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First News

Issue 752 £2.25 13 – 19 November 2020

HELPING THE UK GROW

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HOPE

AT LAST – A VACCINE TO BEAT COVID?

THERE are new hopes for an end to the coronavirus pandemic with news of a vaccine that can prevent the virus, **explains editor in chief Nicky Cox.**

Speaking on Tuesday, the Government's Health Secretary Matt Hancock said the NHS is ready to start using the new coronavirus vaccine "as fast as safely possible". And he said it was "absolutely a possibility" that vaccination could start before Christmas with clinics open seven days a week.

But he urged people to be patient: "This is not over yet. Even once we start to roll it out, we still need to look after ourselves, look after our community by following the rules and being careful to stop the spread of transmission."

On Monday, results from the world's first coronavirus vaccine showed it could prevent more than nine out of ten people from getting COVID-19.

The vaccine has been developed by pharmaceutical companies Pfizer and BioNTech who plan to apply for emergency approval to use the vaccine by the end of November. The UK has already ordered 40 million doses, enough to vaccinate up to 20 million people, as each person will need two doses for it to work properly.

It is one of 11 vaccines that are in the final stages of testing. So, very soon, there could be more COVID-19 vaccines available.

Mr Hancock said NHS staff would go into care homes to vaccinate residents, as well as setting up vaccination clinics. Children would not need to be vaccinated, he said.

Vaccine
2019 - nCoV
Coronavirus

Read our **special report** on how vaccines work on **p9** and watch our **incredible 3D explainer video** at first.news/idgi

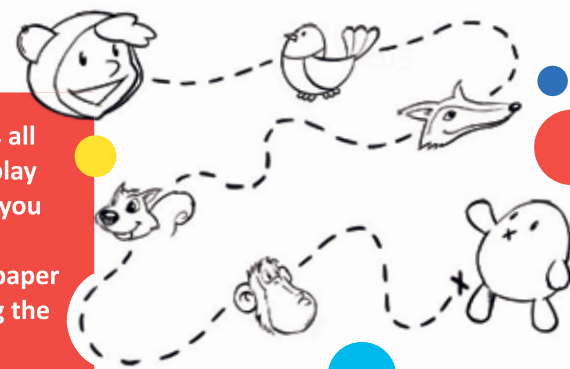
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100-YEAR-OLD MESSAGE



A carrier pigeon message, thought to be 100 years old, has been discovered in France. The faded message from a soldier is written in German, and is thought to be about military movements during World War One. The tiny capsule, which the pigeon would have carried with the message inside, was found in Ingersheim, then part of Germany. It reads: "Platoon Potthof receives fire as they reach the western border of the parade ground, platoon Potthof takes up fire and retreats after a while. In Fechtwald half a platoon was disabled. Platoon Potthof retreats with heavy losses."

UAE REFORMS

The United Arab Emirates has reformed several of its laws. The country has lifted a ban on unmarried couples living together, decriminalised drinking alcohol without a licence, and introduced harsher punishments for men who harass women in any way. However, laws banning same-sex relationships and public displays of affection look set to stay.

NEW CORONAVIRUS STRAIN FOUND

A new strain of COVID-19, which can spread from mink to humans, has been discovered in Denmark. The mutated strain of the virus is related to mink that are being bred at farms for their fur. Millions of the animals across Denmark were set to be culled but MPs refused to support the plan. Non-UK citizens are currently banned from coming into the UK from Denmark because of this new discovery. Spain, Sweden, Italy and the US reported coronavirus outbreaks at mink farms earlier in the year. Scientists are concerned that these mutations in the virus could affect how well a potential vaccine will work.

QUICK NEWS

TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS

BOOK REPRESENTATION



A new report from the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education (CLPE) has found that just 10% of children's books feature a character with a black, Asian or minority ethnic (BAME) background. In England, more than 30% of schoolchildren are from a BAME group. While there's still work to be done, the new figure is better than the CLPE's 2017 report, which found that only 4% of children's books featured characters of colour. The report also found that the number of authors and illustrators of colour published in the UK in the last three years grew by 3%.

AUTUMN TEMP RISES



Europe saw its warmest October on record, with temperatures 1.6°C above their 30-year average, says the Copernicus Climate Change Service. Globally it was the third warmest October on record. The high temperatures have also contributed to the retreat of the Arctic sea ice.

TITANIC TOURS?

A company in Canada is selling tickets for an underwater tour of the sunken ship Titanic. In order to get on the submarine tour you need to become a 'citizen scientist' and be part of a scientific research team taking part in a project called the Titanic Survey Expedition. The company running the expedition, OceanGate, hope to use the trips to document the wreckage fully. Tickets cost around £96,000!

VACCINATION HELP

UNICEF and the World Health Organization are asking for emergency help to stop major measles and polio epidemics, because COVID-19 has disrupted their vaccination plans. The coronavirus pandemic has left millions of vulnerable children in some of the poorest areas of the world at risk of measles and polio. They say they need financial help from world leaders to safely resume vaccination campaigns. There has been a global rise in measles cases, and polio cases are expected to increase in Pakistan and Afghanistan as well as many under-immunised areas of Africa.

HYPERLOOP TRIALS



Virgin's new Hyperloop technology has successfully carried its first passengers at its test site in the US state of Nevada. The system, which sends pods travelling through vacuum tubes, can, in theory, reach speeds of up to 670mph (1,079kph). During the first passenger trip of scientists working on the project, the pod reached 107mph (172kph).

LISTEN UP

A new radio show and podcast, *Story Explorers*, has launched on children's radio station Fun Kids. Presented by CBBC's Ben Shires, each episode will feature a different author being interviewed and playing fun games with Year 5 and 6 pupils. It will feature authors including Cressida Cowell, Greg James and Lauren Child.

SAVE BOOKSHOPS THIS CHRISTMAS

Hundreds of authors have joined forces to support local bookshops during the second lockdown. Started by the author Holly Bourne, #SignForOurBookshops is encouraging people to buy from their local bookshops in the run-up to Christmas. It sees hundreds of authors including Chris Riddell and Malorie Blackman providing signed, personalised bookplates (signed labels) for people shopping at local bookstores.

NEW COVERINGS RULE

New rules have come into force that mean all pupils and teachers at secondary schools in England have to wear face coverings. Staff and children in Year 7 and up now have to wear face coverings in communal spaces outside of classrooms where they can't be socially distant. Secondary pupils in areas under Tier 2 and Tier 3 restrictions in England were already wearing masks.

XMAS LIGHT TRIBUTE



England may be in lockdown again but London's Oxford Street Christmas lights have been switched on (see page 4), and this year they're a tribute to COVID-19 heroes. The display is honouring people who helped strangers during the coronavirus pandemic by putting their names up in lights. The first person honoured is NHS Volunteer Responder Anis Ali. He donated the highest number of hours of all the Royal Voluntary Service volunteers in London during the pandemic, and has completed 733 tasks since March. All while continuing his day job of driving the Great Western Railway train to Heathrow. A new hero will see their name up in lights every week.



TRUMP OUT, BIDEN IN

AMERICANS have voted for Joe Biden to be their president for the next four years.

A record number of people voted in the election – at least 140 million – with the Republican Party's Donald Trump, the current president, and the Democrat Party's challenger Joe Biden polling the two highest vote counts in US election history.

It was also a much closer contest than many people thought it would be, with only a few thousand votes in a handful of key states separating the candidates in the end. Joe Biden was declared the winner on Saturday after he won in the state of Pennsylvania. That result took him over the magic 270 electoral college votes he needed to become the next President of the United States. Now his plan is to unite the country and tackle COVID-19.

Donald Trump was playing golf as Biden's victory was announced. Normally the loser accepts

the result and congratulates the winner but Donald Trump is not known for always behaving normally. Instead, he declared himself the winner, saying many of the votes made by post were illegal. He had tried to get counting stopped in places where Biden was catching him. As First News went to press, he was still planning to challenge the result in court.



WOW!

Joe Biden's vice president will be Kamala Harris (left) – the first female and the first black vice president of America.



Joe Biden – the president-elect of the USA

WHAT THEY SAID

KAMALA HARRIS

"While I may be the first woman in this office, I will not be the last. Every little girl watching tonight sees that this is a country of possibilities."

JOE BIDEN

"The people of this nation have spoken. For all those of you who voted for President Trump, I understand your disappointment tonight. I have lost a couple of times myself! But now, let's give each other a chance... it's time to see each other again, listen to each other again. And, to make progress, we have to stop treating our opponents as our enemies."



BARACK OBAMA

"We're fortunate that Joe's got what it takes to be president and already carries himself that way. Because when he walks into the White House in January, he'll face a series of extraordinary challenges no incoming president ever has: a raging pandemic, an unequal economy and justice system, a democracy at risk and a climate in peril."

UK PRIME MINISTER, BORIS JOHNSON

"The US is our important ally and I look forward to working closely together on our shared priorities, from climate change to trade and security."

INTRODUCING... PRESIDENT-ELECT JOE BIDEN

Joe Biden has spent a lifetime in politics, including eight years as vice president alongside President Barack Obama. But what else is there to know about the next President of the USA?

- He had a stutter as a child, and was bullied for it at school.
- At 78 years old, Joe Biden will be the oldest president to take office when he is inaugurated in January. He is known as the president-elect until then.
- It's third time lucky. Mr Biden tried to become president twice before, in 1987 and 2008.
- Mr Biden has suffered tragedy. He lost his first wife Neilia and baby daughter Naomi in a car accident in 1972. His two sons Beau and Hunter survived the crash, but his oldest son Beau died of brain cancer in 2015.
- He married his current wife, Jill Tracy Jacobs, a teacher, in 1977. He asked her five times before she agreed to marry him!
- The new president-elect loves ice cream. In 2016 he said: "My name is Joe Biden and I love ice cream. I don't drink. I don't smoke. But I eat a lot of ice cream."
- Joe Biden has two German Shepherd dogs, Major and Champ.
- He is mad about cars.



TAMIL NADU, INDIA

VILLAGERS hold portraits of US vice president-elect Kamala Harris and set off firecrackers as they celebrate her and Joe Biden's victory in the US election. Residents in the village of Thulasendrapuram, where Harris' grandfather was born, hailed her achievement as historic and a "proud moment" for the country.



LONDON, UK

THE Queen's Equerry, Lieutenant Colonel Nana Kofi Twumasi-Ankrah, places a bouquet of flowers at the grave of the Unknown Warrior on behalf of the Queen. The ceremony marks the centenary of the burial of the Unknown Warrior. The grave is the resting place of an unidentified British serviceman who died on the battlefields during the First World War, and whose body was brought from Northern France and buried at Westminster Abbey on 11 November 1920.



MANCHESTER, UK

ARTIST Akse created this mural of Marcus Rashford to celebrate the footballer and campaigner receiving an MBE for his work to ensure children don't go hungry. See page 5 to learn more about Marcus' campaign.



LONDON, UK

A classic Aston Martin DB5 is up for auction as part of the "Bond on Bond Street" sales, celebrating all things James Bond at auctioneers Sotheby's. The Aston Martin DB5 will be offered alongside vintage posters, rare books and timepieces favoured by 007 himself.



LONDON, UK

OXFORD Street's Christmas lights display a message of unity and hope this year. The lights pay tribute to the strength of Londoners, as well as those who have demonstrated kindness and support to others during the pandemic.



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MANCHESTER UNITED'S Marcus Rashford scored another success in his campaign against child food poverty shortly after his team's win over Everton last Saturday.

After leaving the pitch following a 3-1 victory, he took a call from the prime minister, Boris Johnson. The PM told Marcus of his plans for a new scheme that will make millions of pounds available to expand the holiday food and activities programme through to 2021. The Government had previously said that the best way to support poor children and their families was through a type of benefit called Universal Credit. As we reported a couple of weeks ago, Marcus had pressed the Government to make food vouchers available throughout half-term and the Christmas holiday.

This is the second time he has managed to make the Government change its mind. The package set out by Boris Johnson will provide more than £400 million to support almost 1.7 million poor children over the next 12 months.

Marcus said: "I very much welcome the steps that have been taken to combat child food poverty in the UK. I am fully committed to this cause, and I will fight for the rest of my life for it."

MASS COVID-19 TESTING BEGINS

LIVERPOOL is the first major city in the UK to offer a COVID-19 test to anyone who wants one – even if they have no symptoms.

Everyone living or working in the city, which has a population of 500,000, is being encouraged to go to the test centres. By testing so many people it is hoped that those who are infected will be identified quickly, and the local council will then get a better idea of how the virus is spreading.

Doubts have been raised by several health experts about testing such huge numbers of people at once. There have been warnings that it may just be an "expensive mess". However, the people of Liverpool have been very supportive. The response on the first day was so good that queues soon formed and plans were put in place to increase the number of test sites. The scheme may also be extended beyond the original two-week plan.



FIRST NEWS needs you! It's now three weeks since we launched the #HelpingTheUKGrow challenge to get everyone planting – and as lockdown continues you still have plenty of time to join in!

All you have to do is plant something as a symbol of hope and growth for our future. Now is the perfect time to plant bulbs for the spring or try growing something from a fruit pip or an avocado stone. Whatever you try, upload your planting pics at first.news/HelpingTheUKGrow.

If you're looking for something new to do, give it a go. We hope everyone involved will share their photos and videos and challenge someone else to join the movement, using the hashtag [#HelpingTheUKGrow](https://first.news/HelpingTheUKGrow) (but please be aware of age restrictions on social media).



