



Thundersnow and other strange weather...



*Pictured: Snow-capped hills in Colorado during a snowstorm
Source: Mike Lewinski*

An unusual phenomenon known as 'thundersnow' has been observed in the UK and other countries situated in the northern hemisphere during the recent wintery weather. Thundersnow occurs when thunder and lightning mix with heavy snowstorms, causing loud claps that sound like explosions in the sky. These have not been the only unusual flashes of light to be observed in January 2021. In the Pacific Ocean, close to the small island of Nauru, blue jets of light have been spotted by astronauts on the International Space Station (ISS). Lightning can often be seen from ISS, which orbits the Earth far up in space at an altitude of 350 kilometres. But these strange blue jets strike upwards instead of downwards, sometimes as far up as 50 kilometres from the Earth's surface into the stratosphere. The stratosphere is the second layer of the Earth's atmosphere, where air is much thinner and calmer.

Pernod the dachshund's daily exercise

Jake from Newcastle cannot visit his local gym to keep fit during lockdown, so last month he began using online fitness classes in front of the TV instead. His dachshund, Pernod was very interested in watching him and although she did not join in straight away, she became very excited as Jake performed his daily press up challenges. Pernod was adopted four months ago to keep Jake's elderly 11-year-old dachshund, Rollo company, but the family did not expect that she would take an active part in all their new lockdown routines! Jake's mum told the BBC, 'Pernod was very interested and one day she just started joining in. She just lines up, gets very excited about it all and starts doing what looks like press ups.' When asked if Pernod had left a hole in the carpet yet, Jake's mum replied, 'Not yet. But we have to stop her because I think she would go on all day!'



*Pictured: Pernod the sausage dog performs her cool moves alongside Jake
Source: Jill Davie*



New Zealanders urged to use imagination

Governments around the world have been urging citizens to enjoy a holiday in their own country this summer, sometimes referred to as a 'staycation'. The citizens of New Zealand (NZ) are being urged to do the same. But the country's tourist board has taken it one step further with a funny advert by a famous comedian, Tom Sainsbury. Thousands of tourists post the same views of their trip on social media such as photos of a 'summit spreadeagle' where they photograph each other at the top of Mount Cook with their arms flung wide. NZ's tourist agency has said that this is boring and lacks imagination, so they are offering a travel voucher worth 500 NZ dollars to the winner of a competition on Twitter, using the hashtag #DoSomethingNewNZ, for more exciting photos of tourists posing at less well-known destinations across the country. If you were in NZ, what would yours be?



Pictured: Hobbiton is a popular New Zealand tourist destination
Source: Canva

Your thoughts on last week's news...

I think a good leader needs to be kind, listen to other people's ideas and they should be prepared for anything.

Like viruses.

Ayla – age 9



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to share your thoughts!

A good leader has to listen to everyone's ideas, be as kind as possible, help out. She/he has to communicate, be patient and resilient. Not to mention the way a leader has to be honest, have a good influence and be polite. The leader has to have empathy and be dedicated.

Phoebe – age 10

A good leader should stand up for his/her country.

Tyrone – age 7

I think...



YOUR COMMENTS

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