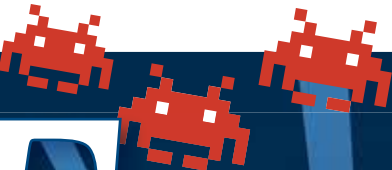


THE UK'S
CHILDREN'S
NEWSPAPER
WITH MORE THAN
2.6 MILLION*
READERS!

SPECIAL EDITION Your normal issue of *First News* is inside



Issue 754 £2.25
27 November – 3 December 2020

FirstNews



HELPING THE UK GROW

NEWS | SPORTS | ENTERTAINMENT | INTERVIEWS | PUZZLES | COMPETITIONS

NEXT-GEN GAMING IS HERE



A LOOK AT THE PAST AND FUTURE
OF VIDEOGAMES

XBOX EVOLUTION



XBOX

Released in 2001, the original Xbox was best known for its massive, chunky controller known as The Duke.

XBOX consoles have come a long way in the last 20 years! While it was first named after Microsoft's 'DirectX' graphics system, we're not quite sure why the console then went up to 360, before going back down to One.

XBOX 360

The Xbox 360 sold out instantly on its release back in 2005! Featuring a strong line-up of games at launch and an impressive online service, the Xbox 360 holds a special place in the hearts of many gamers.



XBOX ONE

The Xbox One was released in 2013, alongside the Kinect motion-tracking camera. The Kinect could detect your movements and respond to voice commands. While the concept was cool, it never really took off, and Xbox eventually scrapped the idea. Later in the console's lifespan, Microsoft released the One X, a more powerful version of the console.

XBOX SERIES X/S

This November, Microsoft launched two versions of the new Xbox console, each aimed at a different audience. There's the smaller Xbox Series S, the cheaper but less powerful option, and the more expensive Xbox Series X, which Microsoft calls "the most powerful console in the world". Supporting high-end graphical features and running games at incredible speeds, the Xbox Series X is said to be four times faster than the Xbox One X. While neither console has a stand-out unique feature, both consoles set out to make gaming as hassle-free as possible, and that's exactly what they deliver.



ANOTHER CONSOLE LAUNCH?

THIS November, Nintendo launched a new console too, although it's pretty different compared with the others on this page... as it's a limited-edition clock that plays *Super Mario Bros*!

Released for Mario's 35th anniversary, Nintendo's *Super Mario Bros* Game & Watch looks just like the Game & Watch devices the company released back in 1980, with a few major upgrades.

Back then, small-screen technology wasn't particularly advanced. The Game & Watch device could play one simple game, and tell the time. Today, Nintendo's *Super Mario Bros* Game & Watch can play all of *Super Mario Bros* 1 & 2, along with a Mario-themed version of *Ball*, one of the classic Game & Watch games from 1980.

Playing *Super Mario Bros* on the device is a fun way to play the classic game, even if it is a bit silly to play it on a clock.



EASTER EGGS AHoy!

The *Super Mario Bros* Game & Watch is crammed with secrets! Try holding the A button down for five seconds while on the time screen, and watch what happens...



25 YEARS OF PLAY

PS1

In 1994, the PS1 was launched. Initially created after a deal between Sony and Nintendo fell through, the PS1 broke a lot of new ground for videogame consoles, loading games from discs for the first time.



SONY'S PlayStation consoles have been around for 25 years, but no matter how much the PlayStation has developed over time, one thing has always stayed the same – the iconic Square, Triangle, X and Circle buttons on the controller.

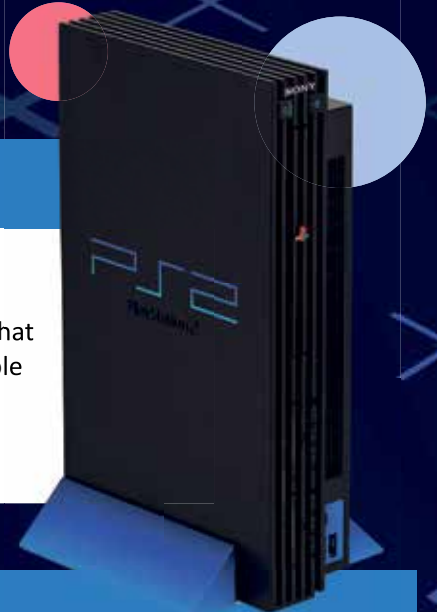
PS3

The PlayStation 3 had a rocky launch back in 2006. It didn't have too many games to begin with, and was quite expensive. It was the first PlayStation to feature motion-sensing technology in its controllers.



PS2

Released in 2000, the PlayStation 2 had a massive library and could play DVDs. These were popular features that helped make it the best-selling console of all time. By the time Sony stopped production in 2013, over 155 million PS2 consoles had been sold.



PS4

Released in 2013, the PlayStation 4 received good reviews at launch. The console's DualShock controllers were updated to include a new touchpad, nice glowing lights on the back and better motion controls. Later in the console's life, Sony launched the first console-based virtual reality headset, the PSVR. The PS4 went on to become the second most successful console of all time, behind the PS2.

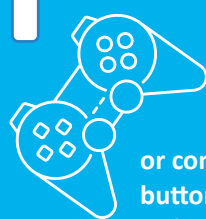


PS5

The PlayStation 5 landed in the UK just last week. Those lucky enough to get their hands on one quickly found that it is frankly humongous! Bundled with the massive PS5 is the new DualSense controller, a full-on update from the previous generation's DualShock gamepads, with new features that genuinely feel revolutionary. Using the same technology that's found in the Switch's Joy-Cons, vibrations felt in the DualSense controller are ridiculously realistic. There are also new 'adaptive' back triggers (L2 and R2 buttons) that function differently depending on what you're doing. If you're pulling an arrow back in a bow, you'll feel resistance as you squeeze the trigger. We can't wait to see what developers do with these new features and the power behind the PS5.



GET SET FOR GAME STREAMING



GAME streaming services continue to grow, and some believe that one day, the technology might replace traditional console experiences.

Game streaming is just like other types of streaming; somewhere a computer or games console is hosting a videogame. You connect to it and stream the footage of the game directly to your phone or computer.

Unlike other streaming services, you're sending information back to that computer or console, as well as receiving it. Every time you press a button on your controller, that button press has to be sent to the computer hosting your game.

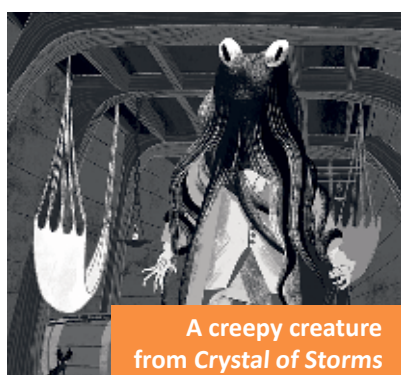
If you've got a slow internet connection, you'll see a noticeable delay between you pressing a button and it reaching that console or computer, which can make some games almost unplayable.

While it's a problem today, as internet speeds improve and connections become steadier across the world, this might become the easiest way to play, since you won't need a powerful console to play the best-looking games – just a really good internet connection.



GAME ON!

AHEAD of the launch of the new consoles, we spoke to Rhianna Pratchett, a videogame lover and author, who has written the stories for some huge games. Rhianna told us about what she hopes to see from the next-generation of consoles, what she's been working on recently, and how she first fell in love with videogames.



A creepy creature from *Crystal of Storms*

Tell us a bit about your time in the games industry.

Well, firstly you should know that I wasn't always a writer for games. I started as a games journalist, where I learnt a lot about how games are put together. Then, in 2002, I worked as a script editor for a developer. After that, I had to kind of invent my own career, since back then, nobody really cared about writing in videogames! Anyone on the team would do it; it wasn't done by a professional writer. I then built my career up from there, working on a *SpongeBob* game and a *Pac-Man* game, before my career was properly launched after I worked on a PS3 action game.

How did you first get into videogames?

Well, my dad [the late fantasy writer Terry Pratchett] got me into videogames. I remember the first game I ever played, Dad brought it home when I was six – it was called *Mazogs* and it featured a little pixelated man, in a little pixelated maze, being chased by little pixelated crabby creatures. Dad said I was quite frightened of it! He would usually drive the games, and I would draw the maps or sit behind him in his big office chair and watch him play.

What do you want to see from the next generation of games?

I mean, obviously we want to see the games get better, but personally, I hope that the next generation means we see a greater diversity of experience. When we talk about diversity in games, it's usually about female characters. Diversity is so much greater than that. We tend to use the same kinds of characters in the same kinds of experiences. I hope we see more like some of the games coming out on the indie side of things, where there are these amazing, personal stories being told.

Tell us about your latest project.

I recently released *Crystal of Storms*, a *Fighting Fantasy* game book. They were massively popular in the '80s, and were recently brought back by Scholastic. In them, you get to choose which direction you go in, what items you pick up, and buy or sell. There are a lot of rules to follow when writing a *Fighting Fantasy* game book – you can't say the word sandwich, as it's too modern! Compared to writing for a videogame, there are lots more constraints. A game will remember what a character's done; in the book you've got to rely on the player to do that. Plus, a game is worked on by lots of people, whereas with *Crystal of Storms*, it's all on me!

Crystal of Storms is out now

2021 IN GAMES

WHILE the launch of a new console generation is definitely exciting, there aren't too many new games available that we can actually play on them yet. Fortunately, there's lots on the horizon to look forward to.



RATCHET & CLANK: RIFT APART

Ratchet and Clank are back in this PlayStation exclusive title, which sees our heroes take on different dimensions. At this point, we think the game's graphics are looking pretty close to how a Pixar movie looks. Just look at how soft Ratchet's ears look!

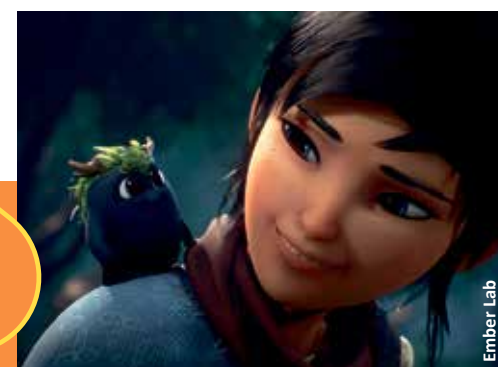
LEGO STAR WARS: THE SKYWALKER SAGA

Next spring, the latest game in the long-running LEGO series will be released, and we can't wait. *LEGO Star Wars: The Skywalker Saga* is looking very funny, and pretty different to the other LEGO games! We can't wait to see what's changed, but for now, all we can do is dream of how shiny and beautiful that plastic is going to look on next-gen consoles.



KENA: BRIDGE OF SPIRITS

Sadly delayed for a little while, *Kena: Bridge of Spirits* is an action-adventure game that looks absolutely delightful! You play as a young Spirit Guide on a quest who must uncover a mysterious story with the help of her tiny companions.



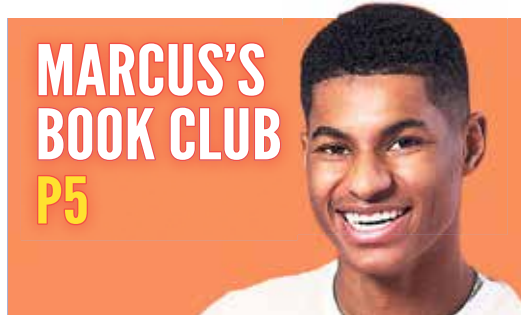
MINECRAFT RAY-TRACING UPDATE

To show off the power of the Xbox Series X, Microsoft showed off demo footage of *Minecraft* running on the console, with a gorgeous graphical upgrade that takes advantage of all the power of the next generation. Adding sunlight that pours in through windows and lava that has a warm glow, we really hope the upgrade is released to consoles soon!



48 >

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



FirstNews

Issue 754 £2.25 27 November – 3 December 2020

HELPING
THE UK GROW

NEWS | SPORTS | ENTERTAINMENT | INTERVIEWS | PUZZLES | COMPETITIONS



THE prime minister has said that the “scientific cavalry is now in sight”, after the announcement of a third successful vaccine against COVID-19 (see p3 and p12).

by Ian Eddy

Boris Johnson praised the work of scientists as he announced that the 56 million people in England will definitely come out of lockdown on 2 December and that the current restrictions won't be extended. The latest good news about vaccines means that “this is not a pandemic without end” the PM said, although he added that “the virus won't grant a Christmas truce,” so everyone still needs to follow the rules in their part of the UK.

“We don't want to throw caution to the wind” between now and New Year, Mr Johnson said, otherwise we could end up with another lockdown in January.

All four UK nations are trying to agree on what we can and can't do at Christmas, but many scientists are worried about what could happen if families have big gatherings with older relatives over the holidays and allow the virus to spread.

“There is no point having a very merry Christmas and then burying friends and relations in January

and February,” public health expert Dr Gabriel Scally warned last week.

Today (27 November), Northern Ireland is due to start its two-week ‘circuit breaker’ lockdown to try to get the virus under control there.

Scotland's First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, also said it was unlikely that restrictions will be lifted at Hogmanay (New Year's Eve) as well as Christmas. “We can't do everything,” she said. “The Christmas thing is hard enough. Maybe Christmas is a more important time for the kids.”