EDITOR'S COMMENT



A COVID-19 vaccine would be the best Christmas present the world could have asked for (front page).

Hopefully, the final safety tests will come good and a vaccine can begin to be rolled out next month to the people who need it most.

If everything works as well as the scientists are saying, it could be that, by next spring, we will begin to get our lives back to normal – well, at least, a new kind of normal!

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GOOD WEEK FOR...

BTS

THE K-pop band won four awards at this year's MTV Europe Music Awards:

Best Song, Biggest Fans, Best Virtual Live and Best Group. This year's ceremony featured filmed performances from various locations across Europe and was hosted by Little Mix, who also won Best Pop. Lady Gaga scooped Best Artist and Best US Act.



BAD WEEK FOR...

UK BEACHES

THIS year's annual Great British Beach Clean found face masks and gloves on almost a third of the UK's beaches.

The Marine Conservation Society's beach clean covered 43,958 metres of beach and it was the first year that PPE (personal protective equipment) has been found littered on UK beaches.



TIME CAPSULE FOUND



The beach where the capsule was found

MELTING sea ice has released a time capsule left at the North Pole only two years ago.

Warnings about the rate at which sea ice is melting in the Arctic are common, but here's a striking example of how quickly it is disappearing.

Two surfers from Donegal in Ireland picked up what looked like a pipe with Russian writing on the outside. After doing some research, they discovered it was a time capsule from a ship called 50 Years of Victory. Left in a pack of floating ice in 2018, the capsule had floated around 3,700 kilometres to the tip of Ireland. The crew that left it thought it would be found at least 30 years later.

In the past ten years, temperatures around the North Pole have risen by nearly 1°C. Scientists say Arctic sea ice reached record low levels in October.



SCOTLAND

● First UK smacking ban

It is now against the law to smack children in Scotland, making it the first place in the UK to make punishing a child in any physical way illegal. Joanna Barrett, from children's charity NSPCC, said: "[This law] marks a momentous step in making [Scotland] a country where children's rights are truly recognised, respected and fulfilled." However, not everyone agrees. The Be Reasonable Scotland group says that mild discipline like smacking a hand or bottom is fine and the law risks turning parents who are no threat to their children into criminals.



HULL

● Royal find in loo

A mirror that once belonged to the last Queen of France has been discovered in a village bathroom. The mirror was inherited by a man in North Ferriby who hung it in his loo back in 1975. He didn't think it was worth anything but as it belonged to Marie Antoinette (1755-1793), it is now expected to fetch up to £20,000 at auction.

CARDIFF



● Christmas at the Castle

Christmas events might be cancelled left and right but there is hope in Wales. The Cardiff Winter Wonderland will not be going ahead as normal, but in its place is Christmas at the Castle. Cardiff Castle is host to fun family activities like a 33m big wheel, Victorian Santa tours and an open-air ice walk. It opened yesterday (12 November) and will run until 3 January 2021. A spokesperson for the event said: "Obviously we're not able to bring the usual scale of Winter Wonderland to Cardiff this year but we were determined to give the city a smile at Christmas. Families have had a lot to bear in 2020 so they can be reassured that we are working tirelessly to make Christmas at the Castle as safe and enjoyable as possible."



ENGLAND AND WALES

● Raw sewage dumped

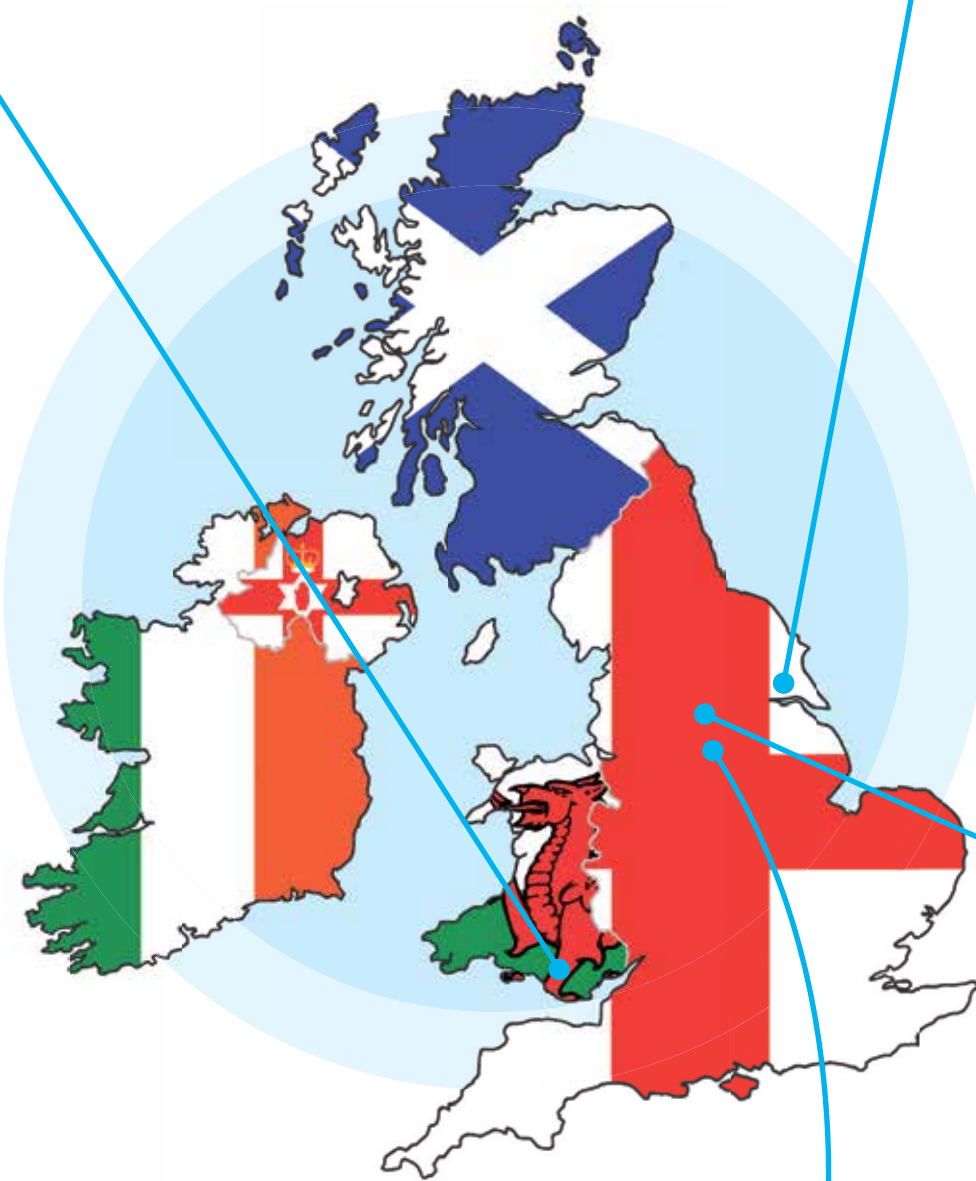
A study by Surfers Against Sewage has found that water companies dumped raw sewage into waters around UK beaches almost 3,000 times last year. The analysis suggests that as well as polluting the environment, public health is at risk. The report calls out Southern Water in particular, claiming their failure to issue notices of when they were dumping sewage "has put thousands of water users at risk".

SHEFFIELD



● Care home pods

Two care homes in Sheffield have installed glass pods which allow residents to see their loved ones in person, safely. The pods cost £20,000 each, and are fitted with sofas and speaker systems. Families can use them to sit and talk without any risk of COVID-19 being spread. The pods were bought by the council using government funds – and more are planned to be built across Yorkshire.



UK



● 5G drones in the UK

Two companies have announced plans to launch drones which would beam 5G signals down to Earth, to provide internet coverage across the entire nation. Around 60 drones would be needed to cover all of the UK. They would run for nine days at a time and be powered by hydrogen. However, there are a number of problems that will need to be solved before the drones begin their flight. Since the skies are very heavily regulated, there may be legal issues ahead. They'll have to prove that they're safe, as well.

WEST YORKSHIRE

● Firefighter fundraising

An 11-year-old boy has won a Spirit of Fire award for his incredible fundraising efforts for his local fire service. Michael Bottomley won Young Supporter of the Year after he befriended the fire station next door to his new secondary school. Michael organised a charity raffle and raised thousands for his firefighting friends in the process.



Steven Kuitert

NEW GLIDERS FOUND!

SCIENTISTS studying wildlife in Australia after the 2019/20 bushfires have discovered two new species of greater glider, bringing the total to three.

Greater gliders are already considered to be a vulnerable species, but because there are two new species this could all change. Experts are worried that there may be fewer greater gliders left than they thought, especially as they are now being counted as three different species. It means there are fewer of each species left. Very little is known about the new mammals, so scientists are keen to discover how many of each glider species there are and where in

the country they can be found.

Greater gliders are marsupials that live in eucalyptus trees in Australia. Their numbers fell dramatically in the last year following the devastating bushfires that wiped out 97,000 square km of Australian bush. The fires also killed millions of native animals and insects.

The good news is now that the new species have been confirmed, conservation plans can be put into place for each of them.

SPLITTING A SPECIES

SCIENTISTS studying gentoo penguins in the southern hemisphere believe they should be classed as four different species instead of one.

Researchers at the Milner Centre for Evolution at the University of Bath have come to that conclusion after studying populations of gentoo penguins in a number of different areas. They found genetic and physical differences between the populations, including the length of their bones and beaks. Gentoo penguins tend to stay close to their colony and don't interact with other colonies.

An international committee will now look at all the evidence and decide whether the penguins should be reclassified into four different species.

Researchers believe that splitting the penguins into four species will help with conservation. That's because it will allow conservation efforts to be focused on whichever population of penguins is under threat at any given time.

The full report is published in the journal *Ecology and Evolution*.



Gemma Clucas

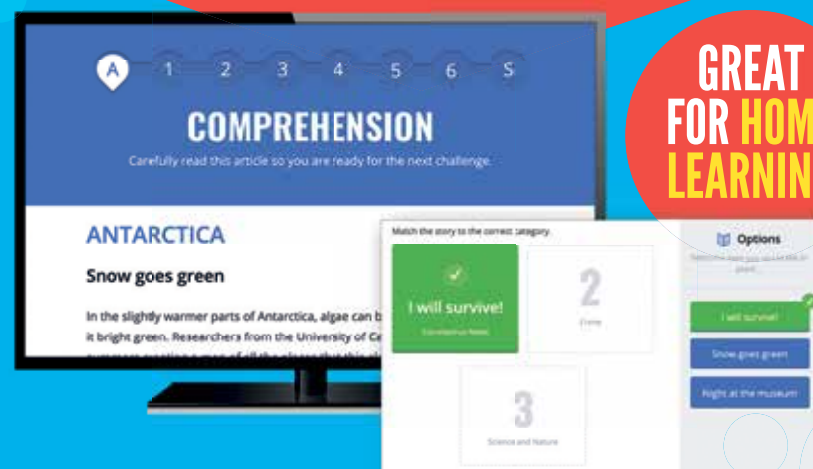
BITESIZE NEWS

ON International Jellyfish Day (3 November) the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) announced that an unusually

high number of jellyfish-like creatures called Portuguese man o' war have washed up on UK beaches. While it may look like a jellyfish, a Portuguese man o' war is actually a group of incredibly tiny animals that live together in a colony. They can deliver a powerful sting, even when dead, so if you do spot one it's best to leave it alone. You can also report your sighting at www.mcsuk.org.

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USA



● Storm Eta makes landfall

After causing destruction in Central America, Storm Eta has now arrived in the state of Florida in the US. In Guatemala, as many as 150 people were thought to have been killed by mudslides. Panama, Honduras and Mexico saw 50 deaths related to the storm between them. In Florida, officials have declared a state of emergency, and closed beaches, ports and COVID-19 testing sites. They've also asked that residents stay off the streets. As *First News* went to press, Eta was being described as a strengthening tropical storm.



ITALY



● New anti-hate laws

Italian politicians have voted for a new law that would make violence against LGBT people and disabled people a hate crime. The law, which would also make misogyny (treating women and girls unfairly) a crime, will be voted on by the next level of Italy's parliament. Alessandro Zan, the Democratic Party politician who wrote the law, said that if it's approved, "Italy will finally be a country that accepts LGBT rights".



ARMENIA



● A "painful" peace deal

Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia have signed a peace deal, ending six weeks of fighting over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region. The deal is widely seen as a victory for Azerbaijan, and a defeat for Armenia. The Armenian prime minister, Nikol Pashinyan, has called the deal "incredibly painful both for me and for our people". Under the deal, signed on Monday, Azerbaijan will hold on to areas of Nagorno-Karabakh that it has taken during the conflict. Armenia has also agreed to withdraw from several other areas over the next few weeks.



JAPAN



● Jo Baiden for Joe Biden

Joe Biden's election victory (see page 3) has made a celebrity out of a local politician in Japan. In Japanese Kanji writing, you can read the same symbols with several different pronunciations. After social media users noticed that Yutaka Umeda, the 73-year-old mayor of Yamato, wrote his name in Kanji in a way that could be pronounced as 'Jo Baiden', he began to receive congratulations for 'his' US election victory. "I feel very close to him," Umeda said. "It feels as though I've also won the election."



NEW ZEALAND



● Christmas competition

The newly re-elected prime minister, Jacinda Ardern, has addressed her country's young people, asking them to help her design this year's official prime ministerial Christmas card. PM Ardern said designs could feature "a traditional Christmas tree, a Kiwi beach scene, or whatever Christmas means to you and your family".



