



## Whether The Weather Will Rain Or Not?

Many people watch or listen to weather forecasts to help them plan or organise their days: a farmer might watch it to decide when to cut crops, a teacher to plan what footwear children need on a school trip, a joiner to plan whether to complete an indoor or outdoor task. But, how useful do you think it would be to know whether it will rain in the next two hours? New research suggests that AI (artificial intelligence) can now tell! Scientists at Google-owned London AI lab, DeepMind, and the University of Exeter have partnered with the Met Office to build the nowcasting system, which can make accurate short-term predictions. It is hoped the nowcasting system will help in adverse weather conditions such as storms and floods. Met Office partnerships and product innovation head, Niall Robinson, said: 'Extreme weather has

catastrophic consequences... and, as the effects of climate change suggest, these types of events are set to become more common.' So, although the system may not help us plan ahead, it could help people to stay safe and possibly even save lives!



*Pictured: Heavy rainfall*

*Source: Canva*

## Rejected Then Rescued

Born in a travelling zoo in Siberia, panther, Luna, was sadly rejected by her mother at just 7 days old. A lady, living near to the zoo, who is known to be an expert in rehabilitating wild cats, agreed to take care of Luna. Being rejected by her mother at

such a young age meant Luna suffered some health problems and needed a huge amount of care. The woman became attached to Luna and decided to buy her from the zoo. Luna is now well and truly part of the family, even becoming friends with her dog, Venza. On 6<sup>th</sup> October, the pair came across their first snowfall this year. Their owner said: 'In Siberia, the weather is changeable, the sun shone in the morning, and it was almost hot, and a snowstorm hit at lunch. The panther Luna did not expect and is not at all happy about the cold but Venza is happy.' The healthy Luna has now become something of mega star in Russian and international social media. However, her owner prefers to remain anonymous for safety.



*Pictured: Lunar and Venza (left, exploring their first snowfall of this year!)*

*Source: @luna\_the\_pantera*



## Making An Impact!

Over the summer, Year 2 pupil, Owen Skinner, wanted to do something to make a difference and have an impact. With a passion for reading and all things nature, Owen decided to challenge himself to read as many books as he could and raise money for the Borneo Nature Foundation. He read every single day and managed to read 15 books in total! For each, he wrote about it and gave it a star rating. One of Owen's inspirations for the project, explorer, presenter, naturalist and writer, Steve Blackshall, donated saying: 'Just wonderful! Thank-you for all you're doing and your wish to make the world a better place!'. Other authors made contact with Owen throughout his challenge. Professor Ben Garrod said: 'Owen, you're a legend! Good books provide insight, humour, knowledge and a view of the world you maybe didn't have before. So yeah, you may have

read some epic books (by some amazing peeps) this summer, but remember, they'll have helped shape you into the legend you are right now.' Owen raised over £300 for the Borneo Foundation, supporting their goal to plant 1-million trees, which will provide habitats for animals, local jobs, help further science research and have a positive impact on our environment. Well done Owen! If you think you have made an impact, it's not too late to enter the Picture News 2021 Impact Awards. Ask your teacher to email for an application form.



Pictured: Owen Skinner taking part in his reading challenge

## Your thoughts on last week's news...

*If public transport were cleaner, it would make me want to use it.*  
George – age 10

*I would go on public transport more if they had loyalty cards. If you get 5 stamps you get a free ticket!*  
Bai – age 10



What was your opinion on this week's news? Visit our discussion area, found here:

[www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss)  
to share your thoughts!

*I think that people would use more public transport if there was more comfort on transport and with more facilities for public to use such as more room, comfortable seats, warm buses and trains, that would also contribute for less people using cars and would help the environment.*  
Pedro – age 6

I think...



YOUR  
COMMENTS

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