NEW PLAYSTATION FRUSTRATION



Gamers were left disappointed on PlayStation 5 launch day, when many of the websites selling the highly-anticipated new console crashed, leaving people unable to buy it. At one point, one retailer had a virtual queue of 150,000 on its site, all desperate to get their mitts on the £450 next-gen console. Meanwhile, some smug customers who'd pre-ordered their PS5s were frustrated when it came to unboxing time. A number of them reported that their shiny new toys had been stolen in transit. After excitedly tearing open their packages, they found everything from bags of bulgur wheat to cat food inside!

SPACE FOSSIL

An ancient "fossil galaxy" has been discovered inside the Milky Way, the galaxy that also contains our own solar system. Scientists have named it Heracles, and think it's been there for about ten billion years, ever since it collided with the Milky Way. It's relatively small as galaxies go, with about 100 million stars – the Milky Way has a thousand times as many. Astronomers spotted the dead galaxy when they noticed its stars were very different from their neighbours.

NEW MASTERPIECE?

Italian art experts reckon a sketch of Jesus that was recently discovered is the work of Leonardo da Vinci – one of the greatest artists of all time. Tests show the paper is from the 16th century, and the style has a lot of da Vinci's trademark elements. Other historians want to study it in more detail before confirming it's definitely his.



QUICK NEWS

TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS

SIA SLAMMED



Maddie Ziegler in Sia's movie, *Music*

Singer Sia has come under fire for casting dancer Maddie Ziegler as a teenager with autism in her new movie, *Music*. Maddie doesn't have autism, and some people have said they think the title role of *Music* should have gone to someone who does. Sia has responded by saying that she did cast a young actor on the autistic spectrum in the film, but she had found the experience "unpleasant and stressful", so Maddie was chosen instead. The character of *Music* has non-verbal autism, and uses a tablet to help her communicate.

KEEEEEEP DANCING!

The iconic Tower Ballroom, home to *Strictly Come Dancing's* Blackpool week, will be more sparkling than ever when the show returns there, thanks to a £764,000 spruce-up paid for by the Government's Culture Recovery Fund. The cash will be used to repair the ceiling, which dates back to 1894!

DOGS IN DANGER

Rescue groups are worried that new rules on bringing animals into the UK through the Channel Tunnel will put vulnerable dogs in danger. The groups, who rescue street dogs from countries like Romania, usually bring up to 20 pooches in special carriers before delivering them to their adoptive owners. They say their costs will now soar thanks to a new limit of five animals per person, and that some dogs could face a bleak future.

CALL FOR CHANGE

Campaigning students have gathered nearly 400,000 signatures for petitions to get schools and universities to teach more lessons about topics such as the history of Britain's role in the slave trade and the Windrush generation. Students Esmie Jikiemi-Pearson, Nell Bevan, Yacoub Yasin and Cynthia Muthoni have handed over the signatures to MPs, saying their current lessons are too focused on topics like Hitler and Henry VIII, so classes should be more representative of different backgrounds.

PIZZA PORKIE



A strict COVID-19 lockdown in South Australia was called off after a man confessed he lied about catching the virus after popping in to pick up a pizza. Health officials were worried this was evidence of a highly infectious strain (type) of the virus, so told 1.7 million people they were banned from leaving their homes, even to exercise or walk their dogs. Two days later, it was discovered the man had fibbed and had actually been working in the shop, so was exposed for much longer.

SEA SPY

A new satellite that will allow British scientists to collect vital data about sea levels has been launched into space. Sentinel-6, which is the size of a small car, will orbit the planet collecting data that could help combat climate change. Sea levels have been rising faster over the last few years, and are expected to increase further.

TIKTOK LOCK

TikTok is taking steps to make the app safer for children and give parents peace of mind by bringing in tough new controls. Parents will be able to block their kids from searching, and make sure strangers can't see their posts. Under the new rules, direct messaging will only be available to over-16s, and all under-18s will be encouraged to set their profile to private when they join. Kids' charities have spoken out in favour of the move – the NSPCC says it hopes other social media apps will follow suit, to help ensure younger users don't see inappropriate content.

BUNCH OF BOTHER

One of the first signs of spring is usually the sight of bunches of daffodils for sale in supermarkets, but the blooms could be in short supply next year. Farmers fear they'll struggle to recruit enough pickers thanks to new restrictions on free movement from the EU. The National Farmers' Union estimates that 99% of the seasonal workers needed to pick and pack crops come from the EU, and says that efforts to recruit British workers have been unsuccessful so far.

FANTASY HAUL FOUND



A massive haul of stolen Marvel, Star Wars and Transformers treasure has been recovered by West Midlands Police. The loot was worth more than £500,000, and had been nicked from industrial units around Wolverhampton and Runcorn. Thousands of boxes filled with action figures, vintage comics and other collectables were found after police were tipped off that some of the goodies were being sold online. They've now been returned to their rightful owners, as officers continue their hunt for the thieves.

A THIRD COVID VACCINE WORKS



THE light at the end of the tunnel seems a bit brighter this week, after a third set of scientists reported promising results for a vaccine against COVID-19.

Researchers at drugs company AstraZeneca and Oxford University say that their vaccine looks to be at least 70% effective, and possibly up to 90%. Although this isn't as high as the early results from the two other vaccines announced recently, it will still save a lot of lives. The researchers also say that this vaccine will be much easier to make, store and transport, so will be good news for developing countries.

All three of these vaccines still have to be approved by officials, who will study the trial results closely to check that the vaccines are safe and can be given to people of all ages.

For more on the new Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine, see p12.



ONE-THIRD SAY PLAY MAKES YOU MORE CREATIVE

Sponsored content

AS part of First News' work with the LEGO Foundation, we asked you what the benefits of play would be in school lessons and homework.

Over 400 of you answered, picking one of five options.

The most popular answer was that play would inspire you to be creative, picked by 35%. The next most popular answer was that you'd be more engaged (20%), while 17% said you'd want to learn even more. Nearly 15% said you'd connect more with classmates and parents if play was a bigger part of the school day, and 12% said you thought you'd learn new skills.

Research has found that play actually helps all of those things to happen! If you're looking for new ways to play, head to playlist.legofoundation.com.



THE REAL VICTIMS OF FISHING



DID you know that every year over one million turtles, seals, dolphins and seabirds are killed due to fishing?

According to a new report by WWF and Sky Ocean Rescue, hundreds of thousands of endangered marine animals are dying unnecessarily every year as a result of being accidentally caught in fishing nets. A new study, *What's in the net?*, revealed that as well as more than a million tonnes of sharks and rays, at least 720,000 seabirds, 300,000 cetaceans (aquatic mammals including the dolphin, porpoise, beluga whale and narwhal), 345,000 seals and sea lions, and over 250,000 turtles die after being caught in fishing nets around the world every year.

Often these animals are victims of 'bycatch', where marine wildlife are unintentionally caught by fishing boats and nets.

According to WWF's *Living Planet Report 2020*, fishing is the biggest threat to marine wildlife.

WWF and Sky Ocean Rescue are calling for cameras on fishing boats to monitor and protect marine wildlife.



PM UNVEILS BIG BOOST FOR MILITARY

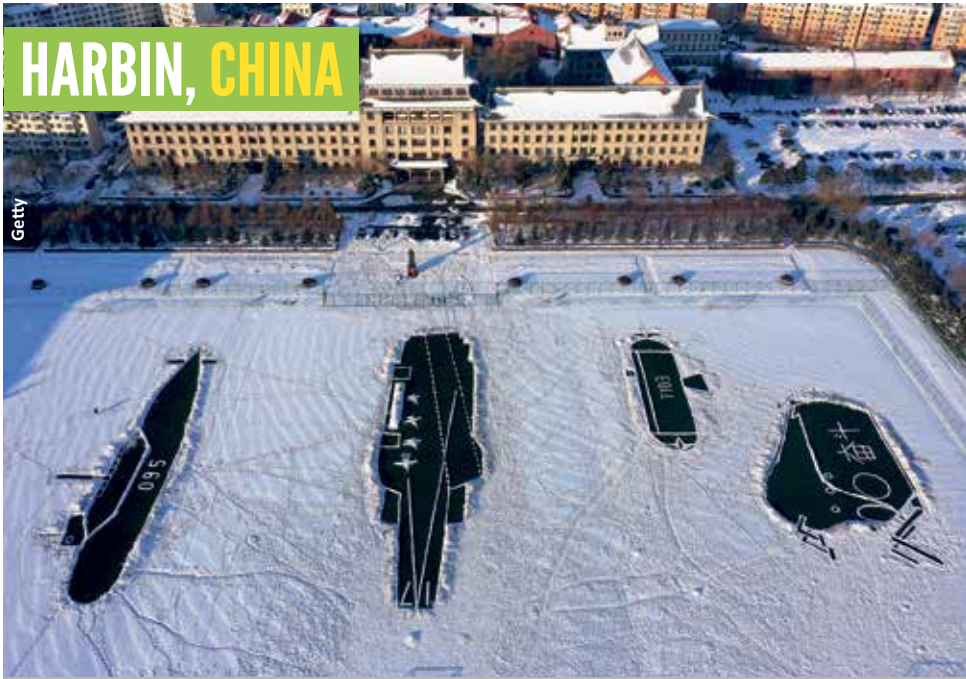
PRIME Minister Boris Johnson has unveiled the largest cash boost for the military in almost 30 years.

An extra £16.5 billion will be given to the armed forces, for the creation of an agency dedicated to artificial intelligence, a "space command"

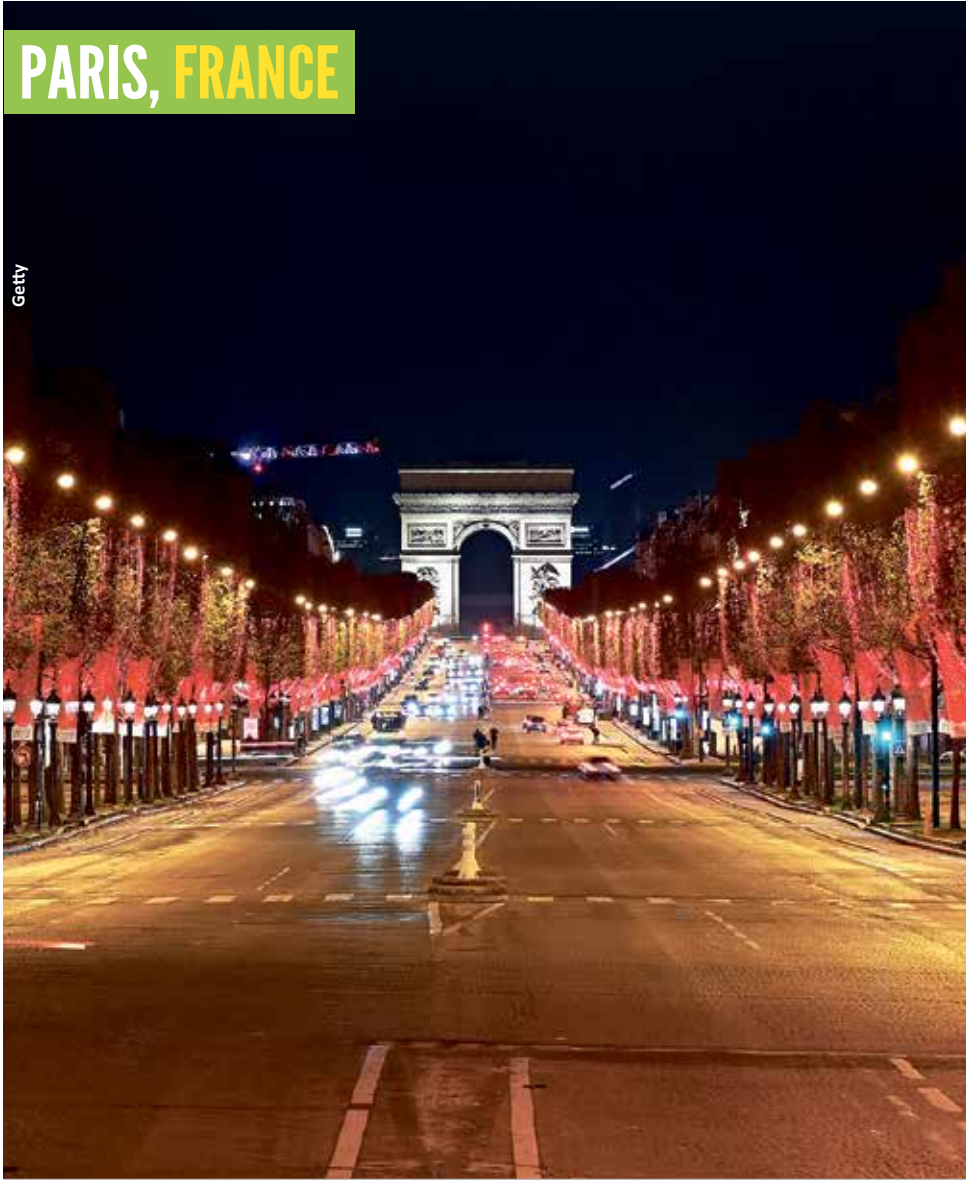
capable of launching the UK's first rocket, and a National Cyber Force that can launch cyberattacks on other countries.

Some MPs have questioned why the Government resisted spending extra money to fund free school meals in the holidays, and wants to cut the money available to help foreign countries (see p7), when so much money is available for the military.

The prime minister responded by saying that "there is absolutely no relation to discussions about overseas aid".



STUDENTS and teachers from Harbin Engineering University create a navy fleet in a field after heavy snowfall in Heilongjiang Province.



