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AND THE  
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# First News

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HELPING  
THE UK GROW

NEWS | SPORTS | ENTERTAINMENT | INTERVIEWS | PUZZLES | COMPETITIONS

# LOCKDOWN A YEAR ON

by editor in chief Nicky Cox

TUESDAY 23 March will be a year since the first COVID-19 lockdown.

A minute's silence and a national doorstep vigil will form part of "a day of reflection" to mark the anniversary.

There will be a minute's silence at midday to remember those who have died, with people encouraged to light up their doorsteps in the evening.

Buildings and other famous landmarks will also be lit up across Britain.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced the first national stay-at-home order on 23 March 2020. Since then, there have been times of national restrictions, as well as times when there have been tiers and levels of different rules in all four UK nations.

We have come a long way in a year to fight the virus. Coronavirus vaccines have been developed from scratch, with around 25 million people in the UK having now received a first dose.

Mr Johnson said he would observe the minute's silence at noon privately.

Other senior politicians have given their support to the event, with Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer, Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and Welsh First Minister Mark

Drakeford all saying they would take part.

Mr Johnson said: "This has been an incredibly difficult year for our country. My thoughts are with all those who have lost loved ones.

"As we continue to make progress against the virus, I want to thank people for the sacrifices they continue to make."

The anniversary day will also see activities taking place in communities, such as virtual assemblies, choirs, services and yellow ribbons being wrapped around trees.

Although lockdown has been difficult for many, people have spoken about some of the positive effects, like parents being able to spend more time with their children.

So, we are asking:

**POLL OF THE WEEK**

What things from lockdown would you like to see continue?

**VOTE AT FIRST.NEWS/POLLS**



Teaching assistant Mrs Dowie made Year 6 at North Ormesby Primary Academy a Shrek beanie for when they came out of lockdown!

WHAT  
WOULD YOU  
ASK AN  
ASTRONAUT?



Getty

IF you've ever had a burning desire to ask an astronaut a question, now's your chance!

We're due to have a chat with former jet fighter pilot Samantha Cristoforetti as she prepares for her second trip to the International Space Station, so we want you to put on your thinking caps (or helmets) and send us your best, most original questions for her.

We'll pick out the best ones and use them to quiz her with!

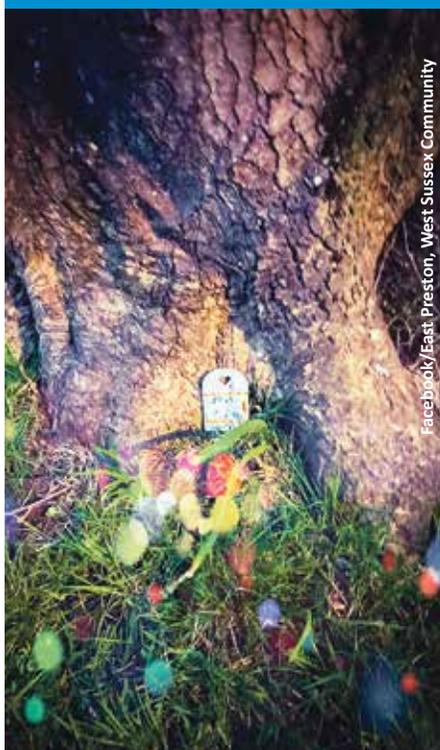
Send your questions to [newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk). Put **Reach for the stars** in the subject box.

### LITTLE WHITE LIES



Parents tell kids an average of ten little white lies a week, a new survey for Aldi's Mamia brand has found. Five of the ten most common lies are used to get kids to eat better.

### MAGICAL VISITORS



Fairies have descended on East Preston in West Sussex! Thirty tiny doors have popped up around the village, for people to spot on their daily walk. The little wooden doors are all decorated with different patterns, and appear in trees or near tree trunks. Who doesn't love a touch of magic during lockdown?

### THANK YOUR TEACHER

How about thanking your teachers by drawing them and winning a bunch of stationery goodies for them and the class? Just create a portrait of your top teacher and five winning entries will bag their teacher an Oxford Metallics Premium Writing Gift Set and Maped Helix goodies for the class! To enter, ask an adult to post your portrait on Facebook @MapedHelix or Instagram @maped\_helix with the hashtag #ThankYourTeacher by 24 March. Please be aware of age restrictions on social media.

# QUICK NEWS

TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS

### MINI MURRAY



Andy Murray is celebrating the birth of his fourth baby. The tennis star and his wife, Kim, surprised fans with the news, which they'd kept top secret during lockdown. Andy pulled out of competing in the Dubai Tennis Championships to be with his family and their new arrival.

### GRAMMY GREATS



Beyoncé and Taylor Swift both became record breakers at this year's Grammy Awards. Beyoncé became the most successful female artist in the history of the awards when she was presented with her 28th gong, for Best R&B Performance, for *Black Parade*. Taylor became the first woman to win Album of the Year three times, after *Folklore* scooped the win.

### HAVE YOUR SAY!

Each year, the Chancellor of the Exchequer makes an announcement on the UK's finances, known as the Budget. This details all the things that the Government is going to spend money on, such as education, the NHS and housing. But we want to know what you would spend money on if you were Chancellor. Choose your top three priorities for splashing the cash by going to [first.news/polls](https://www.first.news/polls).

### ROYAL UPDATE

Following Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's Oprah Winfrey interview, Buckingham Palace released a short statement. It said the issues raised, particularly that of race, were being taken very seriously and that the family would be addressing them privately. Prince William also told reporters that the royal family is "very much not" racist.

### PETS IN LOCKDOWN



A total of 3.2 million households in the UK have got a pet since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, new research has found. More than half of new owners are aged between 16 and 34. Over 5,000 people took part in the survey by the Pet Food Manufacturers' Association (PFMA). The animal charity RSPCA says there are now concerns that pets might be abandoned as lockdown restrictions lift.

