take over solar industry

A so-called ‘miracle material’ is finally entering production in China after years of speculation and could revolutionise solar panels fundamentally. Solar cell efficiency has increased tenfold in the last decade and continues to improve. The most widely used material for solar cells is currently silicon, a common and cheap element to gather, representing 85% of the world’s solar panel material. However, in 2020, a new material known as perovskite broke the world record for solar efficiency with the highest ever amount of energy being harvested from the sun into the cells.

When combined with silicon, the two materials the efficiency rate climbed to 29.15% in comparison to the previous record of 28%. Efficiency is calculated by the amount of sunlight that reaches the Earth’s surface in a specific area by the area of the panel. If all the sunlight that hit that area was absorbed by the panels, the efficiency would be 100%. Professor Tan Hairen from Nanjing University in China said “The raw materials for making perovskite cells are cheap and abundant, making the production costs of these cells just one 20th of traditional solar cells.”

### Research lost as cleaner turns off fridge!

Major experiments and developments regarding solar panels spanning decades of work in what could’ve been groundbreaking have ended after a cleaner turned off a fridge that was part of the experiment and the research was lost. What’s worse is a sign on the freezer’s door read: “This freezer is beeping as it is under repair. Please do not move or unplug it. No cleaning required in this area.” A lawsuit has been filed against the cleaner after over \$1 million was lost in the damages.

**Perovskite stone in raw form.**



## Earth’s rotational axis shifted by irrigation.

Runoff, where there is more water on the surface of land than the soil can absorb, from irrigation practises, has been shifting Earth’s rotational axis according to new data.

Many people might envision Earth’s shape as a perfect, even sphere but it’s not; instead it’s an oblate spheroid, with high mountains and deep sea trenches that disperse mass unevenly and shape the planet similarly to a potato. The entire globe is also spinning, and in the event that you move enough mass from one area to another, the planet will wobble as it spins. A hydrologist (someone who studies water) said that he sees it as a “waterlogged softball”, which wobbles more with the more liquid inside. In other words, if a lot of mass is concentrated in certain areas the Earth’s axis and shape will be affected as it becomes unbalanced. Polar drift, where the poles of the

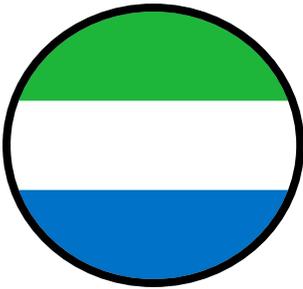
Earth move over time, is a phenomenon that usually happens naturally however, this can also occur via irrigation the new study shows. The scientists involved in the experiment used computer simulations to see how enclosed bodies of water such as dams might affect polar drift. Professor Seo in the study found that polar drift only occurred when groundwater pumping was included in the simulation. Previous studies found that from 1993 to 2010 2 trillion metric tonnes of water was redistributed from land based aquifers like reservoirs to the oceans, ultimately leading to a global sea level rise of over 6mm. Whilst this might seem small, it was enough to shift the North Pole on average 4cm every year and highlights how much humans truly have an influence on the planet. Alongside this, the data shows that the Earth’s tilt has shifted Eastward by 31.5 inches (80cm). Melting ice is also speeding up this process but scientists say that the shifts are too small to make changes in the weather.

**Humanitie’s immense demand for water is affecting Earth.**





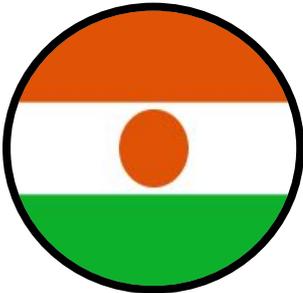
# Around The World



The first set of results from the recent Sierra Leone elections have been revealed. The votes from 60% of tallied polling stations have revealed that Julius Maada Bio is currently in the lead, with 56% of the vote, according to the electoral commission. His closest rival, Samura Kamara of the All People’s Congress (APC), currently holds 42% of the vote.



Salt farmers are struggling in the West African Country of Niger. People have worked within the Kalala salt pits for hundreds of years, however, locals are struggling to sell salt, as there are less buyers than there used to be due to people settling down to farm instead of living nomadic lifestyles (migrating often). Due to this, less people are passing through town and less salt is sold.



Lebanon’s Parliament has failed to elect a President for the 12th time since October 2022. No one managed to get enough votes in the first round, and before the second round began many politicians left. They were led in the elections by Hezbollah, a Muslim party who doesn’t accept one of the main candidates, who is supported by Christian parties.