RED and gold Christmas lights are switched on to illuminate the Champs-Élysées, which leads to the Arc de Triomphe.



A SIX-METRE-TALL Nordmann fir tree is cut down at York Christmas Trees. It will be delivered to 10 Downing Street, where it will stand this festive season.



A BABY gorilla born at Bristol Zoo Gardens has been named Hasani, which means 'handsome' in Swahili. The name was voted for by members of the public, who had four names to choose from. Hasani is being hand-reared by keepers because he wasn't feeding from his mother.



HOUSES remain under water after flooding caused by Iota, the category 4 tropical storm that swept through Central America this week.



3 ISSUES FOR £1
SUBSCRIBE.FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK

GREEN PLAN CRITICISED

Increasing the number of cycle lanes is a major part of the Government's green strategy



Getty

LAST week, the Government announced a plan for a "Green Industrial Revolution" that it says will create up to 250,000 jobs.

But opposition politicians and environmental groups say the plans don't go far enough to tackle climate change.

Boris Johnson revealed a list of ten action points that aim to end the UK's contribution to climate change by 2050.

Some of the key plans include:

- Producing enough offshore wind to power every home by 2030.
- Speeding up the switch to electric vehicles, ending the sale of new petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2030.
- Planting 30,000 hectares of trees every year.
- Investing in the zero-emission public transport of the future.

The Labour Party described the proposal as "deeply, deeply disappointing". Ed Miliband, the Shadow Business Secretary, said: "This announcement doesn't remotely meet the scale of the jobs or the climate emergency. France and Germany are investing tens of billions of euros. This

provides, at best, £4 billion of new money over several years."

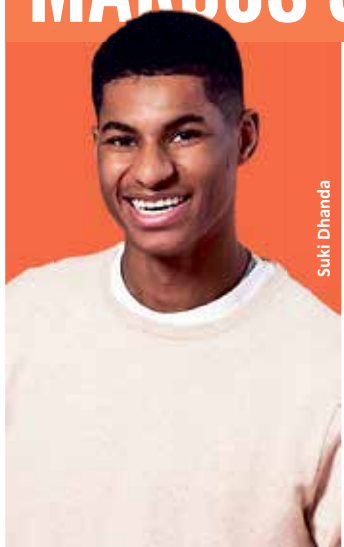
The Green Party MP Caroline Lucas said: "This is a shopping list, not a plan to address the climate emergency."

Others were more enthusiastic. The boss of the Confederation of British Industry, which represents UK businesses, said the Government's plan "gives a springboard to the huge opportunities for UK-wide investment and green jobs that a true low-carbon economy can bring."

Environmental charity Friends of the Earth welcomed a lot of the Government's ideas, but warned that some didn't go far enough. It said that, when it comes to cycling, the UK is "light years behind countries like the Netherlands and Denmark" and that "we should be spending £2 billion a year on cycling alone".

The UK is hosting the United Nations Climate Change Conference, known as COP26, in Glasgow next year.

MARCUS STARTS A BOOK SCHEME



Suki Dhandra

FOOTBALLER Marcus Rashford is launching his own book club to spread the joy of reading.

Hot on the heels of his free school meals campaign, Marcus now wants to help kids with reading.

There are over 380,000 children across the UK today who have never owned a book, so the Manchester United star has teamed up with Macmillan Children's Books to focus on reading and literacy.

The England striker said: "One of the aims of the book club is to make sure children from vulnerable and under-privileged backgrounds have access to books," after admitting that books were "never a thing we could budget for as a family".

As part of the project, a non-fiction book and two fictional titles about Marcus's life will be published. He said: "My books are, and always will be, for every child, even if I have to deliver them myself."

EDITOR'S COMMENT



THE promising news about vaccines (see p3 & 12) is giving people hope that we can soon put the pandemic behind us.

Although that's understandable, scientists and doctors are stressing that it's not over yet, and that we'll still have to wait for a few months at least until everyone can be vaccinated. So although Christmas might not be quite as merry and jolly this year, the best present that any of us will ever get will be a return to the good days in 2021. So hang in there, stay safe, and we'll soon get through this together!

Get First News delivered to your home!

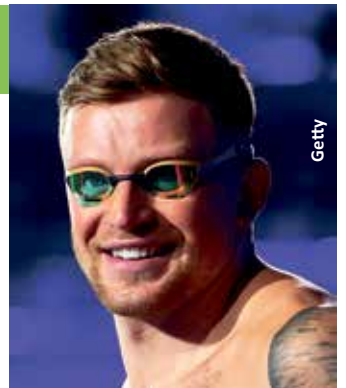
TRY 3 ISSUES FOR £1

Visit subscribe.firstnews.co.uk

GOOD WEEK FOR...

ADAM PEATY

THE British swimmer beat his own world record in the 100m short-course breaststroke on the final day of the International Swimming League in Budapest, Hungary. Peaty finished the race in 55.41 seconds, smashing his record from earlier in November.



Getty



Getty

BAD WEEK FOR...

MODERN TECHNOLOGY

CHAMPAGNE has been one of France's most famous and traditional exports since the 17th century. But a grower caused outrage and faced death threats for using a harvesting machine to save time and money, instead of picking the grapes by hand, as is traditional.

Using machinery to produce champagne is banned by law. So the grower decided to make a different drink called ratafia, instead!

NEW APP TRANSLATES CAT MIAOWS!

A FREE app has been launched that claims to be able to translate your cat's miaows into English.

MeowTalk, developed by an engineer who used to work on Amazon's Alexa, reckons it can interpret the meanings of individual miaows. There are currently 13 phrases in the app's vocabulary, including "Feed me!", "I'm angry!" and "Leave me alone!"

There isn't one universal cat 'language'. Each cat's sounds are unique and targeted at the humans in their lives. The app works by recording the miaows and using artificial intelligence (AI) to identify their meaning. The more the app records, the more the AI learns.

Ultimately, the app's creators want to devise a "smart collar" that is worn by the cat and can instantly translate miaows into English.



iStock

WEST YORKSHIRE

● Epic tyre fire

A fire in Bradford led to more than 20 schools being closed last week. The fire started at a go-kart track, and toxic smoke from burning tyres meant there was a lot of smoke pollution. Up to 100 firefighters tackled the blaze, which took a week to put out. As well as affecting schools, many roads were closed and trains disrupted. Tehmina Hashmi, from Bradford Academy, said of the smoke: "I could literally feel my eyes stinging." As part of coronavirus precautions, schools are meant to be kept well-ventilated with open windows. However, with toxic smoke from burning tyres lingering in the air, many felt it was much safer to have children study from home to minimise breathing in the fumes.



WYFRS/Facebook

STIRLING

● School science

Pupils at Stirling High School have discovered a new colony of emperor penguins in the Antarctic. They used freely-available satellite imagery to find the colony, revealing 20% more emperor penguin colonies than previously known. Dr Andrew McDonald from the school said it showed that "it is possible to perform meaningful real science in schools".



Getty

NOTTINGHAM



Banksy's hula-hooping artwork before the bike was replaced

● Banksy bike is back

Street artist Banksy's work in Lenton, Nottingham is of a young girl playing with a bike tyre, next to a real-life one-wheeled bike. Last weekend, that bike disappeared, much to the frustration of residents. Fortunately, the Banksy piece wasn't bikeless for long, as a new bike appeared next to the work just a few days later.

WORCESTERSHIRE

● Special sibling

A nine-year-old has been recognised for the amazing help he gives his deaf-blind brother. Zach Filler from Redditch has been nominated for a Sense Award, in the Young Sibling of the Year category. Zach's six-year-old brother Luca can't hear or see. Richard Kramer from Sense said: "Zach is a selfless and positive young man who cares so much about his brother, Luca, and takes on additional responsibilities to support him."

SOMERSET

● Punny finalists in spoof art prize

The finalists for a spoof art award have been announced. The Turnip Prize, which pokes fun at modern art competition the Turner Prize, saw 120 entries, with organiser Trevor Prideaux joking that he had to order a second skip to dispose of all the dodgy art. Finalists include a bundle of fur called *Fur Load*, a nod to people being furloughed (paid while they are unable to work) during the pandemic. Meanwhile, *Lockdown* is a padlock on duck feathers (known as down). Winners of the Turner Prize have included an unmade bed and some lights turning on and off in an empty room.



Trevor Prideaux/Facebook

DORSET

● Fly-tipping vandals

Sixty bags of rubbish were dumped at a nature reserve and set on fire last week. Dorset Wildlife Trust described the fly-tipping at Powerstock Common nature reserve as a "senseless act of vandalism". Luckily, local fire services came to the scene and put out the fire before there was any damage to the surrounding area or wildlife.



Dorset Wildlife Trust/Facebook

CAMBRIDGESHIRE



Getty

● Pongs from the past

A lot of effort and money goes into preserving books, architecture and pictures, but it is much harder to keep old smells around for generations to come. However, that's exactly what Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge is hoping to do. As part of a £2.5m European project, they hope to create a library of smells, including recreating smells of the Industrial Revolution and royal perfumes from hundreds of years ago. Professor Peter Bell explained: "Our goal is to develop a 'computer nose', able to trace scents in digital texts over four centuries and seven languages." Once the computer has found descriptions of smells, chemists and perfumers will work to recreate the scents. Dr William Tullett, a smell historian involved in the project, said: "We'd imagine that the past was a very smelly place. We live in a much cleaner, nicer world today."

HELP TO END CHILD ABUSE

THE Home Office has joined forces with charities including the NSPCC, Barnardo's and The Children's Society to launch a new campaign to protect victims of child abuse.

The 'Something's Not Right' campaign is aimed at encouraging young people to recognise different forms of abuse, report it and get help. This will be the first Government campaign that talks to children directly. The new campaign comes after research showed that young people face a greater risk of abuse due to the impact of the coronavirus.

Shaun Friel, the head of Childline, said: "At the NSPCC, calls to our adults' helpline and to Childline about abuse and neglect significantly increased as many children were left isolated behind closed doors with their abuser... Our frontline teams are still here for children who feel they have nowhere else to turn to for help, and also for adults with concerns. It is essential that all children know how to speak out and that Childline is here to support them, no matter what their worry is."

If you're worried about abuse or feel like something's not right, you can go to www.childline.org.uk/somethings-not-right for help and advice.



OPEN WINDOWS TO BEAT COVID



A NEW short film released by the Government shows just how important it is to open windows and doors to keep your home ventilated to avoid the spread of COVID-19.

The new film, which is part of a public information campaign, shows how the coronavirus hangs around in enclosed spaces. This comes after new research revealed that being in a room with fresh air can reduce the risk of infection from particles by over 70%. The new advice from the Government is that, as we spend more time indoors, we should either open windows for short, sharp bursts of 10-15 minutes regularly throughout the day, or leave windows open a small amount continuously, to remove any infectious particles in the room.

Experts say it's particularly important to do this when people have visitors or tradespeople in their home, when someone from a support bubble is meeting with another household indoors, a care worker is seeing a patient indoors or someone in the house has the virus.



SUPER CYCLISTS

CHECK out these two record-breaking cycling stars – with an age difference of 74!

Zak Burgess, 14, has become one of the youngest people in the world ever to complete the Everest Challenge, which saw him cycle 122 miles (to climb the 8,848m height of Everest) in 28 hours – with no sleep!

Meanwhile, grandfather of five Laurence Brophy, 88, has become the oldest person to cycle from Land's End to John o' Groats – but he ended up having to do it twice! Laurence first completed the gruelling 874-mile cycle in 25 days in 2019 when he was aged 87, only to learn that someone else aged 87 had already completed the journey. So he waited until he had turned 88 and cycled it all over again!

Laurence spent most of his trips sleeping rough, to raise awareness of homelessness.

**Zak raised over
£3,000 for UK
charity Re-Cycle**



**Laurence raised over £6,000
for Llamau, a homelessness
charity in Wales**

AID CUTS

THE Government is planning to pass new laws to reduce its overseas aid budget – the money it gives to help some of the poorest countries in the world.

The money goes towards things like humanitarian aid, crisis relief, vaccinating children, helping kids go to school and providing food.

The Government wants to cut the aid from 0.7% of UK national income to 0.5%, or about £4 billion. This would mean a change in the law.

The plan has been criticised by MPs, church leaders and almost 200 charities, who fear the change will be permanent rather than temporary, as was previously suggested.

Government ministers say that the coronavirus pandemic has made the UK economy weaker, so it must cut spending to save money.

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby said: "Helping the world's poorest is one of the great moral and ethical achievements of our country."

Microsoft founder Bill Gates, who gives millions to charity, warns against cutting foreign aid. He said: "COVID-19 doesn't respect country borders. This is a moment when what's good for the world – and what's good for the UK – are exactly the same thing."

JOIN IN OUR POLL

What do you think? Should the UK cut back on the amount of money it spends on overseas aid?
Vote at first.news/polls

ITALY



Pompeii pair found

An archaeological dig at the doomed Roman city of Pompeii has revealed a master and slave caught in the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. The men died when the volcano blew its top nearly 2,000 years ago, although it's thought they died in a follow-up blast the day after the main event. Although their actual bodies are long gone, replicas were made by pouring liquid chalk into the holes they left.



