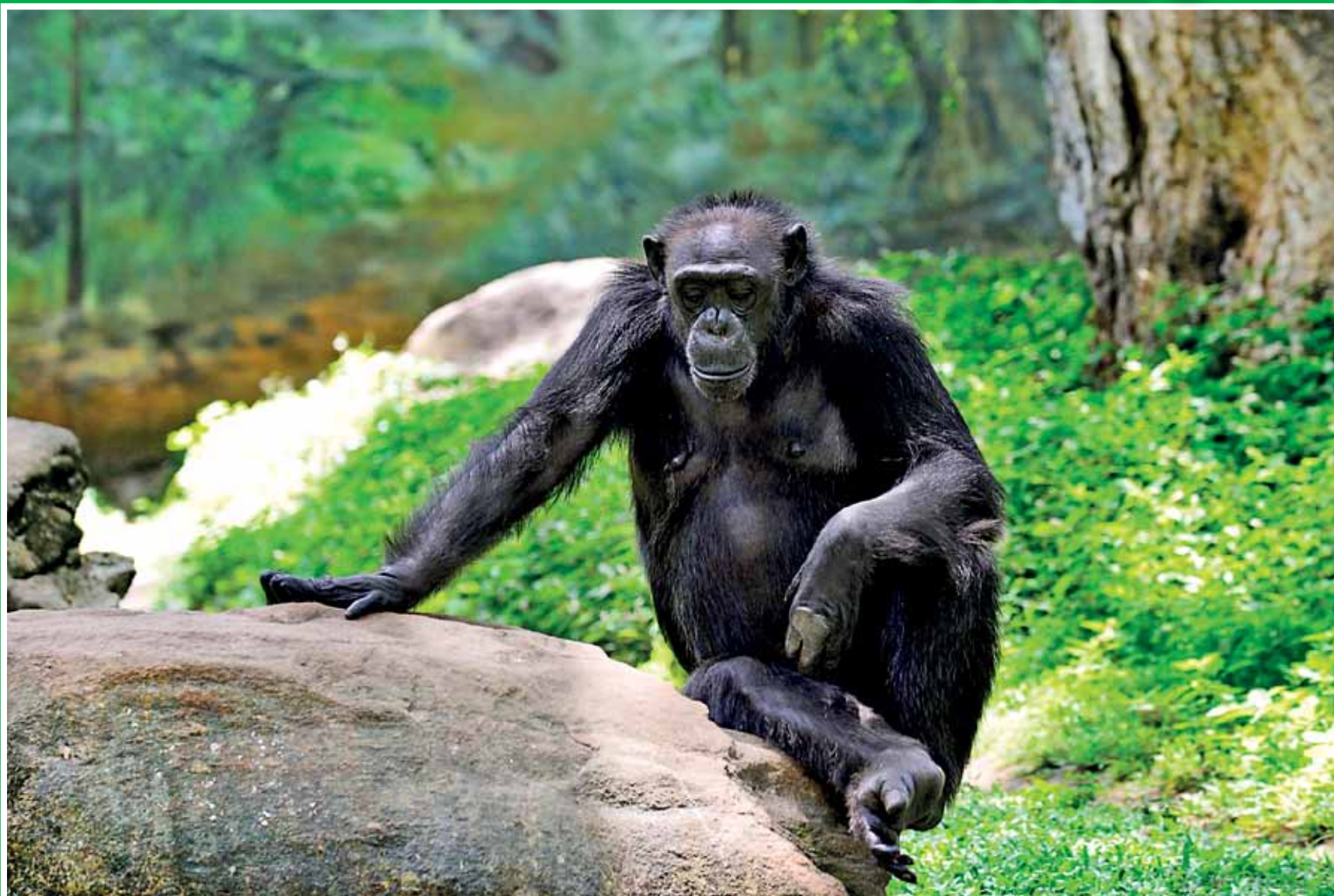


the  
**SUNDAY  
TIMES**

SUNDAY  
JANUARY 18, 2026

# FUN DAY TIMES



***Posing for the camera***

Pic. by Indika Handuwala



**PAGE 2**



**MATHS  
PAGE 3**



**COMPETITIONS  
PAGES 4 & 5**

**ONLINE  
KIDS NEWS**

**PAGES 7 - 8**

Follow us on: [www.fundaytimes.lk](http://www.fundaytimes.lk)





**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.**

**Write the name of the competition and the date clearly**

**at the top of your entry and include the following details:**

Full Name (including Surname),

Date of Birth, Address,

Telephone Number and School.