While many Countries are trying to restrict migrants, the German Government has introduced a new law to attract migrant workers to the country. A Canada-style points system take into account certain factors including age, qualifications, skills, and any links toward germany. This law has said to lower hurdles and reduce red-tape for migrants outside the EU, and will make it much easier for migrants to enter Germany with or even without a job offer.



“All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others.” This famous quote from George Orwell’s novel has found such resonance in Zimbabwe that author Petina Gappah has decided to translate the novel ‘Animal Farm’ into the local Shona language. “There is something about the story that spoke so much to the reality of Zimbabwe,” the award-winning Zimbabwean author and lawyer told the BBC.



THIS WEEK'S TOPIC FOR DEBATE AND DISCUSSION IS:  
**Should success be based on academic performance?**

**FACTS:**

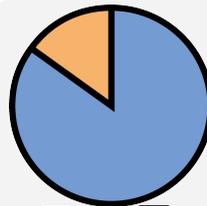
- **Academic** performance primarily measures one's ability to excel in a structured educational environment. It assesses factors such as knowledge acquisition, critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and the ability to meet specific academic standards. However, success encompasses a much broader range of qualities and achievements that cannot be fully captured by academic performance alone.
- **Success** can be measured by personal fulfillment, happiness, professional accomplishments, leadership abilities, creativity, adaptability, resilience, emotional intelligence, social skills, and contributions to society.
- It's important to recognize that individuals have unique strengths and abilities that may not necessarily align with traditional academic measures. Some people may excel academically but struggle in other areas of life, while others may thrive in non-academic pursuits.



**FOR**

Useful in life • Credentials • Character building

**Academic** performance reflects a person's ability to acquire knowledge and develop skills within a structured educational system. Success in academic pursuits can indicate a strong foundation in various subjects, critical thinking abilities and problem-solving skills. Academic performance often translates into credentials such as degrees, diplomas, or certifications. These credentials can open doors to numerous opportunities. Consistently performing well academically requires discipline, perseverance, time management, and a commitment to learning. These qualities cultivated through academic pursuits can contribute to personal development and character-building.



**Last fortnight's results on:**  
**Should we allow AI to advance further?**  
 Thanks for voting!

**AGAINST**

Diverse talents • Applicable • Happiness

**Success** can be found in various domains that may not directly correlate with academic performance. Many individuals possess talents and skills that are not necessarily reflected in traditional academic measures. Fields such as art, music and sports. While academic performance provides a foundation of knowledge, success often depends on the ability to apply that knowledge effectively in real-world situations. Success should also be defined by personal fulfillment and happiness. Academic performance does not necessarily guarantee happiness or a sense of purpose.

**FEATURED OPINION: Will Bruce, writer**

While education is a key part of the success of many people, I don't think that success can only be based on academic performance. There are many fields that are now accessible to learn online, and training yourself is also a popular method of pursuing a dream.

**HOW DO I VOTE?**

View the instructions on the voting page that is next to the issue stand. Voting closes 05/06



# Book of the Week

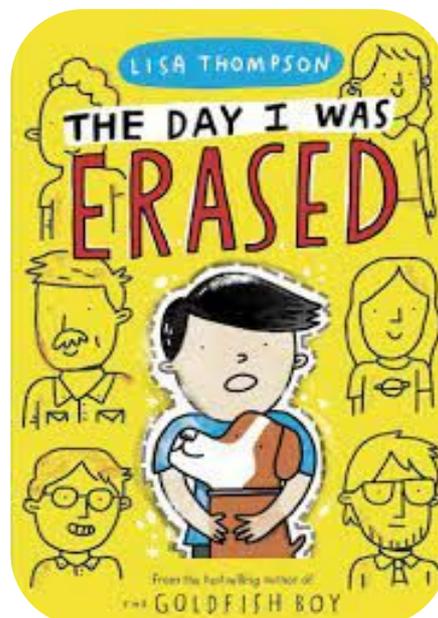


## THE DAY I WAS ERASED

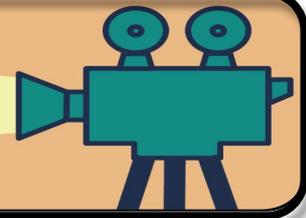
Maxwell is constantly in trouble at school and at home, especially when he is wound up from hearing his parents argue. After hurting his best friend, he is banned from attending the school's Centenary Ball. Not wanting to miss out, Maxwell sneaks in but ends up in enormous trouble after switching off the electricity! He seeks solace with Reg, his trusted neighbour, but a strange turn of events transports Maxwell to a world where nobody, not even his parents or sister, recognises him. It's as if he never existed. Maxwell suspects the historical curiosities in Reg's house contain clues to help him return to his old life, but he can't fix this alone. Can he win the affection of his pal again? Read the book to find out!

