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# First News

Issue 748 £2.25 16 – 22 October 2020

THE UK'S ONLY  
NEWSPAPER  
FOR CHILDREN

## GIANT REFUGEE PUPPET ON TREK TO UK



Photograph and map: © Bevan Roos

**A GIANT puppet of a refugee child will travel nearly 5,000 miles (8,000km) from the Turkey-Syria border to the UK, writes editor in chief Nicky Cox MBE.**

The 3.5m puppet, nine-year-old Little Amal, will represent the stories of refugee children on her journey from the Syrian border through Turkey, Greece, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium and France to Britain, in search of her mother. She will enter the UK at Folkestone, and celebrate her tenth birthday in London, before making her way to the end of her journey in Manchester.

A warm welcome will greet the Little Amal puppet along the way. More than 70 towns, villages and cities will welcome her with street parties, city performances and smaller community events.

The puppet, which has been made by the War Horse creators, will begin her epic journey in April and end it with a large-scale welcome at the

Manchester International Festival next July.

Little Amal moves like a stilt-walker operated by three people: one inside and two moving her arms. A small computer operates her eyes.

Organisers say they want to highlight the millions of children who have lost their homes, and are at more risk than ever, because of COVID-19.

The trek will be masterminded by Good Chance Theatre, which staged a show about the Calais refugee camp in the West End and New York.

The production team includes the director Stephen Daldry, who said it would be a travelling festival of art and hope. He said: "Little Amal's story highlights the challenges that refugee children face. But she is also a figure of great hope."

A map of Little Amal's journey



\*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.

## HOTTEST SEPTEMBER



Death Valley

Last month was the hottest September on record across the globe, according to climate organisation Copernicus. The increase of 0.05°C compared to September 2019 is believed to have contributed to US and Australian wildfires, torrential rain in France, and the hottest day ever recorded – 54.4°C in California’s Death Valley. Samantha Burgess, from the Copernicus Climate Change Service, told BBC News: “Some of these events are extraordinary – although we mustn’t create a false expectation that temperatures will go up year on year. Climate and weather are highly variable. But we predicted these sort of events would happen, given our effect on the climate.”

## RARE BOOK SALE

A first edition book by Sir Isaac Newton has sold for £22,000. Isaac Newton is best known for describing the laws of motion and helping our understanding of how gravity works. He explains this in *Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy*, the book that sold at auction. The copy of the book was almost 300 years old!

## SIZEABLE SNAKE



Two hunters in Florida, USA, caught a Burmese python measuring 18ft 9in (5.71m) long, a new Florida record. Pythons aren’t native to Florida, so people are paid to remove them to help native wildlife.

## POTTY TRAINING

NASA is getting ready to test out its new \$23m (£17.3m) titanium space toilet. It’s packed in a cargo ship that will head to the International Space Station so astronauts can test it. The new toilet has been made to be better suited for women, unlike the old one. Plus the seat has been tilted and made taller, which should provide a better position for going for a poo. Project manager Melissa McKinley said: “Cleaning up a mess is a big deal. We don’t want any misses or escapes!”

# QUICK NEWS

TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS

## LOOOONGEST LEGS



An American teenager has a Guinness World Record for being the woman with the world’s longest legs. 17-year-old Maci Currin, from Texas, is 6ft 10in (2.08m) tall, while her legs measure more than 52in (1.34m) each. Maci thinks that people who have unusual physical qualities should “embrace it – don’t hide it”.

## FIND OTHER JOBS



Claims that the Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, said musicians and other people in the arts sector “should retrain and find other jobs” went viral this week. This claim came from an interview Mr Sunak gave to ITV News after which their Twitter account said: “@RishiSunak suggests musicians and others in the arts should retrain and find other jobs”. This was picked up by many other news organisations. However, ITV has since deleted its original tweet and changed its article “to reflect that the Chancellor’s comments were about employment generally and not specifically about the music or arts sectors.”

## TRAGIC BUS CRASH

A collision between a bus and train in Thailand has led to 20 deaths, with dozens more injured. Thai police said the bus was on its way to a temple so Buddhists could mark the end of Vassa, a period of meditation during the three-month monsoon period.

## RARE BIRD SPOTTED

A bearded vulture has been spotted in Lincolnshire. The bone-eating bird is usually found in the mountains in



other countries. The bird, which is listed as a near-threatened species, spent the summer roosting in the Peak District. Around 200 people flocked to see it.

## FINAL JUMBO JET FLIGHT

British Airways’ last two Boeing 747s have taken their final flights. Boeing 747 jumbo jets helped bring about the modern era of affordable air travel, but Boeing said it would stop making them by 2022. However, British Airways decided to retire their last pair of jets early, as the coronavirus has had a huge impact on the number of flights. While Boeing 747s were groundbreaking when they launched in 1969, airlines are now looking for smaller planes that use fuel more effectively. The 747 has four engines, making it much less efficient than the twin engines that are more common today.



## HOSTAGE RELEASED

A 75-year-old woman has been released after being held hostage for almost four years. Sophie Pétronin, from France, was kidnapped by Islamist extremists in the African country of Mali. She was in the country because she was running a charity for children suffering from malnutrition. Mrs Pétronin spent 1,381 days in captivity before being released and reunited with her son.

## LET MUSIC LIVE

More than 400 musicians have protested outside Parliament in London. They played Gustav Holst’s *Mars, the Bringer of War* to highlight how the music industry is suffering during the pandemic. Organised by the Let Music Live campaign, they want the Government to give more support to self-employed artists. Many artists don’t qualify for the Government’s support scheme for the self-employed.



## ‘BAD TASTE’ MASK

Halloween masks designed to look like the coronavirus have been taken off sale. They were available to buy on Amazon from a seller listed in China. Rachel Power, chief executive of the Patients Association, told *The Sun*: “These masks show a terrible lapse of judgement by the manufacturers and sellers. I’ve no doubt the majority of people will find them hugely distasteful, and I can’t imagine that many people would wish to wear one.” What do you think? Is it in bad taste?



## INSTAGRAM DUCK

A duck who goes by the name of Ben Afquack has bagged a Guinness World Record. Afquack and his owner Derek Johnson share the title for ‘Most followers on Instagram for a duck’. The account, @minnesotaduck, currently has more than 81,000 followers. Duck fans can enjoy Afquack playing bongos, hitting the gym (below) and just generally leading a quacking life.





**TODAY, Friday 16 October, is World Food Day.**

Set up by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, it is dedicated to tackling global hunger, helping all populations recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, making food systems more reliant, delivering affordable and healthy diets for all and a decent livelihood for workers.

This year they are also celebrating our world food heroes. These are the people who provide us with enough to eat, from farmers and factory workers, to food transporters and shopkeepers. But you can be a food hero too, by choosing healthy, local and seasonal food, learning how to grow food at home, respecting food and the environment by creating less waste and practising good food hygiene.

The UN's good work has not gone unnoticed, as its World Food Programme has just won the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts to end hunger and improve conditions for peace.

# SCRAP THE SATs?



**TEACHERS' unions are calling on the Government to cancel SATs tests in England's schools for 2021.**

Head teachers voted to ask ministers to cancel SATs because of the pandemic. The National Association of Head Teachers heard from school leaders, who said that holding the tests during this school year would be harmful to pupils' mental health. The National Education Union (NEU) has also backed the call to stop next year's exams.

Many teachers also want to cancel or delay next year's GCSE and A Level exams, but England's Education Secretary Gavin Williamson has insisted they will go ahead, but three

weeks later than usual. However, Scotland's Education Secretary John Swinney has cancelled the National 5 exams as well as delaying Higher and Advanced Higher exams by two weeks.

"John Swinney's actions are an example of working towards a proper solution," the NEU said, adding that the Department for Education in England was still "in a state of denial about this year's fiasco and persists in blaming others."

# DO YOU PLAY ENOUGH?

*Sponsored content*

**WHILE we're on the subject of education, we're working with the LEGO Foundation to look at the importance of learning through play.**

Although play is obviously fun, it can also help us to develop vital life skills like creativity, teamwork and problem solving. However, many people are worried that pupils don't get enough time to learn through play at school or at home, so we want to ask you and your parents/guardians what benefits you think you would get if your schoolwork and homework included more opportunities for learning through play. Take our poll today, and make sure you leave a comment to let us know your thoughts!

## POLL OF THE WEEK

What do you think the benefits would be if play was part of all your lessons at school and in more of your homework? Vote at [first.news/polls](https://first.news/polls)

# LOCKDOWN TIERS EXPLAINED



**THIS week, the prime minister explained a new lockdown system for England, which has three tiers of 'COVID alert level' rules.**

**COVID alert level: medium** is for the places in England with the lowest infection rates. These places have to follow the basic national rules, which are: pubs, bars and restaurants closing at 10pm each night, and a ban on more than six people meeting up indoors or outdoors. Most of England is in this tier.

**COVID alert level: high** is for places with higher infection rates. These places have to follow the basic national rules, with an extra level of restrictions, which are: different households are banned from meeting each other indoors, and no more than six people from different households can meet outdoors. Regions already facing local restrictions will be in this tier.

**COVID alert level: very high** is for places with the highest infection rates. Here, pubs and bars are closed, unless they serve 'substantial meals', and different households can't mix. Gyms and leisure centres will also be closed. As *First News* went to press, the Liverpool City region is the only area in this tier.

New rules have come to the rest of the UK, too. In **Scotland**, all pubs and restaurants won't serve customers indoors after 6pm. If you're under 12, there's no limit on how many people you can meet outdoors, and those aged 12-18 can meet outdoors in groups of up to six.

In **Wales**, pubs have to offer table service only. Those in **Northern Ireland** can't meet anyone they don't live with inside their home, apart from one family they can 'bubble' with.

# COVID CLAIM



**US President Donald Trump has been accused again of spreading misinformation, after claiming that he is now "immune" from the coronavirus.**

The president made the claim several times within days of being treated in hospital. However, doctors say that we still don't know enough about COVID-19 to say how long any immunity will last. Just this week, the *Lancet Infectious Diseases* journal reported the first confirmed case of an American patient who got COVID-19 for a second time. The 25-year-old man caught the virus twice within 48 days.

The unofficial White House Gift Shop was quick off the mark, announcing a special \$100 (£75) coin called 'President Donald J Trump Defeats COVID'. The coin's designer says that "the new coin design features more than a hint of superhero qualities in history's most fascinating president".

*Remember, most children with COVID-19 have mild symptoms. If you're worried about anything, there are helplines listed at [first.news/fyi](https://first.news/fyi).*

## TAIZ, YEMEN



YEMENI pupils attend class on the first day of the new academic year in a makeshift classroom in their school, which was heavily damaged in fighting between the government and Houthi rebels.



## ROME, ITALY

STUDENTS and activists take part in a demonstration organised by the Fridays For Future movement, to demand that dealing with climate change be made the main priority, despite the coronavirus pandemic.

## LONDON, UK



SELFRIDGES has opened its Christmas Shop, *Once Upon A Christmas*, and celebrated with an early visit from Father Christmas.



## LIUZHOU, CHINA

A VIEW of contestants attending the opening ceremony of the dragon boat race on the Rongjiang River.



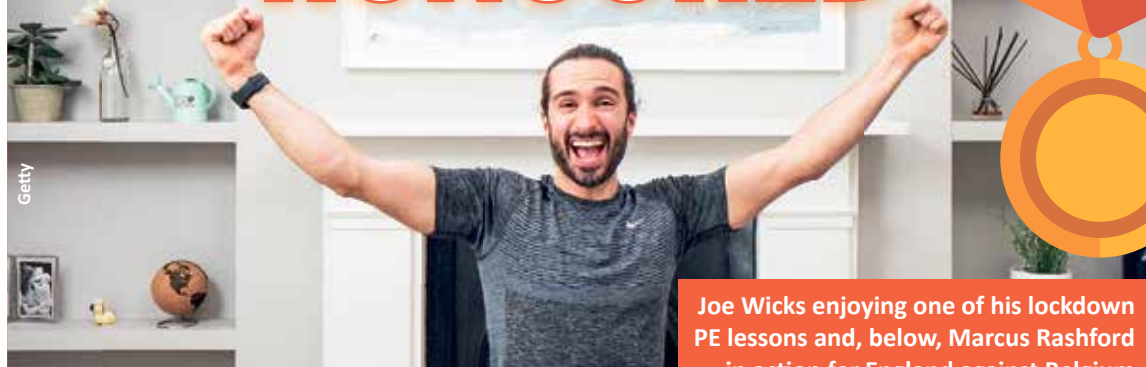
## BLACKPOOL, UK

THE Blackpool Illuminations will last a little longer this year. The annual display is to be extended by two months to provide a boost to the resort's tourism industry, due to the impact of COVID-19.



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# LOCKDOWN HEROES HONoured



Joe Wicks enjoying one of his lockdown PE lessons and, below, Marcus Rashford in action for England against Belgium

**JOE Wicks and Marcus Rashford have been given special honours by the Queen for their amazing achievements during the pandemic.**

This year there were more than 1,400 people on the Queen's Birthday Honours list, which recognises people for their service to the country. Those honoured include volunteers, scientists and key workers who made a difference during lockdown.