USA



Owl I want for Christmas is you

A tiny owl that took a three-day trip to New York while nestling in the branches of a giant Christmas tree is recovering well from his ordeal, and almost ready to be released back in to the wild. The tiny male saw-whet owl was found hiding in the Norway spruce when it arrived at the iconic Rockefeller Center. The owl, now nicknamed Rockefeller, was tired and hungry but otherwise well.



RUSSIA



Snow chaos

Parts of Russia were battered by a severe snow storm that brought down power lines, disrupted transport and caused schools to be closed. A state of emergency was declared in the Primorsky Krai region after 150,000 homes were left without electricity. Hospitals treating COVID-19 patients had to use emergency generators, while vehicles were destroyed by falling power lines and other debris.



CHINA



Mission to the moon

China successfully launched a rocket to the moon this week, to gather valuable lunar rocks from its surface. The mission is the first attempt by any country to bring moon rocks back to Earth in nearly 45 years. The Long March 5 rocket's unmanned mission will see the Chang'e-5 lunar probe, which is named after the Chinese goddess of the moon, attempt to collect around 1.8kg of samples from a previously unvisited area.



INDIA



Elephant rescue

An elephant who wandered into a village in southern India then fell down a deep and narrow well was trapped for more than 12 hours before being rescued. Villagers dropped banana leaves down for the male elephant to eat, while a team of 50 people worked out a plan to rescue him. He was eventually sedated and attached to a crane using belts, before being lifted back to the surface unharmed. His condition was monitored for three hours before he was sent on his way.



USA



Trump still won't quit

More than two weeks after Joe Biden was declared the winner of the presidential election, US president Donald Trump still hasn't admitted that he lost. He and his campaign team have been trying to change the results through the courts, but have had little success. Many politicians are calling on Mr Trump to now admit defeat.



AUSTRALIA



Deadly shark attack

A man died after being attacked by a shark near Cable Beach, one of Western Australia's most popular tourist spots. The beach was then closed to the public. He was the eighth person to be killed by a shark off the coast of Australia this year, although attacks are rare in this particular area. "Attacks are so rare it's like being struck by lightning," one expert said.





HM Government

NHS

**I wash
my hands
to protect
everyone.**



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

STAY ALERT ▶ CONTROL THE VIRUS ▶ SAVE LIVES

NATIONAL GRIEF AWARENESS WEEK

DEATH is a sad fact of life and, after someone dies, the feelings we all experience are called grief.

Some of you may already have lost a member of your family, friend or even a pet, and felt very sad. You may also have felt angry, confused, or scared. There are many emotions we go through when someone we love dies.

But they are all perfectly normal. Sometimes you might feel you can't talk to your parents in case you upset them. If the feelings of loss become overwhelming, you might need some extra help dealing with them, beyond kind words and hugs.



This week (2-8 December) is National Grief Awareness Week, a dedicated time to acknowledge grief and offer support and hope for everybody affected by it.

It's run by The Good Grief Trust, an umbrella charity that lists over 800 national and local grief support groups on its website. Many, like Child Bereavement UK, can help children work through their feelings.

The Good Grief Trust wants everybody to #ShareYourStory during National Grief Awareness Week, because by talking about our lost loved ones and sharing our experiences of grief, we can all help each other.

THE SWAN SONG

One group who understand how important support is, are the Britain's Got Talent finalists Sign Along With Us.

The 70-strong choir have recorded a special version of Swan for National Grief Awareness Week.

This poignant song was written by leading poet Ian McMillan during the first wave of the pandemic, in tribute to the nurses who cared for people during their final days.

Choir leader Jade Kilduff says: "Many children in our choir have already been affected by grief. Swan is such a lovely way to view sad times and really resonated [has a special meaning] with us all."



On the last day of National Grief Awareness Week, more than 50 buildings across the UK, including St Paul's Cathedral in London and Blackpool Tower, will be lighting up yellow in a national beacon of respect and hope for the bereaved (people who've lost loved ones).

Linda Magistis from The Good Grief Trust says: "This year, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues, it is more important than ever that those who have lost somebody are supported. COVID restrictions mean many people are being left alone to grieve; some were even unable to say goodbye to their loved ones. We must all look out for those who are grieving and assure them that there is help, and there is hope."

TIPS FOR DEALING WITH GRIEF

- All feelings are totally normal. Even feeling nothing.
- It helps to talk about how you are feeling with friends and family. Sharing your memories of the person who has died can be comforting too. If you would rather talk to someone who is not so close, you might like to try talking to a counsellor or calling a helpline.
- It's okay to have happy times and days. You shouldn't feel guilty about having fun – it doesn't mean you love the person who has died any less.
- Look after yourself. A healthy diet, exercise and fresh air are important for mental health as well as physical health.
- Take each day a step at a time and do what feels right for you.
- Don't be afraid to ask for help if you need it.



Blackpool Tower will be lit yellow for National Grief Awareness Week

For more information on the version of Swan released for National Grief Awareness Week, please visit www.srft.nhs.uk/media-centre/latest-news/news-archive/news-2020/swan-song
To learn more about National Grief Awareness Week, head to nationalgriefawarenessweek.org

SHARING IS NOT CARING



NOT FOR DOG

CHRISTMAS is just four weeks away, and festive treats that could be dangerous for our pets are filling the supermarkets and our cupboards.

Most pet owners admit to sharing food with their pets, but at this time of year there are lots of hidden dangers lurking in our festive treats.

Mince pies have been on supermarket shelves since September, but these innocent-looking treats contain raisins and often alcohol, both of which can make our pets very sick. Raisins are toxic for dogs, so make sure they steer clear of mince pies, Christmas cake, Christmas pudding and any other foods that contain them.

Chocolate is another popular Christmas food that can make pets ill. Whether it's an Advent calendar, family-sized tin of sweets or chocolate tree decorations, make sure you keep them out of your pet's way.

You can still treat your pet over the festive season – most pet shops and supermarkets sell pet-friendly treats, or you could try making your own using pet-friendly ingredients. There are lots of pet-friendly recipes online!

PUZZLE-SOLVING PALS

OTTERS can teach each other how to solve puzzles, scientists have discovered.

A team at the University of Exeter gave groups of otters puzzles that they had to solve to get a meatball treat. The meatballs were locked in plastic containers that had to be twisted or pulled in different ways to open them. The researchers found that when one otter figured out how to get to the meatballs, the other otters in the group watched and soon figured it out too.

The study also showed that otters have quite a good long-term memory. When the same otters were shown the same puzzle a few months later, they retrieved the meatballs 69% faster than the first time they attempted it.

The study will help scientists learn more about otters and their social networks. The full report is printed in the journal *Royal Society Open Science*.



POISONOUS PEST CONTROL

SCIENTISTS are concerned that flea treatments used on cats and dogs are accidentally poisoning rivers and lakes.

Samples of water were taken from 20 rivers in England and tested for toxins. In 98.6% of the samples, scientists found traces of fipronil, a highly toxic insecticide used to treat fleas in cats and dogs. The same substance is banned for use by farmers as it is so toxic. There are concerns that the amount of fipronil found in rivers will affect the populations of insects that live in water. If these insects start to die, the fish and birds that feed on them will also struggle to survive.

There are an estimated ten million dogs and 11 million cats in the UK, many of which will receive a regular flea treatment, whether they need it or not. The researchers, from the University of Sussex, say that a new approach to treating our pets' fleas should be looked at.



Thanks to the children at The Cathedral School of St Saviour and St Mary Overie, Hill Mead, Fairlawn, Heathbrook, Macaulay, Rosendale, Woodmansterne and Reay primary schools for choosing the stories for this week's Animal News. They all took part in The News Project event run jointly by First News Education and London CLC last week.

BITESIZE NEWS

A CAT who was missing for six years has been reunited with his owner. A photo of the skinny and scruffy-looking 'stray' was posted on a lost-and-found pets site in Suffolk. Owner Eloise Renyard recognised the stray immediately as her missing pet Mr Muggles, who went missing when she was 18. Mr Muggles was eventually caught in a garden and reunited with Eloise who said: "He came straight to me, curled up on my lap, purring and then fell asleep."



Older people are most at risk of serious illness from the virus

FREEDOM IN SIGHT FOR ELDERLY

HOPES for an end to isolation for older people have been raised with a British vaccine from a team in Oxford.

This last week has seen a massive leap in the development of effective vaccines against the virus.

Following the news that drugs company Pfizer's vaccine is almost ready to roll out comes more good news, this time from the Oxford team. A large trial has shown the Oxford vaccine to be 70% effective at stopping people developing COVID-19 and, in particular, has been shown to be better tolerated in older people. In the second phase of the study, they appeared to show fewer side effects (tiredness, headaches and muscle pain) than younger people. The immune response was similar across all age groups. First results also suggest that the vaccine is more effective in the

elderly who have other health problems.

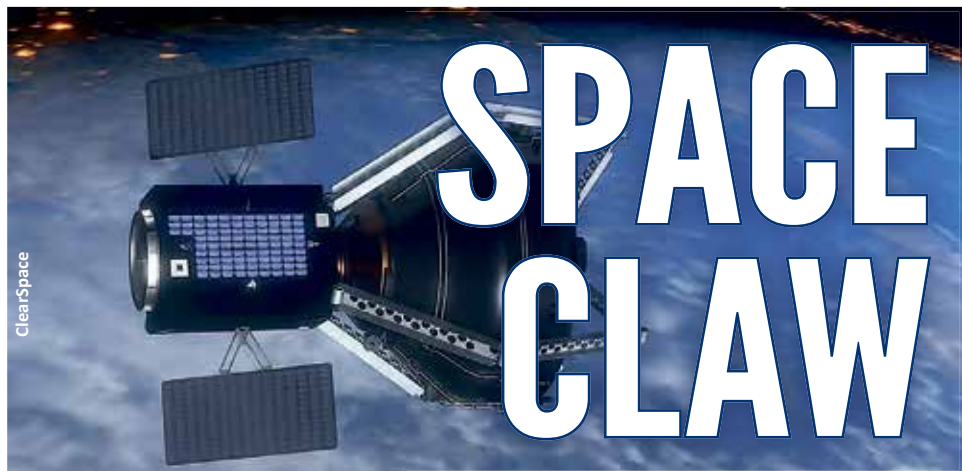
Although the trial showed a 70% effectiveness, there is also new data that suggests if the vaccine is given in slightly different doses, it could be up to 90% effective. Although two other vaccines by drugs companies Pfizer and Moderna showed around 95% protection, they will all still play a vital role in helping to end the pandemic and get us back to normal.

The virus tends to be more deadly the older you are, so most elderly people stayed at home even when the strict lockdown ended. It has been heartbreaking for many, as they have been unable to go out, socialise with their families or cuddle their grandkids.

There are still safety tests to be done before the vaccine is finally approved, but older people will be a priority to get the jab, which means they may soon be free to leave home and take part in those longed-for family get-togethers.

It normally takes around ten years to develop a vaccine, but this one has been done in just ten months.

The UK government has pre-ordered 100 million doses of the vaccine, which is enough for 50 million people (as each person needs two jabs). Care home residents and staff will be the first to get the vaccine, followed by healthcare workers and people over 80. Then they'll work down through the age groups.



A GIANT claw that will capture space junk and make it safe will depend on vital technology designed by British scientists.

While the Americans and Russians are firing off rockets and satellites into space, the British contribution to the space race is to help clear up what they've left behind. It may not be very glamorous but it is vital. Dr Graham Turnock of the UK Space Agency said:

"For 14 billion years – between the Big Bang and the autumn of 1957 – space was pristine [untouched]. But since that autumn we have placed nearly 10,000 satellites into the sky, the vast majority of which are now defunct or destroyed." Swiss company ClearSpace has called on British expertise in navigation and control systems for the project.

The ClearSpace-1 satellite will be launched in 2025 and is the first space mission aimed at removing some of the debris from other space projects. Most of the estimated 160 million objects up there are no longer useful, out of date or left over from boosting rockets beyond the Earth's atmosphere. There is a danger that if the junk builds up too much, it will put new missions in danger or damage important satellites.

The plan is for the ClearSpace-1 satellite to capture the junk and then steer it back to Earth for a controlled re-entry, allowing it to burn up safely, without endangering life.



TWO planets are lining up for a rare sighting at Christmas time.

On 21 December, Saturn and Jupiter will appear closer together in the sky than they have for 800 years and will look like a double planet. But you will have to be quick to see it, as this extremely rare occurrence will only last for a few minutes.

Weather permitting, the two planets will appear low in the western sky around one hour after sunset, close to the horizon, and should be bright enough to spot. If you miss it, it'll be 60 years until they are as close again!

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. Nearly 9,000 kilometres from the UK, Brazil is a massive, football-mad country and Rio de Janeiro is a popular holiday destination. But the country also has problems with violent crime. This week, Braydon meets Victoria from Rio, who shared what it's like to live in a very dangerous part of the city.



BRAYDON MEETS VICTORIA

BRAYDON: Victoria's favela [shanty town] is so dangerous I can't go there, so I met her in a safe area. What does a typical day look like for you, Victoria?

VICTORIA: A typical day for me without any shooting means I can leave my home. But then I see people doing drugs on the street and offering drugs to kids, and I see kids playing with guns and adults looking on.

BRAYDON: The Brazilian government signed a United Nations agreement to protect you from violence and conflict. What are your thoughts on that?

VICTORIA: I think it's completely wrong. Politicians put on paper that children have a right to play and be protected, but in reality people are dying. We live in conflict, we fear gunfire. We lose family members while they want us to pretend everything is okay.