### Age Rating:

The age rating for this book is 11+, so everyone in the school can read it.



# Media Review



## Spider man across the spider verse

*may contain spoilers*

Spider-man across the spider verse has been drawn from cinemas in more than a dozen countries for apparently no reason although it is speculated that it is due to the movie's positive stance on transgender people, seen in the image below. Some of the countries that have banned the new film include: UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait etc. For many of these countries it follows suite as there are a lot of anti LGBTQ laws in this area especially in the Middle East. For instance the 2022 film *'Lightyear'* was banned in 13 Countries due to a 1 second kiss by a lesbian couple.

This new poster has led to many fans speculating on whether Gwen Stacy (the character in the photo below) is transgender. This would mean that she was the first trans character in the MCU, which would be great representation for trans people.

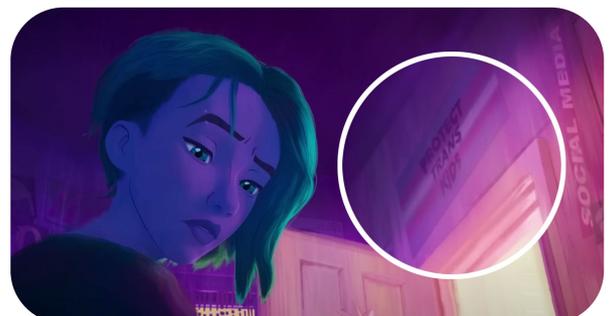
In 2022 UAE reportedly said that they would no-longer censor films however this is one of the account of them going back on their promise since that law has been created.

Since the new 'don't say gay' bill passed in Florida, some viewers have voiced their concerns that the new spider man film may be cut from cinemas in America, which could be seen as a violation of free speech.

Age Rating:



*"Trans Erasure is pretty bad and stuff"*  
- George Moir





# Music Review



## Top of the charts:

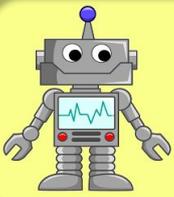
1. Sprinter  
*Dave/ Central Cee*
2. Who Told You  
*J Hus/ Drake*
3. Miracle  
*Calvin Harris/ Ellie Goulding*
4. Giving Me  
*Jazzy*
5. React  
*Switch Disco/ Ella Henderson/  
Robert Miles*
6. Dancing Is Healing  
*Rudimental/ Charlotte Plank/  
Vibe Chemistry*
7. As It Was  
*Harry Styles*

## Glastonbury:

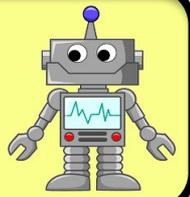
Every year, Glastonbury festival is held in Somerset, England. It has the biggest bands and the biggest singers of the year and previously. It grosses £3.53 million, but we don't always remember Glastonbury's humble beginnings. Created in 1970 it originally cost only £1, it originally headlined the Kinks, and Wayne Fontana. However these acts were replaced at short notice by T. Rex. In 1971 (only the second year running) the iconic pyramid stage is built, modeled after the great pyramid of Giza except made out of scaffolding and metal sheets. This year so far, Elton John's performance has been a very popular one, with this year's concert possibly being is last in the UK.

## Guess the song:

**\*Answers will be on next week's puzzles page**



# Latest Tech News!



## Students Switch To AI To Learn Languages

ChatGPT, an AI chatbot that can do anything from having a realistic conversation to writing essays. But now, its being used for something a bit different; learning languages. Not only can the software correct errors and mistakes in someone's work, it can give regional variations of a language, for example Mexican Spanish and even Spanglish (a mix of Spanish and English).

One user said unlike when I'm chatting to him (a friend) on WhatsApp, I don't have to factor in time zone differences.

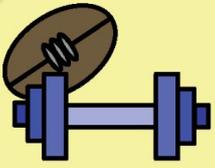
My friend is less happy however. "So you've replaced me?" he remarked. She also said AI chatbots can't compete with the pleasure of chatting with a friend. However, this platform is being increasingly used all over the world for people to brush up on their language learning and skills.

It's not just ChatGPT that are adopting the use of AI in language learning. There are also things like LangAI which was launched in March this year by Federico Ruiz Cassarino, who said chatting every day is a much better way to learn languages than in an academic setting. Using AI also defeats the possibility of judgement that can be inflicted by people when one is learning a language. Rather than scripted language learning you can focus on the topics that are important or interesting to you. According to LangAI, 45% of the users that use the app for 10 minutes continue to do so a month later. Popular language learning apps like Duolingo have been integrating AI into their apps over the past year.