Joe Wicks was among the celebrities on the list and will be made an MBE for his online PE lessons, which ran throughout lockdown.

Footballer Marcus Rashford will also be made an MBE for his work to make sure school pupils in need received meals over the summer.



## EDUCATION CONVERSATION

**THE Duke and Duchess of Sussex joined Malala Yousafzai for a virtual chat about the impact the pandemic has had on girls' education.**

The call took place on Sunday (11 October) to mark International Day of the Girl. The Duke and Duchess voiced their concerns that COVID-19 had made existing problems of unequal access to education worse, with more than 130 million girls out of school.

Discussing their personal experience of lockdown, Meghan revealed that they'd been able to spend more time together as a family, with Harry adding: "We were both there for Archie's first steps, his first run, his first fall, everything."



## STICKING WITH SUGAR

**A PUBLIC Health England (PHE) report says the amount of sugar in some food products is still too high.**

PHE looked at products sold between 2015 and 2019 and, although there was a 3% overall reduction, the figure is nowhere near the Government's target for the food industry of a 20% reduction by 2020.

Cereals and yogurts saw the biggest drops in sugar, but there was hardly any change in the sugar content of food eaten outside the home between 2017 and 2019.

Reducing sugar in food and drinks is all part of the Government's plan to tackle obesity. Consuming too much sugar can lead to weight gain (and tooth decay), and being overweight can put people at more risk of health problems.



## EDITOR'S COMMENT



**THE world has been dealing with a very big issue this year – the COVID-19 pandemic.**

It means that a lot of headlines in the news have been about the coronavirus with reports about other things often being squeezed out.

That's why we have given our front page this week to the Little Amal puppet that will be journeying from the Turkey/Syria border to the UK to remind everyone about the refugee crisis, which remains such a big problem.

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## GOOD WEEK FOR...

### ETHNICITY PAY GAP

THE Office for National Statistics says that the pay gap between white and ethnic minority employees has shrunk to its smallest level since 2012 in England and Wales. Some groups, including Chinese and Indian, earn a higher hourly wage on average than white British employees.



## BAD WEEK FOR...

### JOBS

THE pandemic is continuing to take a toll on workers. The latest figures from the Office for National Statistics show that for June-August, 1.52 million people were out of work, which is 138,000 more than for the previous three months. Northeast England had the highest unemployment rate.



## PRINCE LAUNCHES GREEN PRIZE



**THE Duke of Cambridge has launched a new environmental competition to inspire people to find solutions to repair the planet.**

Between now and 2030, five £1 million prizes will be awarded every year by Earthshot, with the aim of finding 50 solutions to some of the world's environmental problems. The winners will be picked from five categories: protect and restore nature; clean our air; revive our oceans; build a waste-free world; and fix our climate.

Entrants can be one person, a group of scientists or activists, businesses, governments or even a whole city or country. The winners will be picked by a panel of judges, including Prince William himself and Sir David Attenborough.

## UK

### ● School meals demand

A new survey shows that there is an increased demand for free school meals across the UK. The survey, by Childwise, shows that 29% of children aged 8-17 (around 2.2m kids) are registered for free school meals. However, 42% of these children (around 900,000) are newly registered, with more than half of them from high-income families. This appears to show how COVID-19 is affecting all sorts of people with different backgrounds.



## WALES

### ● Disability hate crimes

New figures show that there was an 84% increase in the number of disability hate crimes online last year. Three police forces in Wales responded to 35 complaints in 2019/20, compared to 19 in 2018/19. In total, there were 268 complaints of hate crimes aimed at disabled people, but only four people were charged with a crime. Disability charities want the Welsh Government to introduce tougher laws.



## UK

### ● Show racism the red card

Shoes and clothing company Kickers has teamed up with anti-racism charity Show Racism the Red Card. Today (Friday 16 October) is Wear Red Day, a national day of action for schools and businesses, which helps fund anti-racism action for adults and young people across the UK. Working with footballers as role models, Show Racism the Red Card aims to educate people against racism in society.



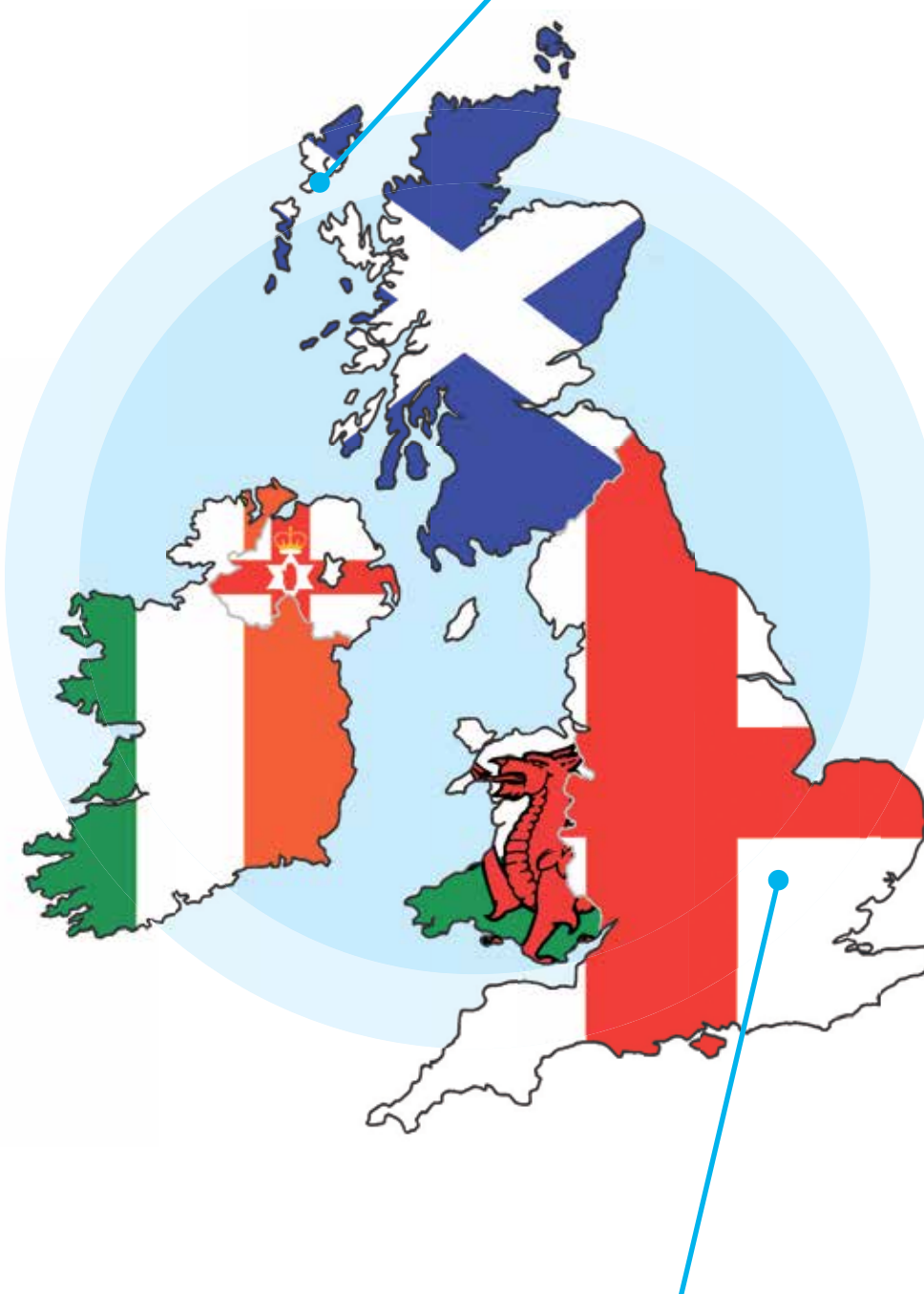
## OUTER HEBRIDES

### ● Ocean protection

A huge area of sea in Scotland has become the largest Marine Protected Area (MPA) in Europe. Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment Mairi Gougeon said: "Scotland's deep sea waters are home to a number of threatened species and habitats, including coral gardens and deep sea sharks." While it's positive news, the charity Open Seas warned that the Government must work to manage fishing in the area or the MPA could be meaningless.



Basking sharks can also be found in Scottish waters



## UK



### ● TB vaccine may help

Around 10,000 people in the UK are being recruited to see if a vaccine for tuberculosis (TB) might also help to fight COVID-19. TB is a bacterial infection that shares some similar symptoms with COVID-19, such as coughing and a high temperature. Each year, 100m babies are given the TB vaccine, called Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG). Trials in adults with COVID-19 showed that BCG helped stimulate the immune system, which means it could help the body fight back against the virus. Professor John Campbell said the trials are focusing on healthcare and care home workers. He added that it "provides us with a great opportunity to offer potential help to important groups".

## ENGLAND



### ● Drive-through flu jobs

Supermarket Asda is offering flu jobs in 13 of its store car parks. Since some people could be worried about going to the doctor or a pharmacy because of COVID-19, the idea is that they can get their jab in a more open 'drive-through' way. The job is designed to help protect the old and vulnerable from the winter flu.

## BEDFORDSHIRE

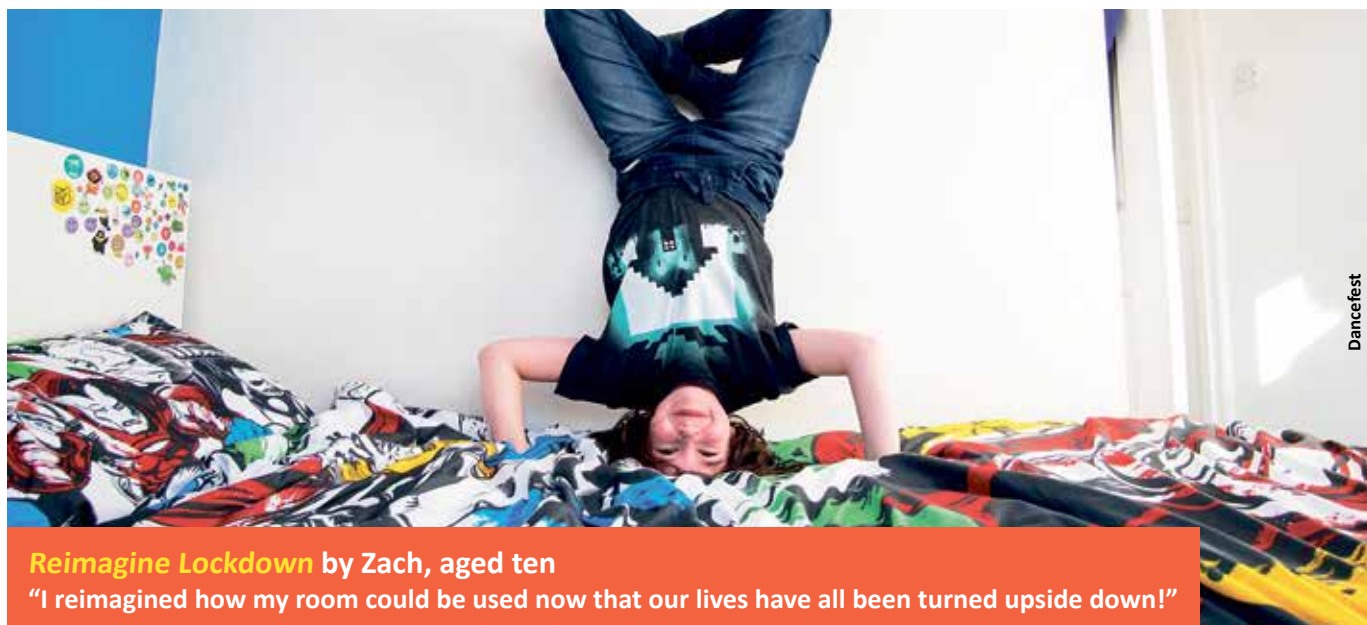
### ● Dozen dogs found

Twelve dogs that are all thought to have been stolen have been found by police. Two men and a woman were arrested in connection with a burglary last month, when thieves scaled a fence and smashed a door to steal eight dogs (including spaniels, like the ones pictured here). Detective Inspector Natalie Fletcher said: "We have seen an increase in dog thefts across the region. We would really encourage dog owners to make sure their pets are microchipped with up-to-date details."



# THE WAY I SEE IT: LOCKDOWN ART EXHIBITION OPENS

TODAY (16 October) sees the launch of online art exhibition The Way I See It. Children and young people were asked to express their feelings in response to lockdown and the new ways of living during this pandemic. As a result, a lively collection of 221 new pieces of work have been created, from photography and short films, to poetry, music and dance. Here are some of our favourites.



Dancefest

**Reimagine Lockdown** by Zach, aged ten  
"I reimagined how my room could be used now that our lives have all been turned upside down!"



