



Punxsutawney Phil predicts wintery weather



*Pictured: A fun figure of Phil the Groundhog in Punxsutawney Town, USA
Source: Barry Wise*

Is it an early spring or just more snow? Each 2nd of February for 135 years, the citizens of Punxsutawney, USA have been using a groundhog to predict how much longer the winter will last. A typical day in lockdown has been described by some people as 'Groundhog Day' because people think that the same events have happened before in the same way over and over again. But the first 'Groundhog Day' happened in 1887 when, according to an old story, a groundhog woke up after sleeping through the winter. If it saw its shadow on this day, there would be six more weeks of winter, and if it did not, spring would start early. Residents in the town still dress up in top hats each February to enact the tradition using a groundhog, which they dub 'Punxsutawney Phil' for the day. The tradition was first started by German immigrants to the town, so locals use official ancient words in Phil's announcements. This year's declaration read, 'There's a perfect shadow cast of me. Six weeks of winter it shall be!'

'Boot-iful' geometric snow patterns

When Canadian ex-headteacher, Kim Asmussen, dons his boots and goes for a walk in the snow, he is very careful about where he puts his feet. Geometric patterns, like the one pictured right, are planned with precision. Asmussen from Northern Ontario, uses computer software to create his designs and then mapping tools help him to work out the precise location. Finally, he stomps around in his snow boots until his design is complete. He can often trudge around for three days before his circular patterns are finished. The biggest one is 400 metres wide. Asmussen also uses a compass and a rope to make sure that the direction and measurements of his marvellous creations are accurate and look most spectacular from the air. 'I'm an outdoors type of person,' he explains. He is naturally creative, adding, 'That part of my brain seems to operate quite well.'



*Pictured: One of Asmussen's geometric patterns as seen from the air
Source: Anna_Lea*



Captain Sir Tom Moore's 100 Challenge



Pictured: Ella Howard with 100 marble effect hearts

Thank you to every one of you who took up the challenge of doing something 100 times to raise awareness for something you care about as a tribute to Captain Sir Tom Moore, who died on 2nd February. Here are just a few of your amazing challenges! Photos are school's own.



Pictured: Connor Blackmore spent 100 minutes collecting 302 pieces of rubbish. Very well done, Connor!



Pictured: Year 2s at St Joseph's RC School, Plymouth completing 100 hooplas each!



Your thoughts on last week's news...

Trees help us produce paper.

Arnav – age 6



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

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to share your thoughts!

It is very important to plant trees because lots of trees are being cut down by humans. Trees help us breathe and if there are no trees, humans and all living things will not be able to survive.

Clementine – age 10

I think it is important to plant trees because they give more oxygen. Birds can build their nests and birds can live on trees. Squirrels also store their food in trees so it can't be taken. There are loads of habitats that live on trees.

Ahmed – age 9

It is good for the environment and helps us breathe!

Ryan – age 10

I think...



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