

FUN DAY TIMES



Celebrating Diwali

Pic. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara



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COMPETITIONS**
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Please send competition entries to:

Funday Times
C/O the Sunday Times
P.O. Box 1136, Colombo.
Or
8, Hunupitiya Cross Road,
Colombo 2.

Please note that competition entries are accepted by email.

All competition entries should be certified by a parent or guardian as your own work.

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Please write the name of the competition and the date clearly at the top of your entry and include the following details:

Full Name, Date of Birth, Address,
Telephone Number and School.

Please underline the name most commonly used.

Competition entries without the full details requested above, will be disqualified.

Closing date for weekly competitions:

November 12, 2025

**In our online issue this week:**

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Please log on to the Funday Times website on www.fundaytimes.lk or check out the Sunday Times epaper on www.sundaytimes.lk for additional pages of this week's Funday Times.

Please remember that **ARTICLES, POEMS and PAINTINGS** sent, will not be published unless they are certified as your own work by a parent or teacher. Also please mention the topic, your full name, date of birth and address in your entry. Articles should not exceed 200 words. Art should be on A4 size paper.

**Exams are here**

Oh no! Exams are here,
We just study and study all day,
No playing outside or watching TV,
Oh! What a headache but not every day.

Yethmini Mandeena (Grade 6)
Musaeus College, Colombo

My exam

My exam started on Monday. We had to drink water before we started the exam.

My first subject was Sinhala. It was very easy. Every day we had a different subject.

I got over 96 for all the subjects. I was very happy. I told my mother and father. They were very happy. They gave me a toy Land cruiser.

Niveyn Gooneratne (Grade 3)
St. Thomas' Preparatory School, Colombo

My lovely grandmother

My grandmother's name is Jeseema. She is a very kind person. She cooks tasty food for me. My grandmother gives me tight hugs. My baby brother loves her so much and I too love her so much.

Two months ago I had to say goodbye to her because she flew to New Zealand. I miss my grandmother.

Zarah Zahran (Grade 2)
Hejaaz Int. School

The world I want to live in

The world I want to live in is one where peace, equality and kindness are at the heart of every community. I imagine a world where people respect one another regardless of race, religion or background. In this world there is no war or hatred – only understanding and co-operation.

Education and healthcare are available to everyone, no matter where they live or how much money they have. Children everywhere have the right to learn, dream and grow in a safe and supportive environment. No child goes to bed hungry and no one is left behind because of poverty.

The environment is also protected with care. Forests are preserved, oceans are clean and animals are safe in their natural

habitats. People use technology wisely – to help solve problems like pollution and climate change, not to harm the planet or each other.

In the world I want to live in, kindness is more powerful and helping others is more important than personal gain. Governments work for the people, and leaders listen with compassion and fairness.

Although this world may not exist today, I believe we can build it – step by step, by making good choices, standing up for what is right and treating others with respect. This is the future I hope to see.

Swethlana Jayawardana (13 years)
Sujatha Vidyalaya, Nugegoda

Noah's Ark

Leah Emily (7 years)
Jesus Lives Evangelical International Ministry

Watching the sunset on a fine day

Aryana Jayathunga (7 years)
Elizabeth Moir Junior School

'Siyapaththala 2024' our annual concert

Samithrie Weerasinghe (7 years)
Anula Vidyalaya, Nugegoda

My teacher



Senul Thevjan (Grade 2)
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

My home



Pradeeksha Prashanna (5 years)
Lyceum Int. School, Wattala

Sheep



Sayuri Rajakaruna (11 years)
Good Shepherd Convent, Kandy

Car Race



Yeran Kekulandara (9 years)
Sri Chandananda Buddhist College,
Kandy

The beach

Holidays are the best moments that we can enjoy our lives with happiness and enjoyment. It also calms our minds and helps us to relax our body.

The best place to visit on a holiday is the beach. It is a great place to relax our body and mind.

The beach is a great place to play and go on picnics. When the sun sets, a lot of people come to the beach. The sea waves move calmly and peacefully.