Dancefest

**Together** by Kevin, Clare, Danny (13), Jessie (8) and Ruby (4)  
"We were looking for places in our house that we could use in a different way. We tried lots of ideas and then decided it would be fun to try and get us all in the doorway."



Dancefest

**Rainbow** by Matilda  
"Tilly was inspired by all the rainbows in lockdown, so she wanted to create her own moving rainbow."



Dancefest

**Out Of Milk! I'm Popping To The Shops** by Eric and Nicole  
"I took this picture of my dad during lockdown experimenting with finding safe ways to travel. We had lots of fun."



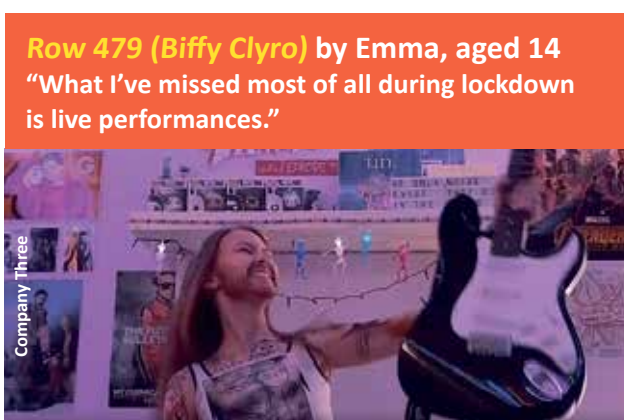
Dancefest

**Run Free** by Lily and Freddie, aged 12  
"Being free to run, leap and explore. On a shipping container in a sports field."



Company Three

**The Minute Before a Zoom Call** by Maisie, aged 15  
"Despite my Zoom calls taking place in my own house, I somehow always find myself running ridiculously late for them!"



Company Three

**Row 479 (Biffy Clyro)** by Emma, aged 14  
"What I've missed most of all during lockdown is live performances."

**TO THE PERSON FROM THE PAST...**

In 2020 the truth doesn't matter anymore

In 2020 WASH YOUR HANDS

In 2020 parents should invest in Zoom

In 2020 everything will pass quickly and slowly

In 2020 it will be both the FASTEST and SLOWEST year of your life

In 2020 having good friends is the most important way to get through it

BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art

**In 2020** by BALTIC Foundation Club members, aged 13-17

## ITALY



### ● Cursed Canadian

A Canadian tourist has sent back artefacts that she stole from the ancient city of Pompeii in 2005. She sent them to an Italian travel agent, along with a letter claiming that the relics were “cursed” and had brought years of bad luck. Pompeii was destroyed in the year AD79, by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. The tourist said that the artefacts had “so much negative energy linked to that land of destruction” and begged for them to be taken back by the city.



## USA



### ● Kidnappers caught

The FBI has arrested 13 men who planned to kidnap the Governor of Michigan, Gretchen Whitmer, and stage a ‘treason trial’ (treason means betraying your country). In the past, the governor has exchanged harsh words with President Trump, and has been a regular target of his tweets. Whitmer called the plot “terrorism”, and accused the president of encouraging groups like the one that planned the kidnap. The president tweeted that the governor had “done a terrible job” but that he does not “tolerate extreme violence.”



## HONG KONG



### ● Hong Kong heist

Two men have been arrested following a £495 million theft from a private collector. Among the items stolen were 24,000 vintage stamps, ten bronze coins and seven calligraphy scrolls said to have been written by China’s former leader, Mao Zedong. A scroll recovered by police in the apartment of a buyer (who paid just £50 for it) was found cut in half – apparently to make it easier to display.



## AUSTRALIA



### ● News accused

Australia’s former prime minister Kevin Rudd has set up a petition to get Parliament to investigate the country’s news media. Around 70% of Australia’s newspapers, many of its radio stations, and the TV channel Sky News Australia, are all owned by one company. News Corp Australia is led by Rupert Murdoch, who owns a huge global media empire. The company has been accused of denying climate change and publishing racist content, which News Corp has denied. Within days, more than 200,000 people had signed Mr Rudd’s petition. News Corp owns many media companies, including newspapers *The Times* and *The Sun* in the UK.



## NEW ZEALAND



### ● COVID cleared again

New Zealand has once again stamped out the coronavirus. It means that New Zealanders no longer have to be socially distant from family or wear masks. The country first beat COVID-19 in June, before a rise in cases in August and September saw PM Jacinda Ardern (below) put the country back into a brief lockdown. As we went to press, New Zealand had seen 1,872 cases, with 25 deaths.



## NORTH KOREA



### ● Leader “failed”

Leader Kim Jong-un has apologised to the people of his country for failing to guide the country through tough times. Speaking at a huge military parade, held for the 75th anniversary of the country’s ruling Workers’ Party, Kim Jong-un said: “Our people have placed trust as high as the sky and as deep as the sea in me, but I have failed to always live up to it. I am really sorry for that.”



## OUR WORLD



**NAME: REECE**  
**LIVES: SOUTH AFRICA**

**REECE Slade, a 17-year-old from Cape Town, South Africa, has created his own project to help children and the environment in his city.**

His mother has been the principal of a school since he was three years old, so Reece and his siblings have grown up surrounded by young children at an important stage of their development – when they learn the skills you need for school and life.

Cape Town is said to be one of the most naturally beautiful cities on Earth, and Reece felt especially upset to see the magnificent mountains and beaches in his city filled with litter.

This inspired him to start EarthKidsOrg (EKO), a project that collects litter, like plastic, around Cape Town and recycles

it to create games to donate to preschools.

Reece said: “We make skipping ropes out of plastic bags, stacking cups out of yogurt cups and more! This benefits the environment and helps children learn skills to help them in school.”

EKO has already donated 200 games to informal settlements (poor housing, often with no water or electricity) and has given more than 300 children and their families access to recycling.



To find out more, go to [www.amnesty.org.uk/join-our-childrens-human-rights-network](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/join-our-childrens-human-rights-network)







iStock

# HELP OUR HEDGEHOGS!

A WILDLIFE charity is calling on people to make their gardens more hedgehog-friendly ahead of the winter hibernation period.

The Wildlife Trusts say hedgehog numbers have dropped 30% in the last ten years. But the British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS) says there are things you can do to help the creatures. These include creating a hole 13cm across in your fence so they can get into your garden, having a compost heap, log pile or bramble patch

for them to snuggle up in, and leaving out meaty pet food and water to help get them fit enough to survive hibernation.

Hedgehogs usually hibernate between November and the middle of March.

The BHPS has also launched a petition to try to get the Government to do more to protect the animals.

## BABY BORNEAN



Chester Zoo

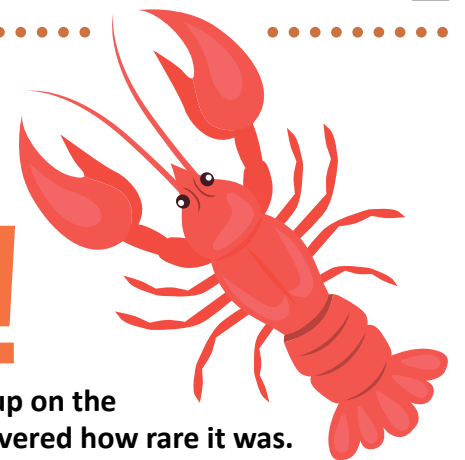
A SURPRISE arrival at Chester Zoo is good news for critically endangered Bornean orangutans.

The new baby came as a bit of a shock to keepers, as pregnancy tests carried out on its mum Leia were all negative.

The arrival is a real boost for the

species, which faces a high risk of extinction in the wild due to habitat destruction, unsustainable oil palm plantations and illegal hunting.

## LUCKY LOBSTER!



THIS orange lobster escaped ending up on the dinner table after a fishmonger discovered how rare it was.

The Canadian lobster was shipped to fishmonger Steve Atkinson in Lancashire, who immediately noticed that rather than the usual dark brown, speckled colour, this crustacean was orange.

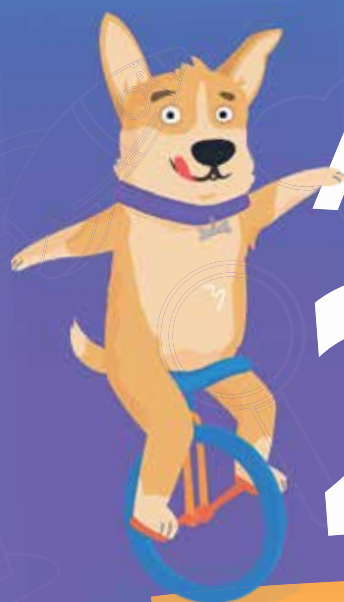
Staff at Blackpool's Sea Life centre told him that this was an extremely rare example, with only one in 30 million Canadian lobsters being orange. The lobster has now been donated to the aquarium, where it will live the rest of its life.



@Sealifecentreblackpool/Instagram

## BITESIZE NEWS

SCIENTISTS at the University of East Anglia are beginning to understand migratory habits of white storks. The White Stork Project, which aims to re-establish the species in the UK, fitted tracking devices to eight captive-bred young storks at the Knepp estate in West Sussex. Most of them crossed the channel, and now three are in Spain, two are in France and one is back in the UK.



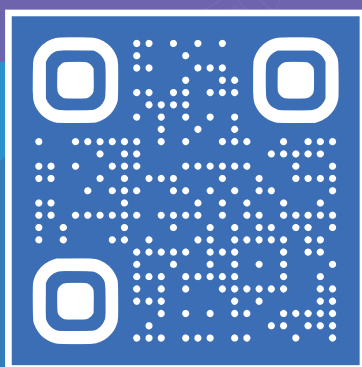
# WRITERS' AWARDS 2020

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to develop your own talent
- ★ **PLUS £500 worth of books**  
for the competition winner's school

First News has teamed up with  show FYI and the  to make a series of videos for you to watch at home or at school, called *I Don't Get It*. The plan is to explain stuff that can be complicated or difficult to understand. This week, we have a science story on p12 about how AI could be helping with COVID-19. So, FYI presenter Braydon asks:

# AI

Sky Kids FYI presenter Braydon explores how artificial intelligence (AI) is changing our world. He asks whether the next generation of smart robots could soon replace humans in the workplace.

ARE ROBOTS TAKING OVER?



So, here's the thing, right. Everyone's been telling me that artificial intelligence is the future. If you've not heard of artificial intelligence, it's the ability of machines to think like us humans. So we're going to have robots helping us out, and they'll be so clever that they'll pretty much know everything. Hmm, I wonder if they could even be TV presenters?

## HOW WILL AI HELP US?

Here's what I found out – artificial intelligence is already here! If you think about it, we're surrounded by clever

technology that can learn from us and help to make our lives easier. It's even being used by the police to look out for criminals, and by hospitals to analyse X-rays and work out whether you need treatment or not.

Here are a few more examples that I've found: smart speakers in your home that recognise your voice and do things like playing your music, switching on the heating or helping out elderly people, and navigation apps on your phone that can tell you the best way to get from A to B.

The really exciting thing about this is that, day by day, the technology is getting better and better.

Tech journalist Georgie Barrat says: "Things are improving at an incredible rate. Just take as an example the mobile phone that everybody carries around in their pocket. That technology is so much more powerful than the computer that got the first man on the moon. And that's just one example of how far we've already come."

## HOW WILL THESE ADVANCES HELP US IN THE NEXT TEN YEARS?

Georgie says: "There are some things that are currently

in development. So, by the time it comes for you to drive a car, there's a chance you might not need to be able to take your driving test. That's because the cars themselves will be able to drive.

"Self-driving cars have improved enormously in the past couple of years, and I'm sure we'll see them on our streets quite soon. Not only that, when it comes to maybe ordering a takeaway, or you're wanting to get something from online, it could turn up by a robot or a drone automatically."

