

THE UK'S  
CHILDREN'S  
NEWSPAPER  
WITH MORE THAN  
2.6 MILLION\*  
READERS!

ONLINE  
PANTO  
WITH  
FIRST NEWS! P12

THE LOCKDOWN  
DEBATE! P3

CLOSED

WILL  
TRUMP STAY  
PRESIDENT?  
P7

# First News

Issue 749 £2.25 23 – 29 October 2020

HELPING  
THE UK GROW

NEWS | SPORTS | ENTERTAINMENT | INTERVIEWS | PUZZLES | COMPETITIONS



**HELPING THE UK GROW** is a brand-new First News movement to unite the country after a difficult year for so many people.

by editor in chief Nicky Cox MBE

**THE pandemic has meant families and friends have been forced to spend time apart. But, as we continue in our efforts to defeat this virus, First News is looking forward to better times ahead when we will all pull together.**

We are all part of one United Kingdom, rooting for our country. The pandemic has forced many of us to grow apart. But, looking ahead, we will be growing side by side.

From young to old, First News is urging everyone to play their part in Helping the UK Grow again.

So, today, we are launching the #HelpingTheUKGrow challenge by asking everyone to plant something as a symbol of hope and growth for all our futures. It might be bulbs in your garden, a tree at school, or cress on your

Continued on page 2

The Queen planting a tree in Cambridge last year

TURN  
OVER TO  
READ MORE!

\*First News readership is 2,626,625. Source: Opinion Matters 2020. First News is the widest-read of all children's publications audited in the UK. First News supports children's charities – see page 17

## DESIGN A XMAS CARD

The National Literacy Trust has launched a competition for five to 11-year-olds to design a Christmas card. The 12 winning designs will be available to buy from 1 December and all the money raised will help the trust's charity work, improving the literacy and wellbeing of children. Entries will be judged by award-winning illustrator and designer Dapo Adeola, co-creator of *Look Up!* and *Clean Up!* To get involved, visit [literacytrust.org.uk/competitions](http://literacytrust.org.uk/competitions) and submit your entries by 13 November.



Dapo Adeola

## HEAVY RAINS IN INDIA

Flooding caused by heavy rains has been wreaking havoc across the southern states of India. At least 50 people have died in the state of Telangana while at least 27 lives have been lost in parts of Maharashtra. Thankfully, the rain seems to be slowing down in these areas, while the government is stepping up plans to help the affected areas.



Getty

## RACCOONS CAUSE CHAOS

It seems raccoons are causing trouble near the White House in America. A video of reporter Joe Johns went viral after he was caught on film shouting at the nosy animals. And at the end of September, reporter Paula Reid tweeted that a raccoon had "attacked multiple news crews"!

# QUICK NEWS

### TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS

## OCEANS WARMING

A study has shown that even the waters of Earth's deepest oceans are getting warmer. Water temperatures measured at points in the Atlantic Ocean show the water has warmed by between 0.02°C-0.04°C. Although that sounds tiny, our oceans getting warmer leads to rising sea levels and can make extreme weather worse.

## HONORARY DIPLOMA



A man in Pennsylvania, USA, was given his high school diploma (like an A Level) weeks before his 100th birthday. Albert Montella left school in 1938 to help his family, then joined the navy to serve in World War 2. He's pictured here with Brookhaven Fire Company, where his grandsons work.

## DEER-FRIENDLY BAGS

The deer in Nara Park, Japan, are considered national treasures, but tourists often leave plastic rubbish behind. One deer was found to have swallowed 4kg of plastic. Now, a handful of local residents have created a special paper bag instead. It is made from recycled milk cartons and rice bran that can be eaten safely by the deer. Over 1,200 deer roam freely in the city of Nara.

## CRANE SURPRISE

An Argentinian woman has spent the last two months in hospital fighting cancer. Due to COVID-19, visits are restricted, so a group of her friends came up with a smart idea: they clubbed together to rent a crane and had it raised up high so they could 'visit' her through her window!

## GIG FOR CREW

One Direction star Niall Horan is playing a virtual concert to raise money for his road crew – people who do jobs like build the stage and make sure a live show looks and sounds great. Niall says his crew "have families, homes and lives to pay for" but since COVID-19 stopped live music, "they haven't got any funds to do so". The concert will be livestreamed on 7 November. Niall hopes that he can sell enough tickets to "pay all of my crew".

## CLOSE CALL COUGAR



Getty

A jogger out for a run in Utah, USA, had a terrifying experience when he ran into a cougar. Kyle Burgess accidentally got too close to the cougar's cub. She followed him for more than six minutes and lunged at him several times to warn him off, before eventually returning to her cub. Kyle said: "If she wanted to take me down, she totally could have." He shot a video of the incident that went viral.

## EXPENSIVE GUITAR

A guitar used by The Beatles has sold for £190,000. It was valued at £400,000 in March on the TV show *Antiques Roadshow*, when expert Jon Baddeley said: "In 25 years, it's the most expensive thing I've ever seen."

## IKEA RECYCLING PLAN

Swedish homeware giant Ikea has announced that it will buy back unwanted furniture as part of its efforts to recycle and be more sustainable. The company will pay up to half the price of the furniture in Ikea vouchers. It will then be sold on to customers looking for a cheaper option. Ikea say the scheme is part of its plan to become "a climate positive business by 2030".



Getty

## OLDE IS THE OLDEST



Guinness World Records

A gentoo penguin, appropriately named Olde, has been declared the oldest living in captivity, at the ripe old age of 41. Olde lives in Denmark at Odense Zoo and is way past the 30-year lifespan that is typical for her species in captivity.

## CUTEST RESCUE DOG

An adorable Maltese dog called Lamb Chop has won *People* magazine's World's Cutest Rescue Dog contest. She was born at a puppy farm (a place that breeds lots of puppies for money) and wasn't looked after properly. Her teeth were rotten and had to be removed, which is why her tongue hangs out. Luckily, she found her forever home in 2014 and is now cared for by her loving owner Christin.



people/pets/Instagram

## CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

windowsill. Wherever you are, and whoever you are, let's all grow together.

Please take a photo of your planting and upload it at [first.news/HelpingTheUKGrow](http://first.news/HelpingTheUKGrow) so we can share the wonderful growth of hope spreading throughout the country. Each flower, herb, plant or tree will be shown on our [#HelpingTheUKGrow](http://#HelpingTheUKGrow) map and every picture will form part of a countrywide mosaic.

And we'd love all families and schools to share their photos and videos on social media and challenge someone else to join the movement, using the hashtag [#HelpingTheUKGrow](http://#HelpingTheUKGrow).

Together, we will grow through what we've been through. And, it is only by growing that we will blossom.



# CHARITY CAMP-OUT



**A TEN-YEAR-OLD boy has slept outside in a tent for months to raise money for a hospice.**



Max Woosey from Braunton has been sleeping in his garden for more than 200 days. He was inspired to do it after his neighbour and friend Rick, who was 74, left him a tent before he died of cancer and made him promise he'd have an adventure in it.

Max has so far raised more than £79,000 for the North Devon

Hospice that cared for Rick and his wife in their final days. He started fundraising in March after finding out that events to raise money for the hospice were being cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Max says the best thing about sleeping in his tent is getting to read the Beano for as long as he wants and the worst bits were the weather, and finding an ants' nest underneath the tent! He says that he wants to try to camp out for a whole year. Nice one, Max!

## WOW!

**SATURDAY 3 October 2020 was officially the wettest UK day on record.**

The Met Office said that the average rainfall across the entire UK was 31.7mm, which could have more than filled Loch Ness! This year also saw the UK's third wettest day, with 27.2mm on 15 February.

## GO MAJOR MICK!



**AN 80-year-old retired army major is planning to row 100 miles in his homemade boat for charity.**

Michael Stanley, known as Major Mick, set about his mission to row 100 miles along the Chichester Canal in West Sussex to raise money for St Wilfrid's Hospice in Bosham.

Major Mick made his boat during lockdown out of two sheets of corrugated iron, a hosepipe and curtain hooks and has called it the Tintanic. He began his challenge on 26 September and has already raised more than £21,000.



## UK SPLIT OVER LOCKDOWN PLANS

**GREATER Manchester has been put into Tier 3 lockdown by the government following a rise in COVID-19 cases.**

The "very high" alert level, also known as Tier 3, begins today (Friday). It means places like pubs and leisure centres have to close and people are advised not to leave the area.

Unless they are in a support bubble, households are not allowed to meet up with other households. However, schools, universities and places like shops on the high-street will be allowed to stay open.

Greater Manchester joins Liverpool and Lancashire in the very highest level of restrictions.

As the pandemic carries on, views about how to deal with it are becoming more divided. Generally people are talking about the balance between saving lives and saving livelihoods. Those who argue against lockdown say thousands of people losing their jobs, businesses going bust and worsening mental health are all too high a price to pay.

But Labour Leader, Keir Starmer, has called for a "circuit breaker" – in effect a national lockdown across England. He thinks a short lockdown of two to three weeks would bring the virus under control. He said local lockdowns were not working and another course was needed to prevent a "sleepwalk into... a bleak winter".

Meanwhile, **Wales** brought in a two-week 'firebreak' lockdown, which is a shorter version of the lockdown introduced in March and has similar rules – closing all pubs, bars and restaurants, gyms, and non-essential shops, and stopping people from socialising.

Schools have been shut until the half-term break, re-opening after the lockdown has ended. Wales' First Minister Mark Drayford said it was "a short, sharp, shock to turn back the clock, slow down the virus and buy us more time".

**Scotland's** First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, said that there's no plan to bring in a similar lockdown to Scotland just yet – but all options are being looked at.

Last week, **Northern Ireland** became the first country to introduce a second lockdown, closing bars and restaurants (except for takeaways), stopping indoor amateur sports, shutting close-contact services such as hairdressing, and extending the half-term school holiday to two weeks.

## POLL OF THE WEEK

**Should there be another national lockdown? Vote at [first.news/polls](https://www.first.news/polls)**

## TIRING TRIP



**A bar-tailed godwit has set a world record for a non-stop flight, of 7,500 miles.**

The bird, which is said to have the aerodynamic build of a "jet fighter", was tracked flying from Alaska to New Zealand in 11 days at speeds of up to 55mph. The bird, known as 4BBRW, was among 20 fitted with a satellite tag by scientists at the Pūkorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre, near Auckland, New Zealand.



## WOW!

**SOLAR power is now the cheapest form of electricity in history.**

A new report by the International Energy Agency says the world's best solar power schemes are now cheaper than coal and gas in most countries.



UK



The Royal Mint

LOOK out for a new 50p celebrating diversity. The coin features the words “Diversity built Britain”, along with a geodesic dome (a sphere made of triangles) representing connection and strength. The coin is a part of a plan to feature a wider range of people from different backgrounds on coins and notes.

WILTSHIRE, UK



Longleat

A TEAM of six gardeners took eight weeks to complete one of the biggest jobs in horticulture (the science of growing plants) – cutting the giant hedge maze at Longleat. Made up of more than 16,000 English yew trees, with 2.8km of paths and covering 0.6 hectares (1.5 acres), the maze is one of the world’s largest.

NEW DELHI, INDIA



Getty

LICYPRIYA Kangujam, a nine-year-old climate activist, stages a protest against air pollution. Last December she addressed the United Nations Climate Conference 2019 (COP25) in Madrid, Spain, saying: “I want our leaders to take action to fight air pollution. They are busy blaming each other instead of finding a solution. No action is being taken.”

HANGZHOU, CHINA



Getty

CRASHING waves from the Qiantang River surprise the watching crowd.

ISTANBUL, TURKEY



Getty

THE moon and Çamlica Mosque light up the night sky.



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# MAN SAVES 300 DOGS



Ricardo Pimentel brought around 300 dogs into his house to keep them safe during a hurricane.

**A MAN in Mexico opened up his home to around 300 dogs and dozens of other animals to keep them safe during a hurricane.**

Ricardo Pimentel led hundreds of animals from his shelter, Tierra de Animales (Land of Animals), to his house on the Yucatán Peninsula, as Hurricane Delta closed in. As well as all the dogs, he now lives with bunnies, chicks, 12 cats, a flock of sheep and a hedgehog.

Kind-hearted Ricardo said: "It doesn't matter if the house is dirty, it can be cleaned. The things they broke can be fixed or bought again, but what's beautiful is to see them happy, healthy and safe, without wounds and with the possibility of being adopted."

And the best news is that they all survived the storm.

# KILLED FOR CARTOONS



**PROTESTS have been taking place in France after a teacher was killed.**

History teacher Samuel Paty was attacked as he left his school, and police later shot dead the suspect. Mr Paty is said to have shown cartoon pictures of the Prophet Muhammad to his pupils during a lesson. Many Muslims say that any image of Muhammad or Allah (God) is forbidden, while most French people say that religion shouldn't take priority over freedom of speech. Reports say that Mr Paty told his Muslim pupils to turn away if they didn't want to see the cartoons.

Police have arrested 11 people as part of the investigation into Mr Paty's murder.