### TWINNING IS WINNING



More twins are being born than ever before, says a new study. It's believed that almost one in 40 children are twins. The rise of better technology in developed countries has helped, making it easier for women to have multiple births. North America, Europe and Asia are among the places that have seen the biggest rise in twins. The study was published in the scientific journal *Human Reproduction*.

### RED BOXES FOR SALE



Thousands of red telephone boxes are being sold to communities across the UK. BT, which owns the boxes, is offering 4,000 booths for as little as £1 each. The boxes have often been turned into other things, such as mini libraries, coffee shops and museums. Most of them are no longer needed as telephone boxes, because so many people own mobiles now.

### DANCING ON ICE

Sonny Jay has been crowned the winner of this year's *Dancing On Ice*. The Capital FM DJ beat actor Faye Brookes to the top spot. Sonny said: "I can't believe it... this is mental!" This year's show has been plagued by injury and illness, and even had to be cut short!



Getty

# REMEMBERING SARAH

A message left with flowers near where Sarah was last seen

## WOMEN have been protesting about not feeling safe on the streets of Britain.

It follows the death of 33-year-old Sarah Everard two weeks ago, while she was walking home. A police officer has been charged with her murder.

Sarah's death has sparked a big discussion about how to stop violence against women. After she went missing, many women started to share their worries about feeling unsafe, and being fearful of attacks.

Peaceful vigils took place around the UK to remember Sarah, but also to protest about violence against women.

Police hadn't wanted an event to go ahead on Clapham Common, close to where Sarah went missing. They said it would be against the law because of the coronavirus pandemic, and it would be dangerous to have so many people

close together.

However, hundreds turned up. As the evening went on, and more people gathered, the police were criticised for using force when they tried to break up the event, including handcuffing some women.

The Met Police Commissioner Cressida Dick has defended her officers, saying: "Quite rightly, as far as I can see, my team felt that this is now an unlawful gathering which poses a considerable risk to people's health. They have to make these really difficult calls, and I don't think anybody should be sitting back in an armchair and saying 'well that was done badly' or 'I would have done it differently' without actually understanding what was going

through their minds."

However, the Government has launched an investigation into what happened, with Prime Minister Boris Johnson saying he was "deeply concerned" about the scenes on Clapham Common.

He added: "The death of Sarah Everard must unite us in determination to drive out violence against women and girls, and make every part of the criminal justice system work to protect and defend them."

**If you are worried about anything you have read, then speak to an adult you trust, like a parent or a teacher. Or you can contact Childline on 0800 1111 for free at any time.**

## DRAMATIC DROP IN COW EMISSIONS WITH SEAWEED DIET



Istock

**SCIENTISTS** have discovered that feeding cattle seaweed reduces their greenhouse gas emissions by an astounding 82%!

Cattle produce methane, a powerful greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change.

Over the course of five months last summer, researchers from the University of California added small amounts of seaweed to the diet of 21 beef cattle and tracked their weight gain and methane emissions.

The cows with 80 grams of seaweed in their diet gained the same amount of weight as their herdmates, but burped out much less methane into the atmosphere.

Unfortunately, the type of seaweed fed to the cows, *Asparagopsis taxiformis*, doesn't appear much in the wild, so scientists are also investigating how it can be farmed.

No matter what, Professor Ermias Kebreab, who conducted the study, is pleased with the results.

"Only a tiny fraction of the Earth is fit for farming crops," he explained. "Much more land is suitable only for grazing, so livestock plays a vital role in feeding the ten billion people who will soon inhabit the planet."

# A PURPLE PLACE

## TWO South Korean islands have turned purple.

The Banwol and Bakji islands, on the west coast of South Korea, have slowly transformed over the last few years, becoming almost entirely purple.

Roofs, roads, signs and bridges have all been painted purple, and many of the islands' 150 residents wear purple clothes every day to farm purple plants, such as lavender,

kohlrabi and beets.

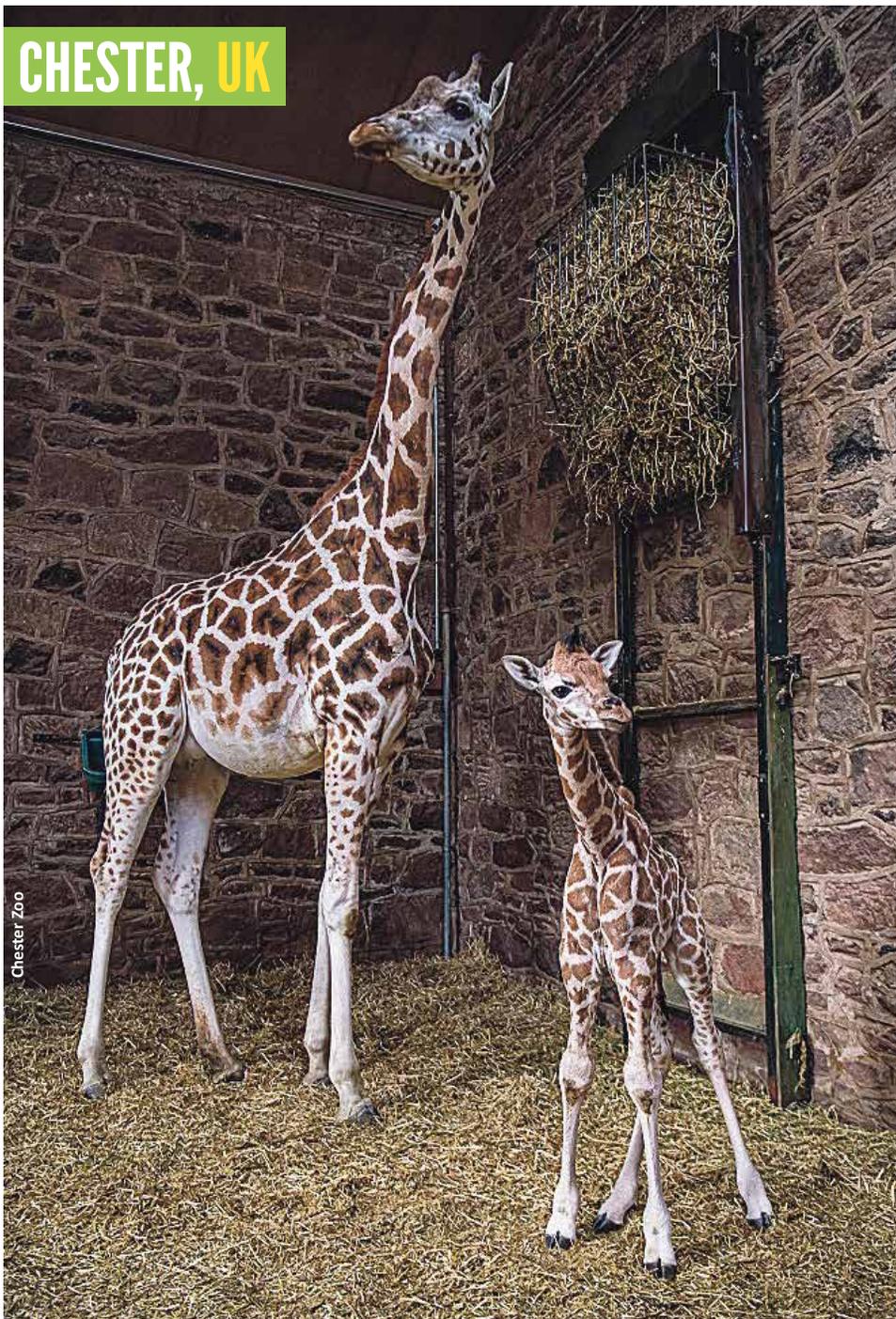
The plan to turn the islands purple began back in 2015, as a project to boost tourism.