ISRAEL



● Wally's antibodies

Scientists reckon a llama named Wally has antibodies that might help humans fight COVID-19. Llama antibodies are much smaller than human ones (sometimes called nanobodies), and are easier for scientists to replicate in a lab. Researchers in Jerusalem say that Wally's antibodies appear to reduce the virus's ability to infect cells. They're now working on creating an inhaler-based treatment from them.



OUR WORLD



NAME: NOMUNDARI
LIVES: MONGOLIA

To find out more, go to
www.amnesty.org.uk



MONGOLIA is one of the most polluted countries in the world. Fifteen-year-old Nomundari's dream is to be able to breathe clean air in her home city, Ulaanbaatar.

"In Mongolia, we still have coal power plants, and during the winter the pollution is terrible. Some people have masks, but they don't help much and many children get sick... I was even hospitalised from the effects of air pollution," Nomundari said.

Nomundari believes young people need to be included in finding a solution to the problem of climate change and air pollution.

"Grown-ups need to let us know what they're doing and find ways for us to participate because our generation will eventually take over this world," Nomundari said.

Nomundari joined the Child Advisory Team

at Child's Rights Connect, an organisation that aims to realise children's rights through the United Nations. When she was 14, she participated in a high-level political meeting at the United Nations, where world leaders were talking about climate change.

"Adults talked about plans and needing to do things, but not about actually doing things. Right now, adults are underestimating everything – both children, and the scale of the climate problem. It's important to tackle things now when they are smaller."



First News has teamed up with sky kids show FYI and the young audiences CONTENT FUND 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, Tilly looks at whether a vaccine will be the answer to the coronavirus problem...

CORONAVIRUS

SKY Kids FYI presenter Tilly finds out about previous pandemics, and investigates the work that's being done to find a vaccine for the coronavirus.

THE tiny coronavirus bug has caused a giant problem. It's made millions of people ill and, sadly, hundreds of thousands of people have died.

It was originally noticed in the Chinese city of Wuhan and, after just a few months, it spread to every single continent – apart from Antarctica.

HAVE THINGS LIKE THIS HAPPENED BEFORE?

Yes, throughout history there have been lots of pandemics. Time to bring out our time machine – and today we're heading back nearly 700 years.



The year is 1348, we're in London, and this city is currently going through the worst pandemic the world has ever seen. They call it the bubonic plague – or the Black Death – and the smell is awful.

This disease was spread by fleas carried on the fur of rats and, like many pandemics, it kept on coming back over the centuries, including the Great Plague of London in 1665.

The Black Death is estimated to have killed at least 75 million people in the 1300s outbreak alone.

Among other terrible pandemics, smallpox caused around 40 million deaths in Europe in the 1700s, so-called Spanish Flu killed up to 50 million people at the end of the First World War, and now joining the list, just, is COVID-19, with around 1.2 million deaths so far.

CAN WE STOP PANDEMICS?

Yes, usually. Back in 1980, the World Health Organization declared smallpox, one of the worst diseases, to have been completely wiped out. And it was all thanks to a very special medicine called a vaccine, which helps our body fight off particular diseases.

The vaccine for smallpox was developed by a brilliant British scientist named Edward Jenner. With the help of a cow called Blossom, Edward took a sample of a less serious disease called cowpox and injected it into an eight-year-old-boy named James Phipps.

It gave James a mild illness, which led to his body making substances called antibodies in his blood to fight off cowpox. The clever thing is that these antibodies also protected James from catching the similar but deadly smallpox disease.

SO, CAN WE CREATE A VACCINE FOR CORONAVIRUS AS WELL?

Some of the best scientists in the world are currently working really hard to create a coronavirus vaccine, and one of the teams working on it is from the UK's University of Oxford. I spoke with Dr Sean Elias from the Oxford Vaccine Group.

TILLY: So how confident are you that your vaccine will stop people from getting coronavirus?

DR ELIAS: Well, so far we've shown

that our vaccine is safe for our volunteers, and can produce an immune response. The results have been very encouraging. We're now continuing to test the vaccine in tens of thousands of volunteers all around the world. We're doing this because we want to check the vaccine is safe for everybody.

TILLY: So will the vaccine protect us for the rest of our lives, like the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine that most of us have had, or will it only protect us for a limited amount of time?

DR ELIAS: Similar vaccines against other diseases have been shown to give protection for a year or maybe more. But this is a new vaccine, so we don't yet know if it can protect, let alone for how long. We are hopeful, though, if the vaccine does protect, that it will at least do so for long enough to help us end the current pandemic.

TILLY: And when do you think it will become available?

DR ELIAS: We've done this research in record-breaking time. The company that's made the vaccine has already made a number of doses. Now, they are there, so when the vaccine's ready, which will hopefully be early next year, we'll have enough doses to give to those who really need it. Then, when we make more, we'll have enough to go round for everyone else.

TILLY: Brilliant, thanks!

CAN IT BE PREVENTED?



STOP PRESS!

It was announced this week that a coronavirus vaccine has prevented 90% of people in tests from getting COVID-19. It has been welcomed as great news.

There are around a dozen vaccines in the final stages of testing but this is the first to show any results.

The developers, Pfizer and BioNTech, said their vaccine has been tested on 43,500 people in six countries and no worries about safety have been raised.

They want to get permission to use the vaccine by the end of the month.



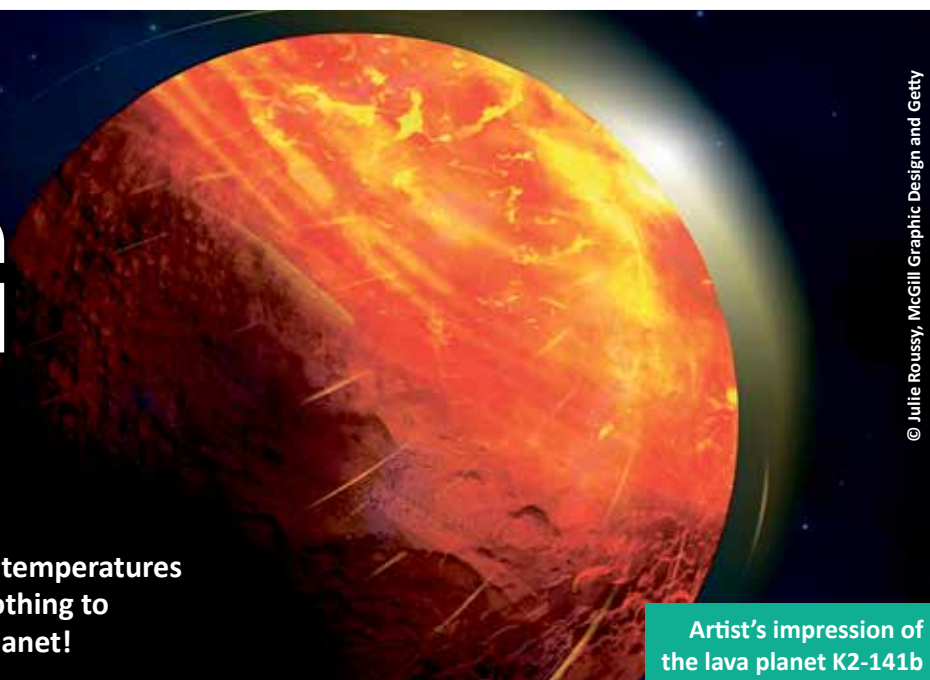
Tilly talking to Dr Elias: "Hopefully a vaccine will become available soon and we'll be able to say that we conquered coronavirus."

Kids – you can watch the I Don't Get It video on preventing coronavirus at 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

IT'S RAINING ROCKS!

RAINING rocks, supersonic winds and temperatures of 3,000°C: our weather on Earth is nothing to complain about compared to a lava planet!



© Julie Roussy, McGill Graphic Design and Getty

Artist's impression of the lava planet K2-141b

These extreme planets are found beyond our solar system. Unlike Earth, which orbits far enough away from the sun to make it perfect for life, lava planets are so close to their star that some areas of the surface are molten lava, like in a volcano. Being so close also locks them into place so that the same side always faces the star, meaning part of the planet is in constant daylight. It also means that the other part is in permanent darkness.

Scientists from universities in Canada,

India and Britain have come together for a study that has predicted the conditions on one such planet, known as K2-141b. The results are even more extreme than expected, with temperatures of 3,000°C on the daylight side, -20°C on the dark side, winds of over 5,000km per hour and a magma (hot molten rock) ocean 100km deep.

One of the most remarkable findings is that there is a weather cycle like that of rain on Earth, except it is not water but rock that evaporates, condenses

and then falls back to the ground.

One of the scientists involved, Professor Nicolas Cowan, explained that all rocky planets, including Earth, started off as molten worlds and became solid when they cooled. "Lava planets give us a rare glimpse at this stage of planetary evolution," he said.

The next step is to test if the predictions are correct. Data from two space telescopes should give the scientists the proof they need within the next year.

GLOWING PLATYPUS



STRANGE but true – the platypus glows in the dark!

A chance discovery by scientists in the USA has revealed that the thick fur of the platypus glows under ultraviolet (UV) light. They were researching the only two other mammals with fluorescent fur and decided to test the platypus. They were shocked to find that under the UV light the fur turned vivid blue and green!

The scientists are not yet sure why, but it could be so that other platypus can spot them in the dark.

It's yet another strange feature in what is one of the world's oddest mammals. It also has poisonous heel spurs and the ability to lay eggs.

TREES HAVE THE ANSWER



THE solution to two of the world's biggest problems could grow on tropical trees.

Researchers believe that encouraging farmers to plant more tropical fruit trees such as mangos, avocados and Brazil nuts would be good for the planet and improve people's diets.

Although there are more than 7,000 types of edible plant in the world, almost half of the calories that humans eat come from only four crops: wheat, rice, sugarcane and maize. These foods provide energy but lack other nutrients that are necessary for a healthy diet.

Growing these crops in such huge quantities worldwide has resulted in the loss of other trees and plants that are needed to sustain the planet. This in turn has led to climate change.

Experts have high hopes that changing global food systems from the high-intensity production that is common

now to tree-based food production will have enormous benefits.

The International Center for Tropical Agriculture says: "Tropical fruit trees can improve health, reduce hunger, boost incomes and fight climate change."

The challenge is enormous, however. It will involve farmers, food production companies, consumers and governments coming together for things to change. Simply planting more trees will not be enough.

In a new study published in the journal *People and Nature*, researchers say that it's time to re-evaluate global farming practices. They argue that local knowledge of trees in tropical areas should be used to establish a more diverse and sustainable way of providing healthy and nutritious food.

FANTASTIC CHRISTMAS GIFTS AVAILABLE FROM JUST £10!



EARLY BIRD & SALE NOW ON



A subscription to **First News** makes a brilliant Christmas gift, feeding their curiosity and engaging them in the world around them.

FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK/CHRISTMAS

First News is teaming up with former Blue Peter presenter Peter Duncan for a spectacular panto to watch online at school or at home. Since 2020 has been, quite frankly, rubbish, we couldn't have Christmas without panto, could we? And, as we head into another lockdown (boo!), panto gives us something to laugh about. Over to Peter...

PANTO ONLINE WITH FirstNews

HOW TO BE FUNNY

LAUGHTER is a great medicine – it relaxes you, it makes you feel good and reduces anxiety. So how can you be funny? What is the best way to make someone else laugh?

Laughter is infectious in the best possible way, which is why we like to be in groups in theatres and cinemas. The sound of laughter makes us smile. I am sure pantomimes are so popular in our culture because they create laughter in two ways. Firstly, with words and the way they are said. Secondly, with actions – what someone does with the way they move.

Charlie Chaplin did it all by movement in his movies, which were made before the age of 'talkies' (films with sound). His physical comedy is known as slapstick. Today, the most modern version of that could be the TikTok app.

Other things that make us laugh are when a comedian tells a joke with words then there is often a punchline, or there's the moment we recognise that a joke might be on us.

So what's the secret? I think it's practice; making something look like it just happened by chance, but really it's all been staged and the words and movements have all been rehearsed.

However, things can also be funny by mistake, such as slipping on a banana skin or by attempting something and failing.

I hope my online Jack and the Beanstalk makes you laugh if you get to see it!

There is a **FirstNews** discount for schools at schools.firstnews.co.uk/panto-online and check out the workshops to do your own panto.

There are also special offers for groups such as Scouts and Guides at rocketfund.org/programmes/school-panto-online



HM Government

NHS

I wash my hands to protect everyone.



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

STAY ALERT ▶ CONTROL THE VIRUS ▶ SAVE LIVES

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR BOOKWORMS

FIND a fantastic book for you or your BFF this Christmas! Simply take our quiz to find your perfect book match.



I am 7+



I am 9+

I prefer...

I prefer...

Funny stories

Adventure stories

Funny stories

Fantasy stories

I like funny books with...

Wordplay

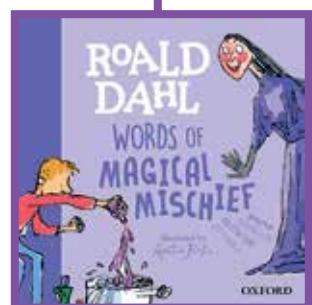
An environmental angle

Fantasy creatures

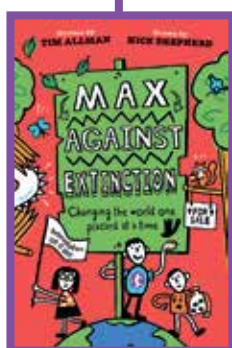
I like my fantasy with...