## WHAT ELSE IS IN THE PIPELINE?

Augmented reality is going to become even more

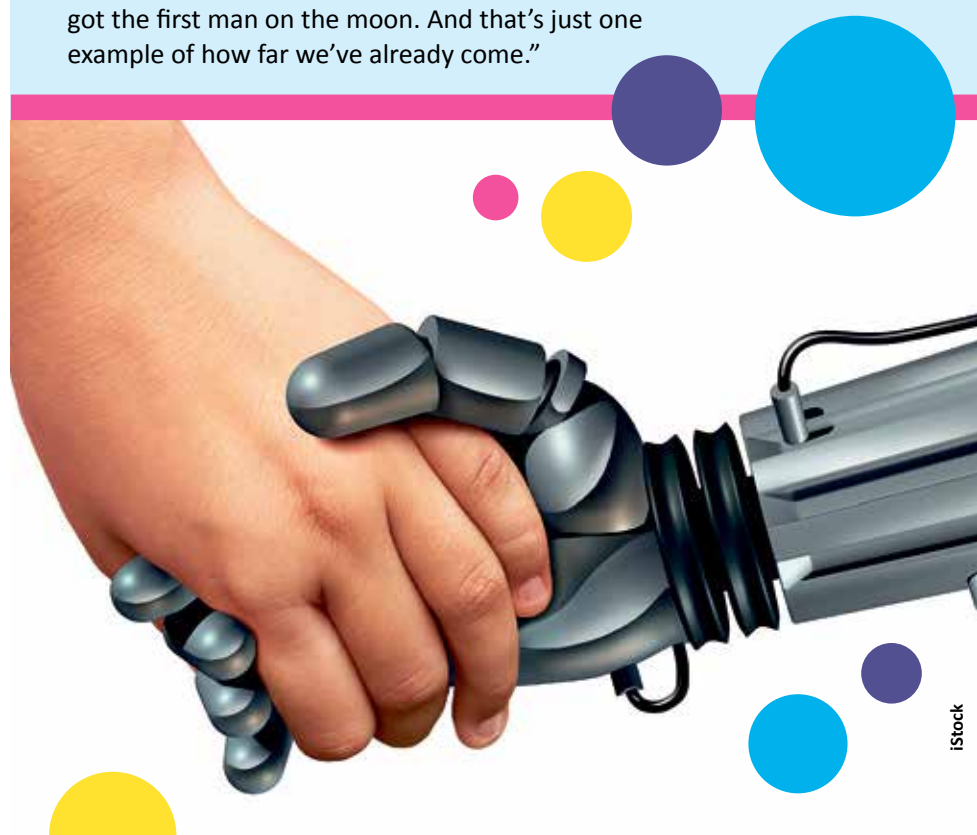
advanced. You may use augmented reality already, when you put those funny filters on your photos or use special effects. Well, that technology is starting to be used in glasses. So you'll be able to look around the world and see all this extra digital information, whether that be notifications from your mobile phone or maybe what you'll be looking at on the computer. What that means is that, eventually, we'll be able to do away with our smartphone and computer screens. Instead, we'll see all this information, just on the world around us.

## WILL ROBOTS EVENTUALLY TAKE OVER ALL OF OUR JOBS?

Georgie says: "Robots will definitely take some of our jobs, things

that are really repetitive or manual, so if you think about a factory production line, or if you're building cars. However, technology will also bring about loads of new jobs. So if you're nifty with a computer, I can pretty much guarantee you're going to be in high demand."

So where's all this going to end up? Some people worry that if robots become too clever they could start to cause us problems. But others say that technology will never be as advanced as humans, because a computer can't feel emotions like joy or sadness in the same way that we can.



Kids – you can watch the *I Don't Get It* video on AI at [first.news/IDGI](https://first.news/IDGI).

Teachers – you can watch the film in the classroom alongside our tie-in award-winning educational resources at [schools.firstnews.co.uk](https://schools.firstnews.co.uk)

# HISTORY MAKERS



© Nobel Media. Ill. Niklas Elmehed

An illustration by the artist Niklas Elmehed of scientists Emmanuelle Charpentier (left) and Jennifer Doudna

## TWO scientists have become the first women to share the Nobel Prize in chemistry.

The prestigious Nobel Prizes are awarded every year for achievements in science, literature and advancing peace around the world. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm decides who wins the prizes.

This year's Chemistry Prize, worth £870,000, was awarded to Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer Doudna for their work developing "genetic scissors", which the Academy says are "a tool for rewriting the code of life".

Known as the CRISPR/Cas9 system, the scissors are a gene editing tool that have made a huge impact on genetic engineering. CRISPR/Cas is a natural part of the ancient bacterial immune system, and gives bacteria the ability to snip their own DNA when it becomes infected by viruses.

The original research was done by Charpentier with a set of "molecular scissors". She studied the bacteria that causes tonsillitis, and after publishing her work she teamed up with

Doudna to recreate the scissors inside a test tube and then re-programme them to spot and snip any DNA sequence.

The CRISPR/Cas9 genetic scissors can change the DNA of animals, plants and micro-organisms very precisely. It is now being studied as a way of treating and even curing various human diseases, including cancer. It may one day be able to cut out diseases passed from a parent to a child, effectively creating babies that have been gene-edited. This, however, is not a popular idea with all scientists. Some think we shouldn't interfere in the genes of an unborn baby.

Charpentier hopes her historic achievement will inspire children. She said: "My wish is that this will provide a positive message to the young girls who would like to follow the path of science, and show them that women in science can also have an impact through the research that they are performing."

# STUDY FINDS EXTRA RISK

A NEW UK study has found that black people with COVID-19 have an increased risk of ending up in hospital.

The research has also found that Asian people are more likely to die from the coronavirus compared to white patients.

COVID-19 is most serious in older patients who already have serious underlying health problems.

Professor Ajay Shah of King's College London, who was involved in the study, said: "We may need different treatment strategies for different ethnic groups. For black patients, the issue may be how to prevent mild infection progressing to severe, whereas for Asian patients it may be how to treat life-threatening complications."



istock



A COVID-19 medical worker in New York

# AI HELPS COVID DOCTORS

SCIENTISTS at New York University (NYU) in the USA have developed artificial intelligence (AI) that can predict at which hospital COVID-19 patients are likely to improve most quickly.

Doctors input laboratory test results, vital signs (such as blood pressure and pulse rate) and information about how much oxygen a patient is on into a modelling system (the AI). That then processes the data and tells doctors how likely it is that the patient will get well. This, in turn, lets the medics decide whether it is safe to let them go home or better to keep them in the hospital.

The team behind the AI say the prediction has a 90% accuracy rate. It was developed by using data from 3,345 people who had already been hospitalised, and 474 people who had

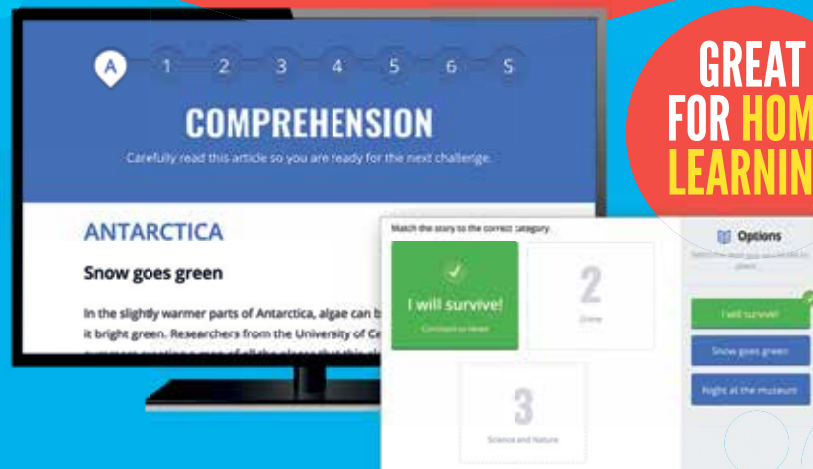
COVID-19 but had not yet gone into hospital. This allowed the NYU team to identify patients likely to improve within four days, and those who would need more treatment.

AI involves a machine or programme teaching itself and learning as more data is fed into it. This latest development should make it easier for doctors treating COVID-19 to decide who to discharge from hospital, freeing up vital intensive care beds for the most ill patients.

You can learn more about AI in our I Don't Get It special report on p11.

# 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!

**I wear a face covering to protect strangers.**



**HANDS**



**FACE**



**SPACE**



# SCREAM ON SCREEN

WE think stop-motion is one of the coolest forms of animation, so we're really excited that the spooky comedy *Scream Street* is back on our screens this month! Check out all you need to know about the spooky show...

The second series of the show starts where the first one left off, with more rib-tickling adventures for the gang: Luke the teenage werewolf, Resus the vampire, Cleo the 4,000-year-old mummy, Luella the trainee witch and surf-dude zombie Doug all face some scary new adventures.

A brand-new character joins the street this series. Six is the same age as the gang but was born yesterday! She moves to Scream Street with her creator, Dr F, who is set on causing trouble for the residents of the street!



As well as facing new problems from Dr F, the gang discover that Mayor Otto is back. He's up to his usual dastardly deeds and is busy with more monstrous inventions!

As well as being extremely funny, the show is pretty spooky. Director Geoff Walker says: "This wouldn't be *Scream Street* without featuring some new, and not so new, monsters in the series; some to make your skin crawl, others to make you hide behind the sofa." Arrrghh!



Each episode is animated in a studio for around two and a half weeks. From pre-production to final delivery, it takes around four months to make one episode of *Scream Street*.

This series is filmed slightly differently to the first. It has a more classical style of editing, rather than the sharp cuts and scene changes featured in series one.



Tala Gouveia, who plays Cleo, has a surprising confession about learning her lines. She explains: "We don't have to learn the lines for animation jobs, so I get to spend more time preparing how I'm going to play the part, as opposed to learning all the lines. Although I never know exactly how I'm going to say things until I'm in the studio and working with the others."

## GHOULISH GIGGLES

*Scream Street* is full of hilarious jokes and gags, but are the cast as funny in real life? They tell us their favourite jokes...

**Tyger Drew-Honey (Luke):** What do you call a baby horse's favourite cheese at a Halloween party? Mascarpone. (Mask a pony! Ha ha!)

**Rasmus Hardiker (Resus):** You have to say it out loud. Here goes: "There's only one thing I hate about Halloween, which is..."

Catch *Scream Street* on CBBC from 26 October

THIS WEEK

**1** Meghan Trainor will not be returning as a coach for series ten of *The Voice UK*, as she is having a baby. The singer announced her happy news on Instagram and has revealed that she'll be taking time out to start her family. Meghan will still be taking part in the semi-final and final of series nine, which were postponed due to the coronavirus. She will join the show virtually from LA.

**2** BBC presenter Karim Zeroual has landed a part in a West End show. He made it through to the final of *Strictly Come Dancing* last year, and now he'll be teaming up with dance pros Aljaž Škorjanec, Pasha Kovalev, Robin Windsor and Graziano Di Prima for *Here Come The Boys* at London's Garrick Theatre next year. As well as performing some of the dance routines, Karim will also host the show.

**3** Pixar's new movie *Soul* will be skipping the cinemas and heading straight to Disney+ on Christmas Day. *Soul* tells the story of music teacher Joe Gardner, who ends up in 'The Great Before', a place where new souls get their personalities, quirks and interests before they go to Earth. Determined to get back to his life, he teams up with another soul, 22, to show her what's great about life.

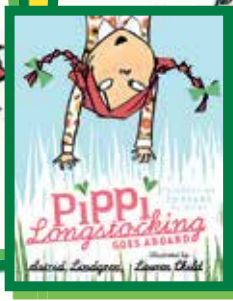
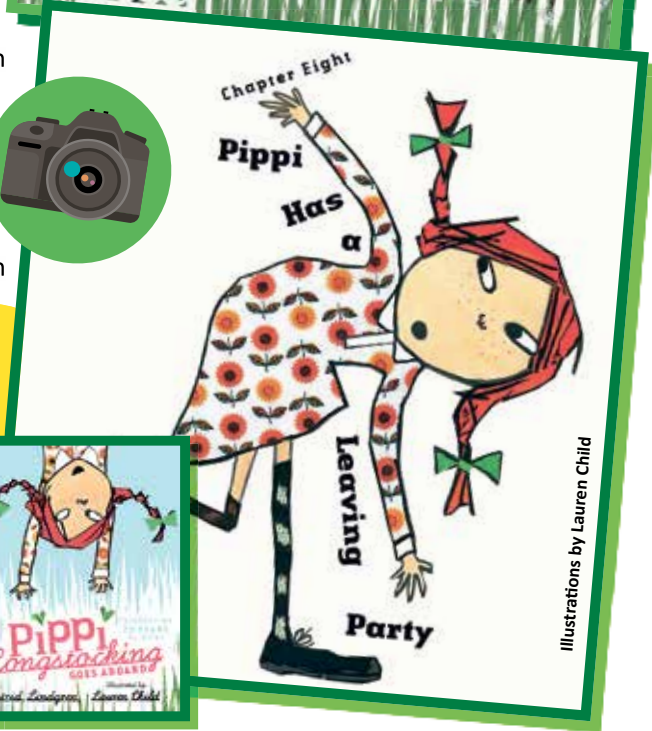


PICCS OF THE WEEK

**PIPPI Longstocking** is a classic character from children's literature who has been given a 2020 makeover, with new illustrations by the brilliant Lauren Child.

Lauren told *First News*: "I discovered Pippi Longstocking when I was eight or nine and found her completely inspiring, an entirely free spirit. I became obsessed with her and wanted to be her. She represented pure freedom and an escape from conventional thinking, because she very much lives in the moment and is fun and funny and generous and wild, courageous and kind. She quickly became one of my childhood heroes. With Pippi, I had a clear idea in my head of how she would be, because I knew and loved the story."

**Pippi Longstocking Goes Aboard** by Astrid Lindgren and illustrated by Lauren Child is out now.



GEORGE GENDI

NEW episodes of the hilarious *Apple & Onion* are being shown on Cartoon Network. We spoke to creator, and voice of Apple, George Gendi about the crazy cartoon.