# DRONES DELIVER FOR THE NHS

**THE NHS has teamed up with the UK Space Agency to use drones to deliver coronavirus tests to hospital.**

Trials are being set up in Essex using a drone to transport COVID-19 samples, blood tests and PPE (personal protective equipment) between hospitals in England.

It is hoped that using the drones will avoid driver waiting times, free up NHS staff, reduce unnecessary physical contact and minimise the risk of spreading the virus.



# EDITOR'S COMMENT



**IT'S been a difficult 2020 for many people as the pandemic has swept around the globe.**

And we are still dealing with it, as many areas are seeing further restrictions.

So, at First News, we decided it was time to focus on a future beyond COVID-19 and to start thinking about regrowth. So, please join in our #HelpingBritainGrow movement (front page).

And the positive thinking doesn't end there! Join us for panto fun – on p12. (Oh yes you can!)

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# GOOD WEEK FOR...

## BLACK CATS

AFTER ten years of holding its annual National Black Cat Day, the charity Cats Protection now says that black cats spend on average 11 days less in care before they are rehomed. Black cats were often seen as not looking good in pictures, but look at this face!

# BAD WEEK FOR...

## MAKI THE LEMUR

THE 21-year-old endangered animal was stolen from San Francisco Zoo. Thankfully Maki was spotted by five-year-old James Trinh in the car park of his Daly City school and is now back home at the zoo. A man has been arrested in connection with the theft.



# OOPS!

**THE Health and Safety Executive, which is supposed to look after people's health and safety at work, has admitted that hundreds of its own staff have been involved in accidents at work.**

It says 218 accidents, including 57 that needed either first aid or hospital treatment, took place at the Government agency between April 2015 and April 2020.

## BELFAST

### ● Tweet goes global

The 'How it started' trend has taken over the internet recently. It generally involves people posting pictures when they were younger next to a 'How it's going' picture to show how far they have come. One Belfast dad who joined in the trend has been left stunned as his series of pics were shared across the world, amassing almost one million likes. The heart-warming pictures show Ciarán Ó'Seanáin holding his daughter Niamh's hand on the same street. The first picture shows her starting primary school, the second is the last day of secondary and the third is Niamh's graduation. "I'm flabbergasted by the reaction my pictures have got," said Ciarán. "The good thing is that now nearly a million people know how proud I am of my daughter."



## ENGLAND

### ● Live performances

Good news for music and ballet fans! The Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (BSO) has begun to stage live concerts with a reduced audience to be COVID-safe. Meanwhile, English National Ballet will be presenting *Nutcracker Delights* in December. Artistic director Tamara Rojo said: "It's more important than ever that we are able to bring audiences some festive joy this Christmas."



## ORKNEY ISLANDS

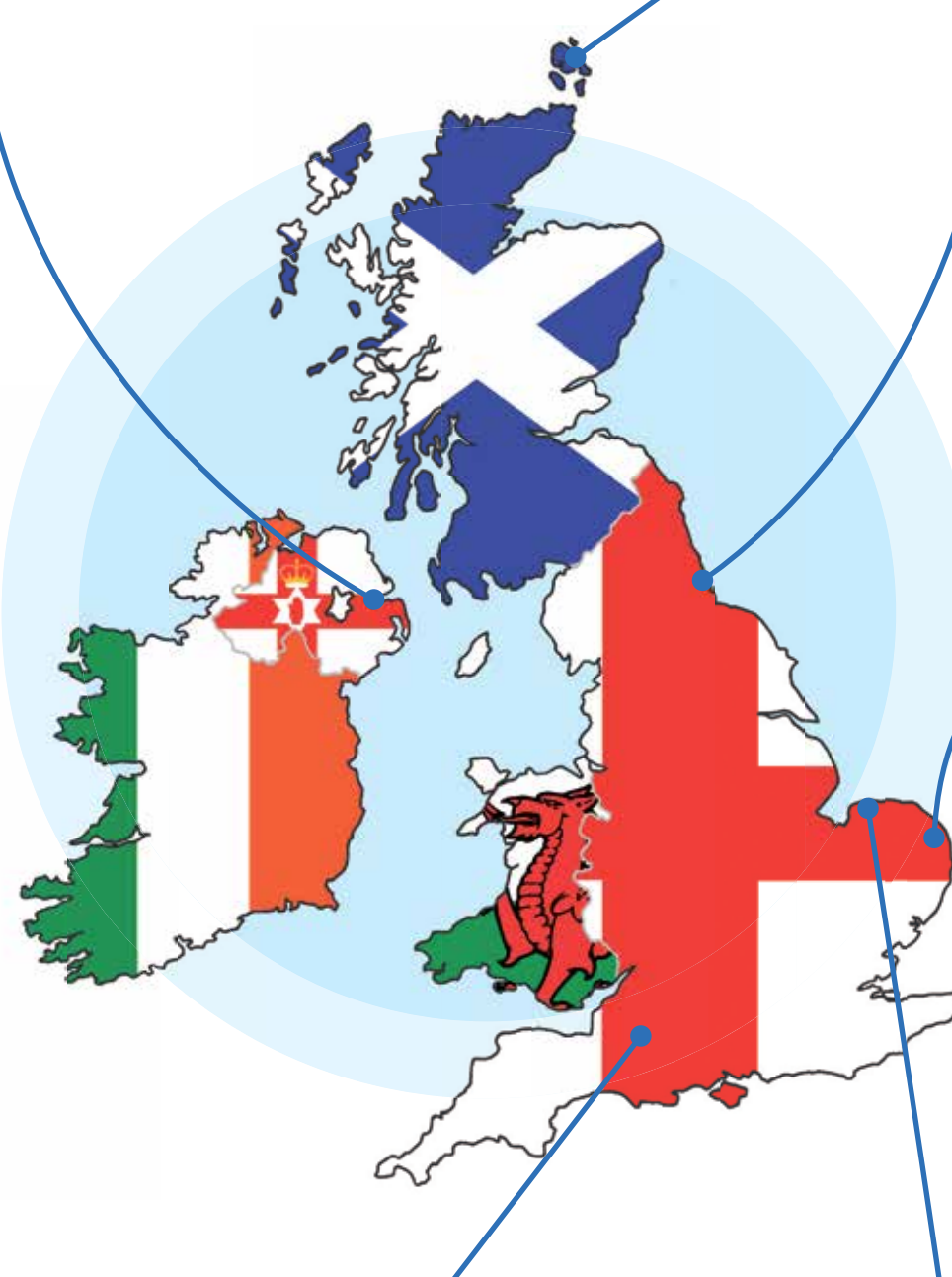
### ● Fishy business

Last week, campaigners from environmental group Greenpeace boarded a ship to stop it fishing in the Central Fladen Marine Protected Area (MPA) east of Orkney. Oceans campaigner Chris Thorne said: "Supertrawlers have no place in our protected areas. [Their] operations in a supposedly protected area make a mockery of the word protected." A spokesperson for the ship's owners said: "These vessels were operating entirely legally."

### HOW IT STARTED:



### HOW IT ENDED:



## TYNE AND WEAR



### ● Young honour

A teenager who used his 3D printer to make 1,200 visors for NHS and care home staff is one of the youngest people to get a British Empire Medal from the Queen. Sixteen-year-old Theo Wride from Sunderland said: "I wanted to do my bit. I was surprised when I was told I was going to get [a medal]. But it is not just for me. I have received help from family, friends and the 3D printing community." Theo was inspired to make visors when his grandmother went into a care home in March. He made the visors for carers looking after his gran, as well as staff at the medical centre and eye infirmary where his parents work.

## NORFOLK



### ● Charities help seals

Seals in Winterton-on-Sea are being protected by a new fence that has been designed to stop seals being scared by humans. The charity Friends Of Horsey Seals said that "crowds have frightened seal mothers, causing them to abandon their pups". In other Norfolk seal news, the RSPCA team at East Winch are looking after 49 seal pups. Many pups have breathing problems, but staff have used a wallpaper steamer (for removing wallpaper easily) to help them breathe more easily. Clever stuff!

## SOMERSET

### ● Toy library at risk

A toy library (what a brilliant idea!) is at risk of closing if it doesn't find regular funding. Frome Toy Library has been loaning out toys and offering a space for young kids to play for more than 30 years. Sue Willis, who runs the library, said: "The lockdown has definitely made it hard. When we've been looking for grant funding, it's become noticeably harder since March. If we don't find somebody who is happy to support us and keep it going, ultimately it will close."



## NORFOLK

### ● Knot a lot

Record numbers of knot have been seen in the RSPB reserve in Snettisham. The incredible birds undertake an epic migration from the Arctic, where they breed, to parts of Europe, Africa and Australia. Around 140,000 have been seen at the reserve, beating the 1990-91 record of 120,000.



How many can you count? Good luck!



**ON Tuesday 3 November, Americans will choose their next president.** Their current leader, the Republican Party candidate Donald Trump, is up against Joe Biden, who is the candidate of the Democratic Party. So, who are the two men who want to lead the world's biggest economy, how does the election work and when will we find out who wins?

### Who can be president?

Unlike in the UK, Americans vote directly for their leader – the president – once every four years. Candidates for president pick a vice president (VP) who works alongside them.

Anyone can run for president, provided they are a US citizen born in the country and are at least 35 years of age. Although there are candidates from minor parties, such as the Libertarians and Greens, realistically the only candidates who can win an election in the US are those of the Republican and Democratic parties.

### Who are the two big parties?

The Democratic Party, or Democrats, is the party of past presidents including Barack Obama and John F Kennedy (JFK). It's traditionally a centre-left party (kind of like our Labour Party), and its logo is a donkey.

The Republican Party, or GOP (Grand Old Party), is the party of former presidents George W Bush and Abraham Lincoln. The GOP is a right-wing party (like our Conservative Party), and its logo is an elephant.

To become a presidential nominee, you have to win the support of your party's members in votes that take place in each of the USA's 50 states. The sitting president is usually guaranteed to be their party's candidate – as is the case this year with Donald Trump.

Joe Biden competed against more than ten other Democrats to secure his party's nomination. His campaign started badly – he finished fourth in the first vote. But in the fourth state to vote, South Carolina, he won a massive victory and led the race after that.

### How do they win the election?

The presidential election is decided by something called the electoral college. The way it works is that each of the 50 states of the USA has a number of electors (right). The number varies according to the population of the state. For example, the big state of California has 55 electors, while the tiny state of Rhode Island has just four. A candidate needs more than half of all electors – that's a minimum of 270 – to win the presidential election. Electors are assigned to the candidate that wins the most votes. So if, for example, Mr Biden wins the vote in California, he gets all 55 electors.

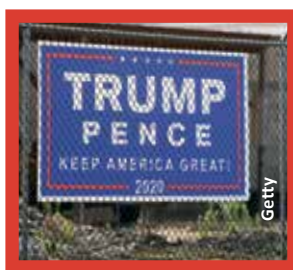
### Does the person with the most votes win?

Not always. Four years ago, Mr Trump received a total of 304 electors to Hillary Clinton's 227. But Mrs Clinton actually got almost three million more votes than Mr Trump, so there are many people who say the US voting system no longer works. They say the person with the most votes nationwide should win the election, and that electors are no longer an appropriate way of deciding who wins.

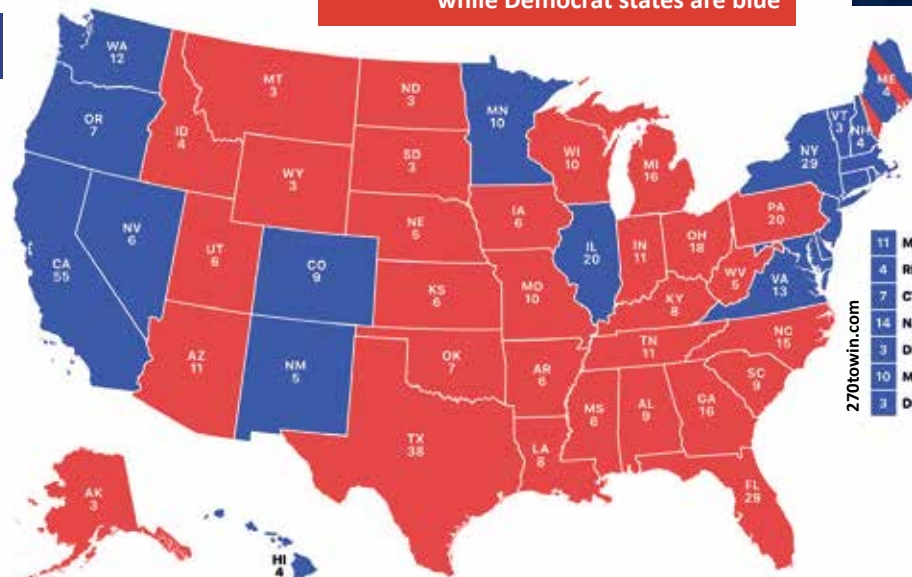
### When will the winner be declared?