Magic spells

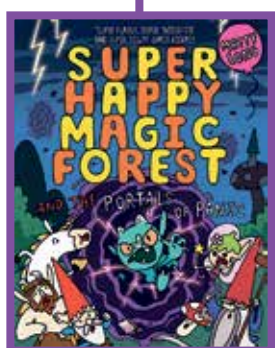
A gothic twist



Roald Dahl Words of Magical Mischief
Top language tips from the UK's No 1 storyteller in a little hardback book. (£6.99)



Max Against Extinction
Tom Gates for school strikers – a new series about changing the world one placard at a time. (£6.99)



Super Happy Magic Forest: Portals of Panic
Highly illustrated fantasy adventure with five brave heroes. (£6.99)



The Last Spell Breather
Young spell apprentice Rayne drops her mam's spell book, unleashing a monster plague. An incredible adventure begins... (£6.99)

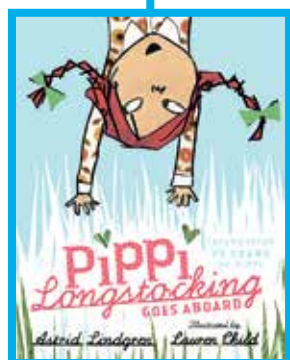


Victoria Stitch: Bad and Glittering
A wickedly gripping tale of betrayal, sibling rivalry and a fight for the throne. (£6.99)

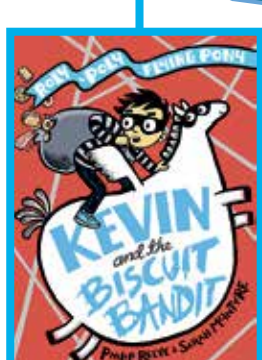
I'd like a pet...

Monkey

Pony



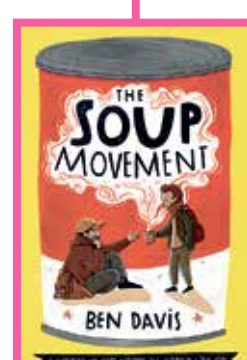
Pippi Longstocking Goes Aboard
Go on an adventure with the strongest girl in the world and her pet monkey Mr Nilsson in this special hardback gift book. (£20)



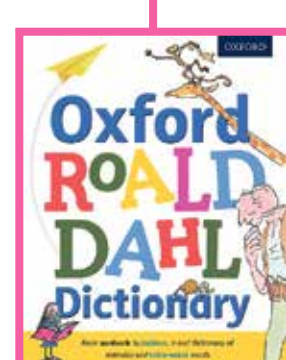
Kevin and the Biscuit Bandit
Follow the quirky adventures of Max and his roly-poly flying pony Kevin. (£8.99)



The Accidental Prime Minister Returns
Joe Perkins, first kid PM, is back and ready to make politics exciting again. (£6.99)



The Soup Movement
A funny book with a huge heart, where one act of kindness has chaotic consequences. (£6.99)



Roald Dahl Dictionary
From aardvark to zozimus, a real dictionary of everyday and extra-usual words. (£14.99)

WIN!

For a chance to win all 11 books, simply email trade@publicity.uk@oup.com with 'First News Christmas Comp' in the title, along with your name, age and contact details. The competition closes on 20 November 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



First News has teamed up with sky kids show FYI and the young audiences CONTENT FUND to make a series of videos for you to watch at home or at school, called Kidversation. Across the world, children are fighting for their right to a better life. Thirty years ago, nearly every country signed up to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, an international agreement to take care of children – but are they? This week, Declan meets Jayla to have a kidversation about the right not to be discriminated against... an issue Joe Biden will need to sort out in America.

DECLAN MEETS JAYLA



Hi, my name is Jayla, and I have the right not to be discriminated against because of the colour of my skin.

ARTICLE 2 of the The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child says: "The Convention applies to every child without discrimination, whatever their ethnicity, sex, religion, language, abilities or any other status, whatever they think or say, whatever their family background."

DECLAN: Jayla, also known by her rap name Indigo Yaj, is an American singer and rapper. She uses her songs to talk about injustice towards black people. I've come to Detroit to meet Jayla, and I caught up with her in the studio, where she was recording her latest song. Jayla, what first inspired you to write raps about racism?

JAYLA: Because music is a big thing in my community – just because of the way they see celebrities using music videos. I definitely thought about doing the same thing with racism, because if you don't do something about it, what makes you think anything is going to happen?

DECLAN: With being discriminated against, does the songwriting and rapping help you blow off some steam about it?

JAYLA: It definitely does – it helps to process the feelings that we have. I try to make it an emotional tie with all my songs because if you can't relate to it, what's the purpose of me writing it? And it definitely calms me down.

BLACK HISTORY

Growing up in the States, Jayla's been bombarded with upsetting news reports of black people killed in controversial circumstances.

JAYLA: It kind of takes a toll on you to know that history is constantly repeating itself, even today.

In September it was announced that no police officers would face murder charges for the shooting of 26-year-old Breonna Taylor during a raid on her home. It's a case close to Jayla's heart.

JAYLA: One of my close friends, her cousin was actually Breonna Taylor. To have seen the whole Black Lives Matter movement come up and to see how close to home it can be, and how much it can affect us, is just something that you can't be silent about.

Detroit has one of the largest black populations in the country, almost four-fifths African-

American. But Jayla says they still don't learn enough about black history at school.

JAYLA: I think it's so crazy, you know, how we'll learn about the start of our country, like branching off from the British. But every State doesn't get their own local history within it, especially when it comes to the whole racial tension issue, especially with things going on now. And for that to be purposely erased from our history, I feel like it should definitely be required to learn about it.



BRITAIN'S GOT TALENT

Jayla's journey as a rapper began as part of the Detroit Youth Choir. She got spotted by their inspirational director, Anthony White.

JAYLA: I was kind of shy about it at first, because there were not so many female rappers around when I started rapping, actually. We had an event in the basement of a church, and our director, Mr White, he decided to let me do one of my own pieces there, and that's what kind of just sparked it off.

In 2019, the Detroit Youth Choir appeared on Britain's Got Talent. Jayla rapped their version of Can't Hold Us and it raised the roof! They were eventually runners-up in the competition.

GEORGE FLOYD

When the killing of George Floyd happened in May 2020, the Detroit Youth Choir was now famous, and had a powerful voice. Their recording of John Legend and Common's song Glory summed up what so many people were feeling. Once again, Jayla wrote a new verse for the song. The protest quickly spread across the globe, and it seemed the world was finally saying 'enough is enough'.

DECLAN: Jayla told me her latest song Behind The Mask aims to help heal rifts between police and black people.

JAYLA: For the concept of the song, because of the fact that police officers have masks and we have masks, the whole concept has to say that we're choosing sides, but to reflect on everything that's happening, so basically just a call to action, you know, that something needs to change. I'm gonna try it out, then let me know if you like it!

DECLAN: Cool, yeah...

JAYLA: Our generation plays a really big part in getting the coverage that it has. Because if we weren't to talk about it, who's to know how George Floyd would have been put on a pedestal, or who's to know that Breonna Taylor would be getting the coverage she's getting now. There are a lot of things that we think about but nobody really has the confidence to say, and I definitely want to be that person, to be outspoken and say it.



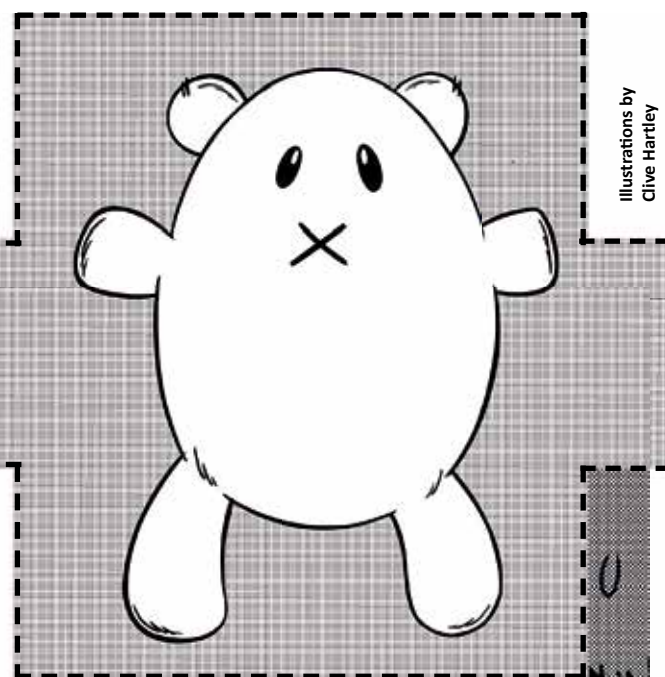
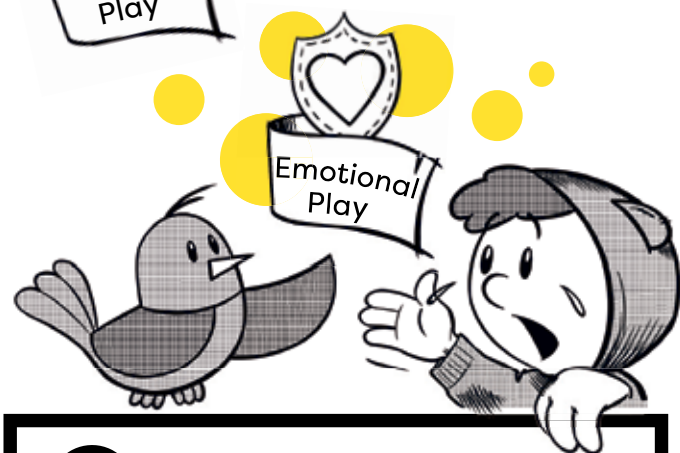
Kids – you can watch this Kidversation at first.news/kidversation

Teachers – you can watch the film in the classroom alongside our tie-in award-winning educational resources at schools.firstnews.co.uk

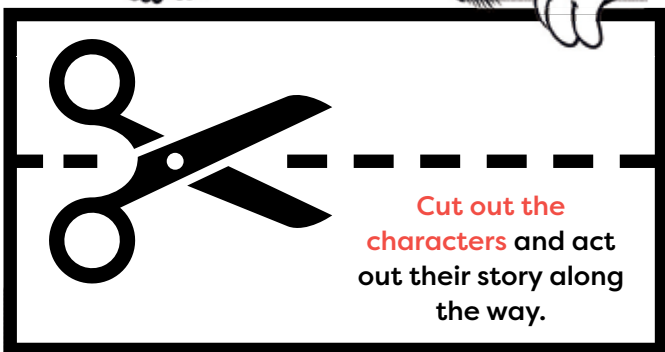
JUNGLE JOURNEY

Learning through play

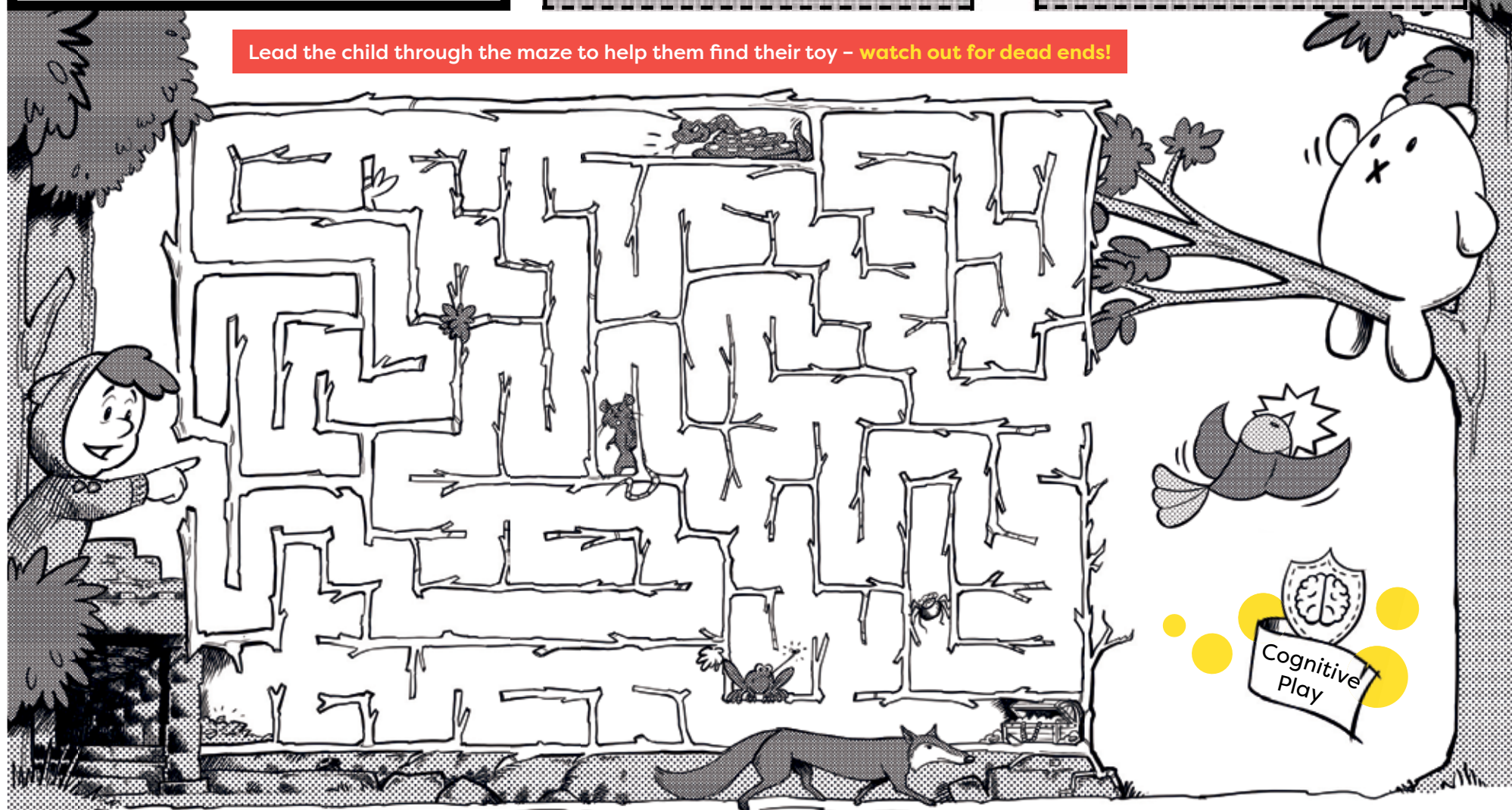
When you're learning through play, you're gaining lots of different skills! Use the **five types of play** on this adventure to help the child find their lost toy! Colour as you go, too!