BRAYDON: There are over a thousand favelas in Rio. Many of these communities, including Victoria's, are raided by armed police nearly every day. Children and thousands of innocent people have been killed in the crossfire,

and Victoria's house is in one of the most violent areas of her favela, where gangs fight each other, as well as the police. Victoria is taking me to her grandparents' house, where it's much safer. There can still be shootings here; to guarantee our safety we have security guards.

BRAYDON: When you hear gunfire, is this where you come and hide out? Is this where you come?

VICTORIA: We hide behind the walls, it's just safer here. Outside it's too open; in here it's more protected. We have water here to calm our nerves.

BRAYDON: As well as having the violence around you, you're looking after your nine-year-old brother, so, I mean, I think I've got a lot of responsibility when I wash the dishes for one time but you, do you think you ever get a chance to be like a kid?

VICTORIA: I think I give childhood a chance because I take advantage of every moment I can. I don't know if I'm going to be alive tomorrow, so I make the most of every chance I have. I live my day like it could be my last.

I'm Victoria from Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, and I have a right to be protected from war and armed conflicts.



Braydon chats to Victoria

BRAYDON: Victoria goes to the Children of Light School, run by a charity. As well as normal lessons, they focus on dealing with life surrounded by violence.



VICTORIA: In this classroom the teachers encourage us to talk about our feelings. We find it hard to talk to our mothers and fathers about the violence, but here we are understood and it helps us let go of our anger and support each other. When I was five or six years old my father went to prison. Everyone here has their problems; in my case it's family problems.

BRAYDON: Are you all right?

VICTORIA: Some say I'm overdramatic

but they haven't seen what I've gone through. I might cry but I think that makes me strong. Sometimes I have wanted to give up trying to make a life for myself. I'm still fighting.

BRAYDON: The Brazilian government says it's determined to take control of favelas from gangs and they stand by their use of heavily armed police. They say the criminals have a choice – confrontation or surrender. It's a conflict that Victoria and her friends escape from for just one day every year, when they're taken to the beach for a charity football match. They may not think it, but every time they go to school, every time they go out to play, every time they do anything really, they're standing up for their rights. They're standing up for an education, they're standing up to the violence, they're doing something really, really, really courageous. All of the children I have met are fighting to escape the violence in favelas forever.



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

DRAW YOUR OWN ELF!

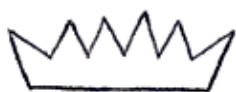


ROB Biddulph became an internet sensation this year when his online art lessons, known as #DrawWithRob, kept kids (and grown-ups) entertained and creative during lockdown. He even broke a Guinness World Record for the largest online art lesson in the world! Now he's back with a fantastic new book, *Draw with Rob at Christmas*, so check out this step-by-step guide to drawing a cheeky little festive elf!

Rob says: "I hope you enjoy drawing my little elvish friend. Don't worry if yours doesn't look exactly the same as mine: this is just a guide. Remember, there is no 'right answer'. Just make sure you have fun. Oh, and feel free to add some extra Christmassyness to your pictures – in my book, one can never add too much holly, or too

much sparkle. Don't forget, once you know how to draw one elf, you can draw a whole army of them. So why not put them on your Christmas cards, frame them and give them as a gift to your teachers as a present, or stick them to some card, cut them out and hang them from the Christmas tree? Let's have an elf takeover this Christmas!"

1. Start your elf with a crown! Draw a straight horizontal line, then add a series of spikes along the top, like you see here.



2. Next, draw a circle above and to the left with a rectangle across the middle and a dot at the bottom. That's the bell! Join it to the crown with two curved lines as shown.



3. Draw some more spikes, but this time they should be pointing downwards. That's your elf's hair. Then add a square for their head.



4. Now give your elf a face. Add two circles with dots for eyes and some curved lines for the mouth and nose, as shown. Don't forget to add eyelashes and eyebrows.



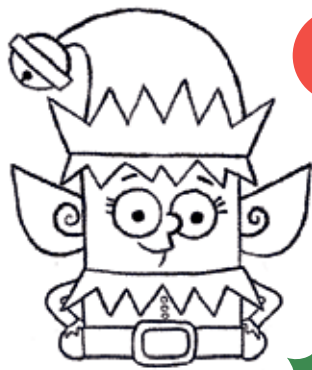
5. Ears next! Draw a big triangle with a curved bottom on either side of the head. Add a swirl in the middle as shown. Sketch another upside-down crown shape underneath the face.



6. Your elf's belt is made up of a long rectangle interrupted by two rounded rectangles in the middle. Join it to the collar with two vertical lines and add some buttons.



7. Draw two bent tube shapes, one on either side of the body. These, believe it or not, are your elf's arms. Add some circles at the bottom for hands and some zigzags for cuffs.



8. Add a curved U-shape under the belt and two rectangles for legs. Draw two more rectangles with curly tips, as shown, for shoes. Then finish with some spikes near the ankles, just like you did for the cuffs.



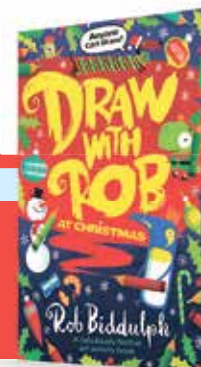
9. Now your elf just needs some brightening up! Use all your elvish tricks to add some Christmassy colours. Oh, and don't forget the scribbly shadow.



© Rob Biddulph

DRAW WITH ROB AT CHRISTMAS BY ROB BIDDULPH

PUBLISHED BY HARPERCOLLINS CHILDREN'S BOOKS, AVAILABLE AT ALL GOOD BOOKSHOPS AND ONLINE



THIS WEEK

1 McFly have launched an online subscription service for their fans. www.mcflytotalaccess.com launched this week and will offer exclusive access to interviews, gigs, livestreams and behind-the-scenes access while they write and record new music. The subscription costs £9.99 a month or £99 a year.



2 If you've ever wondered what it takes to be a Kidz Bop kid, then here's your chance. The band have teamed up with Sky Kids to create the Kidz Bop Workshop. The interactive ten-part series will give you an insight into the world of Kidz Bop, as well as the chance to learn some of their dance routines.



3 Jesy Nelson is taking an extended break from Little Mix. The band announced Jesy would be taking some time out for private medical reasons after she missed the final of their reality show *Little Mix: The Search*. Get well soon, Jesy!

PICS OF THE WEEK

HAVE you ever wished you had a celebrity for a teacher? Well, tune in to the new series of CBBC's *Celebrity Supply Teacher* and your wish could come true!

A host of new celebrities will be sharing their expert knowledge in the second series of the hit show. Pick up some singing techniques from Kimberley Walsh, learn some French from radio DJ Vick Hope or Italian from *Strictly*'s Bruno Tonioli. Other subjects on the timetable include PE with ex-rugby pro Gareth Thomas, nutrition with Paralympic gold medallist Kadeena Cox and business studies with reality star Gemma Collins!

Catch *Celebrity Supply Teacher* on CBBC and BBC iPlayer.



Tell us about your character in the film.

Jack is a nerdy, not so adventurous kid. He's very cautious and he's smart. He gets a little braver at the end of the film, though! The courageous part of him was definitely more like me, 'cause I feel like I'm courageous in a way, so we had some stuff in common!

You do some stunts in the film, so did you have to learn some new skills?

Yeah, I actually had to get in a harness for some scenes. It wasn't my first time, but I was still kinda new to it. And climbing up the rocks, to me that was the fun part, but it could be difficult. I would have to remember where the footholds were, where the next place to climb was, where to go. I had to rehearse, rehearse, rehearse, but other than that it was really awesome and I had a blast.

What can you tell us about the North Pole set?

The set was huge. On the first day I was already amazed. The first thing that we shot in the movie was when we arrived in the North Pole and we are on the floor. So they had this big platform full of snow and we were just laying on it, and as soon as I saw the set that we were going to, I was just absolutely amazed.

Is movie snow as much fun as it looks?

Oh man, it's something! They would have some snow that was kind of sticky and then they would have some snow that wouldn't be sticky. I wouldn't say that movie



snow is as fun as it looks, but you know, if you can get dirty, then yeah, it becomes fun. It's just so sticky!

What was your favourite scene to film?

When I was running through Santa's village with my Nerf gun. I really like that part. I was shooting all the elves and whacking them with these huge candy cane lollipops. I know it sounds kinda harsh, but to me it was still a whole lot of fun. They had me aim at tennis balls. I was just whacking and hitting tennis balls with a Nerf gun and a huge lollipop. They added the elves after! There's one thing about the lollipop that is actually amazing – it was actually a real, huge lollipop. I figured that out when they had to replace some that were dripping because they were in the sun for too long. I didn't take one home; I'm not a huge lollipop lover!

Catch *The Christmas Chronicles 2* on Netflix now



JAHZIR BRUNO

THE young actor tells us what it was like to help save Christmas in his brand-new film, *The Christmas Chronicles 2*.

WIN! A LEGO® MINDSTORMS® ROBOT

THE new LEGO® Mindstorms® Robot Inventor 5-in-1 set gives builders aged 10+ the power to bring one of the set's five unique robots to life.



If you're feeling creative and adventurous, you can also use the newly updated LEGO® Mindstorms® set to dream up, build and code your own creations, from dancing robots to trick-shot machines.

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

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

We have one LEGO® Mindstorms® Robot Inventor 5-in-1 set up for grabs. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

Who is action hero Blast's sidekick?
a) Dave b) Gary
c) Charlie

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY LEGO

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 19. The closing date is 10 December 2020.

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

DANONE Advertisement feature



DANONE has revitalised its popular Eat Like A Champ resources, placing sustainability at the heart of the free, evidence-based, healthy eating education programme.

Since its launch in 2010, Eat Like A Champ has already reached more than half a million children in the UK.

With the updated content for 2020, the programme aims to engage and educate many more pupils aged 9-10 about healthy and sustainable lifestyles. Teachers can register now to download the free resources.

The need for healthier, more sustainable lifestyles has never been greater, due to increasing obesity rates in the UK, alongside an increasing sense of urgency to tackle climate change.

The six free lesson plans and supporting resources have been developed in consultation with teachers, and the new content is written in collaboration with the British Nutrition Foundation, British Dietetic Association and everyday sustainability experts, Hubbub.

Curriculum-linked topics include healthy eating, food waste, recycling, hydration, climate change and physical activity.

The Eat Like A Champ programme aims to educate, inspire and engage the next generation to live healthy, sustainable lifestyles.



DOWNLOAD THE FREE RESOURCES AT EATLIKEACHAMP.CO.UK

“EMOTIONS ARE EXTREMELY TRICKY”

WE gave presenter, podcaster and author Fearne Cotton a lockdown call to talk about her new activity journal for kids, *Your Mood Journal*, and get her advice on dealing with difficult emotions during the pandemic.

● Fearne, what is a mood journal exactly?

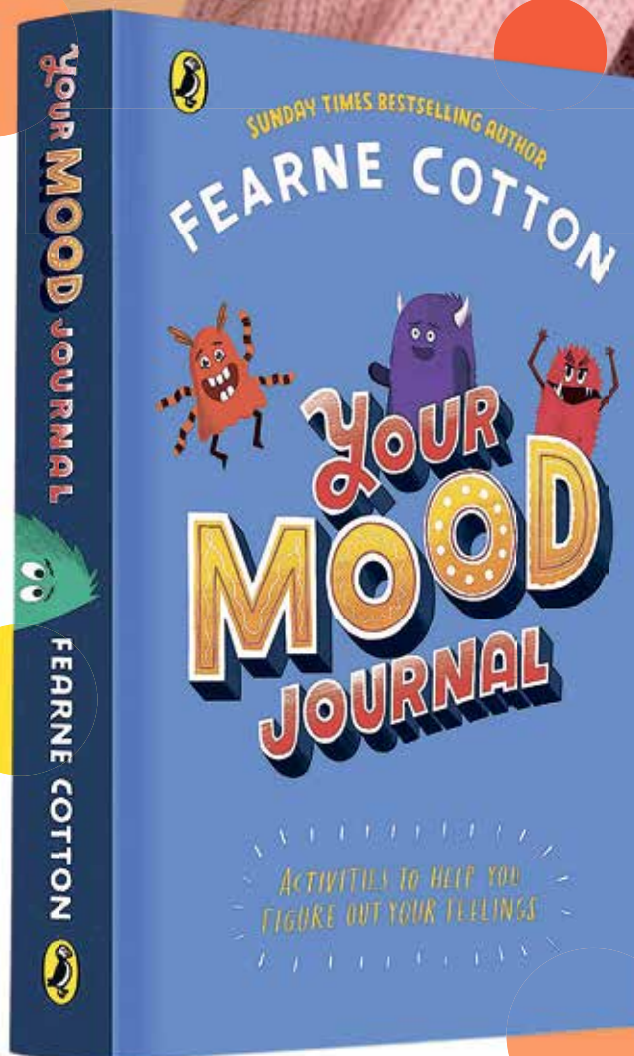
Essentially, it works through some of the emotions we all feel and it gives us an opportunity to explore those emotions and work out what our reactions are to them. Each chapter is dedicated to an emotion – sadness, anger, excitement, happiness, etc. There are about 20 exercises per chapter, which are either written or drawn exercises that quiz you on your own experiences with that emotion.

● Why do you think it's so important for us all to get comfortable with our emotions?

