

ACTIVITY ONE: PRESENT A SCRIPT**SCRIPT ONE**

Hi I'm with your top stories for today.

First a report that a growing number of pet food banks are opening around the UK and animal rescue charities say that some owners are giving away pets they can't afford to feed.

Pet owners can usually find local food banks through Facebook or via word of mouth. They might be asked for proof they are on benefits, or a pension, although some food banks do not ask any questions.

Battersea Dogs and Cats Home, which takes in 7,000 animals a year, say most pet owners do not like to admit to financial difficulties if they give their pet up for adoption.

According to the Dogs Trust, more than 80,000 dogs are abandoned by their owners in the UK every year. They end up in council pounds and may be put down if their owners are not found.

The RSPCA says a pet food bank should be a "last resort" for struggling owners. A spokeswoman for the charity told us that pet food banks can offer a lifeline to someone who would otherwise feel they had to give up their pet. However, they advise owners to contact a charity who might be able to help before it gets to that point.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-41753856>

And now technology, with a story from the US where flying drones and robots now patrol vast distribution warehouses. Drones have become the workhorses of the e-commerce era, allowing online retailers to keep costs down.

Walmart's smallest US warehouse is bigger than 17 football pitches and is patrolled by drones which hover in the aisles. The drones edge close to the packages stacked on the shelves and scan them using on-board optical sensors, before whizzing off to their next assignment.

These automated drones are now doing the jobs humans used to do on foot or by operating fork-lift trucks or mechanical lifts; and they're doing them more cheaply and more accurately. Two drones can do the work of 100 humans over the same time period, according to supply chain specialist Argon Consulting.

The use of automated technologies allows warehouses to operate 24-hour days and improve stock management. They also promise significant safety benefits to safety within the workplace but this will be small comfort to the thousands of workers due to be displaced by drones and robots, which seems to be the inevitable consequence of our desire for online convenience, cheaper prices and faster deliveries.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-41737300>

And finally the weather today will be With a maximum temperature of Celsius.

SCRIPT TWO

Hello I'm..... with your news update.

First the search for new antibiotics.

Why is it so difficult for scientists to discover new antibiotic drugs?

Almost 90 years ago, Alexander Fleming returned from holiday to find penicillin on petri dishes left in his basement laboratory at St Mary's Hospital in London.

By the 1950s, an array of new medicines had been found. Today, scientists are searching for new breakthroughs, testing microbes in sources as diverse as soil, caves and Komodo dragon blood, as well as developing new lab-made synthetic drugs.

Yet despite these remarkable advances, we are running out of effective antibiotics. These drugs are essential for everything from organ transplants to the treatment of food poisoning. It's easy to find chemicals that just kill bacteria; the challenge is the more difficult goal of discovering and developing substances that are not also toxic to humans. And it can take at least 10 years from initial discovery to issuing a medicine which can be used.

In recent years, as awareness of drug-resistant infections has increased and politicians have taken heed of the warnings long given by doctors and scientists, the public and private sectors have begun to work together to find solutions and this year there are a total of 51 new antibiotics in the clinical pipeline.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-41693229>

And now a sad weather-related story - more than two thirds of the seal pups on Pembrokeshire's Skomer Island have been killed in recent storms.

The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales is trying to raise money to monitor the impact on wildlife, repair the damage, and storm-proof the islands for the future.

Skomer is an important breeding site for the Atlantic grey seal and island staff monitor the population throughout the year.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-south-west-wales-41747715>

SCRIPT THREE

Hello I'mwith your headlines and coming up – good news for text messages and a call for more girls to get the chance to play cricket.

If you think WhatsApp is killing the humble text message you may need to think again. A growing number of us are sending far fewer text messages than we used to. We have switched to the likes of Facebook Messenger, Google Hangouts, Snapchat, and of course WhatsApp for our chats. As a result, the number of text SMS messages being sent per day around the world has now fallen far behind the more hi-tech rivals. At WhatsApp alone, 55 billion messages are now sent globally every day, more than twice the 22 billion figure for SMS messages.

But there continues to be one big growth area which could save the text message - notification SMS messages sent from businesses to customers.

Most of us are now increasingly receiving these text messages on a regular basis, such as reminders for opticians' appointment, when an engineer will come to repair your boiler, or when a delivery is going to arrive.

There are a number of reasons for this. SMS is the only app that's on every phone in the world, so no matter who you are trying to communicate with, you know they can receive a text message. On average text messages are read within five minutes and the sender knows that the text message has been delivered to the person's phone.

So the simple “Short Message Service” which was developed in 1992 is likely to continue for a few more years.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-41666820>

Finally, former England cricket captain Charlotte Edwards wants cricket equality in schools after a study found girls have fewer chances to play than boys.

Research led by cricket charity Chance to Shine found almost a third of girls aged between 8 and 16 do not have the chance to take part. Edwards says there is more that could be done and she is calling on schools to give girls an equal chance to play.

Chance to Shine has given more than three million children in 13,000 state schools the opportunity to play and learn through cricket.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/cricket/40372223>