It's normally clear who has reached 270 votes once polls close in the states on the west coast of the USA, at around 4am UK time. But this year, because of COVID-19, a lot of people are planning to vote by mail, so we may not have the full result for a few days.

However, record numbers of people have already voted early in states that allow it. More than 22 million people have already cast their vote. Whoever wins, the president will be sworn in on 20 January 2021.



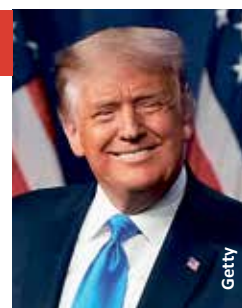
The number of electors in each state. The red states voted Republican in 2016, while Democrat states are blue



### Who is Donald Trump?

Donald Trump was born on 14 June 1946, in Queens, New York. His mother was an immigrant from Scotland. He started out working for his father's business, which built and sold homes, and eventually took over and expanded the company. Trump made money developing apartment blocks, casinos, hotels and golf courses. He began starring in the enormously successful reality TV series *The Apprentice* in 2004.

In 2015, with no experience in politics or public life, he announced he was running for president. Most experts thought he didn't have a chance. But Mr Trump beat all the other Republicans – most of whom were politicians with decades of experience – to become the official candidate. Then, against all the odds, he beat Hillary Clinton to become the 45th president of the United States. He is running for a second and final term. Mr Trump's VP is Mike Pence.



### Who is Joe Biden?

Joseph Biden was born on 20 November 1942 in Scranton, Pennsylvania. As a child, he struggled with a stutter, and has spoken about being bullied at school because of it. He eventually overcame his speech impediment and now coaches others – including

children – with stutters and stammers.

After working as a lawyer, in 1972 he became one of the country's youngest ever senators (politicians who represent their state). But just weeks after he was elected, Biden's wife and three children were involved in a car accident while out buying a Christmas tree. His wife and daughter died and his two young sons were seriously injured.

Biden served as a senator for more than 30 years. At the 2008 presidential election, Barack Obama picked him for vice president, a job he kept until January 2017. Mr Biden has picked Kamala Harris as his vice president. If they win, she will become the first female VP and first VP of colour in US history.



## CANADA



### ● Dinosaur found

A 12-year-old boy who uncovered a dinosaur bone while hiking with his father has been told he's made a "significant discovery". Nathan Hrushkin spotted the bones while walking through Horseshoe Canyon. The pair shared their find with the Royal Tyrrell Museum, which confirmed that the bones came from a young hadrosaur that lived around 69 million years ago. Until now, scientists didn't know which dinosaurs would have been in the region at that time. A palaeontologist at the museum said "the discovery that Nathan made is of great significance because it fills those gaps".



## SWEDEN



### ● A new strategy

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Sweden has avoided going into a full lockdown. Instead, the country has mostly relied on voluntary measures to stop the spread of the virus. But Sweden has had a higher number of deaths per million people, in comparison to its Nordic neighbours. Now, local governments are being given the power to introduce stricter new recommendations and to ask citizens to avoid public transport, busy public places and contact with those considered most vulnerable. Unlike other countries, however, Swedish authorities will not punish those who ignore the guidelines.



## THAILAND



### ● Days of protests

As First News went to press, protesters were gathering again to call for change to Thailand's government and monarchy. The Thai royal family is protected in law, and you can go to jail for criticising them. The protesters, who are mostly students, want to stop the royal family from having so much power and money. The Thai government has said it will do what it can to protect the monarchy.

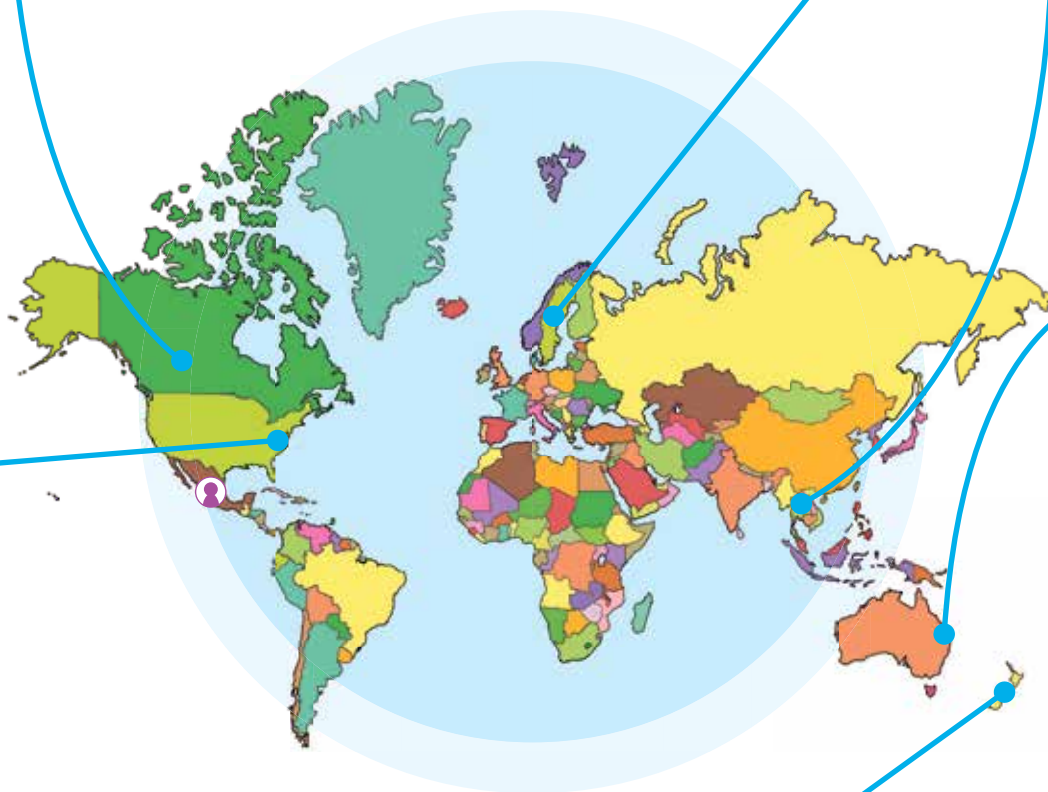
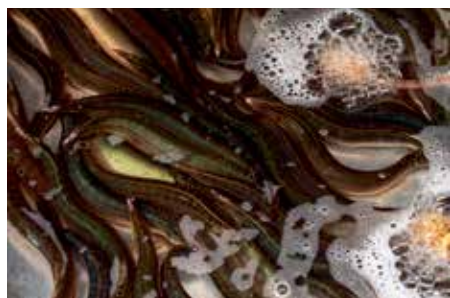


## USA



### ● Eels on the loose

A "big pile" of Asian swamp eels were released into Prospect Park Lake in New York last week, worrying ecologists. When an animal that can't be naturally found in a country is released, it can affect the ecosystem. "People like animals and they sometimes think they're doing a good thing by letting them go," said Jason Munshi-South, urban ecologist at Fordham University. "Most will die. Some will become a problem, and then there's no going back."



## AUSTRALIA



### ● Coral crisis

Researchers from the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies have found that the Great Barrier Reef has lost 50% of its coral populations in the last 30 years. The team behind the study say that climate change is the main reason behind the reef's decline. "We used to think the Great Barrier Reef is protected by its size, but our results show that even the world's largest and relatively well-protected reef system is in decline," a member of the team said. "There is no time to lose, we must sharply decrease greenhouse gas emissions ASAP," the report's authors warn.



## NEW ZEALAND



### ● Landslide victory

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and the Labour Party that she leads have decisively won New Zealand's general election. The party received 49.1% of the vote, the highest in almost 50 years. She says she'll now work to create more climate-friendly policies, boost the funding of disadvantaged schools and raise income taxes for top earners.



## OUR WORLD



**NAME: LEOMAR**  
**LIVES: MEXICO**

**LEOMAR Ruiz is a 16-year-old activist from Mexico. Since he was eight years old, Leomar has been trying to get people in power to take children in his country seriously – especially indigenous children.**

He organises conferences for children so their voices and the issues they care about are heard. In Mexico and around the world, these conferences have addressed children's perspectives on dozens of issues, including indigenous rights and education. He also has a blog that publishes articles by children about rights issues, and has collected hundreds of books to donate to deprived communities in Mexico.

Leomar said: "In my country, for a long time the rights of children have been very vulnerable. That has to end. That is why, since the age of eight, I have worked so that everyone respects the rights of adolescents and children, especially the right to participation. Through the fulfilment of this right, we can all be heard and taken into account in all the processes that our nations face."



To find out more, go to [www.amnesty.org.uk](http://www.amnesty.org.uk)





# CELEBRATING FOSTER SIBLINGS



EVERY October, The Fostering Network celebrates Sons and Daughters Month, to recognise, thank and reward the children of foster carers for the important role they play in welcoming fostered children into their families. Let's find out more about these super siblings...

## WHAT IS FOSTERING?

Sometimes children cannot live with their own family, or their parents are not able to keep them safe. This could be for lots of different reasons, maybe because of a family illness, or perhaps parents need some time to sort out their problems. Often when this happens, children will go to live with foster carers.



## WHAT ARE FOSTER CARERS?

Foster carers are special people who have been carefully chosen and trained to look after children. Foster carers open their homes for children to come to live with them for as long as they need – from a few days to their whole childhood. In the UK there are around 55,000 families who foster, looking after 65,000 children who need a safe and loving place to stay. And many more foster carers are needed.

Foster carers make sure that the children they look after are taken good care of. In a fostering household, the entire family gets involved and the sons and daughters of foster carers are particularly important. They share their parents, their toys and their friends, and they also make sure that the children who come to live with them feel part of the family.



## CELEBRATING SONS AND DAUGHTERS

To celebrate what the sons and daughters of foster carers do to help fostered children, The Fostering Network – the leading fostering charity in the UK – runs Sons and Daughters Month every October.

Matilda has been sharing her family with children who need a home all her life. Her parents became foster carers when she was just a baby, and since then, many children have come to live with her. She told us all about it...

You can find out more about fostering at [thefosteringnetwork.org.uk](http://thefosteringnetwork.org.uk)

## MATILDA'S STORY



Matilda's parents are foster carers

"When a child arrives there is usually a settling-in period and lots of ups and downs. We have lots of family time; we watch TV together, we go on long walks. We get to know each other, to find out what we like and dislike and how we can best live together.

Before my younger brother moved in with us, I was always the youngest; now I am the oldest. I did take time getting used to it, but now I enjoy having more responsibility and taking my brother under my wing. Of course it can be challenging to foster, but I really enjoy having my fostered siblings around. One of my best memories is when we all celebrated Christmas together at my nan's – there were 22 of us!

I think fostering has meant that I am good at dealing with difficult situations. I've gained a lot from growing up in a foster family; first and foremost, new siblings. Even though it varies how long children stay with us, we keep in touch with all of them, if possible. My sister was with us from when she was nine to 18, and we still call her every day. My other sister just lives in a town close to us and I go to her house a lot.

I don't know how life would be without fostering but I don't think I would like it. Maybe I'll become a foster carer too."

# DISEASE DETECTORS



Guide Dogs

THREE young guide dogs are being retrained as Medical Detection Dogs to help fight the spread of COVID-19.

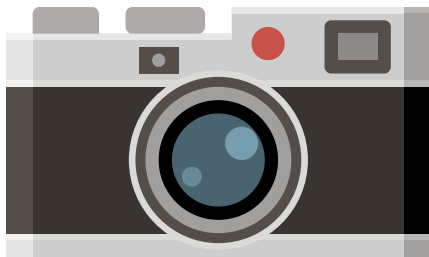


Ivan, Maple and Spencer were raised as guide dogs, but their trainers decided they weren't quite right to help people with sight loss. Instead, they are changing careers and being trained to be part of the elite Medical Detection Dogs team. They will join several other dogs who have already begun training to prepare for a COVID-19 trial.

It's hoped that the dogs will be able to detect COVID-19 in the same way

that other dogs in the charity have been trained to detect diseases like cancer, Parkinson's and bacterial infections.

Ivan, Maple and Spencer are being trained by Chris Allen, Medical Detection Dogs' Dog Supply and Training Manager. Chris says: "The dogs thoroughly enjoy working; it's a big game. We're using their willingness to please, their drive, their wanting to use their nose, and shaping and redirecting it in a positive way."



## SUPER SNAPS!

THE winners of the Natural History Museum's Wildlife Photographer of the Year have been unveiled. Here are some of the winning pictures...

**GRAND TITLE WINNER:** This stunning photo of a tigress hugging a tree in Russia was selected from 49,000 entries from around the world. It took the photographer Sergey Gorshkov 11 months to capture the image using hidden cameras.



Sergey Gorshkov



Liina Heikkinen

**YOUNG GRAND TITLE WINNER:** This image is named *The Fox That Got The Goose* and was captured by Liina Heikkinen from Finland. Liina comes from a family of wildlife photographers.