There are a lot of things that we can do. We can collect seashells and make sandcastles. We can find so many sea creatures on the beach too.

When we go to the beach, we should carry our swimming kit, umbrella, goggles and meals.

We must be careful to obey the rules when we are on the beach. We should not swim beyond the red flags and we must not feed animals that come to us.

We have to look after the beach.

Binudi Aloysius (Grade 6)
Mazenod College, Anuradhapura

From an overseas reader

My new school

My new school is in Victoria, Australia. It is call St. Paul's Primary School. It is big. We start at 9 a.m., and finish at 3.20 p.m. St. Paul's is a multicultural school. Mrs. Sutherland is our principal.

My school colours are red and green. There are four Houses and I belong to 'Hill House', which is red in colour.

There is a library, canteen and two playgrounds in my new school. We have separate uniforms for winter and summer.

My class teacher's name is Mrs. Brouwers. This week we had swimming. Some of my friends are Lottie, Layla, Abree, Ruby, Elsa and Alia. For History we learn about Aboriginal culture. For Mathematics we learned about number lines. We did a monster designed by feeling for Art.

I love my school very much.

Thisuli Wanniarachchi (8 years)
St. Paul's Primary School,
Victoria, Australia

Our lovely puppies



Once upon a time there were two puppies on the road. They were crying badly. We heard the sound, we went to see them with food. Two puppies climbed onto us. Then we went home. My brother and I were so sad about the puppies.

The next day, we went to school. In the evening, we dressed up quickly and went to bring the puppies into our house. We brought them home, and we bathed them. Then we made a beautiful kennel for them. We gave them a delicious meal at night.

After that we went to see the doctor. I bought some toys for them. We named them Lassy and Tommy. Now they love us and we also love them. They are living happily with us.



Shanuli (Grade 4)
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Maryam Irshad
9 years on October 26



Tokyo Sky Tree

Tokyo Sky Tree, is a broadcasting and telecommunications tower in Tokyo. At a height of 2,080 feet (634 metres), it was the world's second tallest structure, after the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, at the time of its opening on May 22, 2012.

Tokyo Sky Tree is also the world's tallest freestanding tower and it exceeds the height of Tokyo Tower, previously the city's tallest structure, by 988 feet (301 metres).



The tower has two publicly accessible observation areas, the Tembo Deck and the Tembo Gallery (or Galleria).

The three-level Tembo Deck features an observation floor that sits at a height of 1,148 feet (350 metres), above two floors of restaurants.

The Tembo Gallery has two floors, connected to each other by a winding circumferential ramp. The higher of these floors is 1,480 feet (451 metres) above the ground.

Tokyo Sky Tree was designed by the Nikken Sekkei architectural firm, and construction began in 2008.

A core column of reinforced concrete, encasing elevator shafts and an emergency staircase, is surrounded by a framework of steel tubes. At its base, the framework takes the shape of an equilateral triangle with sides of 223 feet (68 metres), but as the tower tapers, the cross section gradually becomes circular. The core column extends only to the height of 1,230 feet (375 metres) and does not support the tower. Instead, above 410 feet (125 metres) it is connected to the steel framework by flexible oil dampers that act as shock absorbers. Under earthquake conditions the core column is intended to counteract any sway of the tower.

Tokyo Sky Tree is the centrepiece of a multilevel urban development called Tokyo Sky Tree Town. The other attractions include a large shopping centre, an aquarium, a planetarium and a 31-story office building.

Source: *Britannica.com*



Famous Landmarks Quiz 65

Q: What is the height of Tokyo Sky Tree and what is its distinction?



Famous Landmarks Quiz 64

Binuthi Lisathma,
Telijjawila



Win super books from



Age: 9 years and below

Word Count: 150

Topic: Write a letter to a friend inviting her/him for your birthday

Win: Secret Seven Win Through by Enid Blyton



The Seven can't wait to get settled in their new meeting place – a hidden cave! It's perfect for Secret Society business and has space for all their things.