And it seems to have been a success. Despite the pandemic, through June and August of 2020, more than 100,000 visitors travelled to the purple islands, which is 20% more than in 2019.



Reuters

## CHESTER, UK



A RARE male Rothschild's giraffe calf has been born at Chester Zoo. The leggy youngster already stands 1.8m (6ft) tall and weighs 70kg. Rothschild's giraffes are one of the world's most at-risk mammals, with only 1,600 remaining, so the birth is a real cause for celebration for conservationists around the world.

## BEIJING, CHINA



A SANDSTORM that swept across much of northern China left Beijing in an orange fog, and helped push air quality levels to the worst they've been since 2017.

## DAZHOU, CHINA



FARMERS shout out to pray for favourable weather and a bumper harvest before picking tea leaves at a tea garden.



## NEW YORK, USA

PHOTOS of COVID-19 victims are projected onto the Brooklyn Bridge during a memorial service to mark the one-year anniversary of the COVID-19 lockdown.

## CHICAGO, USA



THE Chicago River flows through downtown after it was dyed green ahead of St Patrick's Day on 17 March. The dyeing of the river, a St Patrick's Day tradition in the city, was cancelled last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was in line to be cancelled this year but the city approved a last-minute, early-morning secret dyeing to keep the usual spectators at bay.



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# LONGER SCHOOL DAY? NO, THANKS!



THERE has been talk of longer school days to help boost children who might have missed out on some education because of the coronavirus pandemic. We wanted to know what you thought of the idea, and it turns out you're not keen – four out of five said you weren't in favour:

"Students have enough pressure with school as it is. They need the time after school for homework, relaxation and extra-curricular activities" – [ellabeegee](#)

"I think my school day is just right. However, if it was longer, I would have no time for my pets, family, reading and writing" – [opalbarnet](#)

"I think not, as we already have homework when we go home, and doing extra work will leave us exhausted" – [ivansp2011](#)

"I think children will not work as well because they will be more tired at the end of the day" – [aussie123](#)

"We voted NO, me and my sister, but we would like to stay longer at school for clubs" – [cometboy](#)

# RIGHT TO REPAIR

A NEW law tackling electrical waste is being brought in this summer.

The 'right to repair' law means families will be able to get things like fridges, washing machines and TVs repaired in their homes, rather than having to throw them away when they break. Under the new rules, spare parts will be made available and appliances will be made cheaper to run.

The Government hopes the new law will help to tackle the 1.5 million tonnes of electrical waste the UK produces each year. It should also reduce carbon emissions and protect the environment.



## EDITOR'S COMMENT



WHEN *First News* comes out this Friday, it will be 97 days until 21 June – the END of COVID-19 restrictions.

While most of us can't wait to get back to "normal", I know a lot of people are beginning to reflect on things in lockdown that they would like to keep – like spending more time with close family. I have really enjoyed daily walks, which I intend to keep up, taking time to really notice nature, or to appreciate a building. Go to [first.news/polls](#) to tell us your lockdown likes.

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### GOOD WEEK FOR



#### LEGO

THE toy company has enjoyed a bumper year, as sales of LEGO sets jumped by 19%. That increased profit by a whopping £1.15bn. Clearly people have been busy building during lockdown!

### BAD WEEK FOR



#### LARRY THE CAT

LARRY the Downing Street cat has been told he must cut down on treats. The chief mouser has put on weight during lockdown, and his vet says MPs have likely been feeding him "too many Dreamies."

## FUEL FROM FOOD



The US alone uses more than 95 billion litres of jet fuel per year

SCIENTISTS in the US have found a way to make jet fuel from food waste.

An American scientific report shows that using the fatty acids in food waste to create a sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) could lead to a 165% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, compared to the fossil fuels that planes use at the moment.

The 165% figure is possible because SAF could help to reduce both food waste and jet fuel emissions. Currently, 2.5% of global greenhouse gas emissions come from the airline industry, while sending 0.91 tonnes of food waste to landfill can lead to 1.63 tonnes of carbon emissions.

## CUMBRIA

### ● 'Toad patrols' underway

Toad patrols are looking out for amphibians as they move from winter hibernation to ponds for breeding. The journey means that toads, frogs and newts often have to cross busy roads. Staff from West Cumbria Rivers Trust go on toad patrols, popping the creatures in buckets and dropping them off at ponds. Jodie Mills from the Trust said: "It's tragic how many are being lost. Please slow down if it is a wet night, as many more animals have yet to migrate."