**TEN YEARS AND UNDER WINNER:** Andrés Luis took this snap from the back seat of his dad's car near their home in Spain. He had spotted some European stonechats hunting for insects a few days earlier and returned to try to capture a shot.



Andrés Luis Dominguez Blanco

# AUTUMN ADVENTURES

THE days are getting shorter and the temperatures are taking a dive – autumn is here! But that doesn't mean nature has shut up shop, so grab your jacket and head outside for some fun family adventures. We've got five suggestions for you all to try.

## FUNGI SAFARI

The mushrooms in your dinner are just a small part of the whole fungus – the rest of it grows underground or into logs. Most mushrooms bloom in autumn when it's wet, so it's a great time to go out and find some for yourself. There's the ominously-named death cap (**its name a good reminder not to eat what you find on your safari, as some mushrooms are deadly poisonous**), the delicate scarlet elf cups (it was said that wood elves drank dew from their cups) and the poisonous fly agaric (right, the inspiration for Toad in Super Mario!).



Ben Andrew

## TRACK THE TRACKS

Do you ever see animal tracks in your garden, or near your home? You can make a cast to help identify it with just some plaster of Paris and a tube of cardboard. First, put the tube of card around your print - then pour the plaster into the circle, leave it for about 10-15mins until dry, and remove the card. You should have a lovely cast of the animal print! Take it home to identify which animal left the tracks, or even paint it for some lovely art.



Rahul Thanki



RSPB

## THROW A BIRD DINNER PARTY

As it gets colder, birds need more energy to keep warm. While there are lots of berries, insects and seeds around in the autumn, the birds will appreciate some lovely fatty suet balls going into the winter.

All you need are yogurt pots, suet or lard, bird seed, raisins, peanuts and grated cheese. Start by cutting a small hole in the bottom of your pot and tying some string through to hang it up. Then cut up the suet at a room temperature and mix in more and more of the other ingredients until it all sticks together. Pop the mixture in the yoghurt pots and put them in the fridge for about an hour to set, and – voilà! – you have a suet cake to hang from a tree.



Ben Andrew

## LEAF ART

The leaves coming down are a kind of natural confetti, and you can turn them into a whole new kind of art! Make a collage, cut them up, draw on them – wherever your creativity takes you. Just be sure not to take too many leaves, as they make excellent cover for small animals, and when they decompose they return lots of important nutrients to the soil.

## DEMYSTIFY THE MOTH

Many moths change colour to match the autumnal leaves and lichens, so they are especially beautiful at this time of year. Go on a treasure hunt for the canary-shouldered thorn, which is covered in bright yellow fluff, the herald moth with its glowing orange patches (below), or the merveille du jour (French for 'wonder of the day'), whose green and black colouring is a bit like mint chocolate chip ice cream.



Matt Wilkinson

First News has teamed up with former Blue Peter presenter Peter Duncan on a spectacular panto to watch online at school or at home. We figured we've all missed out on a lot this year, and we didn't want a Christmas without panto too, so bring on the fun and the mess! Over to Peter to tell you more...

# NO PANTO THIS YEAR?

# OH YES THERE IS!



WHEN the pandemic first wrapped itself around the Earth earlier this year, the phrase "no panto for you this year" was constantly hurled in my direction.

Like many people, I thought long and hard about how life would change, and for me – as with many actors – my work stopped abruptly.

In the past I have often been able to recognise good opportunities when they presented themselves, such as becoming a Blue Peter presenter or, as Chief Scout, the leader of the UK's half a million scouts. Strange as it may seem, I saw the first lockdown as an opportunity. It was a casual comment by a neighbour who said: "You should do an online pantomime," that was the inspirational moment this project began.

I have always been immersed in pantomime. My parents produced and appeared in them, and in my childhood I was surrounded by costumes, props and scenery. Giants, fairies, magical illusions, women dressing up as men, and men dressed as women were all part of my upbringing. It seems I've come full circle, as I am playing Dame Trott in *Jack and the Beanstalk*, soon to be unleashed on a device or screen wherever you are from 4 December.



Peter (left) as Dame Trott with her son Jack

## JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

Having an idea is one thing, putting it into practice is much harder. How would I do it? I began by contacting all the people I had worked with who were positive and dedicated to their craft. I sought many collaborators; some were busy on their own projects, some weren't interested, but others were really enthusiastic. All of those who became part of the production were instrumental in 'putting it together', a phrase often used in theatrical adventures.

I started by writing the screenplay – diving into my back catalogue of songs I had written, borrowed

or made up. Fortunately I owned a fine stock of costumes and comedy props, but the question remained – where to film it? Few theatres were open, but then a brainwave! I'm lucky enough to have a big garden and my neighbour has a Victorian folly in his, which could be Giant Blunderbore's secret lair. It was obvious that those gardens would become our filming location.

Now the film is finished and, as I write, being edited, orchestrated and layered with sound effects, the next phase is to tell folks about it. I didn't want to be like Van Gogh, whose 'masterpiece' was discovered after he had long gone, so I am very pleased First News is collaborating in promoting our efforts to share our story.

## A PLANET-SAVING PANTO!

Pantomimes work on many levels, with jokes and social commentary for all ages, as well as being funny and telling a good story. If there is an overall theme, it's thanks to Greta Thunberg. It is a planet-saving pantomime. It also has something to say about the state we are in and how my generation (I'm a pensioner) has a big debt to pay to young people now and in the future.

*Jack and the Beanstalk* is available to schools, families, scouts and guides, care homes and community groups.



For schools we are filming four extra videos to show you how to make your own panto and having a poster competition with prizes. We are also supporting various charities, which you can find out more about on our website – [pantoonline.co.uk](http://pantoonline.co.uk) – as well as booking your tickets there.

During the coming weeks I'll be contributing more articles about how to get involved in creative and inspiring activities over the next few months... wherever you are!



Find out more and book your school or family tickets at [pantoonline.co.uk](http://pantoonline.co.uk)



Getty

## THE BIG (ISH) PICTURE

**THIS** might look like some kind of art, but it's actually a farmer using a tractor to spread grains out so that they dry in the sun.  
The picture was taken from a drone in Suqian, China.

An advertisement for hand washing. It features a close-up of a woman's hands being washed with soap. The woman is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a soft-focus indoor setting. In the top left corner is the HM Government logo. In the top right corner is the NHS logo. A yellow-bordered box on the right contains the text 'I wash my hands to protect everyone.' At the bottom, there are three circular icons: 'HANDS' (hands being washed), 'FACE' (a face mask), and 'SPACE' (two people with a double-headed arrow between them). A blue banner at the very bottom contains the text 'STAY ALERT &gt; CONTROL THE VIRUS &gt; SAVE LIVES'.

HM Government

NHS

I wash my hands to protect everyone.



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

STAY ALERT > CONTROL THE VIRUS > SAVE LIVES

# THE SECRETS OF THE SECRET GARDEN



WE spoke to Dixie Egerickx, the star of *The Secret Garden*, who told us all about what it was like filming a new version of the classic tale, and gave away some behind-the-scenes secrets!

## ● For readers who might not have heard of *The Secret Garden* before, how would you sum it up?

So the film is based on the novel of the same name by Frances Hodgson Burnett, and it's basically about Mary, who's an orphan, who comes from India to live with her uncle in England. There, she goes on a bit of a journey, emotionally – and it involves a garden.

## ● Tell us a bit more about your character, Mary...

Mary is complex. Initially she's very unpleasant, very unlikeable... sad, unfortunately. But! Towards the end, she learns and grows as a person. She becomes happier, and learns the value of friends and family.

## ● Do you have much in common with her?

I mean, I hope I'm not unpleasant like she is at the beginning! I guess like she is at the end, she loves her friends and family. I like to think that I value my friends and family too. She's quite defiant and bold too, which I'm somewhat like.



## ● Tell us about your favourite scene!

It's a tiny bit of a spoiler, but there are some fire scenes in the film, which I thought were really cool. I really had fun filming them, even though it was kind of scary. The flames were real, as well. It was obviously very safe and controlled, but it was quite scary! While it was probably good to help you act, it got quite warm and uncomfortable. It was quite fun though.

## ● What was it like in the film's secret garden?

Well, actually it was lots of gardens – and it was really fun! So basically, we went to all these gardens across the UK, and the one you see in the film is all of them smushed together. There really wasn't much CGI in the end! It was as nice to be in those gardens as it looks in the film.

## ● Did being in those gardens inspire you to become a gardener yourself?

My dad designs gardens, so I'm really lucky to live with a nice big garden. My mum is a florist, too! So I've always sort of had nature in my life.

## ● Do you have any acting advice for our readers?

It's good if you can put yourself in the shoes of the character, and try to portray how they feel. Try to do that, and think of how you would react in their situation.



Colin Firth plays Archibald Craven in the new version of the classic tale

## ● Did you know the book before you got the part?

Yes I did! I'd read it when I was about seven, and it was my mum's favourite book when she was a kid, so I was quite familiar with the story.

## ● Does the film look like you'd imagined it, back when you read the book?

It's different – but I think that's good. You definitely make up a picture of something in your mind, but I like when it turns out different. It gives you a different perspective on things.



Julie Walters plays Mrs Medlock in the film

*The Secret Garden* is in cinemas now!

# THIS WEEK

**1** Anne-Marie is joining *The Voice UK* and will replace Meghan Trainor for this series. Anne-Marie said: "I am SO excited to join Sir Tom, will.i.am and Olly as the new coach on *The Voice UK*. I can't wait to work with incredible undiscovered talent! Wahooooo!"



**2** Little Mix are heading to the big screen. On 21 and 22 November *Little Mix: LM5 – The Tour Film* will be shown in selected cinemas around the country. Filmed at the band's sell-out LM5 show at London's O<sub>2</sub> arena last year, it features their hit songs and high-energy performances. Tickets are on sale now at [LittleMixTourFilm.com](http://LittleMixTourFilm.com).



**3** Filming has begun on the new CBBC series *My Mum Tracy Beaker*. The show reintroduces us to Tracy Beaker and we get to meet her daughter Jess (pictured on set). The brand-new drama is an adaptation of Jacqueline Wilson's book of the same name. The series will hit our screens in 2021, which is also the 30th anniversary of the original book, *The Story of Tracy Beaker*.



# PICS OF THE WEEK

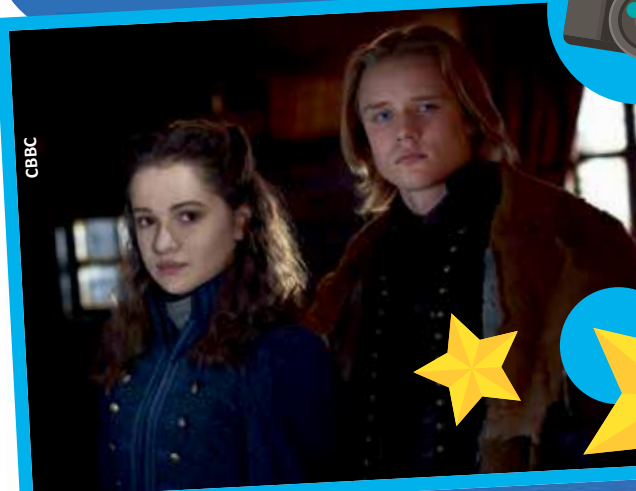


**OCTOBER** is officially the spookiest month of the year, and this week it will get even spookier with a new class of vampires arriving on CBBC!

The fang-tastic new series, *Heirs of the Night*, follows students as they start at a new school for vampires!

Years after vampires were hunted almost to extinction, the remaining vampire clans send their children to a newly created vampire school onboard the famous ship *The Elisabetha*. One student, Alisa, has a unique and special power that she must learn to master!

*Heirs of the Night* starts on CBBC on 26 October at 5pm and will run weekdays during half term, then every Wednesday.



# MORE MANDALORIAN

**SERIES two** of *The Mandalorian* premieres on Disney+ on 30 October, so check out these fab facts about the Star Wars spin-off.

## THE SHOW IS LINKED TO THE SKYWALKER RANCH

Jon Favreau and Dave Filoni are two of the creative masterminds behind *The Mandalorian* and their very first meeting was on George Lucas' Skywalker Ranch! "I met Dave because I was up at the Ranch mixing the first *Iron Man* movie and he was secretly working with George on *The Clone Wars* before anybody had ever heard of it," reveals Jon. "I secretly showed him *Iron Man* and he showed me *The Clone Wars* — and I was blown away. I was like: 'If you ever need a voice on this, I'd love to do it.' That eventually turned into me playing a Mandalorian named Pre Vizsla on his show. That was the start of our history of working together."

## THE SHOW IS FILLED WITH STAR WARS EASTER EGGS!

"We wanted to make sure that if you were watching and you know *Star Wars*, then you will be rewarded," explains Jon. "We tried different ways to work stuff in. It's been exciting to put these little Easter eggs into the story; it rewards the people who've been putting the time in over the years, since they were kids growing up with it."