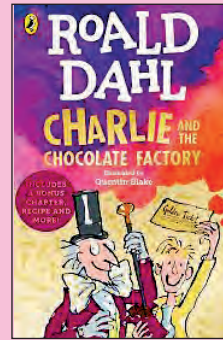
But when vital supplies are stolen the friends suspect an intruder. Who could it be and what are they up to? The gang are determined to investigate!

Age: 10 – 12 years
Word Count: 150 – 200
Topic: My favourite activity

Win: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl

Charlie Bucket's life is about to change forever!

Willy Wonka, chocolate maker extraordinaire, has hidden Five Golden Tickets in five bars of chocolate. Any child who finds one will get the chance to visit his incredible factory – and Charlie's got his!



Or

fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Age: 13 – 15 years

Word Count: 200 – 250

Topic: World Post Day

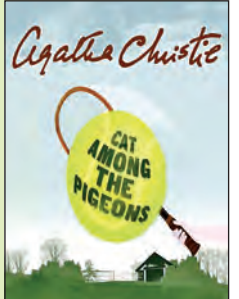
Win: Cat Among the Pigeons by Agatha Christie

Late one night, two teachers investigate a mysterious flashing light in the sports pavilion of Meadowbank School.

There, they stumble upon the body of the unpopular games mistress.

The school is thrown into chaos when the 'cat' strikes again.

Unfortunately schoolgirl Julia Upjohn knows too much and she knows that without Hercule Poirot's help, she will be the next victim...



Write at the top of your Essay

■ Book Competition ■ Essay Topic

Hi Kids,

Please send in your Articles and Art for Kids' World, to be published in the Funday Times online edition and website.

As you can see, we have space only once a month for Kids' World articles and art in the print edition.

Therefore, we are planning to carry them every week in the Funday Times online pages as well as on the Funday Times website.

We also invite schools to send in their students' work for a school page in the online edition and website.

Thanking you in anticipation of your positive response.

FROM THE EDITOR

Or fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Cartoon Time!

Hey Kids!

We plan to put in more cartoons in the Funday Times and what's more they will be your own cartoons.

So, here's a chance for you to try your hand at producing your very own original cartoons.

Draw a little cartoon with a caption.

It could even be a small cartoon story in a strip (not more than three boxes).

The best cartoons you send will be published in the Funday Times. So good luck to all you cartoon fans!

Please remember that the cartoons you send in should be your original work and not copied or traced from anything. They should be certified as your own work by a parent or teacher.



Or fundaytimes1@gmail.com



Young Reporters

If you are interested in joining as a Funday Times Young Reporter please fill in the coupon given and send it in to us along with a recent report or interview not exceeding 300 words.

Photographs or illustrations would enhance the report.

Young Reporters who have already enrolled with us, please send in new reports for publication.

Or fundaytimes1@gmail.com



Young Reporters Coupon

Name:

Date of Birth:

Address:

Telephone:

School:

Parent's approval: Date:

From a Funday Times Young Reporter

Scout Camping experience at Matale International School

A memorable and exciting camping event was held at Matale International School on September 26, 27 and 28, 2025. It was a truly fantastic experience, especially for us Grade 6 students, as it was our first-ever camping adventure.

During the camp, we went on a hike to a temple located on a mountain, which was both challenging and inspiring.

On the 27th, we enjoyed a lively campfire night filled with fun, laughter and teamwork.

Throughout the camp, we participated in many engaging activities and our scout coaches taught us several new and valuable skills.

Camping experiences play a vital role in developing our self-reliance, teamwork and problem-solving skills.

Being away from home encourages us independence and responsibility as we learn to manage our belongings and contribute to group tasks such as setting up tents and cooking. The qualities we gained were invaluable throughout our camping.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our Director, teachers and all scout coaches for organizing and guiding us throughout this wonderful scouting experience. Their dedication and effort made the camp a great success

Saqeef-ul-Haq (Grade 6)
Matale International School



Deepavali (Diwali) celebrations were held at Maple Kids International recently.