Getty

Getty

## NORTH YORKSHIRE

### ● Powerful sand portrait

WaterAid created a striking portrait on Whitby beach this week. The picture of a child carrying water on dry, cracked ground highlights the impact climate change has on people's access to water. As the tide came in, the image washed away. The powerful picture depicts droughts and flooding, things that make getting clean water harder. The charity says that 785m people live without easy access to water. By 2040, the issue could affect 600m – or one in four – children.



WaterAid/Jon Snow

## WALES



Getty

### ● Green space for all

The Future Generations Commissioner says she wants every home in Wales to be four minutes away from green space. Sophie Howe said that access to open spaces "shouldn't be based on where you live, and the price of your house". One in eight Welsh households (133,542 homes) don't have access to a garden or balcony. The Welsh Government has put aside £110m to transform towns with more trees and parks.

## GWYNEDD

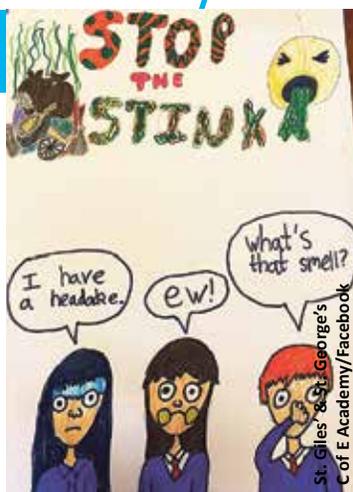
### ● Remove "rubbish" toys

A ten-year-old girl is campaigning against "rubbish" plastic toys that come with kids' magazines. Skye, from Fairbourne, says the toys are "cheap plastic rubbish" with a big carbon footprint. Her petition to get rid of the toys has had 3,000 signatures. It has got the support of politicians and been discussed in Parliament.

## STAFFORDSHIRE

### ● Stop the stink!

Deliveries of waste to a really smelly landfill site have been temporarily stopped, after hundreds of complaints. St Giles' and St George's CofE Academy has been important in forcing the people in charge of Walleys Quarry to take action. The school, which is a mile away from the site, got kids to write letters to their local MP as part of its 'Stop the Stink!' campaign.



St. Giles' & St. George's C of E Academy/Facebook

## UK

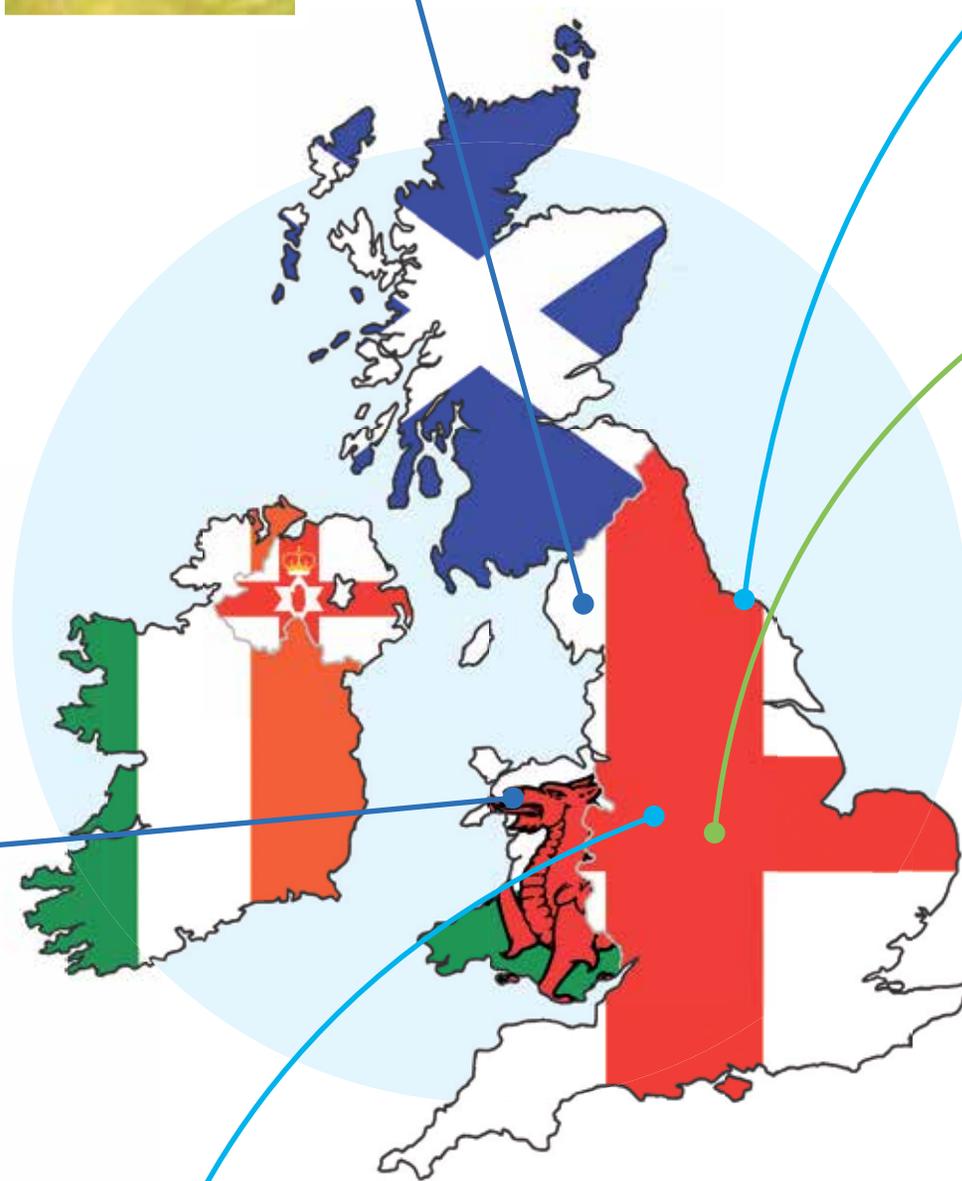
### ● Arts fund is slow to roll out

Eight months after the Government announced funding to support the arts, only half of the money has been given out. The culture recovery fund was created to help places like theatres, art galleries and music venues. Out of the £1bn that has been made available, £830m has been allocated but only £495m has been paid out. MP Meg Hillier warned that the money "needs to get support out to organisations while there are still organisations left to support".



