

## Pool Rescue Surprise

On 2<sup>nd</sup> February, it is International Hedgehog Day – a day to learn and think about hedgehogs. Recently, one very special hedgehog has given everyone an extra reason to smile!

In South Africa, a hedgehog was found struggling in a swimming pool, as she had fallen into the water and could not get out. She was cold, wet, and very worn out! A wildlife rescuer called Hermien Grobler rushed to help her and then made sure she was warm, safe, and cared for. At first, the hedgehog just seemed to be resting and getting better. However, the next morning brought a big surprise... the brave little hedgehog had three tiny babies! The South African Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre



**Pictured:** A tiny hoglet in a human's hand!  
**Source:** Canva.

said the hedgehog mum and her babies were 'growing stronger by the day'. Now, the hedgehog mum is eating lots to look after her prickly little family, and the babies are getting bigger each day. Baby hedgehogs are tiny when they are born, about the size of a large grape!

**Did you know that baby hedgehogs are called hoglets?**  
**A group of hoglets is called a prickle or an array!**

## Norway Charging Ahead!

In 2025, 96% of new cars sold in Norway were electric. This means most people choosing a new car there are picking one that runs on electricity, not petrol or diesel. Electric cars do not need fuel from a pump (like petrol and diesel cars do) because they have a large battery inside. This battery gives power to the car

so it can move. When the battery gets low, the car is plugged in to charge, a bit like charging a phone or tablet.

Cars can be charged at home or at special charging points. Electric cars are very quiet and do not make exhaust fumes when they are being driven. Other countries are also seeing more electric cars being sold. In the UK, there are plans for no new petrol and diesel cars to be sold from 2030, and all new cars will be electric instead.

**How old will you be in 2030? What do you think about electric cars? Have you seen any when you are out and about?**



**Pictured:** An electric car charging.  
**Source:** Canva.

**Can awards encourage people to help others and care for the world?**



I want to care for all the pandas. They are my favourite and I would like to win an award when I am older for helping them. **Xander**

**Let us know what you think about this week's news**



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## Time to Talk

Time to Talk Day is an awareness day encouraging people to talk to each other about mental health. This year it is on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February. The annual event is described by the charity, Mind, as 'the nation's biggest mental health conversation'. The day encourages everyone to talk about mental health as part of everyday life. It's a day for friends, families, communities, workplaces, and schools to come together to talk, listen, and change lives.



**Pictured:** People talking. **Source:** Canva.



**Pictured:** Children talking.  
**Source:** Canva.

Some schools are holding special assemblies or lessons, organising fundraising events, or participating in walk and talks. You can find advice, ideas, and inspirational social media posts on the Mind website. Some examples are, 'You don't need to have all the answers to be a good listener. Sometimes a friendly ear and space to share is all someone needs. Let someone know they're being heard this Time To Talk Day.'

**Do you think it is good to talk about your feelings?**

**Who do you like to talk to?**

## Ray Rescue

A mobula ray has been rescued after becoming entangled in fishing rope and encircled by sharks in the ocean, near Baja California, Mexico. Underwater photographers and free divers worked together to free a mobula ray that was about 18 metres underwater. The line, tied to a shark fisherman's buoy, was carefully cut away to eventually release the distressed and injured animal. The ray later swam back around the divers in what they described as a 'thank you' moment. The team of rescuers included photographer Andre Smits, who described the event. He said, 'It was completely entangled. The rope was going around almost every part of the ray! The beautiful thing was we cut her free, we released her, and



**Pictured:** Mobula Ray leaping from the ocean.  
**Source:** Andre Smits on Facebook.

she swam away about 30 meters and then it felt like she decided to come back. She really swam back to us and did a 'thank you' circle. She came right between us to our faces, almost giving us a grateful hug.' Mobula rays, also called flying rays, are known for their energetic leaps out of the sea. Scientists say that they don't know exactly why they jump, but suggest it could be a way of removing parasites, a form of communication, part of mating displays, or they might be playing! **Do you know any facts about mobula rays? Why do you think they leap from the sea?**

**Can awards encourage people to help others and care for the world?**



This award makes me want to find something in nature to protect – I want to find out all about it and then find out how people can protect it!  
**Adam**

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