## IT'S FOR NEWCOMERS AS WELL AS STAR WARS FANS

"I honestly think the beauty of *The Mandalorian* is that you don't really need to know anything about *Star Wars* to enjoy it," reveals executive producer Dave Filoni. "If you know that Mandalorians are notoriously the greatest warriors in the galaxy and they'll fight you to prove it, then that will go a long way."

## THE EARLY ARTWORK IS ON DISPLAY IN THE SHOW

The amazing concept art for *The Mandalorian* hasn't been locked away in a *Star Wars* vault. Instead, the jaw-dropping visuals created by artists, including Doug Chiang, Jama Jurabaev, John Park, Christian Alzmann, Ryan Church, Nick Gindraux and more, are on display in every episode. "We have included some of the artwork at the end of the show," reveals Jon. "Each week, you see some of the images in the end credits."





## A WORLD OF ADVENTURE ONLINE

At [OverTheMoonNetflix.com](https://OverTheMoonNetflix.com), there is a ton of fun to be had. As well as finding out more about the film, you can enjoy:

- singalong karaoke with songs from the film
- drawing lessons with director and animation legend, Glen Keane
- arts and crafts – build a fort and make your own rocket ship!
- loads of puzzles and games, from doodles and colouring to memory games and even ping pong!

FROM the visionary artist behind classics like *Aladdin*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *The Little Mermaid* comes a story of a bright young girl who builds a rocket ship to the moon!

Fuelled with determination and a passion for science, 12-year-old Fei Fei decides to build a rocket ship and fly to the moon to prove that a legendary Moon Goddess really does exist. Once there, she ends up on an

unexpected quest, and discovers a whimsical land of fantastical creatures.

*Over The Moon* is an exhilarating musical adventure about moving forward, embracing the unexpected, and the power of imagination.



## THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL



The Mid-Autumn Festival (or the Autumn Moon Festival) is important in many Asian cultures. *Over The Moon* takes inspiration from the Chinese celebration, and the legend of Chang'e, the Moon Goddess.

Families in China light lanterns, eat mooncakes and gaze upon the moon together. Children are told the tale of Chang'e and look up at the moon to see if they can find her.



According to legend, Chang'e was married to Houyi, an expert archer. After becoming immortal, Chang'e flew up to the moon and has been there ever since, waiting to see Houyi again.



**Over The Moon is on Netflix and in select cinemas now.**  
Find out more about the film and discover loads of fun activities at [OverTheMoonNetflix.com](https://OverTheMoonNetflix.com)







**■ This is the final book in the Trials of Apollo series, so how did you feel writing it?**

It was both bittersweet and a relief! Bringing a big series to a close always feels good. After something like 1,500 pages, I hope to bring the story to a satisfying end. On the other hand, after living and working with these characters for five years, I've become very close to them and I hate to see them go. It's like graduation, I suppose: you're happy to be moving on, but you're also aware that you'll never be with this exact group of classmates again, and that's a bit sad.

**■ What can fans expect for Apollo and Meg?**

Apollo will mess up a lot. Meg will criticise him for messing up a lot. Apollo will complain about Meg criticising him for messing up a lot. Meg will... anyway, you get the idea! It's business as usual for our favourite adventuring pair! This is quite a harrowing adventure for them, though. Apollo will either become a god again or not, so the pressure is on. Meg has to finally face her horrible abusive stepfather Nero and come to terms with how much she has changed. That's much harder a challenge than any monster.

**■ Do you think you'll ever dip your toe into the Percy Jackson world again for future books?**

It's certainly possible, but it would not be for a big series. Rather, I can see myself doing one-off novels about this character or that character. That would be fun. There are many side stories that could be explored. My hope is that doing stand-alone novels for a while will allow me the flexibility to pivot from one idea to another more easily.

**■ You write a lot about mythological gods, so do you have a favourite?**

That's a very hard question to answer. I think the mythological pantheons are large groups exactly because, that way, you don't have to pick just one god. I am partial to Hermes, because he is a jack-of-all-trades. He is quite inventive and a bit of a rascal. I like Loki in Norse mythology for the same reasons, though Loki is VERY much of a rascal.

**■ How much research and travel do you do when writing these books?**

I have travelled to almost every location I write about in the books. It's great fun to go somewhere and think: "Hmm, what monster could I use to destroy this lovely city?" I love to travel... or at least I did before some very angry god sent us the COVID plague. Quite inconsiderate!

**■ Can you tell us any more about the Percy Jackson series that's going to be on Disney+?**

It's been a long and complicated process, but I'm quite happy with where things stand right now. I was very clear that I wanted to reboot Percy Jackson as a TV show, because that would allow more time to cover the books in an episodic way, which is how I write anyway. We now have a good team in place and we are collaborating on the script writing. We have a long way to go, but we share the same goal: to make the best, most exciting, most faithful adaptation possible, that will please both old fans and new viewers. So far, so good!

**■ How involved will you get in the casting and production process?**

My wife Becky and I are serving as full producers with the show runners. We will be involved in every aspect of the show, quite unlike the situation before with those feature films *That Shall Not Be Named*.

**■ You've been involved in film adaptations before, so is it hard as an author to let someone else loose with your work?**

Well, that's exactly the thing: I wasn't involved with the films. I tried to be, but I was politely ignored and my warnings were not heeded, until I finally had to wash my hands of the whole thing. I never did see those original films. After reading the scripts, I knew exactly what my readers would think, and most of it wasn't printable. I'm just glad we're getting a re-do [another go]!

**■ What Percy Jackson monster are you most excited about seeing on TV?**

I'm quite excited to see the Chimera! He's a wonderful, crazy, multi-headed horror show of a Chihuahua, and I can't wait to see him cause havoc.

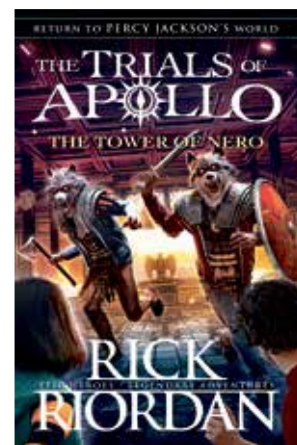
**■ It's never too early to talk Christmas! What's on your list?**

A vaccine for everyone! To be able to travel again! World peace! Is that too much to ask for, do you think? I'm not sure. After 2020, I think we all deserve some nice pressies under the tree, don't you?

**“IT'S FUN TO GO SOMEWHERE AND THINK: WHAT MONSTER COULD I USE TO DESTROY THIS LOVELY CITY?”**

**AUTHOR Rick Riordan, the man who brought us Percy Jackson, told us all about the final instalment in the Trials of Apollo series, Percy coming to our TV screens and what he really wants for Christmas...**

**The Trials of Apollo: The Tower of Nero by Rick Riordan is out now**

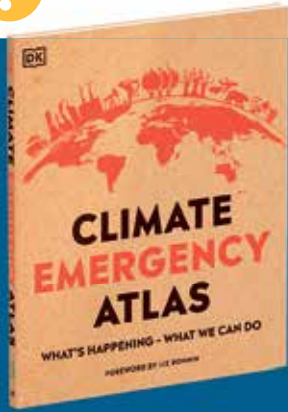


**CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY FIRST NEWS**





# WIN! CLIMATE CHANGE ATLAS

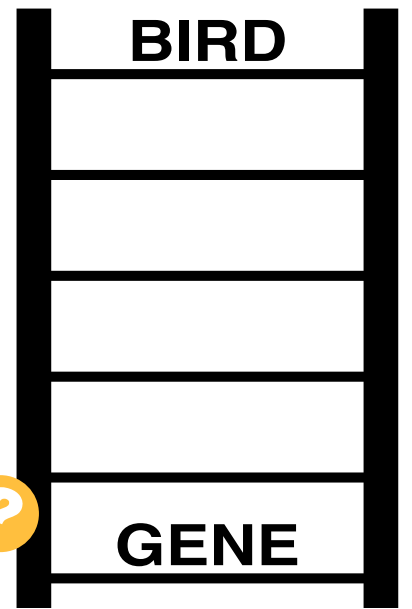


CAN you complete our sudoku puzzle, filling in the numbers one to nine?

Send in your answers and two lucky winners will win a copy of *Climate Emergency Atlas*. Never has there been a more urgent time to take action against climate change. *Climate Emergency Atlas* is a unique graphic atlas packed full of facts, figures and eye-popping maps that help you get a better understanding of the causes of the climate crisis and its effects. We're in this together and you can be the change our planet needs!

		1				9		
7		5	6		4	1		3
4				3				6
		9	4		5	8		
	5	6				4	1	
		4	2		1	6		
1				9				8
9		3	5		8	2		1
		2				3		

# WORD LADDER

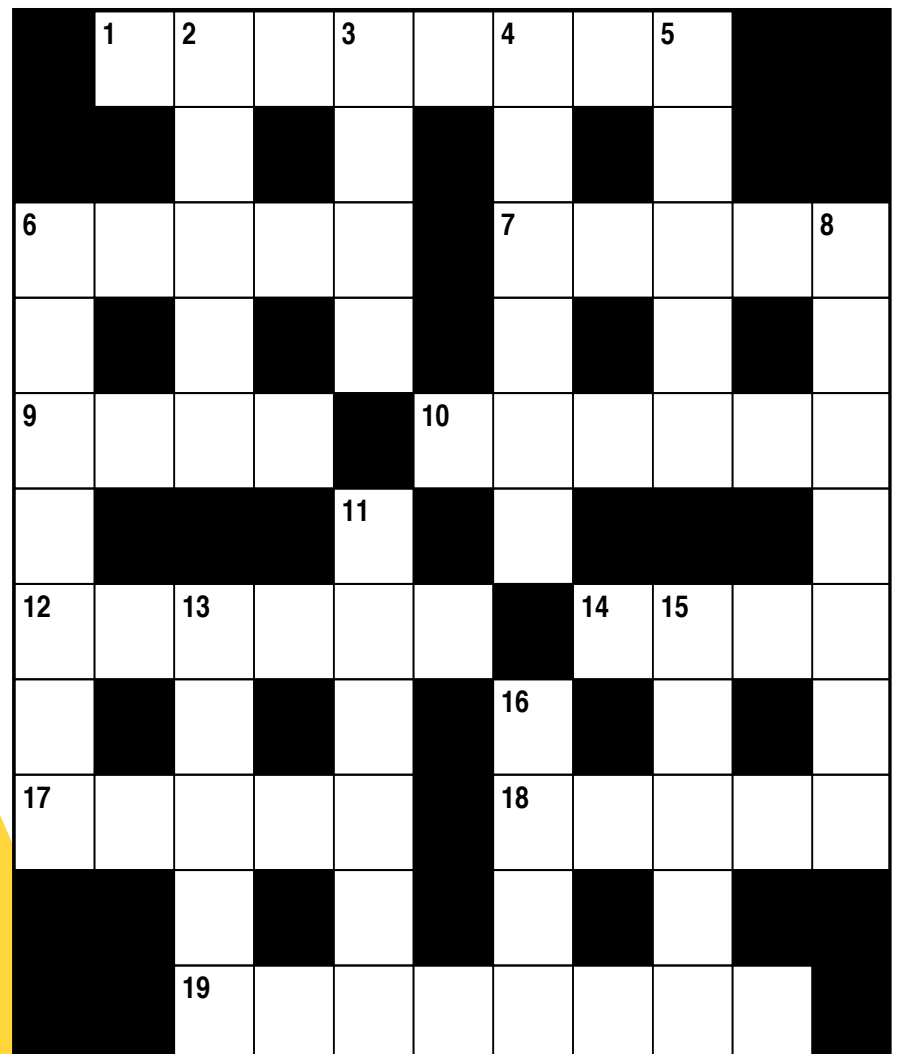


SEE if you can get from the top of the ladder to the bottom by changing one letter at a time to make a new word.

# CROSSWORD



JUST for fun this week! Can you complete our crossword puzzle by using the clues below?