Please underline the name most commonly used.

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

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

**Closing Date for this week's competitions:**

**February 4, 2026**

**Telephone: 2479337/2479333**

**Email: [fundaytimes1@gmail.com](mailto:fundaytimes1@gmail.com)**



## Calling Funday Times Readers

**We are updating the Funday Times Club memberships. If you are interested in joining the club, please send in the coupon below, with a photograph.**

**If you are already a member, please resend your details along with a photograph, so that we could update our database.**



Come and join the Funday Times Club.  
Fill in the coupon below neatly and send it in to

**Funday Times Club,  
C/O The Sunday Times,  
No.8, Hunupitiya Cross Road, Colombo 2.**

Remember to include a fun photograph of yourself too!

Members must be between 4 – 15 years old.

Once you become a member, you can join us for lots of fun events during the year.



**Name** .....

.....

**Date of Birth** .....

**Address** .....

.....

**Tel** .....



Or



[fundaytimes1@gmail.com](mailto:fundaytimes1@gmail.com)

**In our online issue this week:**

- **Page 5** – Competitions
- **Page 6** – Young Reporter
- **Page 7** – Kids' News
- **Page 8** – News in Pictures

Please log on to the Funday Times website on [www.fundaytimes.lk](http://www.fundaytimes.lk) or check out the Sunday Times epaper on [www.sundaytimes.lk](http://www.sundaytimes.lk) for additional pages of this week's Funday Times.



**KIDS IN COLOUR** with

**Richard**

Funday Times together with Richard is happy to launch a new Art Competition for our readers, starting from January 2026.

A topic will be given each month.

The paintings should be on **A4 size paper** and you could use any medium of your choice.

Three winners from two age groups will be selected each month. Winners will receive an attractive gift pack from Richard.

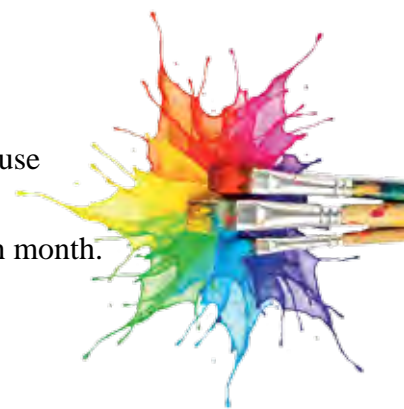
**All paintings should be certified by a teacher or parent as your own work.**

Age Groups: 4 – 6 and 7 – 10

Please write your Full Name, Date of Birth, Home Address, Telephone Number and School and paste it on the back of your entry.

Topic for January: **Back to School**

Closing Date: February 5, 2026



Or



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## Maths in Action 97

By R. N. A. de Silva

# PALINDROMIC NUMBERS

**Maths**

A palindrome is a word, phrase or a number that reads the same, forwards and backwards.

The word has derived with Greek roots with meaning 'running back'. The words MOM, DAD, MADAM and RADAR are all palindromes. MALAYALAM is a longer palindromic word.

Now, consider the following phrases.

NEVER ODD OR EVEN

BORROW OR ROB?

NO LEMONS, NO MELON

RISE TO VOTE, SIR

RACE FAST, SAFE CAR

Similarly, a palindromic number is a number that remains the same when its digits are reversed.

Examples are 121, 2442 & 2468642.

Here are some interesting patterns to obtain palindromic numbers.

$$\begin{aligned} 7 \times 7 + 6 &= 55 \\ 77 \times 7 + 6 &= 545 \\ 777 \times 7 + 6 &= 5445 \\ 7777 \times 7 + 6 &= 54445 \\ 77777 \times 7 + 6 &= 544445 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 9 \times 9 + 7 &= 88 \\ 99 \times 9 + 7 &= 898 \\ 999 \times 9 + 7 &= 8998 \\ 9999 \times 9 + 7 &= 89998 \\ 99999 \times 9 + 7 &= 899998 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 1 \times 1 &= 1 \\ 11 \times 11 &= 121 \\ 111 \times 111 &= 12321 \\ 1111 \times 1111 &= 1234321 \\ 11111 \times 11111 &= 123454321 \\ 111111 \times 111111 &= 12345654321 \\ 1111111 \times 1111111 &= 1234567654321 \\ 11111111 \times 11111111 &= 123456787654321 \\ 111111111 \times 111111111 &= 12345678987654321 \end{aligned}$$

Did Hannah see bees?  
Hannah did.