**Tell us a little bit about Apple & Onion.**

*Apple & Onion* is about two British fellows who both move to the city. On the first day, they meet each other and they decide they'll live together. They both had different plans to start off with, but it just worked out that way. So it's about them. Their landlord, Falafel, is an Egyptian falafel wrap and he lets them live in this roof shack for free. It's just about their day-to-day adventures in the city and the grown-up world.

**How did you choose an apple and an onion? Was it ever an orange and a potato? Or a banana and a carrot?**

It was always an apple. My older brother created this children's book about an apple who moves to the big city and brings life to the city. My idea was to make this into a film, then pitch a show off the back of it. By the time I'd finished storyboarding [making a series of pictures that show how a movie will play out], I thought: "How am I going to make this film? It's too long, I don't have any resources, so let's just pitch something!" We had an apple, so he needed a friend that was opposite. So it was a spring onion – green and tall, compared to Apple being short and red. And that's how it came about. It was still about them bringing life to the city like the original story.

**What can we expect from the new episodes?**

The stories are getting weirder, a bit crazier, but it's still Apple and Onion being Apple and Onion. There are quite a few funny ones coming up. You can expect



them to try and free Falafel from jail, and there's another one where they go to the gym and get really strong and muscley. The season finale has an election happening – I won't give away what happens!

**Do you have any advice for kids who would like to be cartoonists or get into animation?**

I would say do a lot of drawing; make up the characters that you love. If you're going to go into this sort of thing, it all centres on your characters. Animation is a really wide field, but the thing I do, TV animation, is all about the main characters and the adventures they're going on – it just happens to be that they're drawn. So draw your characters, design your characters, think about what they're like as people, draw them acting. That's a good place to start, and once you start doing that, your imagination will lead you forward.

*Apple & Onion* is on Cartoon Network now

# POKÉMON™

## SWORD & SHIELD DARKNESS ABLAZE

**TRADING CARD GAME**

DISCOVER the wildlife and Pokémon from the Galar region with the Pokémon Trading Card Game: Sword & Shield – Darkness Ablaze expansion!



The Galar Bus is looking for Galar Pokémon from the Darkness Ablaze card expansion. Which Pokémon can you see?



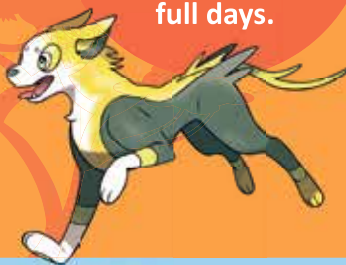
**THERE'S A POKÉMON FOR YOU!**

Check out these Pokémon – they were all originally found in the Galar region!

**TOXEL**  
Watch out! If you touch a Toxel, you'll feel a tingling sensation.



**BOLTUND**  
Boltund can run non-stop for three full days.



**SIRFETCH'D**  
When this Pokémon's leek withers, it will retire from combat.

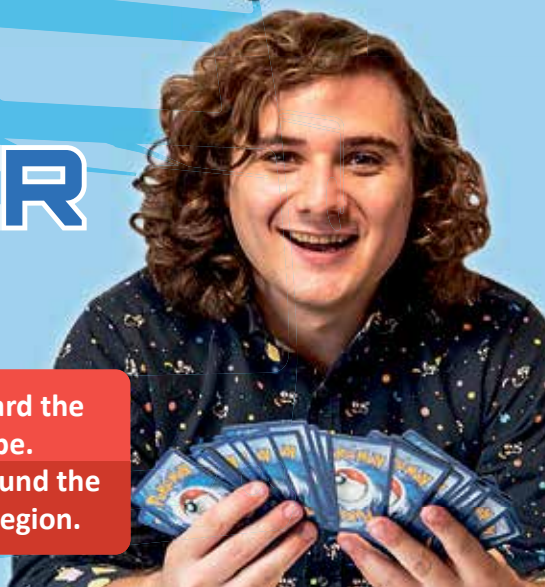


**THIEVUL**  
Thievul secretly marks potential targets with a scent that it can follow.



## BIRD KEEPER TOBY

JOIN Bird Keeper Toby aboard the Pokémon bus on YouTube. He'll be visiting locations around the UK that inspired the Galar region.



Go to [YouTube.com/Pokemon](https://www.youtube.com/Pokemon) today to watch the series! Join the adventure! #ExploreGalar  
Please be aware of age restrictions on YouTube and social media

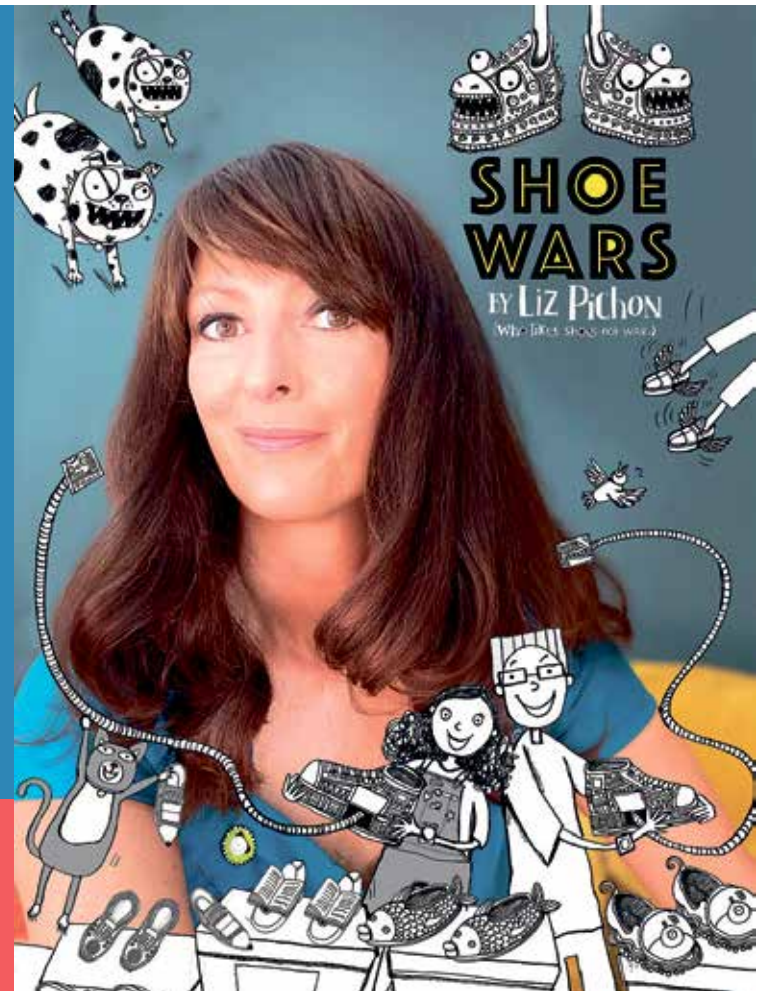
TURN TO **P21** TO READ OUR INTERVIEW WITH **BIRD KEEPER TOBY!**



# ILLUSTRATION

# FUN!

LIZ Pichon, the creator of the Tom Gates series, is back with a brand-new book about the craziest, wackiest shoes you've ever met! The author and illustrator has created this exclusive step-by-step guide to drawing one of the new characters from *Shoe Wars*.

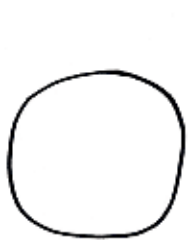


**SHOE WARS**  
by Liz Pichon  
*Who talks shoes not wars!*

## HERE'S HOW TO DRAW ONE OF WENDY WEDGE'S VICIOUS DOGS, LEFT! (THE OTHER'S CALLED RIGHT)

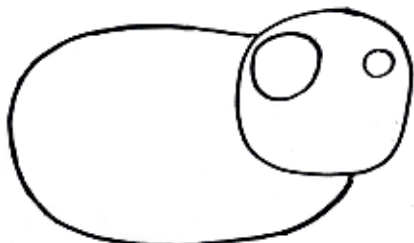
1

First, draw a circle.



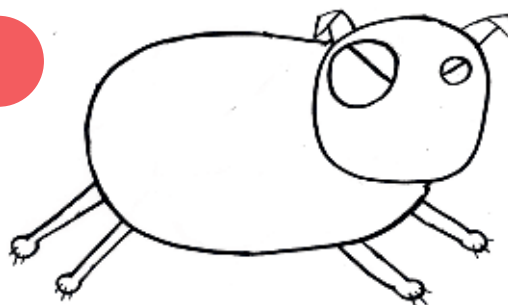
2

Then two eyes. One BIG and the other small. The body is like a BIG U shape



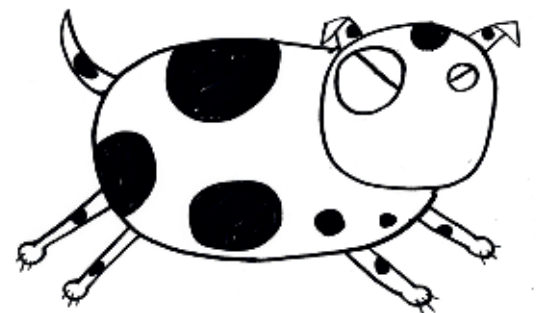
3

Draw two slanting lines to make Left's eyes look CROSS. Two small ears and four STRAIGHT legs with lines for his claws.



4

Now add Left's black spots.

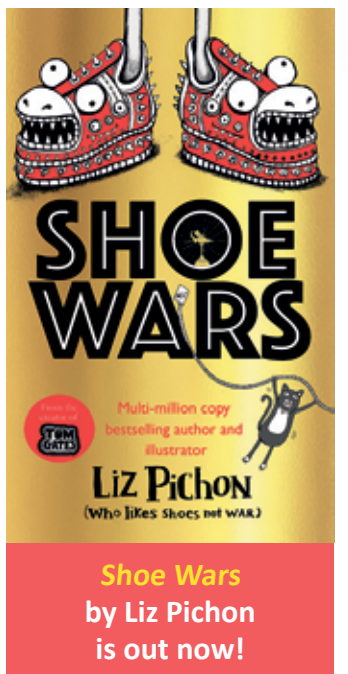


5

Draw a nice big mouth with sharp triangular teeth. And small nose and dots for his whiskers. Then two straight lines above his eyes for CROSS-looking eyebrows.



And there you have Wendy's dog LEFT, looking **FIERCE!**





# WIN! RAVEL TALES SURPRISE BOX

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

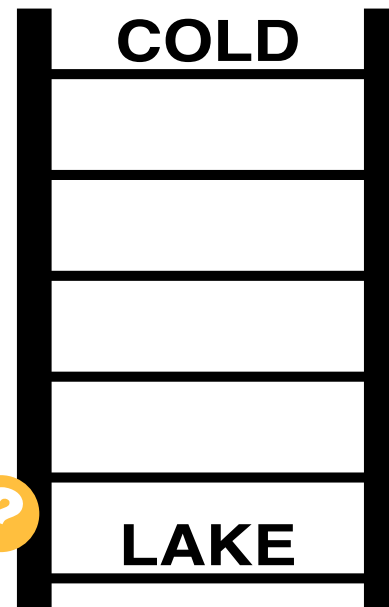
Send in your answers and four lucky readers will each receive a Ravel Tales Surprise Box. What's hiding in this ball of chunky wool? Who knows? Carefully unwrap it to reveal your Ravel Tales surprise cutie within! Each Ravel Tale includes a cute accessory and an easy sewing project, for hours of creative play. The more you unwind, the more you find! [www.character-online.com](http://www.character-online.com)



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

# 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?

1		2			3		4		5	
6					7					8
9			10			11				
12						13		14		
					15					
16	17						18			
			19							