**ACROSS**

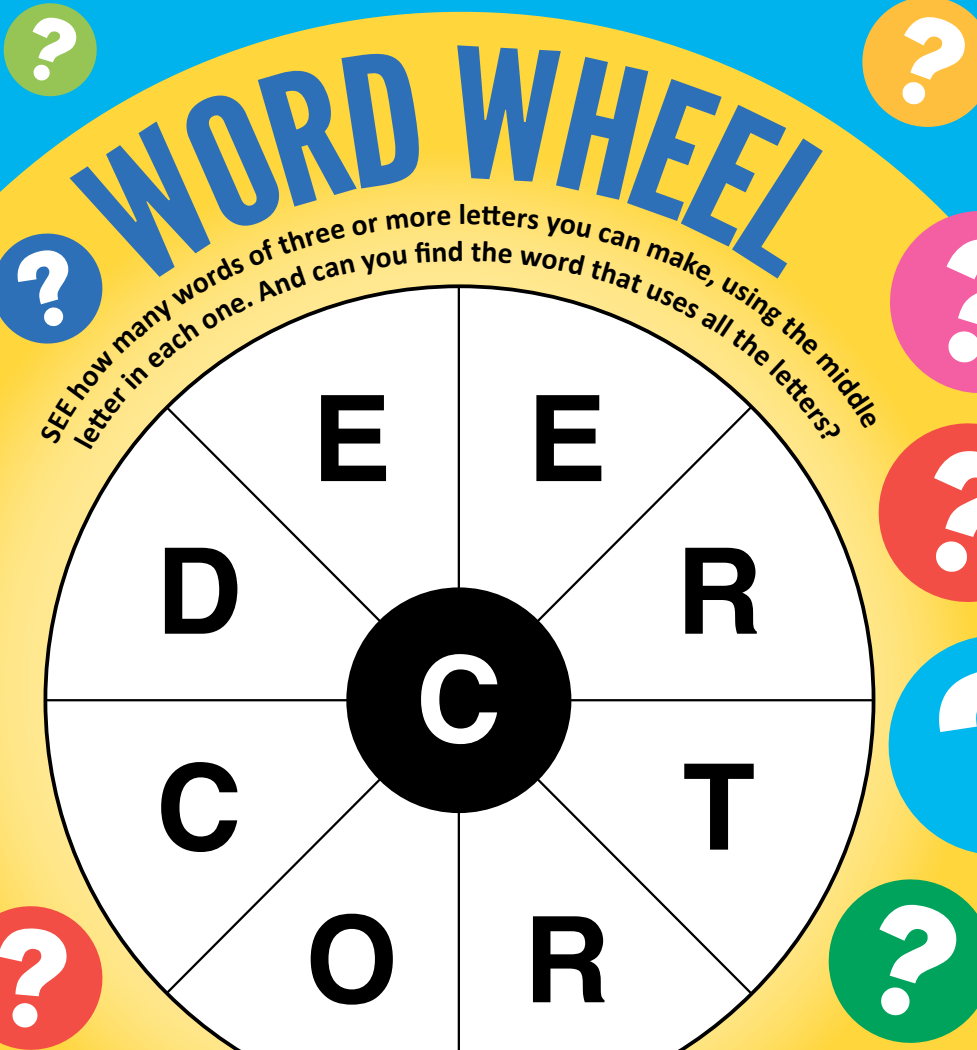
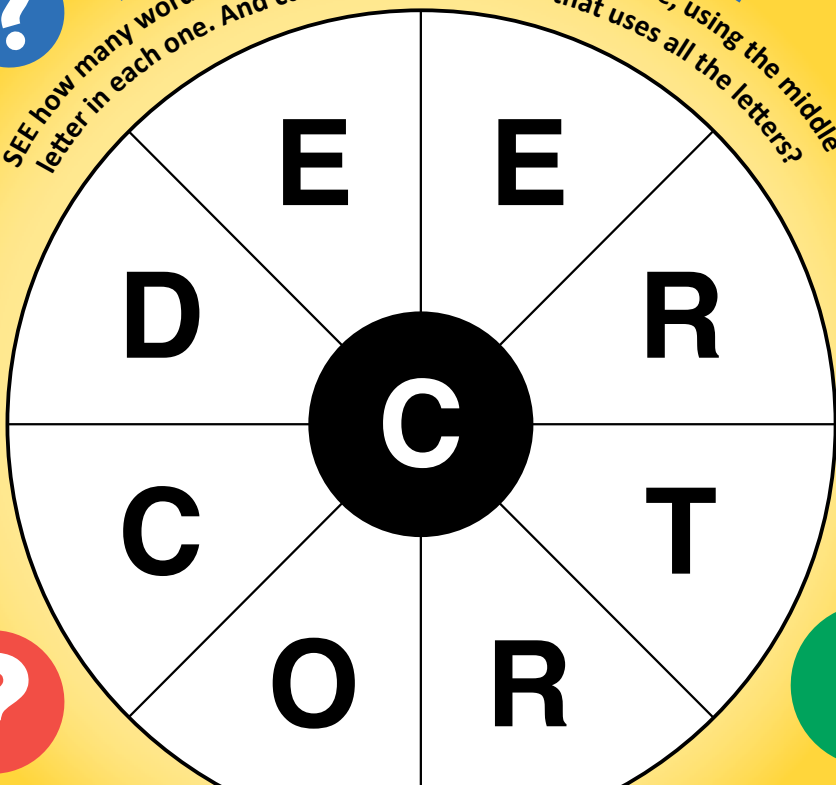
- 1 Very exciting (8)
- 6 Nearby (5)
- 7 Girls \_\_\_\_ : pop group (5)
- 9 Long and pointed elephant tooth (4)
- 10 Precious stones (6)
- 12 Large birds of prey (6)
- 14 A person who is looked up to (4)
- 17 E.g. 2020 and 2021 (5)
- 18 Tom \_\_\_\_ : British diver (5)
- 19 Albert \_\_\_\_ : famous physicist (8)

**DOWN**

- 2 Runs at speed (5)
- 3 Place where grain is crushed (4)
- 4 Move from place to place (4)
- 5 Near (5)
- 6 Game of chance (7)
- 8 Show (7)
- 11 A period of teaching or learning (6)
- 13 Reduce food to small shreds (5)
- 15 New \_\_\_\_ : capital city of India (5)
- 16 Amend (4)

# WORD WHEEL

SEE how many words of three or more letters you can make, using the middle letter in each one. And can you find the word that uses all the letters?



**HOW TO ENTER:** Send your finished puzzles by email to [win@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:win@firstnews.co.uk). Don't forget to put **Puzzles 749** in the subject box. We're afraid that we can't accept postal entries for now. The closing date for entries is **Thursday 29 October 2020**.

# WIN! SPOOKY DVDs

CAN you spot the five changes we've made to this picture from *Home*? Just in time for Halloween, some of Universal Pictures Home Entertainment's spooktacular family films are now available in brand-new DVD collections. To celebrate, we're giving one lucky winner the chance to grab their copies of two new collections, as well as a special 25th anniversary edition of *Casper* for your Halloween movie nights at home.



## TOYOTA Advertisement feature DESIGN A CAR FOR THE FUTURE!



GREAT prizes can be won in the annual Dream Car Art Contest! Toyota is giving children a great opportunity to use their creativity, imagination and drawing skills to explore what the future of mobility might look like.

There are prizes to be won in three age categories: under eight, 8-11 and 12-15 years old. The three winning entrants in each category will each receive an iPad (Gold winners) or a Samsung tablet (Silver and Bronze winners), plus a Toyota goody bag. Their work will also go forward to the competition's global final.

Previous winning designs have shown the breadth of imagination at work, looking at not just mobility, but also challenging global issues. Previous eye-catching entries have included a pod vehicle designed to take lonely older people on adventures, and vehicles that can lower the ocean's temperature, helping to prevent the bleaching of coral reefs and the melting of ice caps.



Go to [toyota.co.uk/dreamcar-2021](http://toyota.co.uk/dreamcar-2021) for more information about how to take part and to download your entry form

# WIN! RICK RIORDAN'S THE TRIALS OF APOLLO BOOK BUNDLE

TO celebrate the release of *The Tower of Nero*, the epic finale to Rick Riordan's best-selling series *The Trials of Apollo*, we're giving you the chance to get your hands on all five books.

Mixing mythical deities with modern-day drama, *The Trials of Apollo* is an action-packed adventure from the world of Percy Jackson. How do you punish an immortal? By making him human! In *The Tower of Nero* it's time for Apollo and Meg to face the final trial and destroy the last emperor Nero, once and for all.

Can Apollo find his godly form again? Will Meg be able to face up to her troubled past? Destiny awaits...

To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

Who is the Greek sky god?  
a) Apollo b) Ares c) Zeus



**ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY NERO**

[firstnews.co.uk/competitions](http://firstnews.co.uk/competitions) or see below. The closing date is 5 November 2020.

**COMPETITIONS:** You can enter First News competitions in one of two ways. 1. Go to [firstnews.co.uk/competitions](http://firstnews.co.uk/competitions) and follow the instructions. 2. Email us at [win@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:win@firstnews.co.uk) putting 'competition name' (e.g. Holiday), in the subject box. Please note: First News will not share your personal details with third parties. First News will only use your details to contact the competition winners. First News competitions are only open to those aged 17-and-under and residents of the UK & Republic of Ireland, except employees of First News, First Group Enterprises Ltd, Reach plc and any associated companies and their families. Winners will be the first correct entries drawn after the closing dates. No purchase necessary. No responsibility can be accepted for entries that have been lost or damaged in transit. First News will not enter into any correspondence. All winners will be notified accordingly and their names and location will be available on request. No cash alternative for any prizes will be offered. The winner may be required to partake in media activity relating to the competition.

**LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS:**

**Spot the difference:** nose is now orange, missing black spot, an extra wooden pole has been added, basket is bigger, segment has been removed from fruit.

**Word ladder:** cold, sold, sole, sale, sake, lake.

**Word wheel:** attempted.

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# ESCAPE TO VUE

## THIS HALF TERM FOR SOME FAMILY FUN

VUE has a fantastic selection of films coming up this half term for families who want a day out at the big screen.

After a first term back at school, it has never been more important to spend time as a family. Across England and Scotland, you can escape to luxury with the ultimate seat, screen and sound, and you can do so in the safest possible way. For more information about the range of measures introduced to keep staff and customers safe, visit [myvue.com/staysafe](http://myvue.com/staysafe).

### TWO BY TWO: OVERBOARD

Dive back into the cinema with the swashbuckling adventure, **Two By Two: Overboard!** Get ready to set sail with all creatures great and small as Noah's ark drifts on the open seas in this animated family film. After weeks with no land in sight and food stocks running low, best friends Finny and Leah try to keep the peace between the carnivores and herbivores on the ark.



### THE ELFKINS – BAKING A DIFFERENCE

The legendary Elfkins of Cologne are back at Vue this half term in a funny, colourful and uplifting story about being accepted, no matter how big or small you are. **The Elfkins – Baking A Difference** follows the adventure of a fearless gnome who escapes the underground to discover that not all is doom and gloom in the upper world.



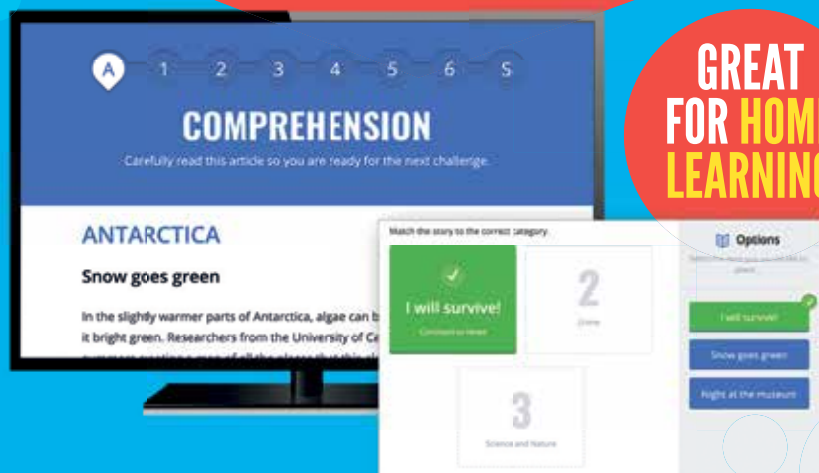
ESCAPES FOR EVERYONE

Tickets are now available at [myvue.com](http://myvue.com)  
Turn to page 23 to win family cinema tickets!



## FIRST NEWS HOME IHUB

### THE AWARD-WINNING, INTERACTIVE, ONLINE LEARNING PLATFORM



GREAT FOR HOME LEARNING

By popular demand, the First News iHub, used by schools, is now available to subscribe to at home!

The iHub is packed with multi-level literacy activities to help children from 7-14 develop key reading, comprehension and writing skills – while learning about amazing news stories from around the world.

HEAD TO [WWW.FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK/HOMEIHUB](http://WWW.FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK/HOMEIHUB) TO LEARN MORE!

## WIN! A TABLET, THANKS TO BIG TOP ACADEMY: SCHOOL'S OUT EDITION

CIRCUS school is out but the Big Top Bulletin is still keeping kids connected.



Over the break, the students of Big Top Academy are staying in touch and you can stay connected with friends too, by winning one of three tablets that we have up for grabs!

Our always-competitive circus kids are assigned the ultimate challenge: each of them will have the chance to "audition" by putting together their own issue of the Bulletin! But a mystery in a virtual secret room threatens to derail this trial-by-fire process and now Big Top Academy seems to have disappeared off the face of the Earth. To be in with a chance of winning one of three tablets, just answer this question:



The first circus stadium was Circus Maximus. Where was it?  
a) Paris b) London c) Rome

Big Top Academy: School's Out Edition launches from 23 October with new episodes every Friday only on the POP Player. The all-new POP Player is now available on YouView, PlayStation4 and Freesat!

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ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY BIG  
[firstnews.co.uk/competitions](http://firstnews.co.uk/competitions) or see page 19. The closing date is 5 November 2020.