A  
EVE  
RADAR  
REVIVER  
ROTATOR  
LEPERS REPEL  
MADAM I'M ADAM  
STEP NOT ON PETS  
DO GEESE SEE GOD  
PULL UP IF I PULL UP  
NO LEMONS, NO MELON  
DENNIS AND EDNA SINNED  
ABLE WAS IERE I SAW ELBA  
A MAN, A PLAN, A CANAL, PANAMA  
A SANTA LIVED AS A DEVIL AT NASA  
SUMS ARE NOT SET AS A TEST ON ERASMUS  
CLOVER, IF ALIVE, ERUPTS A VAST, PURE EVIL: A FIRE VOLI

There are also palindromic magic squares.

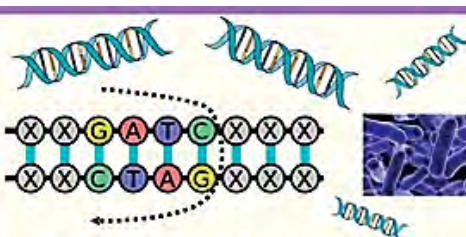
The following can be read upwards, downwards, backwards and forwards.

S A T O R  
A R E P O  
T E N E T  
O P E R A  
R O T A S

The following number magic square

686	898	111	969
161	919	696	888
999	181	868	616
818	666	989	191

has all palindromic numbers where all the rows, columns and diagonals add up to 2664.



**Palindromic sequence**

## " Palindromic Numbers "



## Math Plot - 97

Try to find the solution to the following puzzle. You may send solutions with reasoning to

[rnades@gmail.com](mailto:rnades@gmail.com)

within the next three days.

Please include your full name, date of birth, home address, contact details and the name of your school along with the solution.

- When you divide a certain number by 3, the remainder is 1.
- When you divide the same number by 5, the remainder is 2.
- When you divide it by 7, the remainder is 3.

What is the smallest positive number that satisfies these conditions?

## Math Plot 96 – Solution

The answer is 6.

