

March 26

Memory verse for the week:

And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, **Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.**

Revelation 19:6

Something to read aloud

(See today's Optional Resources for a simplified version)

Motor racing has a long history. Pioneer drivers who risked life and limb in experimental cars were assisting in the rapid development of the petrol-driven engine. Yet the first man to travel at over 60 mph on the road, at more than a mile a minute, was driving a car driven by electricity.

On March 26th 1899 a Frenchman and a Belgian, Count Chasseloup-Laubat and Camille Jenatzy were in the middle of a series of races in which each man was trying to establish himself as the fastest man on wheels. They both used electric cars and the first race was won by the Count at a speed of 39 mph. This seems a very slow speed today but when the official speed limit was only 12 mph, travelling three times as quickly was a hair-raising experience.

As they proceeded with their friendly competition, sometimes with the Count in the lead, sometimes with Jenatzy, their maximum speeds gradually increased until one day the latter reached a speed of 65.79 mph over a measured kilometre.

The car in which he achieved this wonderful speed was also the first car to be streamlined.

His record was beaten three years later and once again the petrol-driven cars were forced into the background. This time the record was taken to just over 75 mph, by another Frenchman in a steam-driven car.

Two years passed and then the petrol-driven car came into its own and has never been seriously challenged since the day in 1904 when the speed of 100 mph was reached for the first time ever, in a French car, a 100 horse-power Gobron-Brillie.

Maths

I hope you understand all the numbers in this story! Do you know the difference between miles and kilometres and how to convert from one to the other? What does horsepower mean? If you don't know why not find out now?

Something to think about:

The Bible talks about the Christian's life as a race: "... let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us..." Hebrews 12:1. If we are following the Saviour, one day we will arrive at the end of the race – in the heavenly kingdom. In a race the person racing does their very best. We can ask ourselves if we are doing our very best to serve the Lord Jesus. If we are honest the answer will often be "no". But we can pray to Him and He will help us to serve Him better.

Questions to Answer

What is the speed limit in Britain today? There are two different limits for two different types of road. What are they?

Did you know?

There are three different types of road sign.

They are:

Circular (round) signs: these give orders which must legally be obeyed

Circular signs have a red border if they are telling you what you **must not do**.

Circular signs have a blue border if they are telling you what you **must do**.

Triangular signs: these warn of possible dangers or hazards

Only the STOP sign is a different shape altogether because it is so important. It is an octagon. This is so that even if the writing on the sign is obscured by snow you can tell that it is a STOP sign by the shape.

Some things to do outside (or inside)

If you have space in your garden or can go out to the park, have a race. You haven't got cars, of course, but you can just use your legs! Mark out a proper course and arrange a handicap (that means younger people don't have to go so *far* as older people!). Then have a rest and try again!

If you are blessed with the kind of garden where you have room to ride trikes or pedal cars of any kind, a few cardboard road signs can make this much more fun. Any cardboard will do so long as one side is plain. Use whatever paints or pens you have. Bigger children could make them for tiny ones if that suits your family situation. Can you draw an octagon for your STOP signs? How many sides does it have? Do your best to make your signs exactly like real road signs! If outside is just impossible you can make miniature ones for your toy cars indoors. Fix them to cocktail sticks using sellotape. Then you can push the sticks into blobs of blutac. If it is important that blutac does not get stuck to the carpet or floor use a biggish blob of it to make a base and cut a little paper circle to stick under the blutac.

Quiz

When you have finished with your road signs you could turn them into a quiz game. Make some cards with the meanings of each sign written on them. Now match up the sign with the meaning.

Something to listen to



Jonkheer Jacob van Eyck (c. 1590 – 26 March 1657) was a Dutch nobleman and musician. He was one of the best-known musicians in the Netherlands in the seventeenth century, working as a carillon player, organist, recorder virtuoso, and composer. Jonkheer Jacob was blind but that did not stop him being an expert in casting and tuning bells and helping to invent the tuned carillon. A carillon is a set of bells for playing tunes rather than ringing changes. In today's Optional Resources files you will find the printed music and a recording of one of his recorder pieces.¹ He used to play these in the churchyard at Utrecht for passers-by to enjoy. Recorder players still enjoy playing his music today.

¹ Adapted from the *Sea Beggar's Son* project on the *Mothers' Companion* Flashdrive.
<https://motherscompanion.weebly.com>.