Illustrations by Clive Hartley



Lead the child through the maze to help them find their toy – watch out for dead ends!

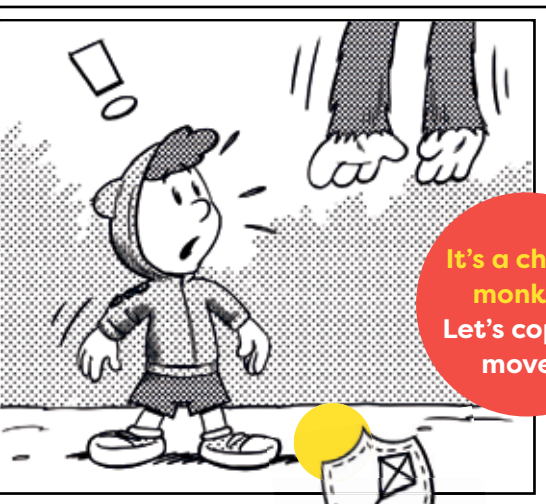




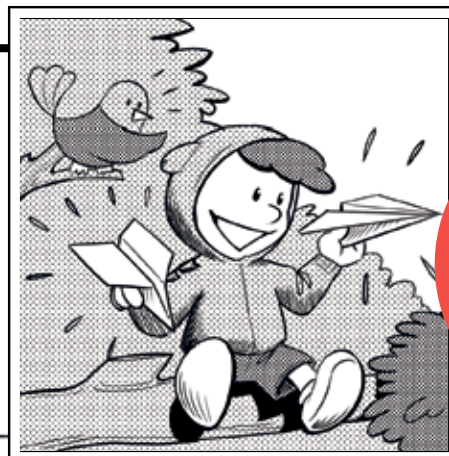
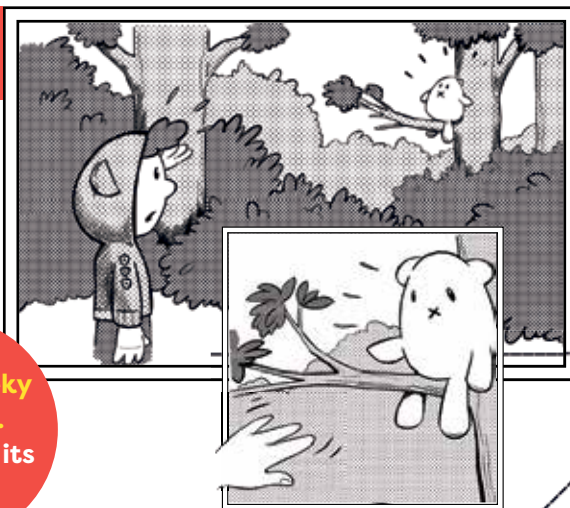
Woah,
a creature!
Draw its
body as you
imagine it.



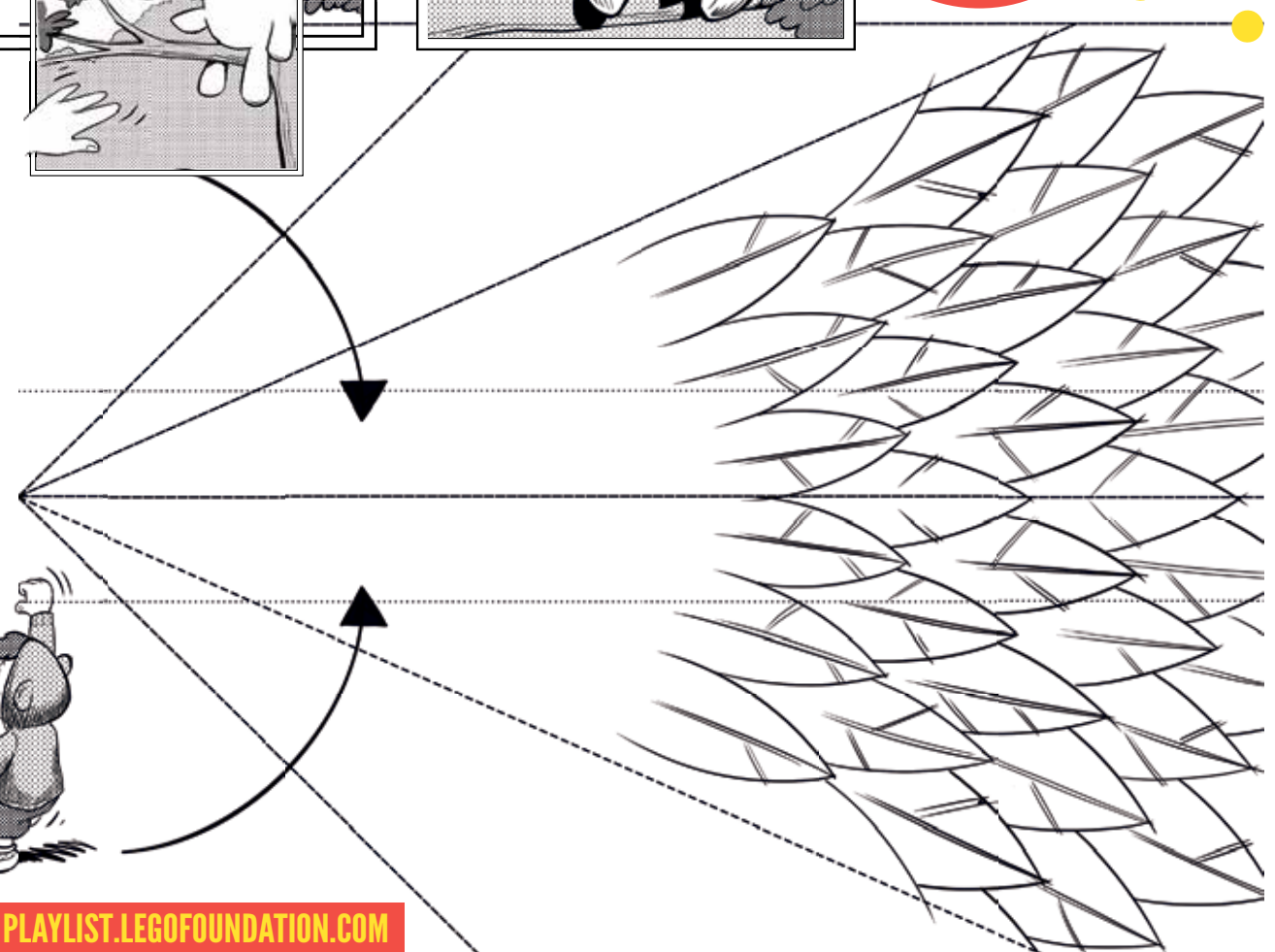
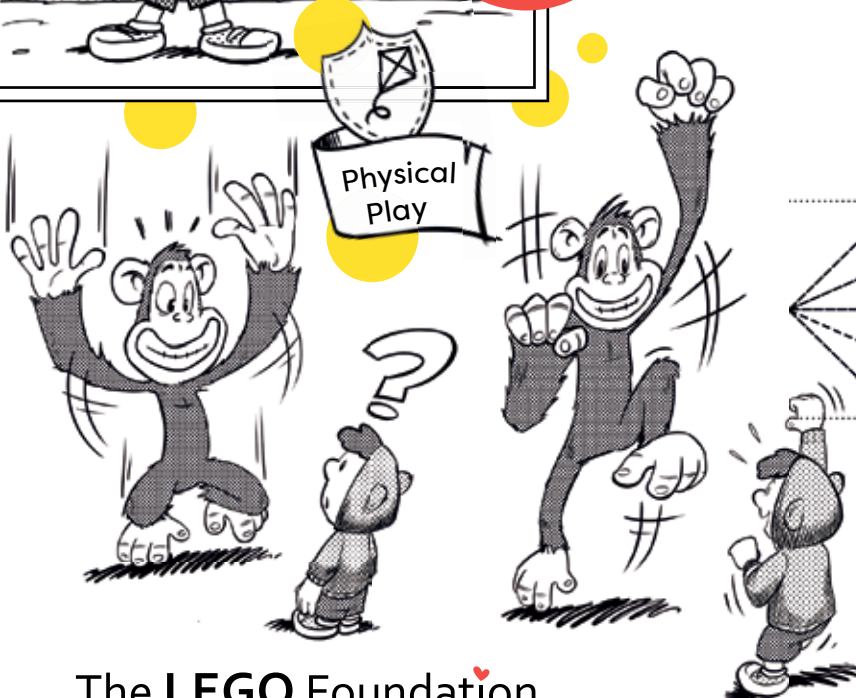
There's the toy! In the tree!
But wait, who's this...



It's a cheeky
monkey.
Let's copy
its
moves!



Feathers!
We could make a
paper aeroplane
to zoom up the
tree and fly
home together.



PUDSEY'S PALS

BBC CHILDREN In Need is back with some epic fundraising challenges from celebrities and members of the public, plus a fantastic night full of *Children in Need* telly! Chris Ramsey and Alex Scott MBE are two of the guest presenters this year...



BBC

Children in Need

40th

How does it feel to be presenting BBC Children in Need on its 40th anniversary?

Chris: It's an absolute honour and a privilege to be asked to be a part of *Children in Need* in any way, shape or form... but to be asked to be on the presenting team on the night is another level.

Alex: Well it's a complete honour, and to be honest, it's a bit surreal! *Children in Need* has been a show that I have grown up with, so to be joining the presenting line up is amazing. I don't think an eight-year-old Alex watching at home all those years ago would have ever dreamed that one day I could be presenting it – what a dream come true. It goes to show that anything can happen, no matter your circumstances or background – never stop dreaming.

What are you most excited about?

Alex: I'm really excited that we get to bring a night of entertainment to the nation in what's been a tough time for a lot of people. We hope to bring smiles to faces, while raising a lot of money for children who desperately need our support.

Chris: I really want that figure at the end of the night to be absolutely huge. It's been such a hard year for so many children and I'm looking forward to helping raise some serious money for the charity.

Why is Children in Need special to you?

Chris: Well, I've watched it my entire life, so it's incredible to be a presenter this year but I also did some work for *Children in Need* a few years ago and ended up becoming a patron of a charity for young carers in the northeast.

Alex: It's special to me on so many different levels. It gives children hope, and hope is everything. Every child deserves the chance to be somebody and they always go above and beyond to try and make this happen year after year.

Children in Need is 40 this year – do you have a favourite memory of watching it growing up?

Alex: For me, it's that staple, iconic show that's part of my childhood. I remember it every year, sitting down to watch it and loving feeling a part of not only the entertainment but a movement of good and change.

And of course, Pudsey – who is an icon in his own right!

Chris: The memory that sticks with me is just my whole family sitting down to watch it when I was younger. It was always such a huge event in the TV calendar and the entire night is a rollercoaster of emotion.

It's been a very different year for all of us. How important do you think the charity is during these times?

Chris: More than ever. Charities and vulnerable people have taken a huge hit this year, more than others and more than usual. So many fundraising events in the charity calendar have disappeared, so this is our chance to undo some of that.

Alex: It gives the nation a chance to come together, in what has been a very difficult and different year.

Are there any rituals you have before going out on stage?

Chris: I've never had a ritual because I know that if I ever forgot to do it before a show, even if the show was going well, I'd realise and absolutely crumble midway through.

Alex: Before going on stage I like to stay very calm and chilled – I always have music on! I always remind myself of how lucky I am to be in this position so I will have fun and enjoy every moment.

Tune into **BBC Children In Need** on BBC1 Friday 13 November



BEAT THE BULLIES!

THIS week (16-20 November) is Anti-Bullying Week, and F2 star Jeremy Lynch has teamed up with Cartoon Network to launch CN BUDDY NETWORK, a campaign to help beat the bullies.

Jeremy says: "I know that sadly bullying affects many of us at some point in our lives, and can happen to anyone. Being part of F2, I'm lucky to always have support behind me as part of a duo, so I understand how important it is to be a good friend, have good friends, and always support others. So, I'm calling on kids across the UK to speak up against bullying. Whether it's happening to you, or someone else, I want young people to understand that you never need to be alone."