This isn't exclusive to young people; emotions are extremely tricky for any age group. We're all feeling them and at any point of the day we're experiencing an emotion and we don't necessarily think about it, talk about it or write about it; we just kind of plough on through. And if an emotion is trickier, we might even feel like we're the only ones experiencing it – but you're not alone; everyone is going through all of these emotions too! You might not be able to articulate [express] what brought that emotion on or be too worried to tell anyone about it. Having a place where you can write down your thoughts and feelings is a really good first step in working them out.

● You mentioned your book offers exercises. Do you have a favourite exercise?

I really like the simpler ones, actually. There's one – which I think is in the anger chapter – where there's an illustration of a button and you place your hand on it and take some deep breaths to calm down. I also really like the exercise – which appears in most chapters – where you colour in the part of the body where you feel the emotion. It's really important to sense where it sits in the body.



● Was the book written before the pandemic?

The idea came pre-pandemic. It came about because I've got children and I have a passion for mental health and wellbeing. I started actually writing the book during the pandemic; it's been an ongoing thing that I've been dipping in and out of, as I'm also writing another book. I started writing up the exercises during the peak of [the first] lockdown.

● Do you have any advice for kids worrying that things are out of control this year?

Yeah, and I say this as someone who's feeling a bit of that themselves! The only thing you can do is accept that things are out of control. Many things, at the moment, we cannot control. You have to accept that and then look at the things you can control, which are your breathing, who you choose to talk to, who you choose to hang out with, the hobbies that you do, etc. It's important to simplify things so that you don't feel overwhelmed unnecessarily. Doing simple things like getting fresh air and hanging out with the family can be very good. Accepting that things can be out of control is no bad thing.

● Is there one thing you do as a family when you feel your moods are slightly dipping?

Yeah, we get out of the house! If you can – and you're not quarantining – get out of the house and go for a walk, a bike ride or a scooter ride as a family.

● Have you taken up any new hobbies during lockdown?

The one thing we did when the kids were first off school was make anything we could out of boxes. Any cardboard boxes – from deliveries – we would turn into pirate ships and things. We made a multi-storey car park for toy cars!



Fearne Cotton's *Your Mood Journal* is out now

CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY FIRST NEWS



WIN!

THE VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS GAME




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

Send in your answers and one lucky winner will win *The Very Merry Christmas* board game. Presents, crackers, festive songs and sprouts – all the fun of Christmas in one box!

The *Very Merry Christmas* Game brings the whole family together, as you all compete to grab the most lavish set of presents for your stocking. Available from [amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk)

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

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.

NICE

BOOK

WIN!

READ ALL ABOUT IT

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

Send in your answers and two lucky winners will each win *Read All About It*, a brand-new question-and-response game. Scan your assigned newspaper pages to see if you can find the answer first, then grab the cone and shout it out! All the answers are already in front of you, but can you be the first to spot them?

Available from Argos



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

- ACROSS

1 Former US president (6,5)

6 Exam (4)

8 Lose one's footing (4)

9 Not ill (7)

10 Path; outer (anag) (5)

11 Comic entertainer in a circus (5)

13 Very cold storage item (7)

15 Area of land surrounded by the sea (4)

16 Ready to eat (of fruit) (4)

17 Large shop (11)
- DOWN

1 Attractive flying insects (11)

2 Do something very quickly (4)

3 A bear-like Australian animal (5)

4 Friend (4)

5 An arrangement to meet at a certain time (11)

7 The feel of a surface (7)

8 Place that protects people from danger (7)

12 Kingdom (5)

13 Move up and down; flutter (4)

14 An enclosed area of ice for skating (4)

WORD WHEEL

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

E

E

N

B

E

D

C

I

O

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

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



WORDSEARCH

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

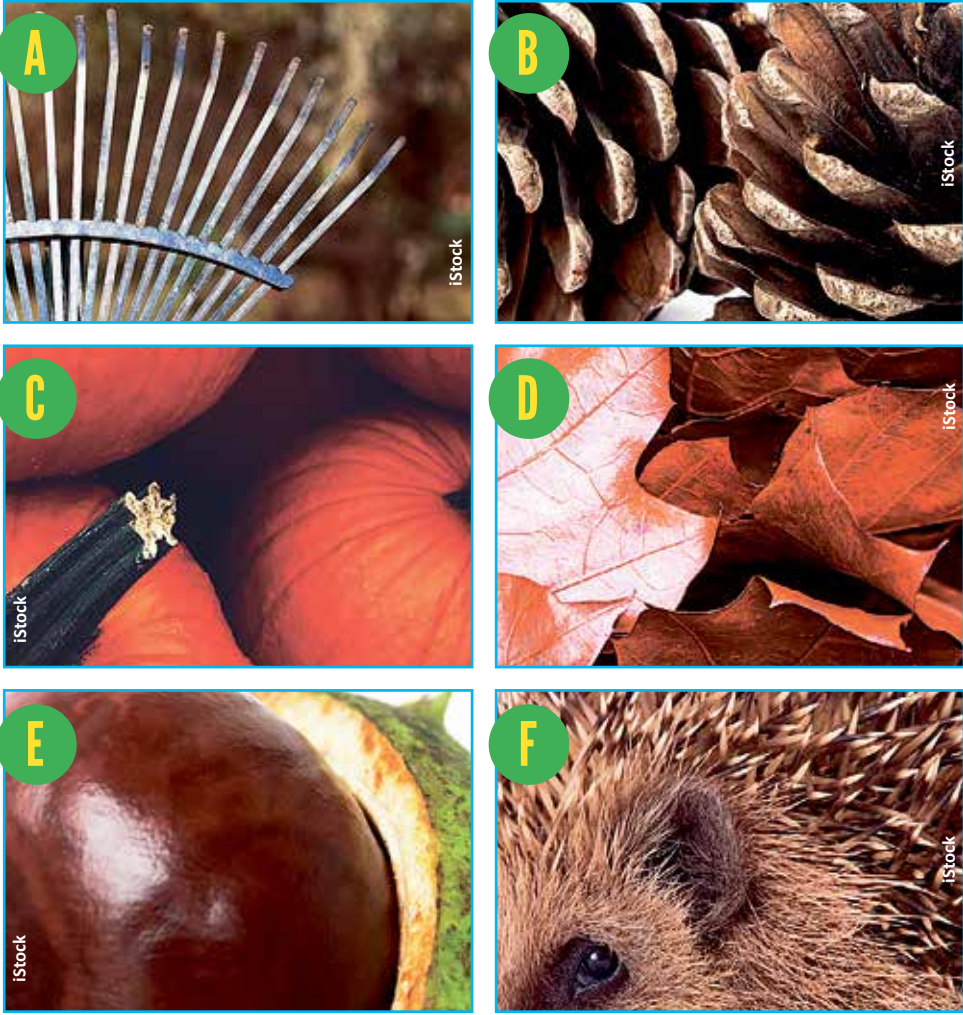
J	W	J	S	T	W	B	Z	F	D	Z	A	U	S	O	H	M	Y	C	T	C	B	E	U	K	A
A	G	K	L	P	O	P	M	D	E	D	S	V	E	O	H	E	G	H	L	K	H	M	V	E	X
M	N	Y	E	O	E	P	O	P	P	J	C	J	O	T	X	A	D	O	I	U	U	E	A	S	Q
T	F	G	P	U	P	L	A	N	O	U	L	L	O	K	T	C	U	T	Q	Z	G	R	Z	V	T
O	K	Y	F	P	E	H	G	Z	L	Z	E	Q	M	G	Q	Q	D	H	W	P	Z	A	P	W	V
F	P	Q	T	C	A	H	C	M	J	D	V	U	Y	U	R	M	A	C	Z	D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

- ☐ Opal
- ☐ Jade
- ☐ Diamond
- ☐ Peridot
- ☐ Topaz
- ☐ Pearl
- ☐ Ruby
- ☐ Garnet
- ☐ Onyx
- ☐ Amethyst
- ☐ Sapphire
- ☐ Emerald

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.

WHAT ON EARTH?

THESE are associated with autumn. Can you guess what they are?



LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS:

Spot the difference: yellow balloon is now red, badge has been removed, stripe is missing from tie, girl missing in background, balloon label is bigger.
Word ladder: loud, lord, lard, yard, yarn, yawn.
Word wheel: everybody.

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

G	I	G	A	N	T	I	C	
C	N	R	O					
B	U	I	L	D	O	G	R	E
S	I	N	V	P	G	M		
S	I	G	N	S	H	R	I	M
U	N	W	R	A	P	E	C	H
I	H	T	P					
T	R	E	A	T	I	N	P	U
E	O	S	I					
L	E	O	P	A	R	D	S	

YOUR READS!



THE POLAR BEAR EXPLORERS' CLUB ALEX BELL

The four main characters are Stella; Shay, a wolf whisperer; Beanie, who is a medic and half elf; and Ethan, who is the moodiest, junior magician explorer.

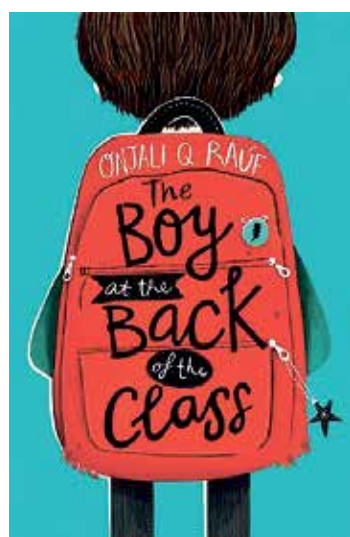
Stella is the first female polar bear explorer. On this expedition to the Iceland she uncovers a mysterious secret. She goes on an exciting, gripping and off-course adventure, and encounters several unusual creatures, including

a carnivorous cabbage that bites Ethan's ankle (a lot of things bite Ethan!).

My favourite part is when Stella dumps a snow penguin down Ethan's back.

This fantastic book transports me into another world.

reviewed by
Esme Yeoman,
aged eight



THE BOY AT THE BACK OF THE CLASS ONJALI Q RAUF

This is a wonderfully written book about Ahmet, who is a refugee. A refugee is a person who has been forced to run away from war and flee to a different country.

He is the newest boy at school and he sits at the back of the class. The narrator and his friends, Tom, Josie and Michael, come up with a plan to help

Ahmet find his parents. They must go and seek the Queen's help.

This book is suitable for ages seven to ten. I rate it five stars because it made me realise what refugees go through.

reviewed by
Krish Shunmugam,
aged eight



THE DISTANCE BETWEEN ME AND THE CHERRY TREE PAOLA PERETTI

This story is about a young girl called Mafalda, who has the condition Stargardt mist, which causes blindness.

The book takes us on the rollercoaster of her life, coping with the condition. She loves school, football and her cat. Mafalda also loves her school cherry tree.

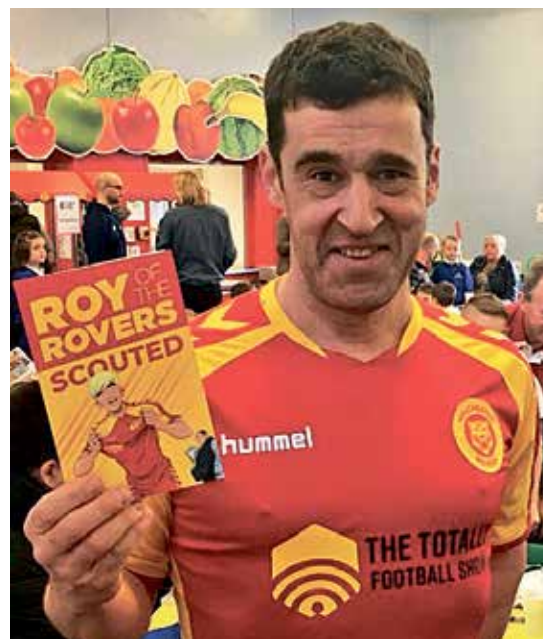
Every day she counts how many steps it takes from where she starts to see it until she is able to get close to it. The fewer steps it takes, the worse her sight becomes.

This book is partly autobiographical, as the author, Paola Peretti, has Stargardt mist. The book is written in the first person, and it helped me understand what it's like to have a disability. I would happily recommend this book for anyone aged ten or older.



National Literacy Trust's Virtual School Library

HIT the back of the net with Tom Palmer!



Author of the week in the Virtual School Library is Tom Palmer.

Tom's recommended reads are:

- Keeper by Mal Peet
- They Don't Teach This by Eniola Aluko
- Ask a Footballer by James Milner

Head to the Virtual School Library to find out about Tom's latest title, Rocky of the Rovers, watch an exclusive video and read Roy of the Rovers: Scouted for free!

Visit virtualschoollibrary.org.uk to find out more.