Getty

London's Royal Albert Hall is one of about 3,000 places to get money so far



## LEICESTERSHIRE



SB Health and Fitness/Facebook

### ● 'Arctic' trek at home

A man who was due to enter an Arctic walking challenge hasn't let its cancellation stop him. When COVID-19 put an end to the 6633 Arctic Ultra race, Stu Humber chose to walk the 611km (380 miles) around his home town of Lutterworth instead. Pulling a sledge behind him, just like he would in the Arctic, Stu walked for seven days to complete the challenge, only stopping for two or three hours each night to sleep. He hopes to raise £2,500 for the NHS.



SB Health and Fitness/Facebook

# MEETING THE QUEEN



**HER Majesty the Queen popped up on Zoom last week to chat to scientists and some very lucky students about science.**

Pupils from Thomas Jones Primary School in London joined scientists to talk with the Queen to celebrate British Science Week. Her Royal Highness spoke about meeting Yuri Gagarin, the Russian astronaut who was the first person in space. She was later updated on NASA's Mars mission by Professor Caroline Smith.

Lastly, Year 4 pupils got to show off their rocket mice experiment. The Queen laughed as the kids squeezed plastic bottles and fired toy mice astronauts into space!

Her Majesty signed off by saying: "It's been a very interesting morning, thank you very much indeed."

# CALLING ALL KIDS FOR 'THE BIG ASK'



Dame Rachel de Souza chats to students

**THE new Children's Commissioner for England is preparing to launch The Big Ask, a survey that promises to be the largest discussion with kids ever to happen in England.**

Dame Rachel de Souza is England's new Children's Commissioner. She wants to get the opinions of as many English kids as possible to plan how she can help "rebuild childhood" after the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Big Ask will take place after the Easter break, with an online survey given to all schools. Examples of what the survey will want to know include:

- **how the pandemic has changed your life for better or worse**
- **how your community and local environment could be better**
- **what your goals are and what might make achieving them harder**
- **how you feel about the future and the challenges facing the world**

Dame de Souza said: "As we emerge from the pandemic, this is the moment for something big for children to recognise the sacrifices they have made. We will start by listening to children. Their views and experiences and ideas will help shape the way we deliver better outcomes not just for them, but for all our children in the decade ahead."

The results of The Big Ask should be released before the end of summer.

# TESTING TIMES



**DESPITE costing a whopping £37 billion, the UK's Test and Trace system is under fire after a report by MPs found "no clear evidence" that it has made a difference in the UK's fight against COVID-19.**

The Government-funded Test and Trace scheme is run by many different organisations, including groups from Public Health England and the NHS, while some of those organisations are private companies, including Amazon and Boots.

The report found that NHS Test and Trace never met its target to provide face-to-face test results in 24 hours and had been paying some consultants (a person who provides expert advice) more than £6,600 a day.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson defended the scheme, saying: "It is thanks to NHS Test and Trace that we're able to send kids back to school and begin cautiously... to reopen our economy and restart our lives."

Labour MP Rachel Reeves said that the report showed that the Conservative Government's "obsession" with private companies "must end, and contact tracing should be run by our public health teams".

# SPEND MORE ON GREEN GROWTH

**GOVERNMENTS around the world have failed to match green talk with action, says a UN report.**

The United Nations backed research looked at recovery spending in leading nations. This is money that countries are using to rebuild their economies after the devastating effects of COVID-19.

The report calculates that \$368 billion (£265bn), or only 18%, of the \$14.6 trillion (£10.5tn) spent in 2020 was on green recovery projects. These include renewable energy projects and making walking or cycling more accessible.

The report says countries have missed the opportunity for green investment. Cameron Hepburn, professor of environmental economics at Oxford University, said: "We know a green recovery would be a win for the economy as well as the climate – now we need to get on with it."



## REALLY BIG NUMBERS!

This story talks about billions and trillions. Here's a quick way to show just how huge those numbers are.

- **One million – 1,000,000 (six zeroes)**  
Counting to a million, one number a second, would take about 12 days.
- **One billion – 1,000,000,000 (nine zeroes)**  
Counting to a billion would take about 31 years.
- **One trillion – 1,000,000,000,000 (12 zeroes)**  
Counting to a trillion would take about 31,688 years (that's around 400 lifetimes!)

## SPAIN



### ● Four-day work week

The Spanish government says that Spain will be the first nation to trial a four-day, 32-hour working week, with no loss of pay. It could involve up to 200 companies. The Más País party, which proposed the idea, says that Spain's workers put in more hours than the average for Europe, but aren't more productive. Last year, Spanish company Software Delsol tried out a four-day work week, and found more got done, while workers reported that they were happier.

## NIGERIA



### ● Kidnapping foiled

Security forces in the northwest of Nigeria prevented the kidnapping of an entire school this week. An armed gang stormed the Government Science Secondary School in Ikara, looking to kidnap the students in exchange for a ransom (cash payment). The military managed to rescue all the students and staff members, after a fierce battle with the gang.