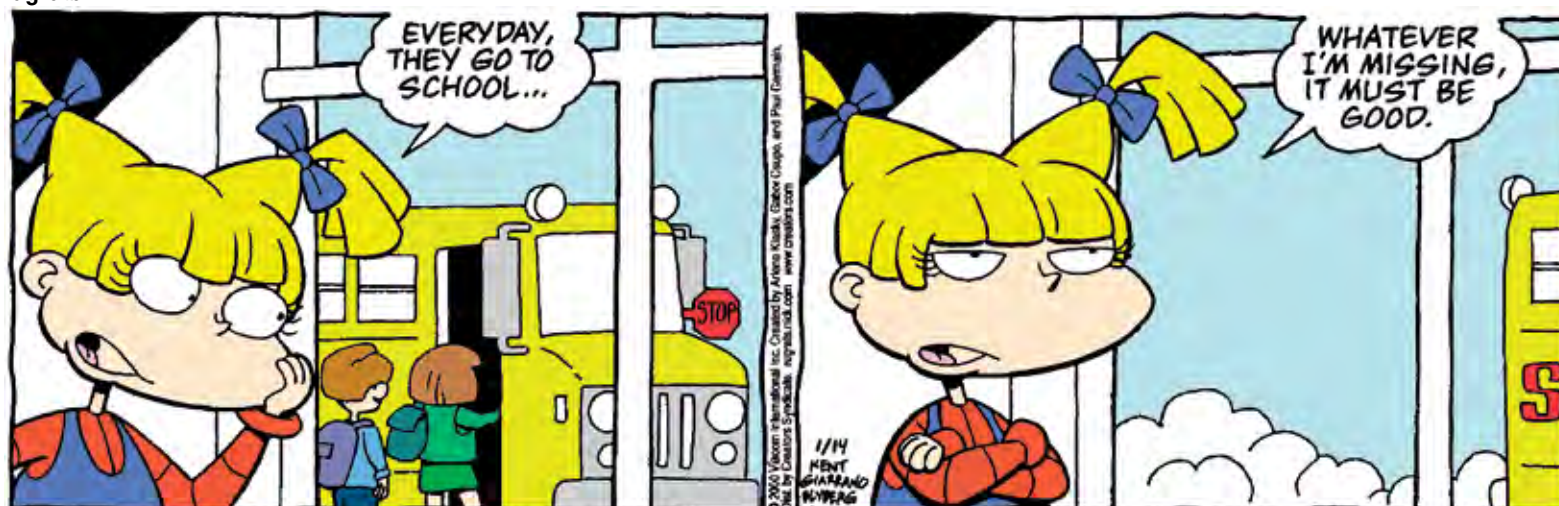
The winner is

Yusuf ul-Haq

of Matale International School.

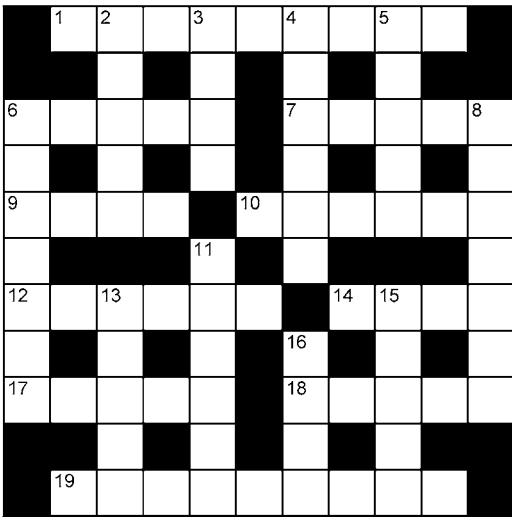
Congratulations!

Rugrats





**LUMALA Crossword – No. 17**



- | Across                   | Down                             |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 A pain in your mouth   | 2 A green place in a desert      |
| 6 Dangerous to try       | 3 Playthings                     |
| 7 A high-up room         | 4 Greatly surprised              |
| 9 The price of something | 5 Dislikes intensely             |
| 10 Man, woman or child   | 6 Flying fireworks               |
| 12 Follows seventh       | 8 Birthday cake lights           |
| 14 Shout                 | 11 A carved likeness of a person |
| 17 Fire a gun            | 13 Wear this on a hand           |
| 18 Short letters         | 15 Chewed up and swallowed       |
| 19 Saying again          | 16 A rope join                   |

Age Group: 8 – 15 years

**LUMALA BICYCLE COMPETITION**

You now have a chance to win a brand new **LUMALA bicycle** for your own. One lucky winner will receive a brand new Lumala bicycle each month.

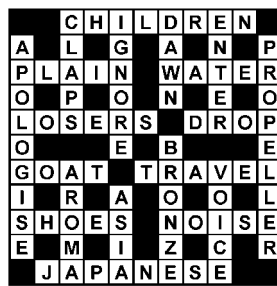
All you have to do is fill in the Lumala Crossword No. 17, according to the clues given. Write the answers neatly on a postcard or paper, and send it to **Funday Times**.

Cut the strip '**LUMALA Crossword No. 17**' seen at the top of the page and paste it on your entry.

Closing Date: January 28, 2026

Entries should be certified as your own work, by a teacher or parent.

