

## How a baby's cry may help diagnose health problems

● Scientists have developed a tool which could help diagnose developmental or health problems from a baby's cry.

The new machine, described as a "window into the brain", performs finely tuned acoustic analyses of babies' cries identifying many variations which are normally imperceptible.

Researchers from Brown University and Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island in the US, who developed the non-invasive

computer-based tool, hope their analyser will lead to new ways to use a baby's cry in identifying neurological problems or developmental disorders, including autism.

Prof Barry Lester, who has published several papers showing that differences in cry are linked to medical problems, said: "Cry is an early warning sign that can be used in the context of looking at the whole baby." The machine is featured in the *Journal of Speech, Language and Hearing Research*.

## Editor makes the headlines in effort to save wife's life

● A newspaper editor used his entire front page to appeal for bone marrow donors to save his dying wife.

Stephen Sinfield, 33, who edits the *Ashbourne News Telegraph* in Derbyshire, told readers that his wife, Katherine, 32, a primary school teacher, had been diagnosed with chronic myeloid leukaemia earlier this year.

Under the headline "Help me save my wife", he spoke of his "torment" and asked for help in finding a donor.

He said: "I still remember the exact moment when Katherine was diagnosed with leukaemia. The shock and trauma of such news hit me like a train and I broke down in accident and emergency."

Mrs Sinfield needs donated blood platelets and chemotherapy before a bone marrow transplant.

The newspaper has now launched a campaign urging people to take time to research donation and give blood.

## Company schools for staff children 'within a decade'

● Multinational companies could soon start opening and running schools for their workers' children, an academic has predicted.

Many large employers already provide crèches, and Michael Gove's new free schools model could open the way for them to run schools.

Stephen Heppell, professor of education technology at Bournemouth University, said he predicted that the first in-house schools for company

employees could be opened within the next decade.

He said that the popularity of on-site crèches with employees and employers alike suggests that schools would be a success.

With more parents asking to work flexible hours or work from home to balance the demands of child care, the idea could make it easier for them to be in the office.

Prof Heppell said: "If workers were able to drop their children off at work, that is very attractive."

Festival of Speed where Bluebird V, 5 land speed record attempt, is displayed