If you have been affected by bullying visit cartoonnetwork.co.uk/beabuddy or contact Childline to speak to a trained counsellor on 0800 1111.

THIS WEEK

1 David Walliams fans will be pleased to hear he'll be back on our TVs this Christmas in *Jack and the Beanstalk: After Ever After*. David stars as the giant in the film, which tells the story of what happens after the traditional fairy tale ends. You'll be able to catch it on Sky One this Christmas.



2 *I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!* is back! Meet the latest batch of brave celebrities when the show launches this Sunday. There's a mix of actors, authors, presenters and even a ballroom dancer. This year the show couldn't be filmed in Australia because of COVID-19, so the stars will be facing their fears from Gwrych Castle in Wales.



3 The countdown to Christmas has begun and this week the first festive special goes live on Disney+. The *Lego Star Wars Holiday Special* will see Rey, Finn, Poe, Chewie, Rose and the droids reunite for a festive feast on Life Day! It's not your usual Christmas TV but it is a lot of fun!



PICS OF THE WEEK

DISNEY have released their first Christmas advert and it's a heart-warming animated short about family.

Their first Christmas campaign is called *From Our Family To Yours* and is in support of charity Make-A-Wish®. It tells the story of a grandmother and her granddaughter and the festive traditions that they carry down through the generations. The advert has no words but it's set to a beautiful song called *Love is a Compass* by singer Griff and is full of hidden Mickey Mouses and Disney Easter eggs for fans to spot!

Disney are asking viewers to share their own festive memories and traditions on social media using **#LoveFromDisney**



Tell us a bit about your character, Itch!

Itch is a strikingly intelligent kid partway through high school, who is obsessed with chemistry, particularly trying to collect every single element on the periodic table in some form. His outspoken and unashamed love for science means he doesn't fit into the high school norm, so is isolated and struggles to make friends. But Itch's curiosity about the world around him and love for the elements runs way too deep to worry about things like that, which I think makes him the absolute coolest type of person.

What's the show about?

Well, on the surface, it's about a pretty swell science-savvy dude, who stumbles across a new element (126 on the periodic table!). And he's forced to go on the run to protect it from people who would use it for evil. But it's about so much more than that. It's about championing intelligence (because it's cool to be smart). It's about loving all the parts of yourself, even if people tell you they're weird and they don't fit "the norm". It's about making decisions to benefit things bigger than yourself. Itch doesn't go on the run because he wants the new element for himself. He does it to protect the environment, and the whole planet.

Are you a science fan in real life?

Guilty as charged! I did chemistry all the way through high school. I find it fascinating. The countless number of chemical reactions that you can observe, and that occur in the world all around us, are endlessly cool to

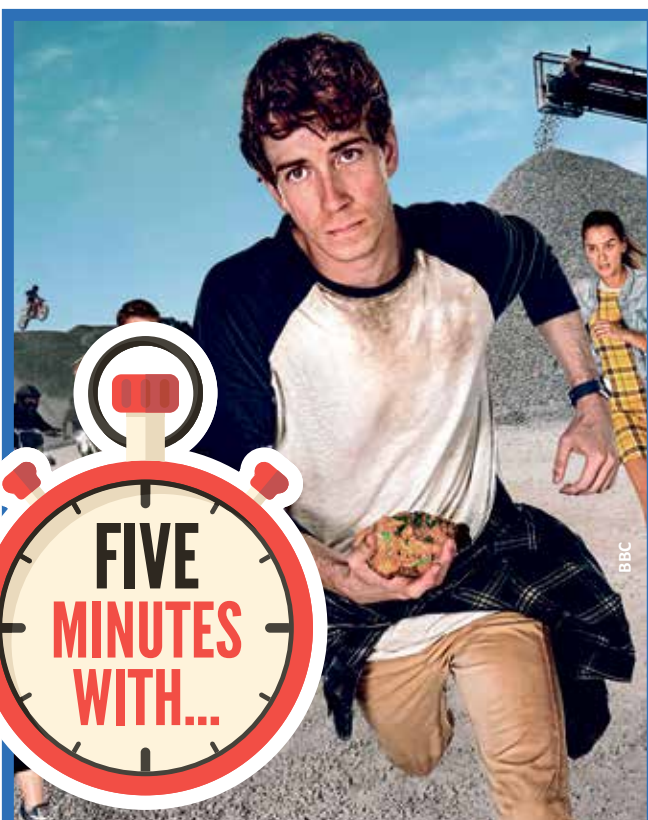


me. Science is responsible for so much of the things in life we take for granted like our phones, cars, medicine. Even simple things like the shampoo you use to wash your hair. It's so interwoven into our lives. And it can make multicoloured fire! What's not to love?!

Itch collects things made of elements – do you collect anything?

Oh yeah, I've always been into the Pokémon series since I was like six years old, and towards the end of high school my friend managed to convince me to try Pokémon card booster packs, and I got ADDICTED. I love, love, LOVE collecting rare cards. I'm such a nerd about it. I still buy booster packs to this day for a treat, and they never get old.

Catch **Itch** on CBBC and BBC iPlayer now



SAM IRELAND

SAM stars as the lead character in the new CBBC drama *Itch*!



Can you help the nation's farmers tackle one of Earth's greatest challenges?



We're looking for young people to use their ingenuity and problem solving skills to create an innovation or invention to help farmers fight climate change.

Need some inspiration?

Take a virtual tour and meet some of our farmers and visit our inspiration hubs filled with activities and videos to get you started!

The Prizes:

The top 9 entries will win £1000 for their school to spend on STEM or Outdoor Learning equipment and will receive their prize at a prestigious awards ceremony at the Houses of Parliament in Summer 2021

The competition is open for ages 5-14 and closes on 31st May 2021.



19. BIG INTERVIEW

What can you tell us about the film?

So *Jingle Jangle: A Christmas Journey* is just everything and more. It is totally different from everything, from anything that you've ever seen. The songs and the choreography and the acting are all just so incredibly combined into this magical and whimsical story with, of course, an all-star cast. We have Mr Forest Whitaker, Miss Anika Noni Rose and Miss Phylicia Rashad. It was filmed in England and I had a great time there. This was my first time going out of my country, which was very exciting. You guys have a beautiful country.

What was it like filming in England? Did it make you feel festive because it's cold?

It was really nice and actually, when we were there, it happened to be like the warmest summer that you guys have ever had. Which was not so great for the costumes because I was wearing, like, eight layers in July! Nevertheless, it was so much fun. I got to go to The Shard, to Windsor Castle, and to have high tea and go to Buckingham Palace. So I definitely got to explore a little, even though I was working most days, but it was definitely a lot of fun too.

Was that tricky, switching between Christmas on set and summer outside?

Yeah, it was weird because you have snow on the ground at work and then it's blazing hot and you need air conditioning because you're all hot. The contrast was definitely cool, and yeah, it made me feel very festive in July!



What can you tell us about your character, Journey?

She's very adventurous and feisty and kind of has this go-getter personality. She's very determined and she loves all things STEM – science, technology, engineering and maths, which are my favourite subjects in school, so I feel like I'm definitely very similar to my character.

Do you think it's important to show a female character interested in STEM?

I think it's incredibly important and I was so blessed to have this opportunity to portray Journey, because all things STEM is a trait typically attributed to boys. It's so important to really show that females can do anything and we can do a lot. I'm very happy to have had this opportunity.



CHRISTMAS MAGIC

Jingle Jangle: A Christmas Journey heads to Netflix this week and is our first real taste of Christmas! One of its stars, Madalen Mills, told us more about the magical movie.



Madalen (left) and Anika Noni Rose

Journey is a keen inventor, so did it make you think about what you'd like to invent?

I would love to invent something similar to the Buddy 3000, [in the film] but like Personal Assistant Buddy 3000 so that it could do my chores and it could cook and clean. And I could just relax, so it would make my not-so-difficult life even more not-so-difficult.



Madalen with Forest Whitaker

In the film you sing, dance and act, but which part of that do you enjoy the most? And did you have to learn any new skills to play Journey?

I loved all of it; singing, dancing and acting is definitely what I love to do. It was a pleasure to combine all of those and portray a really great character in a really great story. I did learn how to fly, which was so exciting, but it was actually a pretty long process. It was like two months and we trained a lot for it, so as far as new skills go, I got to learn how to fly! I don't go that high up in the air, so it's not as scary as it may look, but it definitely took a lot of training and preparation.

Do you have a favourite performance from the film?

Well, it's hard to choose because all of the songs are amazing. But if I had to choose, I would definitely say the song *Make It Work* performed by Miss Anika Noni Rose and Mr Whitaker, because the song is so fiery and just has a really great beat. I really love it, especially with the choreography. As you can see when you watch the movie, the choreography and the music go so well together.

We're starting to get into the Christmas spirit here, so what's your favourite thing about Christmas and this season?

I love to spend time with family and just sing together, play music, watch good holiday movies, like the live-action *The Grinch* with Mr Jim Carrey, *Home Alone* and *The Polar Express*. I also love to eat good food and watch college football over here in the US. For the past three Christmases I've been performing, which is a huge part of my family. We do perform together, playing our instruments and singing together, and just listening to music and sending out really great vibes and eating really good Christmas food.

Do you think *Jingle Jangle: A Christmas Journey* could become a Christmas classic?

I can hope, but I know it's gonna be a classic for me and my family, definitely!

Jingle Jangle: A Christmas Journey arrives on Netflix on 13 November

CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY FIRST NEWS



WIN! GO MASTER YOUTUBERS

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

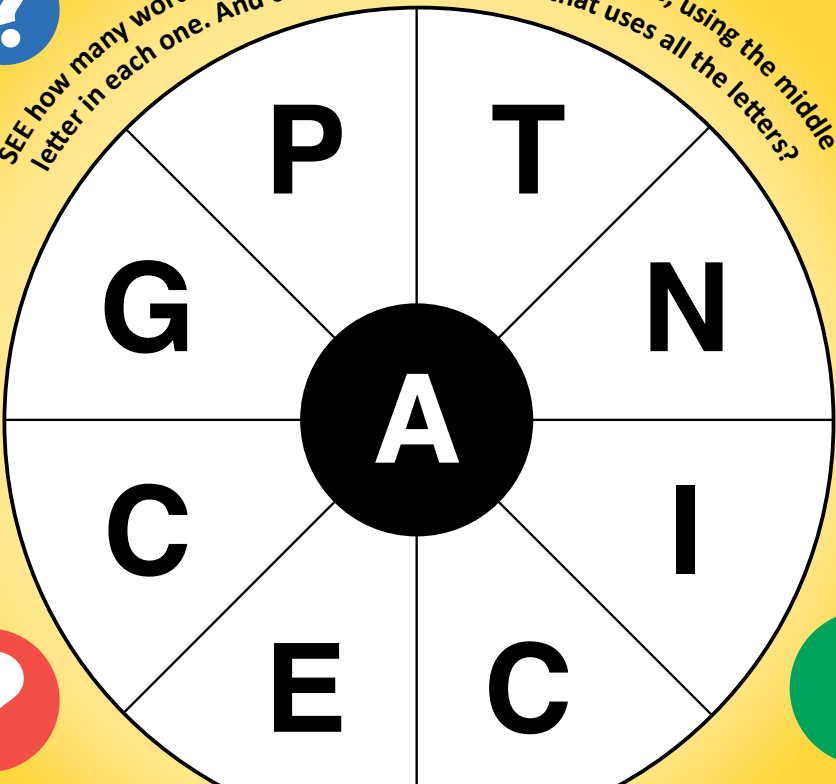
Send in your answers and two winners will get a copy of Go Master Youtubers Edition. Prove you're the best YouTuber and be the first player to get 100,000 subscribers. Take on super fun challenges, just like popular YouTubers. Answer questions on your favourite categories. Start as a Noob, go from Noob to Pro, become famous and work your way up to being Top Creator. Tell a story for your final video challenge. You'll also learn how to stay safe on the internet, with tips from other YouTubers. Available from [smythstoys.com](#)



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

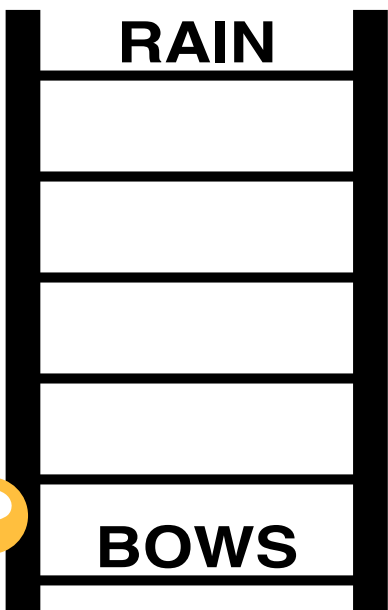
WORD WHEEL

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?



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.



WIN! Snapsies



CAN you complete our crossword puzzle by using the clues below?