**Solution No. 16**



@LUMALABIKES | 119, OLD GALLE RD, HENAMULLA, PANADURA | TEL: 077 755 2222 | LUMALA

Or fundaytimes1@gmail.com

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7 – 9 years



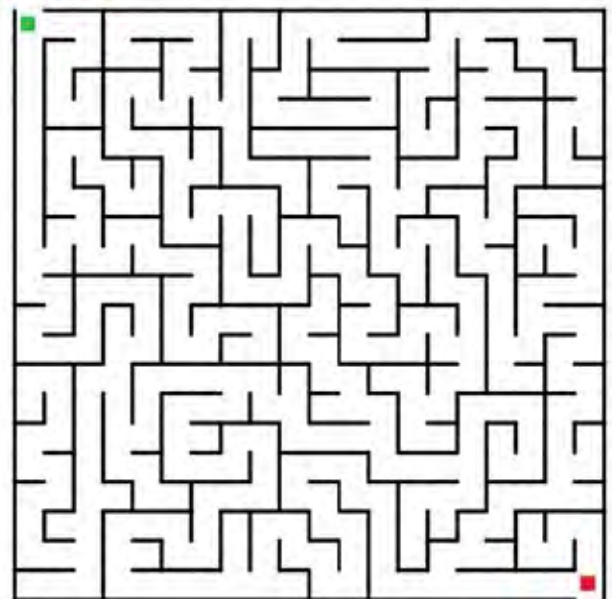
- Julian De Sylva, Nugegoda
- Maryam Irshad, Colombo 2
- Nethen Fernandopulle, Negombo

Winners please call Funday Times on 2479333/2479337 and arrange to collect your prizes.

**7 – 9 AGE GROUP**



Help the students find their way back to school.



Or fundaytimes1@gmail.com



# Win super books from



**Age:** 9 years and below

**Word Count:** 150

**Topic:** My new class

**Win:** Shipwreck on the Pirate Islands by Geronimo Stilton

Thea, Geronimo's sister, convinces him to go on a vacation to the Pirate Islands. Geronimo got stuck on one island while he was trying to go to the island called Loot Island in a little plane. They crashed into the ocean and had to swim to the closest island. While Geronimo was trying to get off that island he kept on getting hurt.

If you want to know if Geronimo got off the island you should read this book.



**Age:** 10 – 12 years

**Word Count:** 150 – 200

**Topic:** Looking forward to a new school year

**Win:** Second Form at Malory Towers by Enid Blyton

Darrell Rivers is excited to be going into her second year at Malory Towers – but is she ready for the drama it will bring?

Jealousy flares when a new head of the form is chosen, and the girls become suspicious when their belongings go missing. And why on earth has timid Mary-Lou ventured out during a terrible storm?



**Age:** 13 – 15 years

**Word Count:** 200 – 250

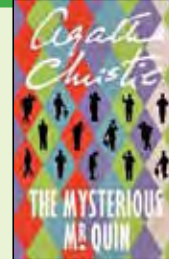
**Topic:** Your hopes and aspirations for 2026

**Win:** The Mysterious Mr. Quin by Agatha Christie

It had been a typical New Year's Eve party.

But as midnight approaches, Mr. Satterthwaite – a keen observer of human nature – senses that the real drama of the evening is yet to unfold.

And so it proves when a mysterious stranger knocks on the door. Who is this Mr. Quin?



or

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**Write at the top of your Essay**

■ Book Competition ■ Essay Topic

## Read-a-Book and win a voucher from Vijitha Yapa Bookshop



Read any book of your choice and write briefly about it. What we want is not just a summary of the story but your views on the book.

The best account in the three age groups will be awarded book vouchers of Rs. 500 each from

Vijitha Yapa Bookshop.

Three winners will be selected each month.

**Your account should not exceed 200 words.**

**Please indicate word count, fill in the coupon and attach it to your entry.**



Or

fundaytimes1@gmail.com

## Read-a-Book Competition

**Name :** .....

.....

**Date of birth :**

.....

**Address :** .....

.....

.....

.....

**School:** .....

**Tel:** .....

**Finished book on :** .....

.....

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.



Or

fundaytimes1@gmail.com

**FROM THE EDITOR**



**J  
o  
k  
e  
s**

**How do you make a witch itch?**

Take out the "W".



**Ranger Rick**



**Why do bananas wear sunscreen?**

Because they peel.



**What do birds say on Halloween to get candy?**

"Twick-or-tweet."



From a Funday Times Young Reporter

# SAVING OUR PLANET

## HOW SMALL ACTIONS MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

### REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

One of the easiest ways to help is reducing waste. Using reusable bottles, bags and containers helps cut down plastic that harms oceans and wildlife. Recycling paper, plastic and metal saves energy and keeps our environment clean.



### ENERGY MATTERS

Switch-off lights when not needed, using energy-efficient appliances, or riding a bike instead of driving can reduce harmful emissions. Every small step counts towards a greener, cleaner planet!



### SAVE WATER

Water is life! Turning off taps while brushing teeth, fixing leaks and collecting rainwater, can save thousands of litres of water each year. Every drop matters!