**ACROSS**

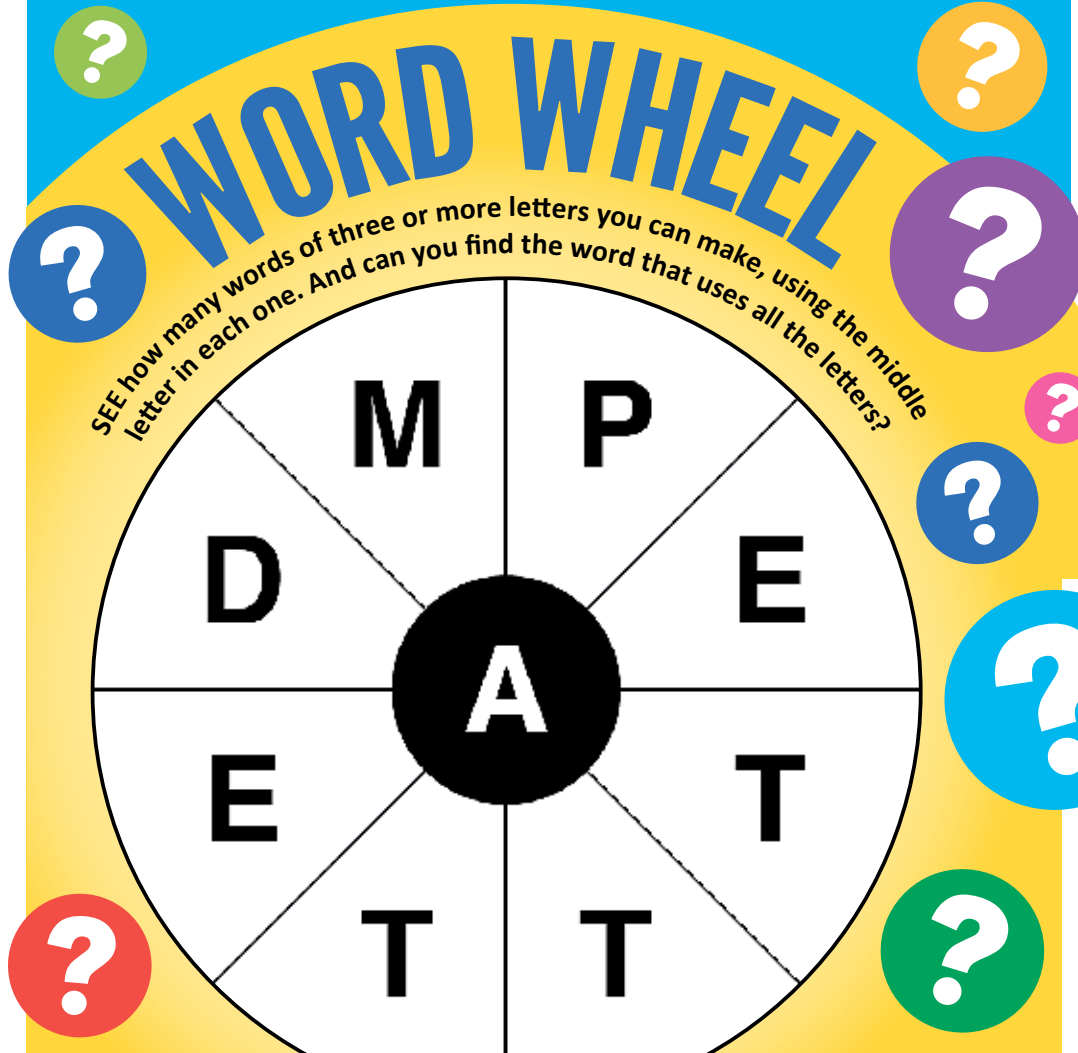
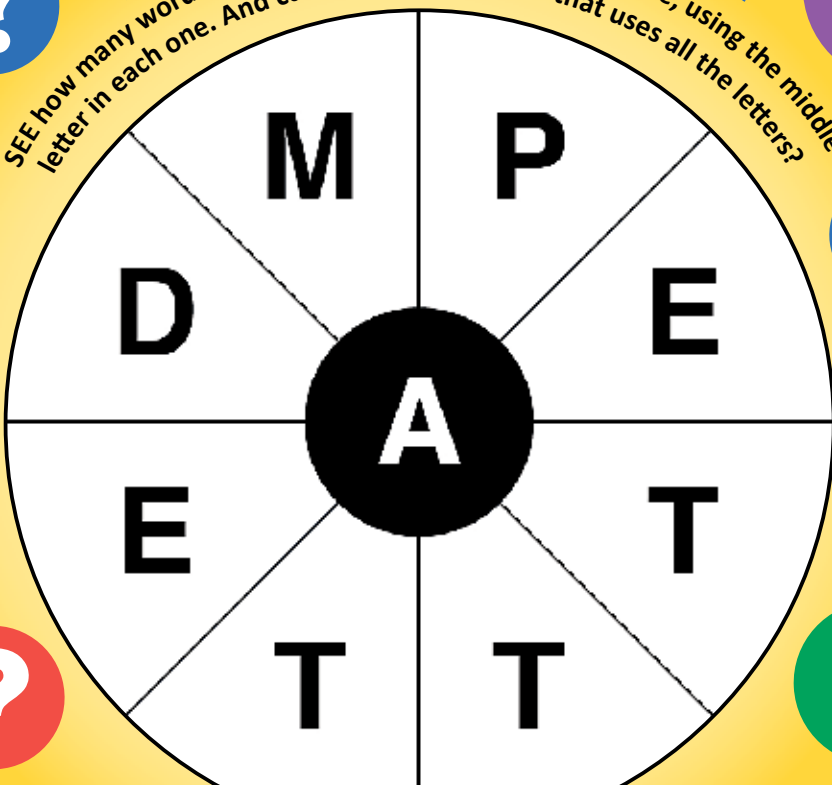
- 1 Major football tournament (5,3)
- 6 Close by (4)
- 7 Holds up (6)
- 9 Go into a place (5)
- 11 Hot country in Africa that has Cairo as its capital (5)
- 12 A musical instrument (5)
- 13 Country in southern Asia (5)
- 16 Living room (6)
- 18 Hired form of transport (4)
- 19 Be a source of danger to (8)

**DOWN**

- 1 Fantastic (9)
- 2 Respond (5)
- 3 Set of letters used to send secret messages (4)
- 4 Shape with three or more sides (7)
- 5 Attempt; rugby score (3)
- 8 State of affairs (9)
- 10 No longer alive, like dinosaurs (7)
- 14 First version of an essay (5)
- 15 Polar \_\_\_ : large mammal (4)
- 17 Item used to move a rowing boat (3)

# 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 748** in the subject box. We're afraid that we can't accept postal entries for now. The closing date for entries is **Thursday 22 October 2020**.

# WIN! TWO BY TWO GOODIES

CAN you spot the five changes we've made to this picture from *Two by Two: Overboard*? Send in your answers and three lucky winners will win a *Two by Two: Overboard* goodie bag. Finny and his best mate Leah accidentally fall off the ark and are swept out to sea. Out on their own on a raft, they get separated by a storm. If only the new-found land wouldn't shake that regularly, and wouldn't smoke from the mountain top... *Two by Two: Overboard* is in cinemas from 23 October.



# WIN! LIMITED EDITION BRITANNICA ALL NEW CHILDREN'S ENCYCLOPEDIA

**BRITANNICA**, one of the world's most trusted sources of knowledge, has launched a brand-new, up-to-date encyclopedia for children.

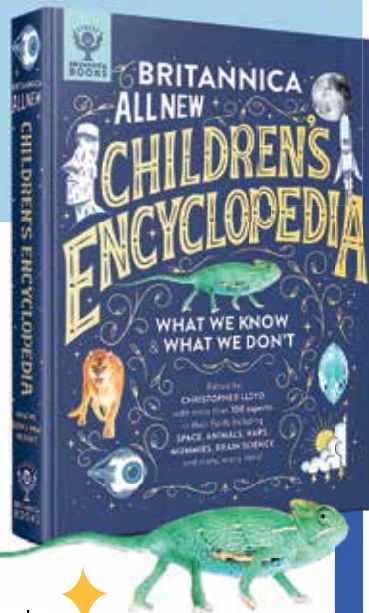
*Britannica All New Children's Encyclopedia: What We Know & What We Don't* covers more than 170 topics verified by 100 experts in their fields, including the universe, Earth, matter, life, humans, ancient and medieval times, modern times, and today and tomorrow.

It features more than 1,000 stunning photographs and illustrations, alongside hundreds of astonishing facts and mysteries yet to be solved, all guaranteed to make you want to find out more. It might even inspire you to try and solve these mysteries in the future!

We have eight luxury limited-edition copies of *Britannica All New Children's Encyclopedia: What We Know & What We Don't* up for grabs. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

What force from the sun pulls on the Earth to keep it in orbit?  
 a) Gravity b) Friction c) Balance

*Britannica All New Children's Encyclopedia: What We Know & What We Don't*, edited by Christopher Lloyd, from Britannica Books. Also available as a luxury limited edition presented in a slipcase with gold-edged pages, two ribbon markers and a bookplate signed by Christopher Lloyd.



## ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY BOOK

[firstnews.co.uk/competitions](http://firstnews.co.uk/competitions) or see below. The closing date is 29 October 2020.

# WIN! A DOJO BATTLE SET FROM MGA ENTERTAINMENT



**WE'VE** teamed up with MGA Entertainment to give you the chance to win one of ten Dojo Battle™ electronic battle prizes.

Dojo Battle™ is the action-packed electronic battling game that lets you fight like a hi-tech ninja! Using Smart Strike Technology, Dojo Battle™ automatically detects and scores hits from only your Dojo Battle™ swords. Challenge your friends in the best-of-three mode to see who comes out on top, then increase the difficulty setting on the chest armour – just one strike and you're out! Each electronic chest plate makes real battle sounds and lights up whenever they detect a hit, and each sword is cushioned for safety. You can even increase the teams up to 12 people, as all Dojo Battle™ sets work together, so you can join together for ninja battles with even more friends!

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

Which country do ninjas come from?  
 a) New Zealand b) Ireland c) Japan

**DOJO BATTLE** Available from Smyths in store and online



## ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY BATTLE

[firstnews.co.uk/competitions](http://firstnews.co.uk/competitions) or see below. The closing date is 29 October 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:** spots on Scooby are missing, Shaggy's T-shirt is a different colour, head is bigger, steering wheel is missing, extra thumb has been added.

**Word ladder:** band, bans, bats, hats, huts, hums.

**Word wheel:** therefore.

3	2	1	4	8	7	9	5	6		A	R	T	I	F	I	C	I	A	L
8	5	7	9	3	6	1	2	4		M	I	A	R						
9	6	4	5	2	1	7	3	8		B	A	S	E	D	V	A	G	U	E
5	1	8	3	6	9	2	4	7		E	P	G	R	E	E	A			
7	4	3	8	5	2	6	9	1		R	O	A	R	E	D	U	N	I	T
2	9	6	1	7	4	3	8	5		G	T	R	S	T	I	N	G		
6	7	9	2	4	5	8	1	3		E	C	H	O	S	P	R	I	N	G
4	8	2	7	1	3	5	6	9		B	A	T	H	E	R	I	M	A	L
1	3	5	6	9	8	4	7	2		L	I	V	I	N	G	R	O	O	M

# VISIT THE SEA LIFE ASCARIUM!

FROM 10 October – 1 November\*, families across the country are invited to dive into the creepy deep with the return of SEA LIFE's Ascarium trails and experiences for half term and Halloween.

Follow the immersive trail through your local SEA LIFE site to find the missing potion ingredients hidden throughout displays of the creepiest creatures of the deep, as well as a few of the more charming ocean dwellers, such as seahorses, rays and clownfish.

You'll have to keep your eyes peeled, as the ingredients could be anywhere... including inside some of the tanks! It's a great opportunity to get up close to some of the centre's most interesting inhabitants as you peer into their underwater homes.

Once you've spotted all of the missing items, see if you can solve the riddle at the end

of the trail to complete the spell for the SEA LIFE sea witch – and to claim your free Cadbury reward for your Halloween bravery! You'll also be able to see singing pumpkins, snap a selfie at the creepy cauldron and see if you can spot the witch on your adventure!

Throughout the trail – which will stick to the appropriate COVID-19 safety measures, with enhanced cleaning, social distancing and the requirement to wear masks – guests can also learn about some of the many monsters of the deep that SEA LIFE is home to, with its resident sharks being a particular highlight at each site.



Find out more by visiting [visitsealife.com/ascarium](https://www.visitsealife.com/ascarium)

\*Please check your local attraction's website for event dates

# ON THE ROAD WITH BIRD KEEPER TOBY



ONE of Britain's top Poké-experts, YouTuber Bird Keeper Toby, is taking a Pokémon bus across the UK to investigate some of the places that inspired the Galar region in *Pokémon Sword and Shield* – while playing a few games of the Pokémon Trading Card Game on the way! We spoke to Bird Keeper Toby about his plans, and what makes Pokémon so special to him.

● **Tell us a bit about the videos you're making with Pokémon.**

Pokémon's newest games, *Pokémon Sword* and *Pokémon Shield*, are set in the Galar region, which has been inspired by many areas in the UK, like London and Bath. So to celebrate, they have this incredible one-of-a-kind, double-decker Pokémon bus travelling around the UK. I was invited onto the bus as a local Pokémon expert to introduce the world of Pokémon to a few Pokémon Trainers who are just starting out... you might recognise them!

● **How will they be different to the videos you usually make?**

The videos I make aren't on a double-decker Pokémon-themed bus, although I really wish they were! My videos go a little more in-depth into the world of Pokémon, discussing its lore and its mysteries. It's for the more advanced Pokémon Trainer to really test their knowledge and show them things they might not know already.

● **What first got you into Pokémon?**

I've been around since the very beginning, trading Pokémon cards on the school playground and coming home to watch Ash Ketchum set out on his adventures, training with friends and battling legendary Pokémon! I vowed then and there I'd become a Pokémon Master!

● **Who are your top three favourite Pokémon?**

Snorlax, Golisopod and Noctowl are the current winners for me, but it changes all the time.

● **What makes the series so special to you?**

Pokémon is about collaboration: people and Pokémon working together to go on epic adventures, to discover ancient mysteries and to simply make friends. There are so many games to play, Pokémon to catch and locations to visit that it really feels like there is something for everyone.