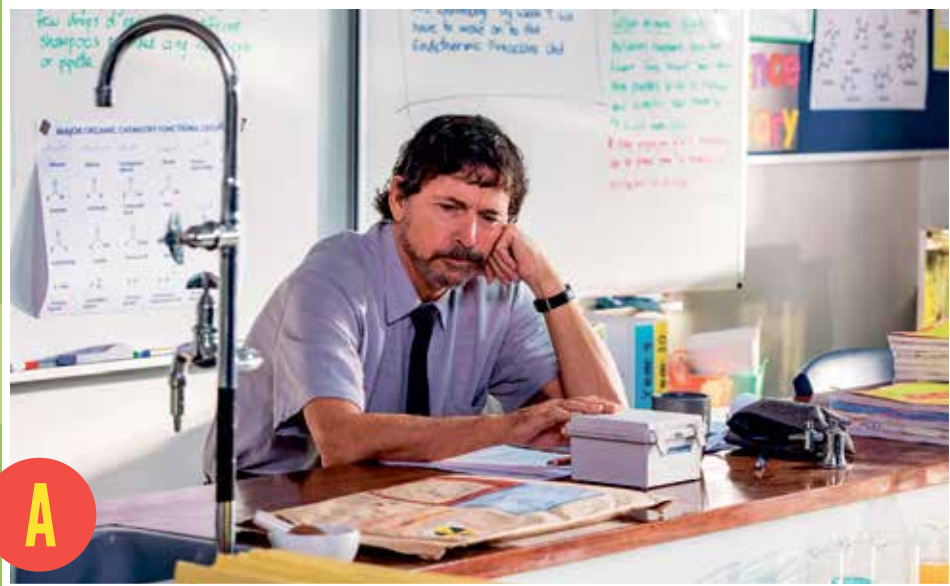
Send in your answers and two lucky winners will each win four Snapsies™ capsules. Funko has launched Snapsies™ – a fun and fully customisable kids' toy! There are 18 characters to collect, from unicorns to dolphins and dragons, with each Snapsie™ coming in its very own capsule, ensuring you never know which one you are going to get! The new Snapsies™ toys feature a unique snap-and-match technology that allows you to mix and match every character. Snapsies™ are available at Tesco, Smyths Toys Superstores and The Entertainer.

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

- ACROSS
- 1 Two times nine (8)
- 6 Dribble (4)
- 7 Awkward in movement (6)
- 9 Sport with an oval ball (5)
- 11 Cooks (5)
- 12 Man-made clothing fibre (5)
- 13 Ride a bike (5)
- 16 Stationery item for removing mistakes (6)
- 18 Tie together tightly (4)
- 19 The armed forces (8)
- DOWN
- 1 Stamina or durability (9)
- 2 Departing (5)
- 3 ___ A Sketch: drawing toy (4)
- 4 Disobedient (7)
- 5 Saw (anagram) (3)
- 8 The day before today (9)
- 10 Produce flowers; bloom (7)
- 14 Country where one finds Beijing (5)
- 15 Spoken test (4)
- 17 Rodent that resembles a large mouse (3)

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

JUST for fun this week! Can you spot the five changes we've made to this picture from CBBC's *Itch*?



WORDSEARCH

CAN you find the words in our ocean animal-themed wordsearch? Remember that the words can be horizontal, vertical or diagonal.

X	G	G	U	X	C	S	X	W	Q	A	T	K	W	C	H	R	W	Z	K	P	J	O	S	W	A	J	V
F	X	J	M	Y	U	H	M	G	C	D	U	V	U	F	D	G	M	S	K	V	E	Q	X	A	Q	R	K
S	O	V	E	G	T	G	V	C	M	B	D	K	Q	L	K	E	P	I	L	K	E	Z	X	V	K	T	X
X	G	L	J	L	T	Q	P	Y	S	T	C	Q	C	S	D	H	O	W	Q	A	L	A	J	D	U	V	K
W	K	O	A	K	L	J	H	T	K	H	S	J	W	O	S	O	A	B	Q	I	T	S	M	O	J	O	O
H	D	E	C	A	E	Y	W	X	V	N	R	X	F	E	N	X	M	N	I	F	H	J	W	L	G	O	C
I	H	E	E	O	F	S	F	P	L	A	Z	I	O	P	T	B	R	B	O	M	W	F	J	P	V	I	L
E	P	H	R	O	I	I	A	I	N	D	Z	C	M	H	Z	U	L	C	P	X	K	V	T	H	B	I	P
T	F	R	N	T	S	A	N	F	S	B	E	J	V	P	I	Q	U	L	Z	F	O	U	X	I	F	F	R
Y	C	W	I	G	H	N	P	V	K	H	S	G	N	G	M	S	B	P	G	H	J	I	Z	N	E	S	F
X	A	J	V	Z	Z	W	H	G	N	Z	G	I	M	E	F	S	W	Z	K	B	K	G	I	T	H	R	Q
W	I	D	Q	C	G	G	F	R	I	L	L	K	W	N	M	F	T	R	D	Q	L	S	H	H	O	Y	V
Z	H	J	V	E	Y	B	H	Z	E	T	B	Q	N	E	O	W	J	A	J	Z	O	K	U	L	Q	T	U
D	V	A	J	K	B	I	H	S	O	R	D	W	I	T	Z	F	G	W	T	K	Q	P	H	H	O	X	A
Q	N	F	L	A	L	J	Q	G	I	A	N	T	S	Q	U	I	D	N	W	T	T	J	I	F	T	I	P
Y	C	F	G	E	C	B	T	U	M	J	C	X	C	A	Q	M	K	I	P	E	N	Z	O	A	I	N	U
Y	K	H	K	W	V	Q	J	U	M	O	N	N	K	X	M	S	G	C	D	X	T	E	B	K	G	M	S
K	R	O	V	N	L	H	B	E	N	E	O	V	I	Z	T	D	D	V	F	A	N	W	O	R	M	W	H
T	O	B	A	S	Q	Y	U	C	F	A	E	R	R	M	S	P	E	F	B	W	R	O	Q	Y	P	V	A
W	P	E	P	J	B	I	E	G	D	Z	W	B	E	K	Z	O	L	N	E	J	O	R	C	W	I	H	R
I	A	N	G	E	L	F	I	S	H	P	X	U	K	I	Q	C	O	C	U	I	F	E	N	K	W	K	
Y	O	W	U	M	D	W	D	U	J	L	A	X	F	D	P	J	M	M	U	O	M	B	B	O	U	F	C

- ☐ Whale
- ☐ Eel
- ☐ Shrimp
- ☐ Fan Worm
- ☐ Cuttlefish
- ☐ Angelfish
- ☐ Dolphin
- ☐ Giant Squid
- ☐ Jellyfish
- ☐ Frill
- ☐ Tuna
- ☐ Shark

COMPETITIONS: You can enter First News competitions in one of two ways. 1. Go to firstnews.co.uk/competitions and follow the instructions. 2. Email us at 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.

WIN! AR DISCS STARTER PACKS

AR Discs are the dynamic and new collectibles craze to hit the UK.

Collect, trade and combine your AR Discs and see your favourite DreamWorks characters come to life with the free app – simply hover a smart device over the disc.

Set out on your own thrilling adventure with 80 DreamWorks AR Discs to collect, including two gold limited editions! You can collect AR Discs in the special collector's album but you can trade and even interlock the discs to create 3D models and spectacular displays.

Six lucky winners will each win a Starter Pack and 20 individual discs.

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

"Let's just say I'm the boss" is a quote from which movie?
a) *The Boss Baby*
b) *Kung Fu Panda* c) *Shrek*



Starter Packs containing a Collector Folder and two AR Discs (RRP £8.99), as well as Single Packs (RRP £1.99), are suitable for ages 6+ and are available from all good newsagents.

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY DISC

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see below. The closing date is 26 November 2020.

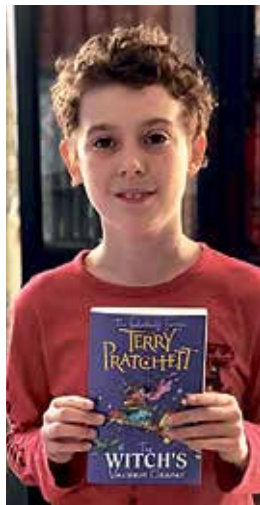
LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS:

Spot the difference: window added in background, helmet is bigger, control box removed from wall, exhaust is missing from the jet pack, Baby Yoda is purple.
Word ladder: bees, beds, bids, bide, hide, hive. **Word wheel:** Pretended.

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

R	O	U	N	D	A	B	O	U	T
S	T	U	N	Z	I	G	Z	A	G
S	T	U	N	T	H				
B	I	S	H	O	P	T	O	F	U
C	H	I	P						
S	H	I	P						
H	Y	E	N	A					
E	D								
S	T	A	T	I	O	N	A	R	Y

YOUR READS!



THE WITCH'S VACUUM CLEANER TERRY PRATCHETT

reviewed by
Harry Worden,
aged 11

With 14 different stories, this book is full to bursting with adventure and magic.

If you like pirates, wizards and trolls then this is for you. This book has an amazing mix of humour, magic and the pure joy that storytellers make you feel.

The other books are just as funny with dragons and gnomes. My favourite story is *The Frozen Feud* with the warring ice cream sellers set in the town of Landanffwnfafegettupagogo in Wales and it's up to Sergeant Bunyan to stop them. I would recommend this book to children aged four to 12 years old who like magic. I hope you enjoy it.

COULD YOUR CHRISTMAS READ WIN AN AWARD?

THIS week, the shortlist for the Blue Peter Book Awards 2021 was released.

For more than 20 years, the Blue Peter Book Awards have been seeking out and celebrating the best authors, the most creative illustrators and the greatest books for children.

Last week, the list of books up for receiving a Blue Peter Book Award was revealed by Blue Peter and the BookTrust.

You can find the list of books, along with some fun-filled content about the judging, on the Blue Peter website: www.bbc.co.uk/bluepeter.



National Literacy Trust's Virtual School Library

GO ON an inconvenient adventure with Jaclyn Moriarty.



Author of the week in the Virtual School Library is Jaclyn Moriarty! Jaclyn's recommended reads are:

- *The Mennyns* by Sylvia Waugh
- *Lenny's Book of Everything* by Karen Foxlee
- *A Pinch of Magic* by Michelle Harrison

Head to the library to read *The Extremely Inconvenient Adventures of Bronte Mettlestone* for free, watch a video about Jaclyn's new book *The Slightly Alarming Tale of the Whispering Wars* and how she gets into the mood for writing, and learn how to make Bronte's orange drizzle cakes at wordsforlife.org.uk/virtual-school-library.

“Words for Life”

Virtual School Library

FOR MORE TIPS AND ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE YOUR READING, WRITING, SPEAKING AND LISTENING AT HOME, VISIT WORDSFORLIFE.ORG.UK

THINKFUN Advertisement feature



AT ThinkFun, we love to make learning fun! Our range of logic games are designed to flex your brain while you play. We'd love to introduce you to Cat Crimes, a fun, kitty-themed 'whodunnit' game that challenges you to work out which cat committed the crime. The game includes 40 challenges, starting from Beginner and working up to Expert.



Cat Crimes
is available
now!

Find out more about ThinkFun games at www.thinkfun.co.uk

Cat Crimes is suitable from age eight years to adult. It is available from games retailers nationwide.

CAT CRIMES

Give our Cat Crimes brainteaser a try. One of these naughty cats has ruined the shoes. Can you use the clues to work out which one it was?

BEGINNER 1

WHO RUINED THE SHOES?

- Mr Mittens and Pip Squeak were asleep upstairs.
- Tom Cat was sitting in front of the catnip and sock.
- Sassy was sitting across from Tom Cat.
- Ginger was sitting next to the fish bowl.
- Duchess was sitting to the left of Sassy.

© 2017 ThinkFun Inc. MADE IN CHINA, USA #1036 CHSE





CHIPMUNK CAFE

A CREATIVE food writer has been creating incredible food feasts, all for one lucky chipmunk.

Angela Hansberger, from Georgia, USA, has missed going to restaurants regularly since the coronavirus pandemic began. So she decided to channel her foody creativity in a unique way.

It all began when her uncle sent her a tiny picnic table, which she planned to nail to a fence for squirrels to climb on. But when she found a curious chipmunk

sitting at the table, she gave it some nuts. The chipmunk returned the next day and things spiralled from there.

Angela said: "I began plating his dishes, learning about what was good and not good for a chipmunk diet and trying to make [meals] using nuts, grains and fruit. One day he came up with this little tiny bundle – wadded-up leaves – and put it on

the table. So, I take it to mean he brought a tip."

Angela has been concocting amazing banquets for the chipmunk, who she named Thelonious Munk, after the American jazz musician Thelonious Monk. She posts her stunning mini-meals on social media and has become a viral sensation!



The level of detail in Angela's tiny banquets is incredible



MEET... MAYOR WILBUR



His campaign slogan was 'Vote Wilbur – he's all ears'

NOW this is the election we're really excited about. A six-month-old French bulldog has been voted the mayor of Rabbit Hash, a small town in Kentucky!

But Wilbur is not the first animal mayor of Rabbit Hash. The tradition of electing animals to the post started back in 1998, and the town has never had an actual human in the position. There have been five dog mayors of the town to date, and the election always coincides with the US presidential election. According to his owner, Amy Noland, Mayor Wilbur is handling the stresses and strains of his new position well: "He's had a lot of pets, a lot of belly scratches and a lot of ear rubs." We'd vote for Wilbur any day!

LAMP SWINDLE



A DOCTOR in India became the victim of a crazy con when he spent £31,000 on a 'magic' lamp.

One of the conmen claimed he had a lamp with a genie inside it, just like in Aladdin. He 'proved' this when he performed a trick and made it look like a genie had come out of the lamp. But the genie was, in fact, another conman who was in on the scam. The impressed doctor bought the lamp, which he had been told would bring health and good fortune, but called the police after it failed to produce a genie at home. The conmen have now been arrested.