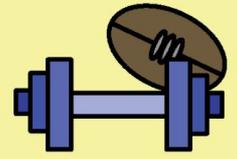


ChatGPT





# Sport News



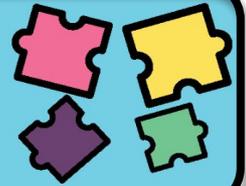
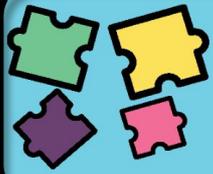
## Football Abroad

### Saudi Arabian football league on the rise

Since the start of this year, we have seen a big improvement in the Saudi leagues. The rise started when Cristiano Ronaldo joined Al Nassr on New Year's Eve. The summer transfer window coming up will prove a crucial one for many Saudi clubs, with the likes of Karim Benzema, N'golo Kante, Ruben Neves, Edouard Mendy, and many more already jumping on the bandwagon. The biggest temptation for players to move to Saudi Arabia is the pay. Ronaldo's new salary at Al Nassr is reported to be around £173,000,000. The latest transfer links to the league have been Roberto Firmino and Jesse Lingard, both set up for big money moves.



# Puzzles



## Riddles

Easy - Why did the chicken cross the playground?

Medium - What has many rings but no fingers?

Hard - Give me a drink, and I will die. Feed me, and I'll get bigger. What am I?

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   | 3 | 5 | 7 |   | 2 |   |   |
| 2 | 9 |   | 1 |   | 3 |   |   | 6 |
|   |   |   |   |   | 4 | 1 | 9 |   |
|   | 8 | 2 |   | 3 |   |   | 1 | 7 |
|   |   |   | 7 |   | 8 |   |   |   |
| 9 | 1 |   |   | 4 |   | 3 | 6 |   |
|   | 2 | 1 | 4 |   |   |   |   |   |
| 7 |   |   | 8 |   | 1 |   | 2 | 5 |
|   |   | 5 |   | 9 | 2 | 6 |   |   |

\*(This sudoku will be cut out next to the issue stand for you to complete)!

$$\text{House} \times \text{Church} - \text{House} = 70$$

$$\text{House} - \text{Pagoda} \times \text{House} = -390$$

$$\text{Church} \times \text{Pagoda} + \text{Church} = 192$$

$$\text{House} \times \text{Pagoda} \times \text{Church} = ?$$

## Last Issues Answers

Easy - Your pointless., Medium - 11, Hard - A candle  
& Music - Georgie Porgie Puddington Pie

# Visit Our Website

Hello! As you may have known, Millthorpe News actually has its own website!

Here, you can read the newspaper digitally, view older newspapers and even take quizzes!

**Note: You must be signed in your school account to access it.**

**All this is available at:**

**[sites.google.com/millthorpe.southbank.academy/millthorpenews](https://sites.google.com/millthorpe.southbank.academy/millthorpenews)**

**Or for after school use only:**

**Scan the QR code:**



See you there!

# Credits

## Editorial Team

### Y9 - Oliver Lynch

Head Editor, Writer & Site Editor.

### Y9 - Jared Van Schalkwyk

Head of Graphic Design & Debate  
and Discussion Writer.

### Y9 - Tom Brook

Head of Marketing, Recruitment &  
Part Time News Writer.

## Writers

### Y9 - George Moir

Music & Media Review Writer.

### Y9 - Will Bruce

Sports News Writer.

### Y7- Frank Walker

Writer.

### Y9 - William Bradley

Part-Time Around the World  
Writer & Main News Writer.

### Y9 - Freddie Newton

Science & Environment Writer &  
News Writer.

### Y9 - Annalise Buchanan

Graphic Designer.

## You can be here!

Email or ask a member of our team to join.



MILLTHORPE LIBRARY NEWS PRESENTS THIS WEEK'S TOPIC FOR  
**DEBATE AND DISCUSSION:**

SHOULD SUCCESS BE BASED ON  
**ACADEMIC  
PERFORMANCE**



**VOICE YOUR  
OPINION:**

**PICK UP MILLTHORPE LIBRARY  
NEWS TODAY, TURN TO PAGE 7  
AND CAST YOUR VOTE. THE  
NEWS IS FOUND AT THE  
ENTRANCE TO THE LIBRARY.  
MAKE YOUR VOTE.  
TODAY.**