### PLANT TREES AND PROTECT NATURE

Trees are superheroes! They clean the air, provide homes for animals, and keep our planet cool. Planting even one tree can make a difference.

Protecting forests, rivers and oceans ensures that plants and animals survive for future generations.



### SPREAD AWARENESS

Talk to friends and family about climate change, plastic pollution and wildlife conservation.



**Remember:** No action is too small. Each kind choice, each small effort adds up to a happier, healthier planet. Let's be the superheroes.

Swethlana Jayawardana (13 years)  
Sujatha Vidyalaya, Nugegoda



**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](mailto:fundaytimes1@gmail.com)



### Young Reporters Coupon

Name: .....

Date of Birth: .....

Address: .....

Telephone: .....

School: .....

Parent's approval: ..... Date: .....



## NASA gets rocket ready for Artemis II launch

January 12, 2026

**I**t's an exciting moment for space fans, with Nasa making final preparations for its up-coming 10-day crewed test flight around the Moon.

As part of the Artemis II mission, the US space agency is getting ready to roll out its giant Space Launch System (SLS) rocket and the Orion spacecraft to the launch pad over the next few days.

If all goes to plan, Nasa will be starting the move on Saturday 17 January.

The four mile journey will take a whopping 12 hours, with the transporting vehicles having to move at a crawling pace because of the size of the rockets.



**This is how the SLS looks today - and this huge space rocket will have to be carefully moved to get ready for launch.**



**This is how the Artemis I rocket was rolled out to launch back in 2022.**

Lori Glaze, one of Nasa's leading team members working on Artemis, says that "crew safety will remain our top priority at every turn, as we near humanity's return to the Moon."

### What's the plan for the Artemis rocket?

With the SLS and the Orion weighing over 2.6 million kilograms, and standing taller than the famous Statue of Liberty, it'll need something very strong and steady to carry it.

Enter the Crawler-Transporter 2, which is Nasa's vehicle used to carry rockets to launch.



**The Crawler Transporter 2 will be getting ready for its 12 hour trek to the Launchpad.**

Depending on when the rocket is ready to go, there's a list of different dates in which the rocket could launch, with the earliest date being 6 February.

**Source: CBBC Newsround**

## 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.

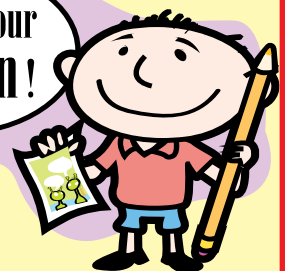
Draw a little cartoon with a caption. It could even be a small cartoon story in a strip (not more than three boxes).

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.**

**Send in your cartoon!**



Or



[fundaytimes1@gmail.com](mailto:fundaytimes1@gmail.com)



January 13

## News in Pictures



**Tehran, Iran**  
Iranians attend a pro-government rally in Tehran.



**Hundwil, Switzerland**

'Silvesterchlaeuse' (New Year's Eve Clauses) gather to offer their best wishes for the New Year, following the Julian calendar, to farmers in the region.

January 12

**Funabashi, Japan**

Japan's Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi participates in parachute jump tower training at the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force's Narashino exercise field in Funabashi, east of Tokyo.



**Berlin, Germany**

Ice swimmers in fancy costumes take a dip in the frozen lake Orankesee during a carnival event of ice bathing club "Berlin Seals" in Berlin, Germany.

**Ahmedabad, India**  
German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi fly kites during the inauguration of the International Kite Festival in Ahmedabad.



**Vatican City**

Pope Leo XIV meets Nobel peace laureate María Corina Machado of Venezuela inside the Vatican's private library.



**Caracas, Venezuela**

People walk in front of a wall painted with the image of Venezuela's deposed President Nicolas Maduro, on the sidelines of a march calling for the release of Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, following their capture by U.S. forces during U.S. strikes on Venezuela.



**Numazu, Japan**

Participants carry portable shrines during a traditional New Year Festival held at Ushibuseyama Park, as they pray for peace and bountiful harvests.



**Turin, Italy**

A crowd gathers in Piazza Castello as the Olympic flame reaches its final destination for the Milan-Cortina 2026 Winter Games.

Sources: The Guardian & Reuters

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