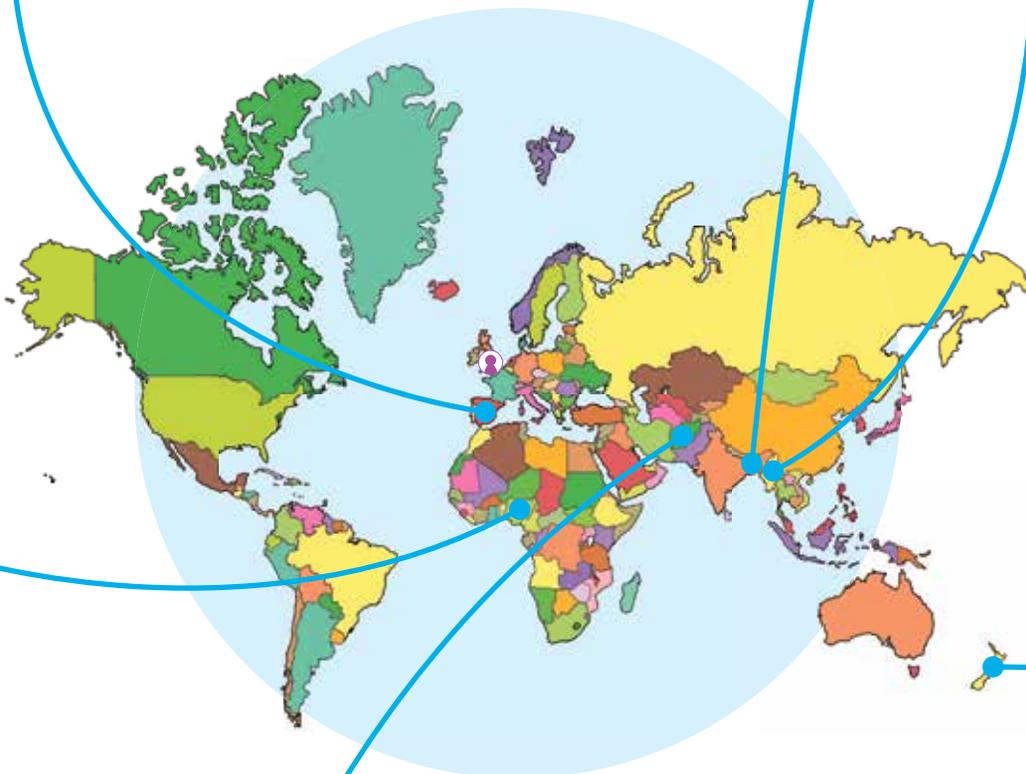


## BANGLADESH



### ● A new newsreader

Tashnuva Anan Shishir, Bangladesh's first transgender news presenter, has finished her first week on the job. Like many transgender people around the world who don't feel comfortable living as the gender they were born with, Tashnuva has faced lots of bullying throughout her life. Despite this, she has studied and worked to achieve her goals, and made her first broadcast last week on International Women's Day. In Bangladesh, transgender people have been allowed to identify as a separate gender since 2013.



## MYANMAR



### ● Violence continues

Last Sunday, more than 50 people were killed by soldiers and police in Myanmar. It means that 120 protesters have been killed since the latest military takeover of the country began in February. Over the weekend, protesters targeted Chinese-owned factories, burning several down. There's no evidence that China is giving support to the army, but it has blocked the United Nations Security Council from releasing a statement condemning the military takeover.

## AFGHANISTAN



### ● Singsong ban binned

Last week, Afghanistan's education ministry banned girls aged 12 and above from singing in public. The ban was widely criticised, and girls shared clips on social media of themselves singing, using the hashtag #IAmMySong. Some people suggested that the ban reminded them of extremist group the Taliban, which took away women's rights when it held power in parts of the country. It wasn't long before the ban was overturned.



## NEW ZEALAND



### ● Jacinda's cricket

A newly discovered giant, flightless cricket (known as a wētā) has been named *Hemiandrus jacinda* after Jacinda Ardern, the New Zealand Prime Minister. The scientist who discovered the creature said that he named it after the country's leader as it "reflected traits of the prime minister". He also said they were similar, as they both "matter to New Zealand a great deal".

## OUR WORLD



NAME: JAMES LIVES: UK

**THREE-YEAR-OLD James was born early and received lots of medical help in hospital, as his heart wasn't fully developed.**

He also has other difficulties with feeding, speaking and hearing that still require support. After being introduced to Leeds Mencap, a project funded by Comic Relief, James's family were offered specialist support, advice and care.

James's mum said: "Right from the first day, he just went in the playroom, I went into the parent's room and we both enjoyed every minute of it."



To find out more, go to [www.comicrelief.com/rednoseday](http://www.comicrelief.com/rednoseday)





HM Government

# Let's all stay **safe.**

Schools are working really hard to help you and your friends stay as safe as possible with the following protective measures in place.



keeping children in the same groups or 'bubbles' to limit mixing with others



schools using outdoor space as much as they can



having staggered break and lunch times, as well as drop-offs and pick-ups



more cleaning



reducing the use of shared items



not travelling to school on public transport if possible



regular handwashing

# MY COVID VACCINE



by Bertie Wood, aged 12

**MORE** than 25 million people in the UK have received at least one dose of a coronavirus vaccine – part of the biggest vaccination programme the country has ever had. In a race against the spreading virus, the Government has pinned its hopes of getting us out of lockdown by vaccinating as many adults as possible by summer. Now, Bertie Wood, 12, is one of a small number of children taking part in the first kids' trial for the vaccine. Here, he tells *First News* all about it.

## A FEW weeks ago I volunteered to take part in the first kids' trial for the COVID vaccine.

My dad is in another trial and I've been wanting to find a way to play my part to help in the pandemic. When I overheard my parents talking about it (I am quite nosey!) I knew that I wanted to do it. My mum was a bit nervous, but I had read loads of stuff about it and managed to persuade her that I knew what I was doing!

One of my main reasons for taking part was because we had seen some programmes on TV about vulnerable children who had been shielding and not able to see their friends or family. Although healthy children don't usually get sick from COVID-19, this trial will help poorly kids to get the vaccine sooner and protect them.

I went to have the first injection in February and, although I was excited to be involved, it was a bit nerve-racking leading up to it, but all of the staff at the hospital were really kind and nice. We had lots of checks to make sure we were happy to go ahead and understood all of the things that would happen and, once we were sure, I got to sign the special permission form, which meant

I got to use my proper signature for the first time (which I've been practising for years!).