INTERACTIVE TRACK SYSTEM

GRAVITRAX

EXPERIENCE THE POWER OF GRAVITY

THE GraviTrax interactive track system opens up endless possibilities to create exciting tracks harnessing the power of gravity, magnetism and kinetics!

Begin with a Starter Set and, using a variety of tiles and tracks, you can control the speed of your gravity sphere as it heads to the finish. If you're feeling even more creative, use add-ons and expansions too.

Check out the jaw-dropping stats below, all about a record-breaking GraviTrax run!

RECORD-BREAKING GRAVITRAX FACT FILE

When? 2018

Where? Berlin, Germany

What? The world's largest GraviTrax run

Who? Ravensburger and YouTuber Jelle Bakker (Jelle's Marble Runs)

The stats:

- 11 days to build
- More than 20,000 parts used
- 264 metres long
- More than 100 add-ons used



Check out some of our favourite trick sections from this mammoth track!

GONE LOOPY!

Full 360 degree action with Loop add-ons and cool Tunnel expansion sections!

DEFYING GRAVITY!

Wow! The Catapult add-on gives a gravity-defying boost to the gravity spheres!

BRILLIANT BOUNCING!

Bouncing ball action with the Trampoline and Scoop add-ons.

READY TO CHALLENGE YOURSELF?

You can try building your own tracks at home (on a smaller scale!) with the GraviTrax range which includes GraviTrax Starter set, expansions and add-ons.

And now! Also introducing new GraviTrax PRO Vertical Starter Set, expansions and add-ons – opening up new possibilities for towering, action-packed tracks with unique components!

NEW!

TURN TO PAGE 25 TO WIN A GRAVITRAX PRO BUNDLE!

Discover more about GraviTrax at www.gravitrax.co.uk

GraviTrax products are suitable for age 8+. All sets sold separately. Starter Sets start from around £50 RRP, add-ons start from around £10 RRP.



Ravensburger

READY FOR NEXT-GEN THIS CHRISTMAS? GET, SET, GO!

THE Association for UK Interactive Entertainment (Ukie) has launched a campaign to make sure that families lucky enough to be booting up a next-gen games console this Christmas are ready to play on the day.



The new 'Get Set Go!' campaign encourages families to **GET** their console ready before wrapping it up as a gift. This might mean downloading updates for the console, or any games the console might come with. Then **SET** up any family controls needed. That might not sound too much fun, but it's important to be safe while gaming.

Lastly, it's time to **GO** and have fun without needing to worry about anything! Is there anything worse than getting an awesome new game to play with, then having to wait for ages before it's all set up?

Ukie recommends heading to [AskAboutGames.com](https://www.askaboutgames.com) for details on how to set up new consoles and add family controls.

THE XBOX SERIES X/S IS HERE

THIS week, Microsoft's new Xbox Series X/S video game consoles launched in the UK. We've been testing out the next-generation for a while so watch this space for a full review in First News soon!



BACK in the '90s, two games featuring skateboarding superstar Tony Hawk were released – they're thought to be two of the best skateboarding games ever made.

More than two decades later, and Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 1 & 2 have been completely re-mastered and look way better than they did when the games first came out!

When you fire up Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 1 & 2, you're plonked in a skate park, where you're taught how to do ollies, tricks and grinds. Then, it's all about learning how to 'combo', and to get the highest score possible by doing as many tricks in a row without falling off the board.

After that, it's up to you to beat various challenges across stages from both games, while listening to the punk rock soundtrack!

The game is meant for those who want to re-visit the days they spent playing Tony Hawk's Pro Skater all those years ago, but that doesn't mean it's not a tonne of fun for new players too.

Like an old school arcade game, getting those massive scores for a bunch of gnarly tricks is totally awesome, even today!

WIN! TICKETS TO POTTED PANTO



DOUBLE Olivier nominees Dan and Jeff return for a tenth anniversary festive season of *Potted Panto*.

In a madcap ride through the biggest stories and best-loved characters from the wonderful world of pantomime, the dastardly double act dash from rubbing Aladdin's lamp to roaming the golden streets of Dick Whittington's London and making sure that Cinderella gets to the ball.

Three winners will win a family ticket (four tickets, minimum one adult). To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:



What did Cinderella's Fairy Godmother turn into a carriage?
a) Mouse b) Pumpkin
c) Toadstool



Potted Panto is playing at the Garrick Theatre in London for a socially-distanced strictly limited run from 5 December 2020 to 10 January 2021.

To book your tickets visit [pottedpanto.com](https://www.pottedpanto.com)

Potted Panto at the Garrick Theatre tickets are valid for all performances, until 10 January 2021, excluding 6 Dec 1pm, Saturday and Sunday performances from 13 – 28 December. Subject to availability. No cash alternative. COVID restrictions and procedures will be in place for this event.

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY PANTO

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 21. The closing date is 26 November 2020.

WIN! GRAVITRAX PRO BUNDLE

INTERACTIVE TRACK SYSTEM
GRAVITRAX
EXPERIENCE THE POWER OF GRAVITY

GRAVITRAX PRO has joined the GraviTrax range!

Now you can discover the power of gravity in incredible new ways. Build even higher and unlock your creativity with unique vertical panels and components.

GraviTrax PRO is compatible with all the GraviTrax range so even if you're already a fan, this is a great comp for you!

Four winners have the chance to win a GraviTrax PRO bundle. Your bundle includes the GraviTrax PRO Vertical Starter Set as well as an expansion pack and two add-ons.

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



More information at
www.gravitrax.co.uk

GraviTrax is suitable from age 8+

What does the E in STEM stand for?
a) English b) Education c) Engineering

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY PRO

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 21. The closing date is 26 November 2020.

WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?

SNAPSIES THETOYSHOP.COM £8.00

Create your own character with these new Snapsies collectibles. There are 18 in all and each comes in its own capsule, so you won't know who you're getting! Will it be a goat, hedgehog or a unicorn? Inside each capsule you'll find 11 different pieces to create your character's look – and you get to name them too! Which Snapsies will you get?

*All prices correct at time of printing



ELF ON THE SHELF MERRY MINIS AMAZON.CO.UK £5.99 EACH

Bring a little early festive cheer to your house this year. Every mystery blind bag contains a cute Scout Elf™ or Elf Pets® mini figure. Each miniature has distinctive characteristics, just like traditional Scout Elves and their Elf Pets friends. Make the season surprising and delightful with these Merry Minis! Will you get Baxter, Roofus or Crispus Nibblekins in your blind bag?



COLLECTIBLES

5 SURPRISE MINI BRANDS! MYSTERY CAPSULE

SMYTHSTOYS.COM £6.99

Unwrap, peel, and reveal real miniature collectibles with 5 Surprise Mini Brands! Each capsule is a surprise unboxing with dozens of miniatures and shopping accessories to find. There are more than 100 miniatures of your favourite brands to collect, including rare Metallic and Glow in the Dark minis, and Super Rare Golden Minis too! Collect them all to create your own mini shopping world!



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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.

nickelodeon Advertisement feature



FIRE up your filters! **Nickelodeon's Unfiltered** is a new game show, where celebrities hide behind hilarious 3D animated characters and it's up to our panel to ask questions, gather clues and play games to correctly guess the mystery guest!

WIN! ONE OF 10 NICKELODEON EXPERIMAKE KITS

Do you want to win a new Nickelodeon Experimake Colourful Crystal Aquarium? Then watch an episode of **Unfiltered** and fill out your bingo card as you watch. Send us a photo of your completed bingo card, along with your name, age and contact details, to firstnewscompetition@nickelodeon.co.uk



Tune in to **Unfiltered** at 9:30am every Saturday and Sunday on **nickelodeon**

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.



GUESSED RIGHT	GUESSED WRONG	GUESSED IT BEFORE THE REVEAL	HAD NO CLUE	THOUGHT YOU HAD A CLUE BUT YOU DIDN'T
DIDN'T THINK YOU KNEW BUT YOU WERE RIGHT	A CELEB ASKED YOUR QUESTION	THOUGHT OF THE PERFECT QUESTION BUT IT WAS NEVER ASKED	TOOK THE SHOW SELFIE WITH EVERYONE	LAUGHED AT SOMETHING JAY, THE HOST, SAID
COULD RECITE THE RECAP BY HEART	STRUGGLED AT THE START	FREE SPACE	STRUGGLED THE WHOLE TIME	WERE WINNING THE WHOLE TIME
CHANGED YOUR ANSWER AND YOU WERE RIGHT	CHANGED YOUR ANSWER AND YOU WERE WRONG	THOUGHT YOU WERE WRONG BUT YOU WERE RIGHT	WON ULTIMATE BRAGGING RIGHTS	LEARNED SOMETHING NEW ABOUT THE MYSTERY GUEST
TOOK A SELFIE WITH AN 'UNFILTERED' FILTER	TRIED TO TALK LIKE THE MYSTERY GUEST	PLAYED ALONG AT HOME	MADE YOUR FAMILY WATCH	MADE YOUR FRIENDS WATCH

ICKABOG COMPETITION WINNER

by Shannon

JUNIOR
JOURNALIST

BACK in the summer, JK Rowling asked budding young artists between the ages of seven and 12 to illustrate *The Ickabog*, for the once-in-a-lifetime chance to be featured in *The Ickabog* book. Shannon was one of the 34 lucky winners:

I feel so pleased that I won a competition doing something that I love – especially as it is for JK Rowling! I enjoyed the creativity and imagination in *The Ickabog* and the way JK Rowling created a whole new imaginary world.

I loved the different cities and the fact that each city was famous for its own food. I chose to illustrate 'the fire' because I thought I could turn a simple thing like a fire into more than that, and create the warmth that a fire can bring to a room, especially a royal room.

After being shortlisted I decided I didn't even mind if I didn't win, as I just loved that it gave me something fun and exciting to do. But being a winner of *The Ickabog* competition has made me realise my talent and has given me a desire to develop my skill of drawing.



The winning *The Fire* drawing, by Shannon, 11, United Kingdom

HERE'S A LOOK AT SOME MORE ENTRIES:



By Grace, 8, Australia



By Aron, 7, India



By Charlotte, 8, Republic of Ireland



By Ella, 12, Australia



The *Ickabog*
by J.K. Rowling
is out now!

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?

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.

Email your report (including pictures) to yournews@firstnews.co.uk



SPORT IN NUMBERS

1 goal was all Manchester United Women needed to end Arsenal's unbeaten start to the season. Ella Toone's strike in the 1-0 victory saw United leapfrog Arsenal to lead the Women's Super League. It is the first time in Manchester's history that they have topped the table.



Ella Toone (left)

33 yachts have set sail from France to compete in a gruelling round the world race. Competitors in the Vendée Globe must attempt the voyage solo without going ashore or receiving help from another boat. Most of the skippers are male, but in this year's contest, three of the four British sailors taking part are female.



5 League Leaders' Shields is now the tally for Wigan Warriors. They defeated Huddersfield Giants 19-6 in the last game of the regular Super League season. Taking the lead early on, three tries, three goals and a drop goal proved enough for the rugby league side to collect their first Leaders' Shield since 2012.



IRONMAN... AND WOMAN



THERE was British success at the Ironman triathlon in Florida, but one athlete, who finished with only minutes to spare, made the headlines, too.

An Ironman triathlon is a real test of endurance. The one-day event begins with a 2.4 mile (3.86km) swim. The athletes then have to tackle a 112 mile (180.25km) bike ride, before completing a full 26 mile and 385 yard (42.2km) marathon! In 2019, Great Britain's Katrina Matthews turned professional, after having impressed at amateur level. Her debut Ironman in Australia saw her finish fourth in under nine hours. Unfortunately, the coronavirus pandemic disrupted the 2020 race calendar, resulting in the Florida triathlon being only her second start of the season. After leading the swimming and running the marathon in under three hours, Matthews finished first in a remarkable time of 8:40:50.



Katrina Matthews shows her delight in reaching the finish line (left), while Chris Nikic (above) battles on, nursing a leg wound from a crash in the bike stage

The US dominated the men's event, taking all three podium places, with Chris Leiferman in top spot. However, history was being made at the back of the field, where 21-year-old Chris Nikic from Florida became the first ever athlete with Down's syndrome to compete in an Ironman in 42 years. Down's syndrome is a condition that can hinder physical development. Three years ago, Nikic's father wanted to encourage his son to exercise and, after starting with a single push-up, increased the amount of activity each day. With the Ironman contest ending after 17 hours, Nikic crossed the finish line with only 14 minutes left! It was a heroic achievement from a record-breaking athlete.

RAFA'S GRAND RESULT!

THERE were plenty of surprises at the Paris Masters – and more success for Rafael Nadal.

Nadal's second round victory against fellow Spaniard Feliciano López saw him record 1,000 ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) wins. Only Jimmy Connors, Roger Federer and Ivan Lendl have managed this feat. "To arrive at that number I must have done a lot of things well!" Nadal said. He certainly has, winning 86 ATP singles titles in the process! His first ever win was as a 15-year-old in 2002 against Ramón Delgado. The player he's beaten the most times in those 1,000 victories is Novak Djokovic. He has defeated the Serb 27 times!

Nadal achieved three more wins in Paris, before losing to Germany's Alexander Zverev in straight sets in the semi-final. Zverev faced Daniil Medvedev of Russia in the final. Medvedev won 5-7, 6-4, 6-1 to clinch his eighth ATP title, so he still needs a few more to catch Nadal!



Rafael Nadal celebrates his 1,000th ATP victory at the Paris Masters