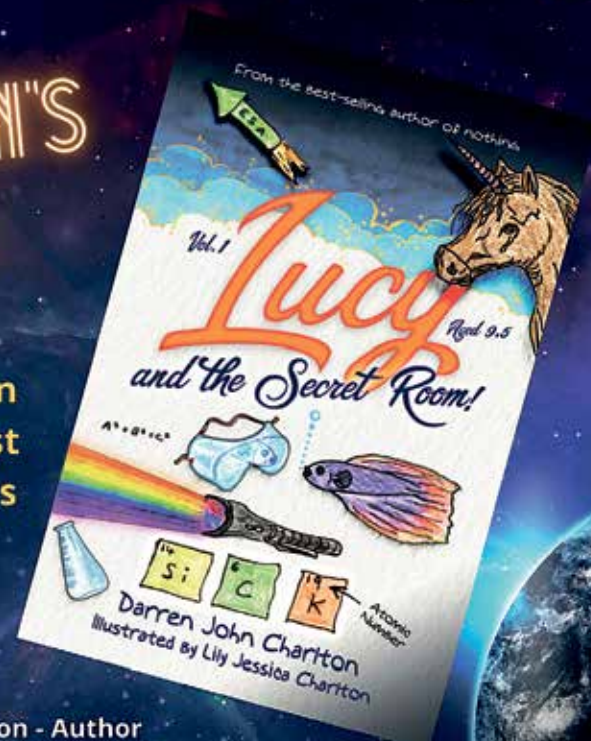
“Words for Life”

Virtual School Library

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

NEW CHILDREN'S BOOK

Now available on Amazon and most e-book platforms



Darren John Charlton - Author

Check out the website www.lucyandthesecretroom.co.uk for reviews and details of how purchasing this book will benefit the following charities:



Fundraising for...

British Dyslexia Association

Out Of This World Publishers, PO Box 5996, Dronfield, S18 9DZ, UK

THE BIG PICTURE

Getty

THE Canton Tower in Guangzhou, China, is lit up like a rainbow for the 2020 Guangzhou International Light Festival.

It's the tenth time that the city has held a light festival, which this year had the theme of Happy Time, Charming City. To kick things off, a green laser beam was aimed down from the top of the tower, which you can just about see here.

First News is teaming up with former Blue Peter presenter Peter Duncan for a spectacular panto to watch online at school or at home. First News readers can get an exclusive 15% off tickets when they book to watch the show. All you have to do is use the code FIRSTNEWS when you book online at pantoonline.co.uk

BEHIND THE SCENES... A PLANET-SAVING PANTO

WHEN I was a Blue Peter presenter in the 1980s, one of the great joys was going on summer expeditions to countries to learn all about their culture and show a different way of life to our young audience.

We also used to travel overseas reporting on charity appeals such as Operation Pipeline, which helped bring fresh water to remote villages in Indonesia. In 1993 I drove around the world from London to New York via Russia on a live, televised reality show. In the early 2000s I filmed three travel series with my own family on backpacking adventures to China, India and many other countries.

Over the years I could see with my own eyes that the world was changing, the ice floes around Alaska were melting, methane was leaking from the warming tundra in Siberia, and parts of the world were hotter than they had ever been before. During my time as Chief Scout, the subject that often preoccupied young people was climate change. And then came Greta Thunberg. She has almost single-handedly inspired a generation, and perhaps governments, to change the way they react to the state of our planet. The promises they are making have to be kept, and we as individuals have to change our behaviour too. So this is the reason her ideas appear in our 'planet-saving pantomime', *Jack and the Beanstalk*. In my youth I was always a supporter of Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace, but now I'm definitely in Greta's gang.

See Jack and watch him try to save the world, online at pantoonline.co.uk or in a cinema near you.



www.mapedhelix.co.uk

Please be aware of age restrictions on social media sites

MapedUK
 maped_helix_uk

Maped®

Paper facemasks and packaging is:

100% RECYCLABLE
100% BIODEGRADABLE

100% SUSTAINABLE
FOR AGES 3+

COLOUR YOUR OWN PAPER FACEMASKS

1. CHOOSE A DESIGN
 2. COLOUR IT IN
 3. FOLD AND WEAR

use alongside our **COLOR'PEPS** RANGE!

3 DESIGNS AVAILABLE
 including 'Thank You Key Workers' rainbow design

Available from... **amazon.co.uk**

BALLOONASAURUS REX



A GIANT dinosaur has appeared in a Turkish shopping mall! But don't worry – its bite is a bit squishy and a pin is all it takes to defeat it.

The huge balloon sculpture has earned its makers a Guinness World Record for its size. The towering T rex stands almost eight metres high and 20 metres long. Around 150,000 balloons were used to create the colossal creature.

Guido Verhoef, Bahar Belisan and Willy Monroe made the record-breaking dino with the help of the Balloon Crew club in the city of Istanbul. The balloons are all biodegradable, meaning they can be broken down by bacteria (like when food rots away) and not cause pollution.



ONE VERY TALL TEEN

REN Keyu, nicknamed Xiaoyu, has been recognised by Guinness World Records as the World's Tallest Teenager at 7ft 3in (221cm) tall.

Xiaoyu's family took him to see many doctors when he was younger, worried that his height was a symptom of something else.

Fortunately, nothing was found to be wrong – he was just very tall, so they think it's genetic, as both his mother and grandfather are over 6ft (182cm) tall.

Guinness World Records required him to be measured three times throughout the day, both standing up and lying down, so they could get an accurate measurement.

The 14-year-old says he's so tall that sports are dangerous. Instead, he wants a career in e-sports.

RAT OR ART?

A GIANT rat has been spotted hanging around New York's subway system.

Luckily – or is it just as bad? – it's only a man pretending to be a rat as part of his performance art. Jonothan Lyons has been spotted performing as his alter-ego Buddy The Rat in various places, sometimes with a giant slice of pizza.

You might wonder what the point of it all is, but the odd antics are very good for one thing: Jonothan says his bizarre costume "makes it easy to practise social distancing"!



WHERE'S ELLY?

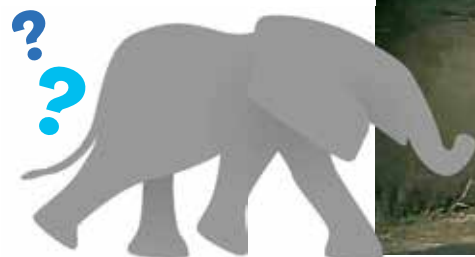
IN one of the more adorable stories this week, a cheeky elephant tried to hide behind a pole, perhaps forgetting it was the size of an elephant.

Okay, it was a baby elephant, but they're still pretty big! The elephant was spotted by locals in Thailand snaffling some sugarcane from a farmer's field.

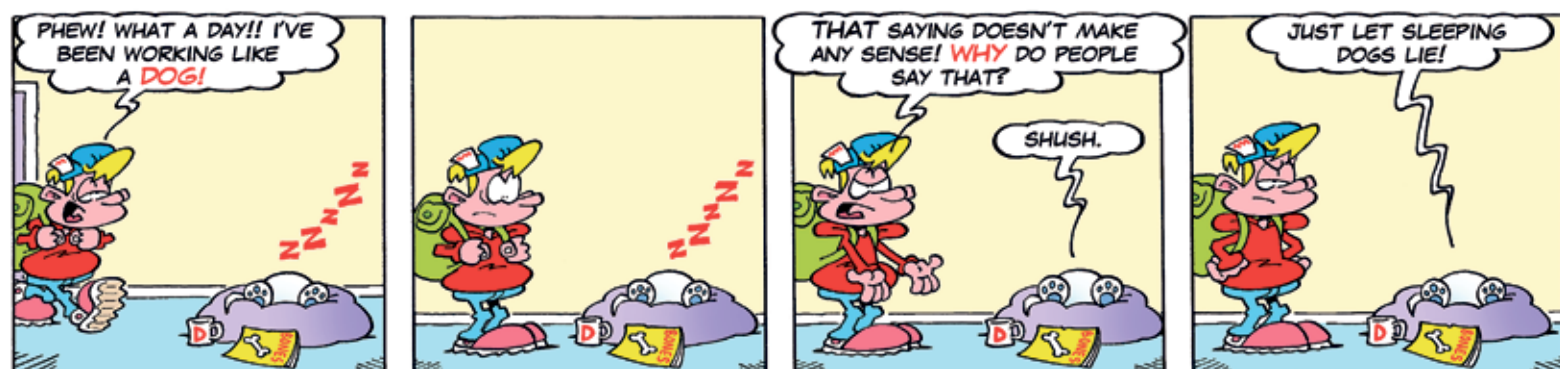
When the locals shone a light on the cheeky sugar snatcher, it 'hid' behind a pole and stayed still, thinking no-one could spot it.

Unsurprisingly, the pic has gone viral and the internet has been loving it, with many playing along with the cute creature, saying they only see a picture of a wooden post.

Can you spot the hefty hider? Look reallllly hard!



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer



EXPLORE SCIENCE IN THE REAL WORLD



DO you want to have an impact on the world around you? STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) can help you do that! Our GSK STEM Education resources are designed for 11 to 14-year-old students like you, to show you how STEM can change the world for the better.

Do you know what a medicine is and how it is developed? Find out all about the seven stages of medicine development, from discovering the drugs to making the medicine available to patients, in our Molecule to Medicine module.

TRUE OR FALSE?

1. DEVELOPING A NEW MEDICINE TAKES ON AVERAGE 12.5 YEARS

2. ONLY LAB SCIENTISTS WORKING IN RESEARCH ARE NEEDED TO DEVELOP A NEW MEDICINE

3. A MEDICINE CAN BE NATURAL OR SYNTHETIC

ANSWERS: 1. True: Many steps are involved and a lot of work goes into each, so it can even take up to 15 years or more.
2. False: Many professionals are involved, including people working in manufacturing and distribution, for example.
3. True: Synthetic medicines are chemical compounds produced in a laboratory, whereas natural medicines contain substances extracted from plants.



Explore STEM and become a lab scientist for a day, at home or at school, using our fun practical experiments and resources such as:

- Discovering chromatography
- Exploring electrolysis
- The reaction game

Tell your teachers to register for free online for the GSK STEM Education programme: www.GSKSTEMEducation.com

WIN! RUBIK'S AMAZING BOX OF MAGIC TRICKS

THE world's most popular puzzle – the Rubik's Cube – is celebrating its 40th anniversary.



In celebration, Rubik's has partnered with the No1 magic brand, Marvin's Magic, to create Rubik's Amazing Box of Magic Tricks.

This superb magic collection is presented in a giant cube and contains exclusive tricks and illusions that are guaranteed to amaze, baffle and entertain.

With unique Rubik's-themed magic props and instructions for 40 tricks, you will be able to mysteriously predict which colours a spectator will choose, as well as shrink and transform the special cubes, and even magically perform an 'instant solve' in world record time!

Twelve winners will each win Rubik's Amazing Box of Magic Tricks. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

Marvin's Magic



Traditionally, what does a magician say?

- a) Kazoom b) Abracadabra
c) Gobbledygook

Marvin's Magic is also offering 25% off all purchases from www.marvinmagic.com this year, using code FNMagic25

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY MAGIC

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 19. The closing date is 10 December 2020.

WIN! A CREATIV BUNDLE FROM HELIX

THIS Christmas, we've teamed up with Mapped Helix to offer seven lucky winners the chance to win the ultimate Creativ bundle.



This amazing prize features products from the much-loved stationery brand's Creativ range, and includes fun favourites such as the Blow Pen Art kit, Color & Play Memory Game, String Art kit, and the spectacular Color'peps 100-piece colouring set, perfect for any budding artist. Not only that, you can also colour in your own face masks thanks to the brand-new paper face

masks range!

The perfect bundle, sure to keep you entertained during the festive period and beyond. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

Which of these is a shade of green?
a) Sage b) Ruby c) Lemon

Mapped Helix products are available from Amazon and all good stationery retailers. To find out more, visit www.mapedhelix.co.uk

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY HELIX

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 19. The closing date is 10 December 2020.

WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?

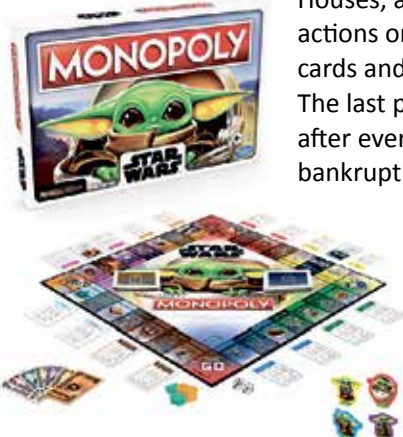
THE MANDALORIAN BABY YODA GIFT SET NUMSKULL.COM £19.99



Get prepared for the chilly weather with this official Mandalorian gift pack. The set includes cotton socks to keep your toes warm and a high quality beanie shaped as the super cute Baby Yoda aka The Child.

MONOPOLY: STAR WARS THE CHILD EDITION IWANTONEOFTHOSE.COM £22.99

This Monopoly: Star Wars The Child edition board game features themes and artwork inspired by the Mandalorian live-action TV series. Move around the board as The Child, buy and sell Hideouts and Common Houses, and follow the actions on the Camtono cards and Bounty Puck cards. The last player remaining after everyone else has gone bankrupt wins the game!



THE CHILD SMALL SOFT TOY SHOPDISNEY.CO.UK £21.00

Every Star Wars fan will love this soft toy inspired by The Mandalorian. Dressed in his classic robes, The Child is ready for big hugs and adventures across the galaxy with you! Made with a lovely soft-feel material, this Baby Yoda is around 25cm tall.



*All prices correct at time of printing

First News team details available at www.firstnews.co.uk/team. For editorial enquiries, contact newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk or (020) 3195 2000. For home subscription enquiries, email subscriptions@firstnews.co.uk or call 0330 333 0186. For school subscription enquiries, email FirstNews@escosubs.co.uk or call (01371) 851 898. Web: www.firstnews.co.uk. All material in this newspaper is © 2020 First Group Enterprises Ltd and cannot be used without written permission. First News is published by First Group Enterprises Ltd, 7 Playhouse Court, 62 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 0AT. Printed by Westferry Printers Ltd, Kimpton Rd, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU2 0TA. Distributed by Marketforce (UK) Ltd, 3rd floor, 161 Marsh Wall, London, E14 9AP. Tel: 0330 390 6555.