The nurses took some blood (but I had special numbing cream to make sure it didn't hurt) and then they came back with the vaccine. Some children will get the COVID-19 vaccine but others will get a meningitis B jab. We won't know which one we were given until the end of the trial. This is so that they can test the reaction fairly without us knowing. We had to look away when the needle went in, to make sure we didn't get any clues about which one I had.

The injection was fine but I felt quite poorly the next day and had a temperature and was super tired. After about a day I was okay and my arm wasn't even sore! I have had to fill in an e-diary every day, noting any side effects, and I then go back in May for a second dose.

I am really proud to be involved, knowing I am one of the first children in the world doing the trial. It will definitely be something to tell my grandchildren!



**First News** has teamed up with



show *FYI* and the



to make programmes and videos about the news, which you can watch on **First News Education TV**. This week, *FYI* spoke more to Bertie about taking part in the children's COVID-19 vaccine trials. Tune in to episode 115 to see him talking about his experiences at [first.news/EducationTV](https://www.first.news/EducationTV).

# RARE BABY BORN

CHESTER Zoo is celebrating its latest lockdown arrival – a baby okapi named Nia Nia.

The rare female calf was born after a 14-month pregnancy for mum K'tusha, who is caring for her new arrival well. Okapis are the only known relative of the giraffe and are very shy and secretive creatures. The species is under threat in the wild.

Nick Davis, the deputy curator of mammals at the zoo, said: "With only 76 okapis in zoos across Europe, and with sightings in the wild becoming even less common than before, every birth is therefore vital to the endangered species breeding programme. Not only is Nia Nia's arrival an important moment for us, it's an important moment for the species."



Chester Zoo

# LOCKDOWN LESSONS FOR DOGS



Dogs Trust

**AS the UK starts to follow a roadmap out of lockdown, Dogs Trust has put together a similar roadmap for dogs to help them adjust to the lifting of restrictions.**

With many new puppies joining homes since the start of the pandemic, Dogs Trust is urging owners to think about how the loosening of restrictions will affect their pets.

Most young dogs will have only seen a small number of people since they joined their family. Many will have not welcomed visitors into their home, visited a cafe or coffee shop, been left alone for long periods of time or visited new locations, like a beach.

Rachel Casey, director of canine behaviour and research at Dogs Trust, said: "A return to normal

could be confusing for our dogs, especially puppies acquired during the pandemic who won't have had these early life experiences. But the good news is, it's not too late to prepare your dog for lockdown easing, and to teach them vital skills that they can apply in any situation."

Dogs Trust has lots of free training videos and advice on its website on how to help your dog get ready for normality. It is also hosting virtual dog training classes with the Dog School.

Visit [dogstrust.org.uk](https://www.dogstrust.org.uk) to find out more.



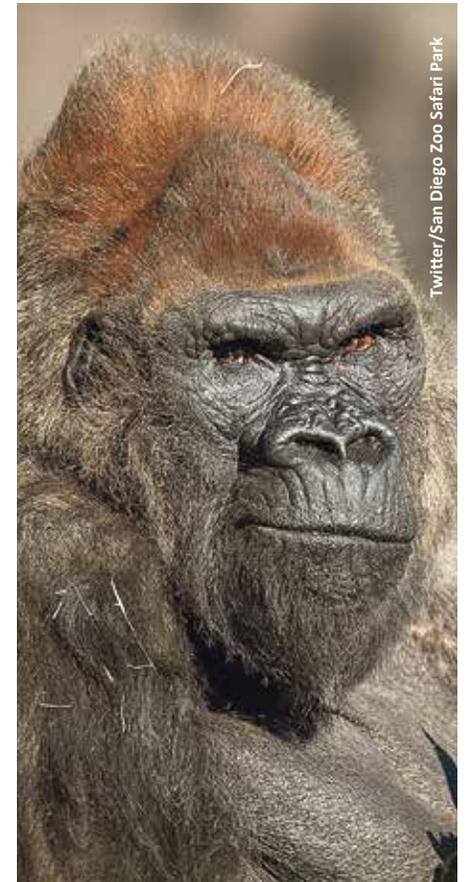
iStock

# REEF POLLUTION

**ENVIRONMENTAL groups around the world are concerned about the number of face masks being found in our oceans.**

This week, within just ten minutes, divers in the Philippines found 10-12 masks on a coral reef close to the capital, Manila. Experts say the pandemic means an extra 280 tonnes of medical waste is being produced by the city every day, and even a fraction of this ending up in the ocean could be a disaster for wildlife. Surgical masks, like the ones found on the reef, break down in the water, releasing microplastics that are eaten or absorbed by marine life.

# VACCINES FOR APES



Twitter/San Diego Zoo Safari Park

**NINE apes at a zoo in San Diego have been given an animal vaccine for COVID-19.**

Four orangutans and five bonobos have all received two doses of a special COVID-19 vaccine made for animals.

Vets are keeping a close eye on the apes who were vaccinated, but none have shown any side effects so far. The apes will also be tested to see if they have developed antibodies (substances that fight the virus).

Staff at the zoo decided to vaccinate the apes after eight gorillas at the same zoo tested positive for COVID-19. It's believed they caught the virus from a keeper who was carrying it, but wasn't showing any symptoms. All of the gorillas have now fully recovered from the virus.

The vaccine for animals was developed last year and until now has only been tested on cats and dogs. Lots of species around the world have tested positive for COVID-19, but experts are most concerned about the effect it could have on gorillas and other great apes.

# THE BIG PICTURE



**THIS might look like a behind-the-scenes picture from a Hollywood movie set, but this spaceship was a DIY project for a few Star Wars fans in Yakutsk, the main city in the Sakha region of Russia.**

The ship is a replica of the Razor Crest, which features in the Star Wars spin-off series *The Mandalorian*. It stands over 4m (13ft) tall and weighs more than a tonne, and took three months to build. It sits on top of a hill in a park, and has already become a popular tourist attraction.

Ayaal Fyodorov (in the hoodie) told the AFP news agency that it cost 750,000 roubles (around £7,500) to build, and that he used all his savings, and even sold his car to pay for it.