Pix by
M. A. Pushpa Kumara



Meet the 13 guide dog puppies - named after treats

October 16, 2025

A charity that breeds and trains guide dogs has just welcomed their largest litter in years.

Biscuit, Crumble, Bagel, Crumpet, Rye, Tiger, Pretzel, Apple, Eccles, Cocoa, Chelsea, Custard and Ginger are the new arrivals at Guide Dogs HQ in Leamington Spa.

The number 13 is known as 'a baker's dozen' and as there are 13 puppies, they've all been named after yummy treats.

Now at eight weeks old, the gang will begin their journey into becoming guide dogs to help people with sight loss.

Training guide dogs is an important, but tricky business.



Janine Dixon, from Guide Dogs UK, said the team had no idea that Yori had so many pups on the way.

The average litter for Guide Dogs UK is between seven and eight puppies, so this one is huge.

Not only are the pups incredibly cute, they are also incredibly expensive.

It costs about £77,000 to breed, raise and train each guide dog. It means this baker's dozen is worth over £1 million!

But it doesn't quite beat the charity's record, which was won by German Shepherd Unity, who had a record-breaking 16 puppies in 2022.



Mum Yori surprised everyone with the number of puppies she had.



New large coral reef discovered in the Mediterranean Sea

October 16, 2025

A large white coral reef containing important species and fossil traces has been found in a rare discovery.

The reef, which is at a depth of more than 500 metres, was found in Italy's Gulf of Naples, in the Mediterranean Sea.

Discovered using a remotely operated submarine the rich ecosystem is something the mission leader described

as, "rarely seen elsewhere in our Mediterranean".

Not only is the discovery rare, but it is vital learning for scientists.

What is a coral reef and why are they of interest?

Coral reefs might look like plants but coral is actually an animal!

Closely related to sea anemones and jellyfish, coral has a hard, protective limestone skeleton called a calicle, which they use to help anchor them to the sea floor.



The reef was discovered off the Gulf of Naples.

Sometimes you might hear them described as "rainforests of the sea".

They are of great interest to scientists as they are one of the richest marine ecosystems, meaning they host a lot of species – sometimes millions.

Because of this they play a big role in sustaining marine life.



October 21

News in Pictures

**Edinburgh, Scotland**

Giant lanterns are installed at Edinburgh Zoo for the return of Royal Zoological Society of Scotland's (RZSS) trail featuring over 600 aquatic themed gigantic lanterns created by a team of 20 lantern specialists from Zigong Lanterns in China.

**Jannu East, Nepal**

A French mountaineer makes his way near the summit of Jannu East, the first ascent of the 7,468 m peak in eastern Nepal.

**Kathmandu, Nepal**

A dog belonging to the Armed Police Force jumps through a ring of fire while performing a trick during Kukur Tihar as part of Tihar, a term used in Nepal for Diwali.

Tokyo, Japan

Sanae Takaichi, the leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic party, walks after casting her vote in parliament's lower house. She won the historic vote to become Japan's first female prime minister.



October 20

Paris, France

People queue outside the Louvre after reports that priceless historic jewellery belonging to Napoleon and Empress Josephine has been stolen from the art museum.

**Cape Town, South Africa**

Kites fly at Dolphin Beach ahead of the Cape Town International Kite Festival, which raises funds for mental health support in South Africa.

**Colombo, Sri Lanka**

Sri Lankan devotees light oil lamps during Diwali celebrations at a Hindu temple.

**Panama City, Panama**

A one-and-a-half-month-old orphaned two-toed sloth clings a sloth plush toy at the Pan-American Conservation Association (APPC) during a conservation activity for International Sloth Day, in Panama City.

**Bangkok, Thailand**

A dragon dance is performed during the nine-day vegetarian festival that coincides with the annual celebration of the nine Chinese emperor gods.

Sources: The Guardian & Reuters