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.

ASTRO GIRLS Advertisement feature



MEET THE ASTRO GIRLS!

AUTHOR Isha Panesar's debut novel, *Astro Girls*, has landed! Immerse yourself in a magnificent world of fantasy, female empowerment and fast-paced adventures.

When 12-year-old Arianna learns an asteroid threatens to wipe out Earth, she's terrified. But the impending disaster vanishes as mysteriously as it appeared, leaving her to wonder if it was nothing more than a strange dream.

Arianna then meets 11 new best friends who shared the experience – and they soon discover it wasn't just a dream, and that they now have superpowers!

When one of the girls then goes missing, it's up to the others to find her. Together they'll be transported to another world, where they'll uncover strange lands, wild creatures and a villain who threatens the entire universe...

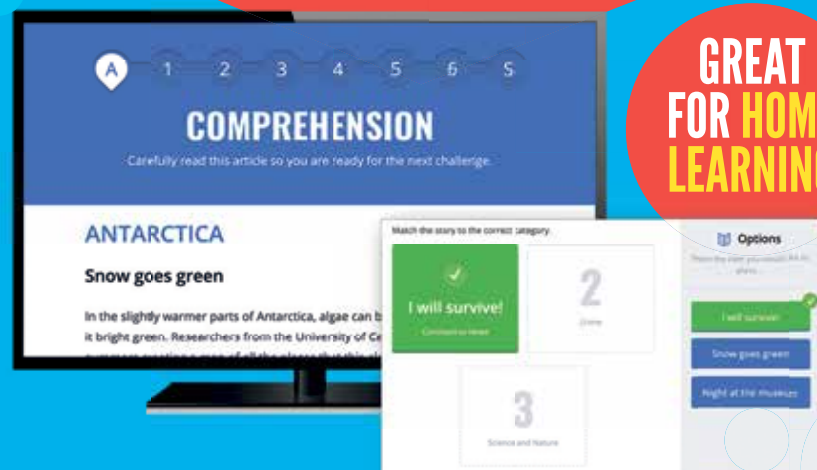
Astro Girls is available on Amazon, Kindle, Audible and Barnes & Noble. Head to www.astrogirlsofficial.com

*Please be aware of age restrictions on social media sites.

Win a copy of
Astro Girls! Head to
[@astrogirlsbook](https://www.instagram.com/astrogirlsbook)
on Instagram to enter!*



FIRST NEWS HOME iHUB THE AWARD-WINNING, INTERACTIVE, ONLINE LEARNING PLATFORM



GREAT
FOR HOME
LEARNING

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

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

HEAD TO WWW.FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK/HOMEIHUB TO LEARN MORE!

I MADE AN ALBUM!

by Cormac Thompson

WHEN my nanny's iPad broke we couldn't do video calls any more. So I thought it would be nice if I learned her favourite song.

We put it on YouTube for my nanny and I didn't ever think in a million years this would mean I would end up recording an album!

A nice lady called Helen from Decca Records got in touch with my mum and, before I knew it, I was in London recording an album.

I had to practise a lot. I was going to record 15 songs but I only knew two of them. I was very excited but I was nervous too. But I didn't need to worry, because all the grown-ups were very kind, especially the producer, Jon.

I had a brilliant time singing next to Freddie Mercury's piano. There was one day when I was singing Christmas songs and it was really, really hot! I had never been to London or Surrey before, so I got to see new places and the whole thing was just a brilliant experience and not one I ever expected to have.

I really like singing. It makes me smile and, if you haven't done it before, maybe give it a go – I think you might find it really fun.

Thank you to everyone who has helped me do this, and I hope you like the album.



Cormac's album *Hear My Voice* will be released on 4 December

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

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

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

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

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.

LOCKDOWN PAINTING

by Holly Bigmore

BACK in April, I messaged a group of people on my street to see if anyone would like me to do a portrait of them for a donation of £3.

The money made would all go to NHS Charities Together.

Surprisingly, almost half of my large street said they'd like a painting, and six months later I'd raised £200!

I got so many donations, and I was astonished by everyone's amazing kindness! I had all sorts of different requests, from pets to gardens, but my favourite was the one I did of my family.



Some of Holly's lockdown art



EVER WANTED TO GO SELF-SUFFICIENT? HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO GIVE IT A TRY!
Fun, easy to play, award-winning family boardgame

Use your wheelbarrow to move around the board to collect fruit, veg, pigs and chickens. The winner is the first to fill their garden and allotment.

Seems simple. It is. But the 'Green Fingers' cards turn up unexpected twists and turns...

So you'll have to protect your chickens from foxes, sell your crops and livestock at the village fair and avoid drought, bird flu, and your animals escaping.

Now, are you ready for 'The Good Life'?

www.thegoodlifegame.co.uk
Enter 'FN' at the checkout
£26.95 (including P and P)



OVER 80 WOODEN PLAYING PIECES

www.thegoodlifegame.co.uk

THE SUNDAY TIMES
"Don't encourage kids to become greedy bankers with Monopoly - keep them green with this Good Life game"

10% DISCOUNT
Enter discount code 'FN'

SUBSCRIBE FOR SCHOOL – FIND OUT MORE AT SCHOOLS.FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK

CALL: (020) 3195 7256 EMAIL: SCHOOLS@FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK

LET'S SPREAD SOME HOPE

AS a symbol of hope for a way out of this pandemic, we're asking you, your friends, parents and teachers to each plant something and help the UK grow!

Now is the perfect time to plant bulbs for the spring while getting some fresh air, or it could be something in a plant pot or wall planter indoors. Whatever you choose, show the UK your planting pics at first.news/HelpingTheUKGrow.

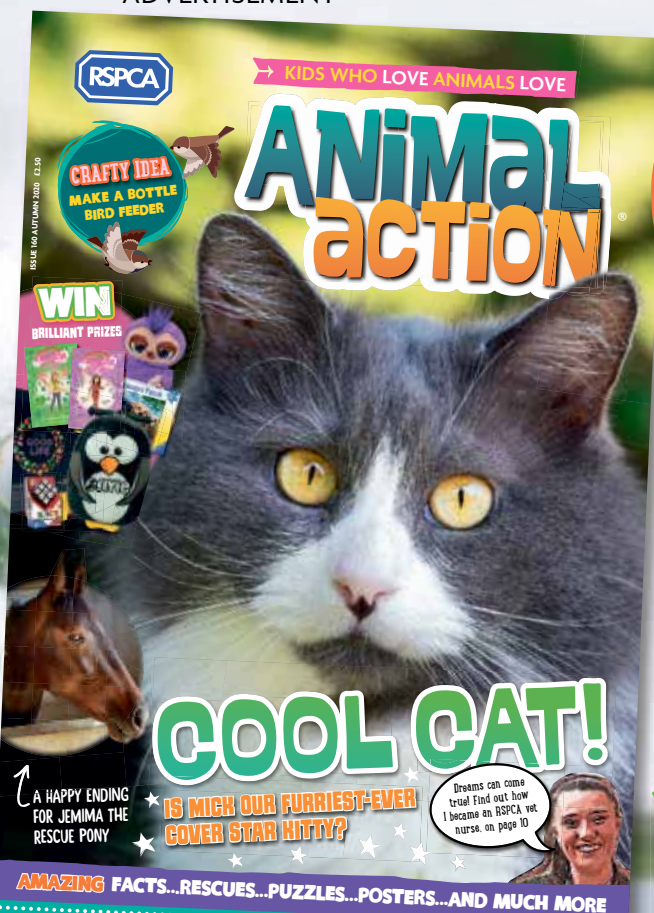
We want you all to get involved, then share your photos and videos and challenge someone else to join in, using the hashtag [#HelpingTheUKGrow](https://twitter.com/HelpingTheUKGrow) (please be aware of age restrictions on social media).



ADVERTISEMENT



**GREAT
COMPETITIONS**



**LOVE
ANIMALS?**

**AMAZING
RSPCA**

**ONLY
£7.50
for 4 issues**

**EXCITING
RSPCA RESCUES**

**SUBSCRIBE TO
ANIMAL
action
MAGAZINE**

Go to: www.rspca.org.uk/subscribeFN

RSPCA, Wilberforce Way, Southwater, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 9RS.
Data Protection Act: Data on minors is never disclosed to third parties and we do not
send direct marketing fundraising literature to under 18s.
The RSPCA helps animals in England and Wales. Registered charity no. 219099. www.rspca.org.uk

SPORT IN NUMBERS

64

home league games in a row without defeat is the phenomenal tally for Liverpool, after they beat Leicester City 3-0. The Anfield stars went ahead thanks to a Jonny Evans own goal, before strikes by Diogo Jota and Roberto Firmino sealed victory. The run, consisting of 53 wins and 11 draws, is a club record.



Diogo Jota

2

MotoGP constructors' titles have been won by the Ducati team, following the final Grand Prix of 2020.

Miguel Oliveira finished first in the race in Portugal, but Jack Miller's second place ensured that the Italian team topped the table overall. Their previous title was won in 2007.



3

Northern Ireland Open titles have been collected by Judd Trump (below). The competition was held

in Milton Keynes this year because of COVID-19 restrictions, but that was the only difference. For the third year in a row, Judd beat Ronnie O'Sullivan in the final, and the scoreline of 9-7 was the same in all three matches!



LONDON'S FINAL FINALS!

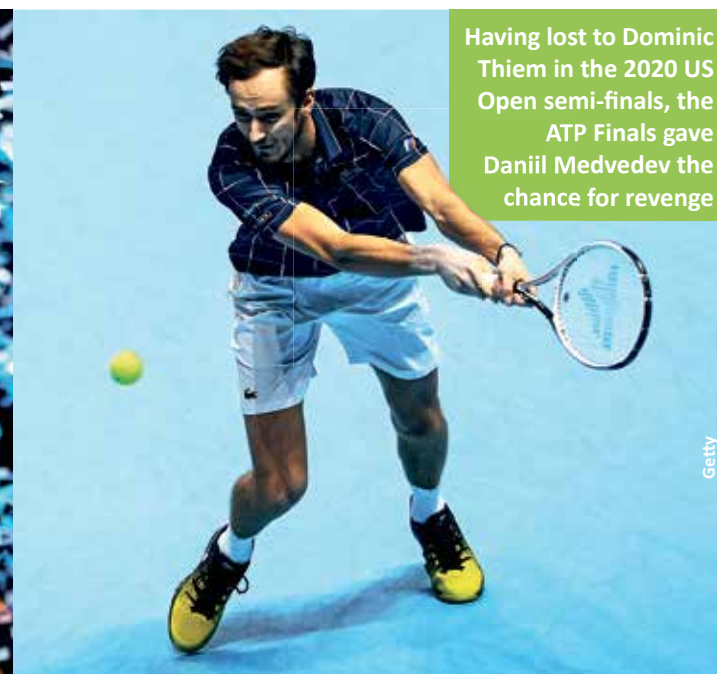
THE 2020 ATP Finals looked like they would finish with a showdown between the world numbers one and two – but their semi-final opponents didn't agree!

Novak Djokovic, the world number one, faced Dominic Thiem in one semi-final. Each player took a set before the final set ended in a tie-break, which Novak led 4-0. Dominic fought back, however, to win the tie-break 7-5 and book his place in the final. The other semi-final saw world number two Rafael Nadal serving for the match in the second set against Daniil Medvedev. Daniil managed to take the set and it seemed to boost his game, as he powered through the final set, which he won 6-3.

Having won the US Open in September, Austria's Dominic Thiem went into the final as the slight favourite. He won the first set, before leading the tie-break in the second set. At

this point, Daniil's performance found an extra gear and the Russian won seven points in a row to take the match into a third set. Daniil maintained his strong form and won it 6-4, to claim the biggest victory of his career so far.

For the past 12 years, the ATP Finals have been held in London, but from 2021 they are moving to Turin, Italy. Spectators have been fortunate to watch some superb tennis during that time, so it seemed strange that there were no fans to watch the last tournament. And the new champion added to the low-key atmosphere, as he chooses not to celebrate his victories. After defeating Dominic, Daniil simply shrugged several times before walking to the net to hug his opponent!



Having lost to Dominic Thiem in the 2020 US Open semi-finals, the ATP Finals gave Daniil Medvedev the chance for revenge

RISE OF THE ROSES!



England's Emily Scarratt takes the 80th-minute penalty

HAVING won their last six matches against France, England's rugby union team must have been feeling confident, but it didn't quite go their way!

A lively match at Twickenham saw England take an early 5-3 lead, with Zoe Harrison scoring the first try of the game. After that, the French team took control. Three tries, a conversion and a second penalty saw the visitors charge into a convincing lead. With only ten minutes left to play, England found themselves trailing by 13 points, with the score 10-23.

The Red Roses weren't about to accept defeat, though. A try from Poppy Cleall was swiftly followed by another from Ellie Kildunne, who managed to power through the French defenders and carry the ball across the line. Centre Emily Scarratt, who had recently come off the bench, converted the try to leave the score at 22-23. With the clock in the red zone and the game about to end, England were awarded a penalty. Emily kept her cool to claim the three points for England, who ended the 2020 campaign unbeaten.

Poppy Cleall