● **Any advice for readers who like Pokémon, but don't know where to start with the massive series?**

Well, if you've never played a Pokémon game before ever, I'd recommend *Pokémon: Let's Go, Pikachu!* and *Let's Go, Eevee!* for the Nintendo Switch. They are a lot more fun and perfect for the starting Trainer. However, if you've delved into Pokémon once or twice in the past, then I'd recommend starting with the latest games, *Pokémon Sword* and *Pokémon Shield*, for that full epic adventure!

TELL YOUR FRIENDS

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## WIN! BRILLIANT BUGS PRESENTATION SETS



ROYAL Mail has launched a set of six stamps that celebrate the diversity, intrigue and importance of insects that pollinate UK plants.

The stamps explore insects – including bees and butterflies – and other often overlooked important pollinators, including moths, beetles, hoverflies and wasps.

Featured are six important insect pollinators feeding on flowers they typically visit: Common Carder Bee, Painted Lady Butterfly, Longhorn Beetle, Elephant Hawk-moth, Marmalade Hoverfly and Ruby-tailed Wasp.

Pollinators are responsible for pollination of vast quantities of food crops for humans and farm animals, and the pollination of wild plants including flowers and some trees. Of all plants worldwide, more than 85% are pollinated by insects and other animals. There are thought to be more than five million species of these 'brilliant bugs' worldwide.

We have 15 Brilliant Bug Presentation Stamp Packs up for grabs. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

What insect is a Painted Lady?  
a) Beetle b) Butterfly c) Bee



ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY BUGS

[firstnews.co.uk/competitions](http://firstnews.co.uk/competitions) or see page 19. The closing date is 29 October 2020.



AT ThinkFun, we love to make learning fun! Our range of logic games and puzzles are designed to flex your brain while you play. From rescuing your car from a traffic jam to harnessing the power of gravity or building a rollercoaster, there is a world of discovery just waiting to ignite your mind!

## RUSH HOUR

Rush Hour is a sliding-block logic game. Can you slide the vehicles out of the way to rescue your car from 40 gridlock challenges? (Age 8+)



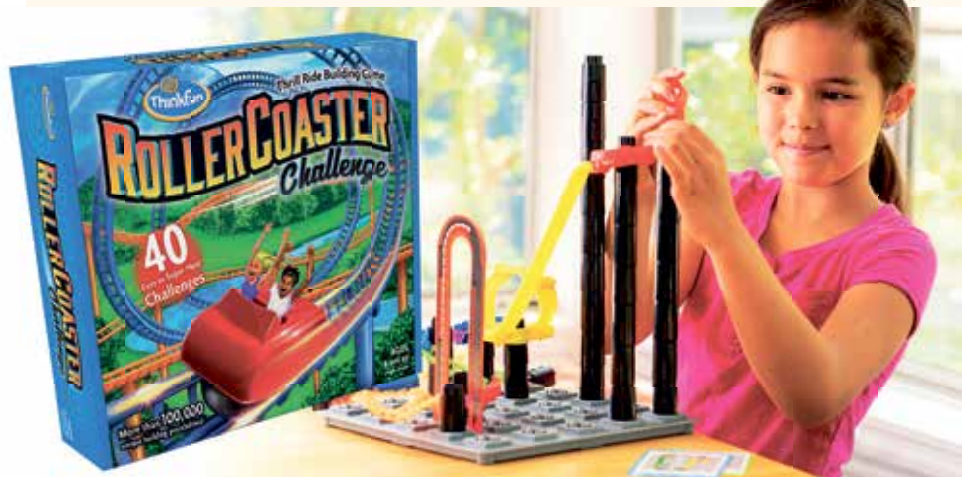
## GRAVITY MAZE

Test and build your reasoning skills across 60 challenges as you strategically place towers to create a path for your marble to reach the target. This fun maze game is a marble run with a difference! (Age 8+)



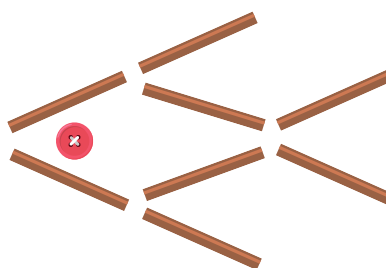
## ROLLERCOASTER CHALLENGE

In this thrilling engineering challenge, you'll have to build a working rollercoaster! Use your logic and creativity skills and watch as the rollercoaster car glides around the track. (Age 6+)

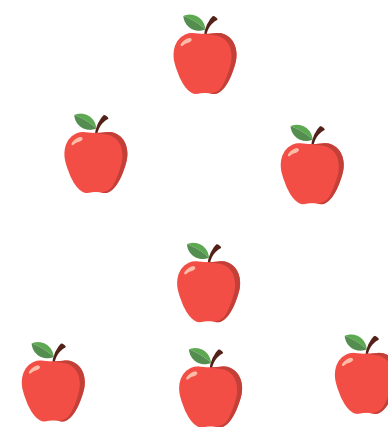


## BONUS BRAINTEASERS!

If you love puzzles and problem-solving, why not give our brainteasers a try?

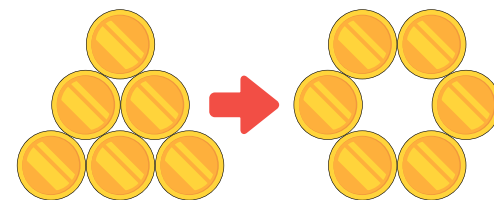


Recreate this fish using eight sticks and a button for an eye. Can you move three sticks and the button to make the fish swim the other way?



Can you draw three straight lines with a pencil to separate all the apples from each other?

Turn a triangle of pennies into a circle by moving one penny at a time – it must touch two coins at the end of the move. Can you do it in as little as five moves?



Solutions to the brainteasers can be found at [www.thinkfun.com/teachers/brainteasers](http://www.thinkfun.com/teachers/brainteasers)

Find out more about ThinkFun games at [www.thinkfun.co.uk](http://www.thinkfun.co.uk)

# TIPS FOR TIME TRAVEL!



**AUTHOR** David Baddiel has a new book out this week, featuring two best friends who come from very different time zones and go on a brilliantly funny adventure. David gave us his top tips on time travel!

**1** Know that you're stepping into a time machine. Pip in my new novel *Future Friend* doesn't know this. She thinks she's entering a Transporter that will just take her somewhere else in the city she lives in (in 3020). But she ends up in 2019.

**2** Know which date you're going to. Pip doesn't know that either, obviously. I set my novel in 2019 rather than 2020 because I had imagined the world of 3020 as being one where, because of climate change and disease, no-one goes out. The idea was that when Pip gets to our time, suddenly, she can go out and meet people and have a great time! Then things went a bit pear-shaped in 2020 as regards going out and meeting people and having a great time, and so I put it back to 2019. The great thing about knowing which date you're going to – if it's the past – is you can research it and find out stuff before you go that might help when you get there. For example, Pip could have found out that 2019 is when the movie *Cats* was released. So she could have decided instead to go back to 2018.



**3** Bring some food with you. Future food is different from food now, so whether you're going into the past or the future, make sure you bring some of your own, so you don't get an upset tummy. If you're from now, going into the future, I recommend cheese and pickle sandwiches. If you're from the future, coming to now, like Pip, I recommend some pills that can be any food, although I'd go for cheese and pickle sandwich flavour pills.

**4** Go quite far. In time, I mean. There's not much point in going to yesterday or tomorrow. Especially not tomorrow, as if you just go to sleep, that will happen soon enough anyway.



**5** At the same time, don't go too far. Don't go so far forward that humanity has left the Earth and gone to live on Jupiter, because it might not be easy to hitch-hike there. Similarly, if you're travelling backwards in time, I wouldn't go further than caveman times. I mean, even that might be difficult, so take one of those big clubs they always have in caveman cartoons to hit mammoths on the head with, if necessary.

**6** Be careful you don't bump into the Doctor's TARDIS while travelling in the time-space continuum. Remember, he/she always has right of way.



**7** In 3020, in *Future Friend*, animals have evolved to speak. So if you are travelling there, take a cat. Maybe they'll learn, and that would be a brilliant thing for when you come back.

**8** They also have gravity-less boots in 3020, that allow you to hover and fly around, so before you go, practise some moves on a trampoline.

**9** Be wary of robots. Trust me on this one. There's quite a dodgy one in *Future Friend*. But beyond that, I've watched a lot of movies, and, in the future, they always tend to go a bit malfunction-ey and "we're-all-taking-over-the-world"-ey. Apart from that nicely spoken one and his bleepy mate in *Star Wars*, of course.

**10** If you are going to travel 1,001 years into the future, or 1,001 years in the past, and have loads of crazy death-defying adventures, try and leave not on a school night. Although having said that, you could always return on a Friday or Saturday anyway. It's a time machine. You can set it to come back whenever you're like. Hmm. Ignore this tip.



*Future Friend* by David Baddiel is out now

# WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?

## SUPER MARIO MUSHROOM LIGHT FIREBOX.COM £14.99

Bring a little piece of the Mario world to your home with this Super Mario Mushroom Light. This soothing shroom will fill your room with a gentle, relaxing glow. Just press down on its cute head to play the classic 8-bit 'mushroom power-up' sound effect as it lights up.



## WOTNOT CREATIONS EARTH LIGHT IWANTONEOFTHOSE.COM £14.99

Add a magical touch to your room with this cool Earth Light. Placed on a wooden stand, its 3D technology gives a life-like Earth appearance on the outside of the lamp. With a choice of three different colours (white, yellow and warm white), you can select your colour preference with a simple touch!



## LLAMA MOOD LIGHT FUNKYPIGEON.COM £11.99

This cute llama mood light will light up your room with a whole range of different colours! Battery operated and with colour-changing LEDs, this magical llama lamp can be placed anywhere in your home for an alternative, fun light.



\*All prices correct at time of printing

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We are extremely passionate about the environment and we are always looking at ways to reduce waste throughout the company and across all of our products. Our paper comes from sustainable sources. The new material we use to wrap mailed copies is made from potato starch, so it is now fully home compostable and completely biodegradable, and you can put it in with your food waste, in your green garden waste recycling bins, or on your own compost heap.

## LEGO Advertisement feature

# WIN! A LEGO MINDSTORMS® 5-IN-1 SET!

HAVE you ever dreamed of building your own LEGO brick robot and bringing it to life? The new LEGO® Mindstorms® Robot Inventor lets you do just that and much, much more.

The new LEGO® Mindstorms® Robot Inventor 5-in-1 set gives builders aged 10+ the power to bring one of the set's five unique robots to life. Or if you are feeling creative and adventurous, you can also use the newly-updated LEGO® Mindstorms® set to dream up, build and code your own creations, from dancing robots to trick-shot machines.

LEGO® Mindstorms® combines LEGO bricks with coding and robotic elements to let builders create anything, before programming their creations using easy-to-learn STEM programming and bringing their robots to life.

The set comes with instructions for how to build five robots, including Charlie, the loveable sidekick, and the action hero Blast. Each of the robots can be easily controlled using the LEGO® Mindstorms® Robot Inventor app. The app comes equipped with more than 50 coding challenges and activities to get you started before you move on to coding your own creations.

Want to win your own LEGO® MINDSTORMS® set? Then draw your perfect robot, or build it out of LEGO bricks! Take a picture, tell us what it does and send it to us!

Send us a picture of your robot, along with your name, age and contact details to:

[mindstorms@mischiefp.com](mailto:mindstorms@mischiefp.com)

The competition closes on 23 October 2020

Entry is open to residents of the UK and Republic of Ireland only. Please make sure you have your parent or guardian's permission to enter. Full terms and conditions can be found at [live.firstnews.co.uk/terms](http://live.firstnews.co.uk/terms)



Visit [lego.com/en-gb/themes/mindstorms/about](http://lego.com/en-gb/themes/mindstorms/about) to find out more!



# NEXT WEEK: THE EXCITING CONCLUSION TO OUR STORY WITH CRESSIDA 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. We're reading through all your entries now, before sending a shortlist to Cressida herself, who will decide on the winning entry, which will be published in next week's issue.



BEFORE THE STORY COMES TO AN END, READ EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED SO FAR AT

[FIRST.NEWS/CRESSIDACOWELL](https://www.firstnews.co.uk/cressidacowell)

## YOUR READS!

### A SPRINKLE OF SORCERY MICHELLE HARRISON

reviewed by James Batten, aged nine

*A Sprinkle of Sorcery* is a fictional book about three sisters who become friends with another girl who has magical powers. When one of the girls goes missing, the others band together and go on an adventure to find her. Their journey takes them to places only ever heard about in story tales and myths. Their adventures include shipwrecks, pirates, witches and secret islands.

I absolutely loved the book and would recommend it to readers aged 7-12 who like *Harry Potter* or other magical mysteries.