# HERD IMMUNITY IS A “DANGEROUS” IDEA

**THE World Health Organization (WHO) and a group of 80 scientists have separately warned about the dangers of not taking firm action to tackle the coronavirus.**

As case numbers surge across Europe, they have also dismissed the idea of a herd immunity strategy as “dangerous”.

Some politicians – and a small number of scientists – have suggested governments move away from lockdowns and major restrictions and instead allow COVID-19 to spread among those aged under 60, while protecting the elderly and vulnerable. They say that younger people are less at risk of serious illness, and that if enough of them catch it, they will develop immunity and therefore the virus will die out. This is known as herd immunity, because the whole population or ‘herd’ is protected even if small numbers aren’t immune. But this strategy has never before been used to contain a major virus.

What’s more, there have been multiple reports of people getting infected with the coronavirus twice, which suggests immunity from the disease may not last long.

Last week, WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus made it clear that allowing the virus to spread simply doesn’t work. He said: “Herd immunity is a concept used for vaccination, in which a population can be protected from a certain virus if a threshold of vaccination is reached. For example, herd immunity against measles requires about 95% of a population to be vaccinated. The remaining 5% will be protected by the fact that measles will not spread among those who are vaccinated. In other words, herd immunity is achieved



by protecting people from a virus, not by exposing them to it.”

Dr Ghebreyesus (above) said that in the entire history of public health, herd immunity had never been used as a strategy for dealing with an outbreak of a disease, “let alone a pandemic”. He described it as “scientifically and ethically problematic”.

In a letter to medical journal *The Lancet*, 80 experts pointed to the fact COVID-19 can cause long-term, serious health problems in some young adults, and so its spread should never be encouraged. They described herd immunity as “a dangerous fallacy [a false idea] unsupported by scientific evidence”.

They also pointed out it’s impossible to completely protect certain sections of society, so allowing the spread of COVID-19 risks overwhelming healthcare services like the NHS.

UK Health Secretary Matt Hancock has said that he is against the idea of aiming for herd immunity without a vaccine.

# WOMAN WILL GO TO THE MOON

**THE UK will be part of the team that plans to send humans back to the moon – including the first ever female.**

The Artemis project, devised by the American space agency NASA, aims to put a team on the moon in 2024. It will be the first crewed mission to Earth’s satellite since 1972.

But the plans don’t end there. The idea is to use a mission to the moon as a springboard for a later trip to Mars. The head of space exploration at the UK Space Agency, Sue Horne, said Artemis will involve a series of missions in order to test technology that can then be used to get humans to the Red Planet for the first time.

UK companies will produce equipment for the Lunar Gateway, a mini space station with a laboratory, sleeping quarters and a space garage that will orbit the moon. The plan is for the Lunar Gateway to make it easier for astronauts to pop down to the moon and back. It’s hoped they might find frozen water on the moon, which could be crucial for building future colonies there.

Sue Horne hopes the UK’s involvement will inspire youngsters. She said: “We have put a lot of effort into encouraging young people, particularly girls, to take science and technology subjects, and this will boost those efforts.”

# ROVER TACKLES TOUGH TERRAIN

**MEET DuAxel, a tiny but tough rover that can descend crater sides and super-steep cliffs on the moon, Mars and beyond.**

NASA’s new device, which hasn’t been assigned a mission yet, can manage near-vertical slopes, which current space rovers can’t.

It’s made of a pair of two-wheeled rovers. When it comes across some tough terrain, it stops, lowers its chassis and anchors it to the ground before splitting in two, remaining connected by a tether.

The rover’s ability to cope with tough terrain means it can gather information and samples from areas that were previously impossible to reach.



SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

This report is from the Science Museum in London

**IF you could design your very own robot, what would it do?**

Play games, help with chores, or even do your homework? Did you know that robots’ history stretches back over 500 years?

The word ‘robot’ only came about in the 20th century, but long before the futuristic shiny humanoids of today, robots took other shapes. In the 14th century, complex clocks and astronomical models helped people better understand the mysterious movement of the heavens. A few hundred years later, robots became a form of entertainment, including richly decorated mechanical caterpillars, spiders and even mice that would be brought out at dinner parties!

You can build your own robot in a fun new science-based app, My Robot Mission AR (pictured above). Find out more at [bit.ly/3m3yNe7](https://bit.ly/3m3yNe7).



## 22. GAME ZONE

# XBOX UPGRADES

THE Xbox Series S and X (right) will improve how older Xbox games look and run, Microsoft has announced.

The backwards compatibility team at Xbox say they've spent over 500,000 hours testing older games, from the original Xbox to the Xbox One, on the new generation of consoles.

They say that on the new Xbox consoles, games load much faster and are brighter – even games from almost 20 years ago!

They're hoping that the technology will help "new generations of gamers to play and enjoy the timeless games from our past."



Microsoft

# CAKE BASH!



XBOX ONE, PS4, PC, STADIA

THIS delicious-looking party game pits sweet treats against each other in a variety of fun minigames! *First News* game reviewer Lucy, aged eight, told us what she thought of the PS4 version of the game.

"Cake Bash is super cute! You first pick which tasty treat you're going to be, and then have to win minigames to become the sweetest snack of them all!

All the characters you can choose from are very funny, and can slap and punch each other! It's hilarious watching an éclair beating up a very angry doughnut.

The minigames are all different, and all fun. I particularly liked the one where you have to cook marshmallows on a campfire without burning them. When you finish a game, you're rewarded with coins. You spend these coins on extra sweets, that make you tastier and more likely to be the sweetest snack at the end of the game.

I only have two PS4 controllers, so couldn't play with four people. It was still lots of fun with my brother and two computer-controlled characters, though!"

*Cake Bash* is out now on Xbox One, PS4, Steam and Stadia, and will be available on Switch by the end of the year.

# UMIHARA KAWASE BAZOOKA!

PS4, SWITCH



NOT many games star a sushi chef, but then *Umi-hara Kawase BaZooKa!* isn't your average game. *First News* game reviewer Zane Barodia, aged seven, told us more about this updated classic Japanese title from 1994.

"The aim of this game is to move your character through levels by jumping and shooting the enemies. The enemies in this game are birds, pigs and 'mininuts' (like little conkers). Some enemies have armour, so they are hard to defeat. The pigs are robotic but may have armour too.

You must get coins to go to the better stages (called waves in this game). Sometimes there are flashes of electricity, which is a sign that a bazooka is coming – they are types of bombs you can collect and use.

I liked that you could collect coins but that there are a fixed amount of coins you can win. I didn't like that the pigs with armour were so hard to defeat – even if you threw a bazooka it wouldn't go down.

I would rate this game 8 out of 10, because it's the same background all the time (the enemies change between waves, though). If the background changed with each wave it would make it more interesting to look at."

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# DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO LOVES DOLPHINS?

Adopt a dolphin today and you'll be helping to give the amazing dolphins of Scotland's Moray Firth a future



The survival of these intelligent and charismatic dolphins is threatened. This population is just under 200 individuals. Your support will help protect these individuals from threats including oil and gas exploration and production, chemical pollution and fishing.

You will receive lots of stuff including a personalised certificate with a picture of your adoption dolphin, a set of fun stickers and a colourful WDC badge. We'll keep you up-to-date on their daily lives through a great quarterly magazine *SPLASH!*, a monthly e-newsletter and you'll receive an email birthday and Christmas card.

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Rainbow is a friendly sociable female dolphin. She is a brilliant teacher to her sons, showing them how to catch the largest salmon!

OR



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Charlie is a boisterous teenage dolphin. He enjoys racing around with his buddies Lunar and Flake, getting into all sorts of mischief.

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TO FIND OUT MORE VISIT [ADOPTADOLPHIN.COM](http://ADOPTADOLPHIN.COM)

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# HELLO YELLOW DAY

by Middle School Charity Representatives

ON Friday 9 October, Danes Hill School pupils and teachers all wore an item of yellow clothing to support #HelloYellow, a campaign started by Young Minds.

Young Minds is a charity that helps children learn about and look after their emotional health. We have been learning how to look after our emotional wellbeing in our PSHEE lessons and today everyone in the school took part in a range of wellbeing activities.

The day was really good fun, we learnt lots of new things, took part in some fun challenges and raised money for charity. We have two charity representatives in the Middle School and this is a picture of me and the rest of my class at the start of the day. Last week we spoke to the



whole school in our virtual assembly and I was really pleased today, as nearly every pupil and teacher remembered to wear something yellow, which made our school a very bright place and raised awareness for an important cause.



# SNAPPED

EIGHT-YEAR-OLD Jacob Whitmore went for a walk near his house and was very upset about the amount of rubbish he saw.

Jacob wanted to help the wildlife and the world, so he and his mum went on a walk and collected a whole black bag of rubbish! He has received a green Blue Peter badge for helping the environment. Well done, Jacob!



Jacob with the rubbish he collected and with his green Blue Peter badge



## WE WANT TO HEAR WHAT YOU/YOUR SCHOOL IS UP TO



Write in to let us know what you've been up to lately! Have you been getting creative? Been for a great day out? How has the coronavirus affected your school, friends and family? Why not share your experiences with First News readers?

Email your report (including pictures) to [yournews@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:yournews@firstnews.co.uk)

Don't forget to include your name and age (and your school's name and address for school news reports). By writing in, you give consent to First News printing details and photographs of those involved in the report.

## WIN! FAMILY TICKETS TO VUE

TO celebrate the fantastic selection of family films on this half term, Vue is giving you the chance to win a family ticket to a screening of your choice.

It promises to be an escape for everyone this half term, as you can get lost in magical new worlds while mum and dad sit back and relax.

Those lucky enough to win have the chance to see the likes of swashbuckling adventure *Two By Two: Overboard* and the uplifting story of *The Elfkins – Baking A Difference*.

If you're looking for some family fun after the first term back at school, Vue has you covered. We have ten family tickets (two adults and two children) up for grabs.

To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

The Academy Awards are more popularly known as the...?  
a) Oscars b) Roberts c) Daniels

ESCAPES FOR EVERYONE

vue  
BIG SCREEN ENTERTAINMENT



Two By Two: Overboard



The Elfkins – Baking A Difference

## ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY VUE

[firstnews.co.uk/competitions](http://firstnews.co.uk/competitions) or see page 19. The closing date is 5 November 2020.

## WIN! AN ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURE BOOK BUNDLE FROM DK

BECOME a climate change activist with DK's ultimate environmental and nature books.

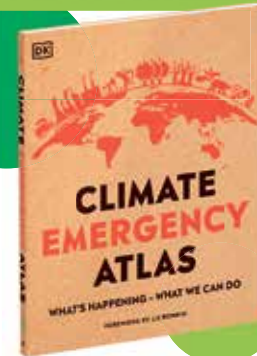
See the causes and impact of climate change and what actions you can take to make a difference, on incredible 3D maps in the brand new book *Climate Emergency Atlas*.

Also in the bundle, First News' Keilly Swift shows you *How to Make a Better World* and you can get up close with different animals and their habitats in DK's nature books, including unbelievable pictures in *Knowledge Encyclopedia Ocean*! Five runners-up will win a copy of *Climate Emergency Atlas*.

One lucky winner will get all these plus more in an incredible environmental book bundle plus a £100 Amazon voucher.

To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

Which is the largest ocean in the world?  
a) the Indian Ocean b) the Arctic Ocean  
c) the Pacific Ocean



## ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY CLIMATE

[firstnews.co.uk/competitions](http://firstnews.co.uk/competitions) or see page 19. The closing date is 5 November 2020.

# THE END OF OUR STORY WITH GRESSIDA COWELL

A FEW months ago, Cressida Cowell MBE, author and Waterstones Children's Laureate, started a new story in *First News*. Then she handed things over to YOU to write what happened next. For months, the story has continued, written by our readers. After 27 exciting parts, each of them with unexpected twists and turns, we've now reached the conclusion. We had loads of awesome entries for the final part and, after much deliberation, an ending has been chosen by Cressida herself!

## THE STORY SO FAR...

Long ago, a war between spellcasters and evil creatures took place. For years, many of these evil creatures have been locked away... until shapeshifter Typhon helped his father, the Lord of the Beasts, to find the door to an ancient maze that could return these monsters to the world.

The task of stopping these evil beings has fallen on young spellcaster Ferocity and her smoke-producing pet boggart, Guggalugs, who, after surviving a surprise attack from the shapeshifter, have tracked down the Lord of the Beasts with their spellcasting allies: the mysterious Trick, his sister Aida and his mum Ariella.

The group battled and killed the Lord of the Beasts, who Ferocity then discovered was in fact her father.

Her mother tried to explain her relationship with the Lord of the Beasts, but Ferocity, focused on her task, pushed her aside to take on Typhon, her half-brother and the only thing between her and the copper piece that could end the world.



READ THE WHOLE STORY, AND  
HELP US THINK OF A TITLE AT  
[FIRST.NEWS/CRESSIDACOWELL](https://www.firstnews.co.uk/cressidacowell)

## THE END, BY THEODORA HARWOOD

The six turned and saw, to their horror, a Griffin towering above them, wings outstretched.

