



SAVE OUR COASTS!

Kids send prime minister an urgent message

KIDS from the UK Children's Parliament (UKCP) have written to Prime Minister Keir Starmer, in a bid to save the country's crumbling coastlines.

Erosion is when coasts and cliffs are worn away by the force of nature, making them unsafe. One of the worst areas in Europe for this is in Hemsby, in Norfolk. There, some homes have had to be knocked down to prevent them from tumbling into the sea.

Four-point plan

It was in Hemsby that children from the UKCP held an emergency meeting to discuss the problem, chatting to local councils and residents who have been forced to abandon their homes.

The group of young UKCP members,

who attend schools in London, Essex and Norfolk, agreed a four-point plan to tackle the issue.

It includes better support for people who've been forced from their homes, and for coastal erosion to be treated with the same urgency as flooding.

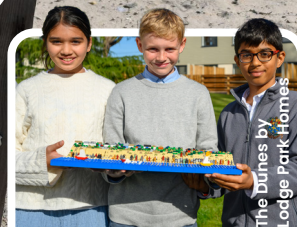
Clark Dearson, the 11-year-old Child Prime Minister of the UKCP, said that coastal erosion was a "very real and immediate problem". He added: "If nothing's done, it could, at best, forever change the lives of many local people and the local economy – and, at worst, could result in a substantial loss of life."

The UKCP's findings have been sent to Mr Starmer and other senior politicians.

10cm

Erosion causes around a quarter of coastlines in England and Wales to lose more than 10cm of land a year.

Important Notice:
DANGER
UNSTABLE CLIFFS
RISK OF INJURY
NO PUBLIC ACCESS
KEEP AWAY.



The bunses by Lodge Park Homes

£4,000

The UKCP's meeting featured this brilliant £4,000 LEGO model to show coastal erosion. It will be auctioned to raise money for local lifeboat and coastline charities in Hemsby.

More fighting in the Middle East



Above: cars queue to flee missiles hits
Right: a missile hits

THOUSANDS in Lebanon have fled their homes, with the country under heavy fire from Israeli missiles.

Lebanon shares a border with Israel. On Monday, Israel's army said that it had hit 1,600 sites controlled by Hezbollah – a group that runs Lebanon's most powerful army.

Lebanon's health ministry said that Monday's missile strikes had killed at least 558 people, and injured 1,835.

In response, Hezbollah fired missiles back at Israel. Most of them were either destroyed or fell in safe, open areas, Israel said, but 48 people were killed.

Why is this happening?

Hezbollah is classed as a terrorist group by countries such as the UK and the USA. It has a large supply of missiles and has been firing them at Israel to support Hamas – the group that runs Gaza and is at war with Israel.

Due to the rise in danger, all schools in Lebanon were shut when *First News* went to press, with some being used as shelter for civilians. Schools were also shut in northern Israel. Some airlines, including British Airways, cancelled flights to Beirut in Lebanon and Tel Aviv in Israel.

RADICAL RATS!

A TALENTED team of rats has been trained to help humans tackle the illegal wildlife trade!

APOPO, a rat-training charity, has found that African giant pouched rats can use their super sense of smell to detect four types of items that come from endangered species and are sold illegally – rhino horn,

elephant ivory, pangolin scales and African blackwood.

The rats are able to sniff out these items even when they're hidden in parcels and masked by other scents.

The researchers say that the rats are a cheaper way of finding these items than using expensive tech like X-rays.



They're like real-life Detective Pikachu!

EDITOR'S COMMENT



Nicky Cox MBE

THIS week, I asked people to guess how many plastic bottles of water were sold every minute.

Nobody guessed that it was as many as one million (front page). It's a staggering number and a huge problem for the planet.

As with many environmental problems, we already have the answer... stop buying them!

By switching to reusable bottles and filling them with (often healthier) tap water, we can reduce plastic waste, save money, reduce our carbon footprint and be healthier.

It's a small but powerful step to protect both the planet and people. So, let's do this!



Bison survived in European zoos

Bison

NEW bridges are being built in Kent to give people a good view of the first wild bison herd in the UK for thousands of years! European bison became extinct in Britain 6,000 years ago, but they're making a comeback. A herd of three bison was released in 2022, and it's already doubled in size after the birth of three calves.



Russian chess players

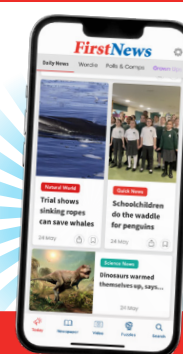
THE International Chess Federation has voted to continue banning Russia's chess team from taking part in international competitions. The team was banned first in 2022, after Russia invaded Ukraine. The Ukrainian Chess Federation's Viktor Kapustin told the BBC: "[Russia] must be punished in all spheres of their life, including sport."



Russia's ally, Belarus, is banned, too

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