### VOTE FOR EFFIE LAURA WOOD

reviewed by Mia Abbas-Wright, aged nine

This gripping page-turner is about a self-assured teen called Effie. Despite being the new girl at school, she courageously decides to run for class president, tackling the most popular boy in school, who is her arch nemesis, in the process. Nevertheless, she is determined to succeed. With the help of an unusual group of rebels, lots of support and a particularly rude parrot, will she achieve her goal?

I recommend this fantastic book to anyone who loves comedic diary books. I certainly enjoyed this wonderfully entertaining novel and would rate it five stars.

## National Literacy Trust's Virtual School Library

AUTHOR of the week in the Virtual School Library is Liz Pichon!



This week, the best-selling author of *The Brilliant World of Tom Gates* recommends:

- *I'm Sticking With You* by Smriti Halls and Steve Small
- *Kay's Anatomy: A Complete (and Completely Disgusting) Guide to the Human Body* by Adam Kay, illustrated by Henry Paker
- *The Witches: The Graphic Novel* by Roald Dahl and Pénélope Bagieu

You can read *The Brilliant World of Tom Gates* for FREE, watch an exclusive video from the author introducing her latest book *Shoe Wars* and learn how to draw the characters at [wordsforlife.org.uk/virtual-school-library](https://www.wordsforlife.org.uk/virtual-school-library).

“Words for Life”

Virtual School Library

National Literacy Trust

FOR MORE TIPS AND ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE YOUR READING, WRITING, SPEAKING AND LISTENING AT HOME, VISIT [WORDSFORLIFE.ORG.UK](https://www.wordsforlife.org.uk)

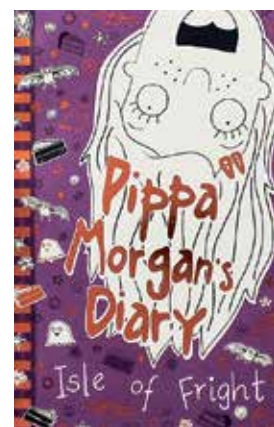
### PIPPA MORGAN'S DIARY: ISLE OF FRIGHT ANNIE KELSEY

reviewed by Pippa Davies, aged seven

*Pippa Morgan's Diary* is all about a little girl called Pippa who watches a programme about ghost hunting. After that, Pippa becomes obsessed with ghosts and turns into a ghost hunter.

There is a new girl, and Pippa's teacher wants her to be her friend. Pippa goes on a school trip to a castle that she thinks is haunted, so she looks for ghosts. She is a mixture of happy and sad when she finds out she is not sharing a bedroom with her best friends but with the new girl. Pippa and her friends use a special knocking code to communicate.

This is the third book in a series of four about *Pippa Morgan's Diary*. At the end of each book there are jokes, advice and special codes. This book rocks!



## WE WANT YOUR BOOK REVIEWS!

LOOKING for something to do? Send us a book review! Whether you've read a book recently that you desperately want to tell people about, or have read one that you think others should avoid – write us a review!

We'll need around 100 words on a book you've been reading and a picture of yourself (with parents' permission!) sent to [bookreviews@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:bookreviews@firstnews.co.uk).





# REALLY ROTTEN ROOMS!

**HAVE** you ever been told to tidy your room, that you live in a pig sty or you should take a little more pride in yourself?

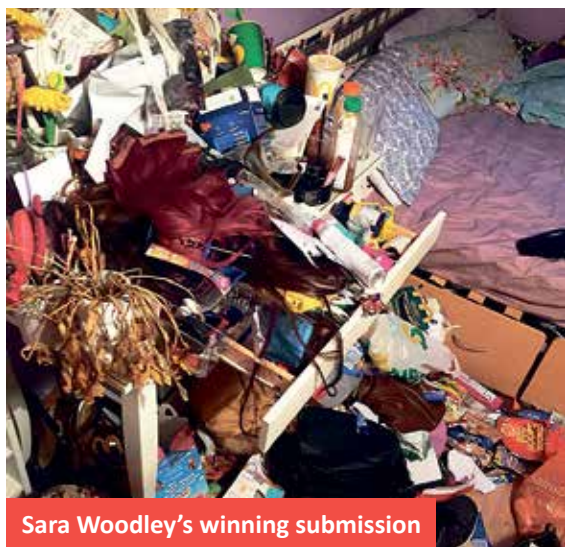
Well, next time it happens, show your parents some of these pics – they'll probably make your room look neat and tidy by comparison!

These filthy rooms were contenders for the UK's messiest bedrooms, an annual competition run by bed specialists Bed SOS. Among the finalists were Vishal from Northampton, who shared a disgusting photo of a room left behind by one of his former tenants. He said it took 52 bin bags to clear away the rubbish!

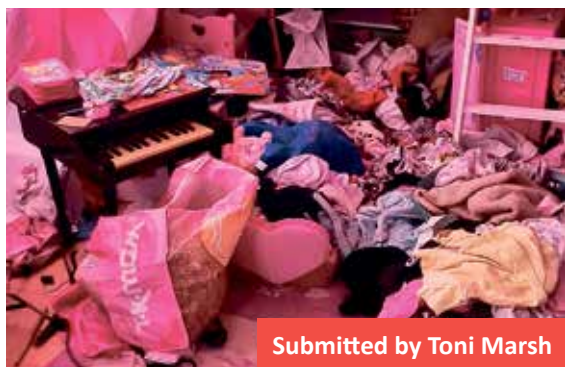
Other runners-up included Sel Longworth, who joked it only took her toddler five minutes to trash his room, and Toni Marsh, who shared a picture of her daughter's pink pig sty.

However, the 'lucky' winner of the world's grossest grotto went to Sara Woodley from County Down in Ireland. Looking like an art sculpture made from rubbish, it's hard to tell what's even going on – we think there's a table and presumably a floor somewhere.

Sara wins a new £400 bed from Bed SOS, along with a gentle reminder that "it might be worth having a declutter before it arrives". How does your room compare with these dirty dens?



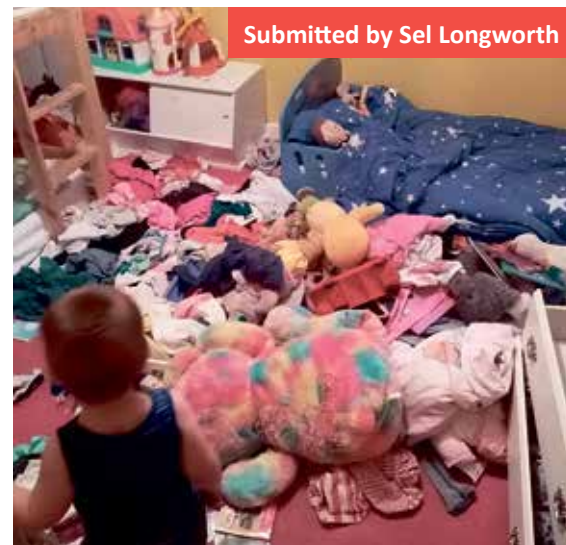
Sara Woodley's winning submission



Submitted by Toni Marsh



Submitted by Vishal Bhudia



Submitted by Sel Longworth



wilson\_wadey/twitter

## GRASS MONSTER

**A NEW** species has been discovered – it's green and furry and a very naughty boy! Okay, so it's not really a new creature...

It might look like the Grinch or Oscar the Grouch from Sesame Street, but this is just a mischievous dog who decided to have a roll in some freshly-cut grass.

The pic of the mystery pup has actually been doing the rounds on the internet for a while, but a repost on Twitter has sent it viral, with more than 100,000 likes, 10,000 shares and 1,000 comments.

Whoever the pup is, we feel sorry for the owner who had to wash all the green out!

## THE SCOOP KING

**AN** Italian man has reclaimed the world record for the most scoops of ice cream on a cone.

Dimitri Panciera took the world record in 2013 with 85 scoops but was beaten by Ashrita Furman's amazing 123 scoops. Dimitri returned this year and reclaimed his title, balancing 125 scoops on a single cone in an Italian Guinness World Records TV show.

We're not sure who would be able to eat the giant ice cream, but as Nick Stoeberl, the man with the world's longest tongue, was in the audience, our money's on him!



Guinness World Records

**+** WHAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT SWITZERLAND? **+**  
I DON'T KNOW BUT THE FLAG IS A BIG PLUS!

SUBMITTED BY SURYA AND ROHAISE

**DID YOU HEAR THE JOKE ABOUT THE BROKEN PENCIL? NEVER MIND, IT'S POINTLESS!**

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



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer



# PLASTIC-FREE RED NOSES

by Lilah, Y5, Fourlanesend School

ON Tuesday 6 October we had a conference with Richard Curtis (the founder of Comic Relief) and others who told us that Comic Relief are changing the material of their red noses.

Back in 2017, Noah in our class suggested we should say no to the plastic noses, as they were single-use. But it was Red Nose Day 2019 when Lauren nagged our head teacher Mrs Norton to bring the idea to life.

We sent an open letter to Comic Relief, as well as other schools and celebrities, explaining our idea. Sir David Attenborough replied, saying that he supported us.

Since then, Comic Relief have decided that they are changing the noses, making them 100% plastic-free and plant-based.

We thought our head teacher was lying when she said we were going to take part in the conference. We were happy but still shocked!

Fourlanesend School is really happy with the changes and we are proud of ourselves for making a difference.

My favourite nose is the fox, because he reflects my personality. Which one will you choose?



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.

THE FA

SUPER KICKS



CHALLENGE

HOW LONG CAN YOU BALANCE A BALL FOR?

- 1 Grab a ball!
- 2 Balance it on different parts of your body for as long as you can.
- 3 Try and hold it longer, every time.

Did you love this challenge?

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Visit: [TheFA.com/Superkicks](https://www.thefa.com/superkicks)

TheFA



FOR ALL



# SPORT IN NUMBERS

**17** NBA titles is the tally for the Los Angeles Lakers after they beat the Miami Heat 106-93. The 4-2 series victory at Florida's Walt Disney World gave the Lakers their first NBA title since 2010. Most Valuable Player LeBron James (below) scored 28 points, 14 rebounds and 10 assists.



**21** one-day international wins in a row have been achieved by the Australian women's cricket team (below). They beat New Zealand by a hefty 232 runs, equalling the world record (men and women) for consecutive ODI wins. Australia have a chance to go one better and set a new record when they play India in January 2021.



**2** track records were broken on the same day at an athletics event in Valencia, Spain. Ethiopia's Letesenbet Gidey took more than four seconds off the 12-year-old women's 5,000m record. Then Uganda's Joshua Cheptegei (below) ran the men's 10,000m in 26 minutes and 11 seconds, beating a record set in 2005.



Rafael Nadal has become the first player to win 100 singles games at Stade Roland Garros

# LUCKY 13 FOR RAFA



Alfie Hewett



Iga Świątek

**THE French Open finished with some familiar names collecting silverware, alongside a new talent tipped for plenty more Grand Slam success.**

Rafael Nadal took on Novak Djokovic in the men's final at the Stade Roland Garros. He showed no mercy as he powered through the first set 6-0. This was followed by 6-2 and 7-5 wins, giving Rafa a straight sets victory. The Spaniard's French Open success is his 20th Grand Slam title – a joint men's record with Roger Federer. "Roland Garros means everything," said Rafa. "I have had the most important moments of my tennis career here." His first Grand Slam win was at the French Open in 2005 – and 13 of his 20 singles titles have been achieved at Roland Garros, so it's obvious why he's such a fan!

The women's singles final was also won in straight sets, but by a less familiar name. Polish teenager Iga Świątek had

notched up some impressive victories in the tournament, including beating top seed Simona Halep 6-1, 6-2 in the fourth round. In the final, she triumphed against Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin 6-4, 6-1. The tennis prodigy, ranked 54 in the world, became the lowest-ranked woman ever to win the French Open.

There was success, too, for Britain's Gordon Reid and Alfie Hewett in the men's wheelchair doubles. They won on a tie-break after a three-set match against Gustavo Fernández and Shingo Kunieda. Impressively, they have taken all the Grand Slam men's wheelchair doubles titles in 2020, after also winning the Australian Open and the US Open.

# FAST TRACK TO VICTORY



Lewis Hamilton with Michael Schumacher's crash helmet



**THE Eifel Grand Prix in Germany saw a surprising podium finish and an unexpected presentation.**

The opening laps were dominated by a tussle between the Mercedes of Valtteri Bottas and Lewis Hamilton, who started on the first two places in the grid. Lewis managed to overtake the Finnish driver on lap 13, before Valtteri was forced to retire five laps later because of engine failure.

Lewis took the chequered flag, followed across the finish line by Red Bull's Max Verstappen and Renault's Daniel Ricciardo. This was Daniel's first Formula 1 podium since Monaco in 2018 – and the Renault team's first top three finish since the Malaysian Grand Prix in 2011.

The victory was Lewis Hamilton's 91st win, equalling the record set by Michael Schumacher at the 2006 Chinese Grand Prix. To mark the achievement, Michael's son, Mick, presented Lewis with one of his father's old crash helmets. "It's an incredible honour, but I could not have done it without this incredible team," said Lewis.