'My father's pet,' gasped Ferocity. Fear clenched Ferocity like a vice. The Griffin lunged at Aida, its sharp talons narrowly missing her. Outraged, it dived again. Trick was slower to respond; it sliced through his shirt, the material darkening red from the cut. He slumped, his arm hanging like a still pendulum.

'NO!' screamed Ferocity. Enraged, she stretched out her hand. Her palm glowed amber and from the centre erupted a fireball. It incinerated the Griffin and stunned silence followed, the grey smoke of the smouldering ashes mixing with the navy smoke that came from Guggalugs' ears. 'Trick?' Ferocity called.

'Just a scratch,' he said, 'but one thing's for sure, we need to destroy this maze. Without peace between the spellcasters and the beasts, it'll be a future of endless fighting.'

'But how do we destroy the maze? And make peace?' asked Aida sceptically.

'I think it's the same puzzle,' said Ferocity. 'The maze exists if the copper pieces are united. We need to separate them and Merlin's staff needs to belong to both the spellcasters and the beasts.'

Grabbing the talisman from her father, Ferocity grasped Merlin's staff. 'Let's go,' she said. 'Those pieces won't destroy themselves.'

They found their way to the centre of the maze where the copper pieces floated, glowing in an unearthly light as they spun around each other.

With tightening knots in their stomachs, the four approached and reached

out their hands.

'On three,' Ferocity said. 'One... two... three!' Four hands reached forward and grasped a piece. With a pulse of energy that flung them off their feet, they parted. Ferocity opened her eyes.

She was lying by the entrance to Perum Hollow. In front of her was the maze, spinning and whirling, and lying near her were Trick, Ariella and Aida. Her ears still ringing, she scrambled, disoriented, to her feet.

'Bury your copper pieces before the maze disappears,' she said, as she scraped away the ground. 'Come on.' Fingernails filled with grime, they buried each of the pieces and just managed to throw dirt on top as the maze disappeared.

'As the maze falls in on itself, the copper will return to the ground – it's old magic. Trick, have you still got your grandfather's amulet?'

'Yes,' said Trick, confused but pulling it out of his pocket. 'But why?' The friends stepped back and looked at the deep hole they'd dug. Carefully, Ferocity placed Merlin's staff in the earth and lay her father's talisman next to it.

'Go on, Trick.' Trick placed the amulet in the hole, pausing as his eyes pricked with tears at the memories of his grandfather, which played in his head like a film.

'Spellcasters and beasts united at last,' said Ferocity.

In silence, they threw handfuls of dirt covering the staff, the amulet and the talisman. Linking arms, the four walked into the sunset and the smoke from Guggalugs' ears turned yellow.

## National Literacy Trust's Virtual School Library

### MEET Phil Hickeys and his new spooky story!

This week's Author of the Week in the Virtual School Library is Phil Hickeys. His new bone-chilling book is called *The Haunting of Aveline Jones*. His recommended reads are:

- *Long Lankin* by Lindsey Barraclough
- *The Peculiar* by Stefan Bachmann
- *The Dark is Rising* by Susan Cooper

You can read two of Phil's short stories for free, watch a video with tips on writing your own gruesome ghost story and download fangtastic wordsearch, arts and crafts and colouring activities.

Visit [virtuallschoollibrary.org.uk](https://virtuallschoollibrary.org.uk) to discover more about Phil and *The Haunting of Aveline Jones*.



“Words for Life”

Virtual School Library



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# WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?

## CRAWLING HAND MENKIND.CO.UK £25.00

This sound-activated zombie hand is ideal for pranking people this Halloween. The hand scuttles around in circles, and the sound effects and realistic green rubber skin are sure to make your family and friends scream! The sound activation means that every shriek and screech will set the hand off and get it scuttling all over again!



\*All prices correct at time of printing

## SNAZAROO FACE PAINT PALETTE KIT AMAZON.CO.UK £9.38

This Snazaroo Halloween palette kit contains eight colours: white, black, bright red, green, orange, grey, brown and purple, together with a brush for detailing, a sponge for application over large surfaces and a colour step-by-step face-painting guide to creating spooky effects. Whether it's a wicked witch, a scary ghost or ghastly zombie, let your imagination run wild this Halloween.



## HALLOWEEN

## GHOSTBUSTERS TUBBZ NUMSKULL.COM £12.99 EACH

It's going to be their busiest night of the year, but hunting down ghouls and ghosts should all go swimmingly thanks to this TUBBZ range of Ghostbusters collectables. Each character comes in a display box with its own bathtub featuring the movie logo.



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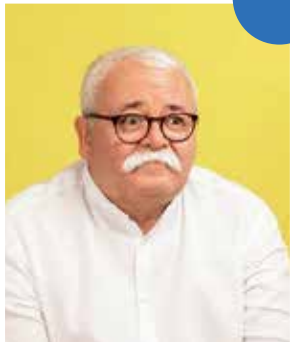
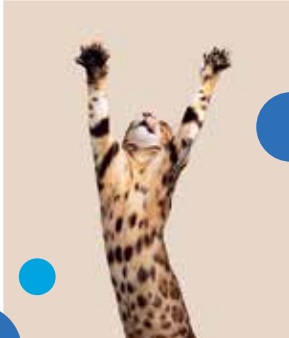
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# DO YOU LOOK LIKE YOUR PET?

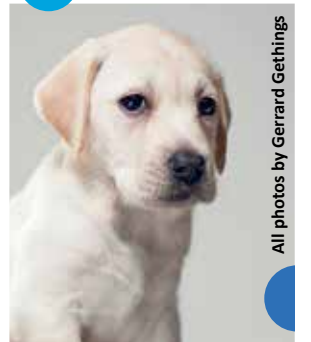
**THEY say people can look like their pets, but these photo pairs are on another level!**

That's because they're the painstaking work of professional animal photographer Gerrard Gethings, who spent ages finding the perfect model to match each animal.

A few years ago, he did a series of photographs, matching people to different breeds of dogs. The result was a memory card game, called *Do You Look Like Your Dog?* Now, he's done the same thing with feline furballs!

Gerrard says that photographing cats is much harder than dogs. He said that he "had to be a wee bit more inventive with the cats than the dogs", so that's why you've got hilarious pics like the dancing cat stretching up into the air.

The *Do You Look Like Your Cat?* card game and a new *Do You Look Like Your Dog?* book are out now.



gezetings/Instagram  
All photos by Gerrard Gethings

## BUNGLING BURGLAR

**A THIEF was caught after he left details of his name and address at the crime scene!**

Malcolm Pyke stole £150 of machinery from a garage in Sunderland. However, as he was making off with the stolen goods, he left behind a rucksack containing letters addressed to him.

Detective Sergeant Chris Raper-Smith said: "Malcolm Pyke is a prolific [frequent] thief. Unfortunately for him, his latest offence, which was fairly unsophisticated, saw him leave behind a number of personal items which directed officers straight to his front door."

Mr Pyke has been jailed for four years after pleading guilty to a number of burglaries.



## COCO NUTS!

**IT'S one of the craziest records we've seen for ages – the most coconuts smashed around a person blindfolded in one minute!**

We cannot stress enough how much you should not try this at home – although where would you find that many coconuts anyway?!

The record, which is 49 coconuts, is shared between Rakesh B and Prabhakar Reddy P of India. Both men – the coconut

smasher, who used a sledgehammer, and the brave guy lying on the floor – are martial artists.

After setting the smashing record, the coconuts were fed to local animals to make sure they didn't go to waste.



Guinness World Records

Guinness World Records

SUBMITTED BY MIMI AGED 11

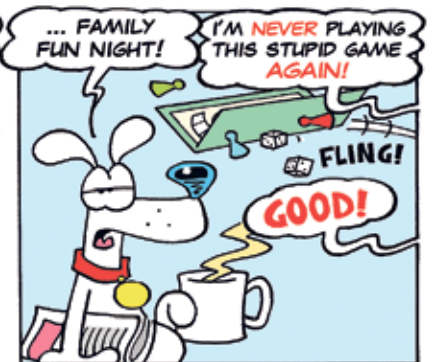
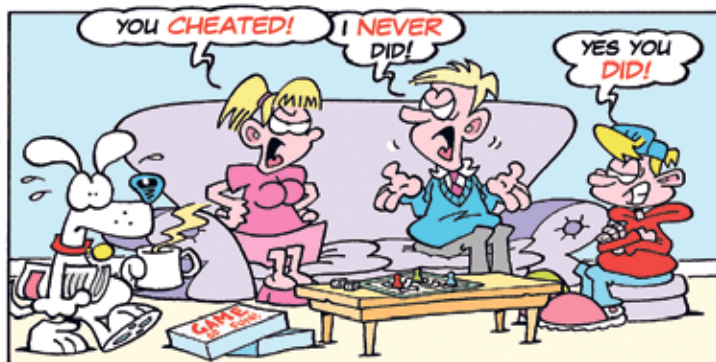
HOW DOES THE OCEAN SAY HELLO? IT WAVES!

WHAT DO YOU CALL A TRAIN LOADED WITH TOFFEE? A CHEW-CHEW TRAIN!

SHARE YOUR JOKES WITH US AT [NEWSDESK@FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK](mailto:NEWSDESK@FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK)



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer





Getty

# SPORT IN PICTURES

**LEICESTER, ENGLAND – 18 OCTOBER:** Jack Grealish and Ross Barkley of Aston Villa celebrate following their side's victory in their Premier League match against Leicester City at the King Power Stadium. Villa are the comeback team after narrowly escaping relegation at the end of last season. Their victory on Sunday put them second in the league, having won their first four matches of this season, with a game in hand. UTV! (Up The Villa!) They face Leeds United tonight (Friday 23 October). Can they make it five out of five to go top?

# SPORT IN NUMBERS

**114** points in one visit to the table clinched the final frame at the English Open for Judd Trump. The snooker world number one had been trailing 7-4 in games against Neil Robertson, before fighting back to level at 8-8. Judd's century break in the deciding frame assured him of victory.



**18** seconds were taken off the women's half marathon world record by Kenya's Peres Jepchirchir. Her time of 1hr 5min 16sec beat the previous world record set last month by... Peres Jepchirchir! The race in Poland was incredibly close, with only three seconds between Peres and Yalemzerf Yehualaw in third place.



**5** minutes was all that was left on the clock when Leeds Rhinos' Luke Gale scored a drop goal to help his team win the Challenge Cup. The Yorkshire rugby league side beat Salford Red Devils 17-16 in a thrilling final, with Luke's one-pointer making the difference. It is the 14th time Leeds have won the trophy.



# FIRST TO FIFTY



Gareth Bale slaloms his way through West Ham's defence



Vivianne Miedema (right) has won silverware with Arsenal, Bayern Munich and the Netherlands

**ARSENAL'S Vivianne Miedema has become the first player to score 50 goals in the Women's Super League – and it's only taken her 50 games to break the record!**

Signed by the Gunners in May 2017, the talented striker really showcased her skill in the 2018-19 season, with a tally of 22 goals in 20 games. This high strike rate made her the top scorer in the WSL, which Arsenal won by seven points. This season, the Gunners have won all five of their matches, with Vivianne responsible for ten goals!

The Dutch player is also the Netherlands' leading goalscorer, with 69 goals in 89 appearances. She

notched up her WSL half century by scoring against Tottenham Hotspur. The previous record holder was Nikita Parris who scored 49 goals for Everton and Manchester City. However, Nikita took 110 games to reach that total – 60 more than the Gunners star. And Vivianne is already on her way to her next half century, as she scored two more goals as Arsenal beat Tottenham 6-1.

On the same day, another football superstar was in action in a Spurs game

– this time for the men's team. Gareth Bale made his first appearance for a Tottenham side since 19 May 2013 – that's 2,709 days later! The Welsh midfielder, on loan from Real Madrid, came on as a substitute in the 72nd minute when Spurs were leading West Ham 3-0. Unfortunately for Gareth, his long-awaited return to the side was soured by a frantic 12 minutes when the Hammers scored three goals to nab an unlikely draw with their London rivals.

# CHIEFS IN CHARGE



Joe Simmonds kicks a late penalty for Exeter and (below right) with brother Sam

**JUST ten years after winning promotion to the Premiership in a play-off, Exeter Chiefs made their debut in the final of the Champions Cup.**

The Chiefs' rivals were France's Racing 92 – no strangers to a European final – who took to the field wearing matching pink bow ties. Once the game began, there was no time for elegance, as the action ebbed and flowed from end to end.

Exeter had the upper hand in the first half, going into the break with a nine point lead. But Racing stepped up a gear at the restart, and were soon only a point behind. Exeter were reduced to 14 players when prop Tomas Francis was sin-binned, before Joe Simmonds kicked a last-second penalty, resulting in the Chiefs winning the game 31-27.

It was a family celebration for brothers Sam and Joe Simmonds after the final. Joe was awarded the man-of-the match award then, a few hours later, older brother Sam was named as European Player of the Year – he was the top try scorer in the Champions Cup tournament with eight.