Although Sakha is incredibly cold and remote, it still has a popular film industry (see p24), so Ayaal's creative skills could soon be in high demand.

# THE PILL THAT TAKES PICS



THE NHS is going to offer people in England the chance to check for cancer by swallowing a miniature camera.

This tiny camera will take pictures inside the human body!

It sounds like something out of a sci-fi film, but the colon capsule endoscopy looks set to become a major part of the NHS screening programme for bowel cancer. It's the fourth most common cancer in the UK, with more than 40,000 people diagnosed each year.

The 2cm-long camera capsule is already used to check for bowel cancer in Scotland, and is widely used to look for other illnesses such as Crohn's disease, a condition that affects the digestive system.

High-quality pictures taken by the capsule allow doctors to see within hours if a patient has a serious condition that requires urgent treatment.

Although the pill has also been used to look for cancer in the past, it's going to be used a lot more frequently now. A group of 11,000 NHS patients in England will be offered the capsule cameras in more than 40 parts of the country. If the trial is successful, it will be rolled out across all regions.

The idea is to encourage more healthcare out of hospitals. Currently, the main way of looking for bowel cancer is by having something called a colonoscopy. That involves a doctor placing a camera on a tube inside a patient's bottom, and studying the images live on a screen. Although it's effective, it does come with some risks and requires time spent in hospital.

The capsule endoscopy process, on the

other hand, mostly takes place at home. So how does it work?

First, a patient has to clear their bowel and not eat anything for at least 24 hours, so that the camera gets a clear view. Then they must go into hospital to be given a capsule that contains a tiny light and miniature camera. A nurse will give the patient a portable recording device that receives the images sent from the capsule. Then the patient goes home and takes it easy while the tiny camera inside the pill takes two photos per second and beams them to the device. It usually takes between four and eight hours for the pill to pass through the body.

The recording device is then returned to the hospital, and the images are studied by a doctor. If cancer is spotted, the patient can get the care they need quickly.

Doctors hope the camera capsule will encourage people to get checked for cancer if they are reluctant to have a colonoscopy or spend time in a hospital while the pandemic continues.



The recording device is worn around the body

## LUNAR SPACE STATION PLAN AGREED



The moon above Moscow last year

RUSSIA and China have announced plans to launch a joint lunar space station.

Russian space agency Roscosmos and the China National Space Administration (CNSA) plan to develop a research facility on the moon or in its orbit.

Russia was a space superpower in the last century, sending the first satellite into orbit and the first man and woman into space. The country also continues to play a big part in the operation of the International Space Station, which has been in orbit above Earth for 20 years.

This year, Russia plans to launch its first lunar lander since 1976. Luna 25 is scheduled to lift off on 1 October. China, which has recently become a major player in space exploration, launched the Tianwen-1 probe last year. It is currently orbiting Mars.

The announcement is seen as a sign of Russia moving further away from NASA, the American space agency, after 25 years of close co-ordination. Russia recently declined to join NASA's Artemis project, which aims to land the first woman on the moon by 2024.

The CNSA has said the new space station is "open to all interested countries".

## PLANET SPOTTED AROUND STAR



The Vega star

ASTRONOMERS in the USA think they may have found the second hottest exoplanet (a planet outside our solar system).

Ten years of data about a star called Vega was studied by a team at the University of Colorado Boulder. The star is 25 light years from our solar system, which is very close in space terms.

The experts found something that looks a lot like a planet, orbiting Vega every 2.43 days, ten times closer than Mercury orbits our sun. That means it would be very toasty on the planet's surface – around 3,000°C. But scientists reckon one side of the planet is probably in permanent sunlight, making it even hotter.

The hottest exoplanet discovered so far is KELT-9b, which is 670 light years from Earth and has a scorching surface temperature of 4,300°C!

SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

This report is from the Science Museum in London

DID you know that the first ever book about photography was published as far back as the mid-1800s?

Anna Atkins was a botanist and photographer who pioneered a new process of photography called cyanotype (right). The technique involves brushing papers with chemicals that turn a vivid blue when exposed to light. When placing objects directly onto the paper, they leave behind a white shadow.

Atkins used this technique to create a book of images of algae. The water-living organisms are so small that they were hard to draw by hand, so cyanotype allowed the tiny details to be captured in the form of a photograph.



Science Museum Group

# 70 YEARS OF MENACE



HE'S one of the naughtiest comic book characters ever created, and this week Dennis the Menace turns 70! Check out these cool facts about the menace that never ages!

- The character Dennis the Menace was born 70 years ago when the editor of the comic *The Beano* heard a music hall song with the chorus: "I'm Dennis the Menace from Venice".
- Dennis's birthday is 17 March. He may have been created 70 years ago, but the character is always ten years old.
- Dennis's first comic-strip appearance showed him walking into the park with his father, where a sign is planted informing visitors that they should 'Keep off the grass'. Guess what Dennis did?!
- Dennis's first ever spoken line was: "Keep off the grass, Huh!"
- Dennis didn't wear his famous red and black jumper to start with – he got it by being a menace!
- Dennis's surname is actually Menace. His mum and dad are referred to both as Mr and Mrs Menace and Dennis and Sandra Menace by the official *Beano* website.



- Dennis's pet dog Gnasher was introduced in *The Beano* in 1968 and in 1977 he got his own comic strip, *Gnasher's Tale*. Gnasher's children are called Gnipper, Gnatasha, Gnaomi, Gnanette, Gnorah and Gnancy.
- The instruction to the artist first tasked with drawing Gnasher was to "take Dennis's hair then give it a face and four legs".
- In 2013, Dennis and Gnasher were joined by the likes of One Direction, Olly Murs, David Tennant and Jessie J to put on a charity show for Comic Relief.
- Lifelong *Dennis the Menace* fan Joe Sugg has been turned into a *Beano* character to celebrate Dennis's birthday. He has also guest-edited a special birthday edition of *Beano* to celebrate.



You can catch *Dennis & Gnasher Unleashed* on CBBC. Plus, the *Dennis 70th Anniversary Beano with Joe Sugg* is now available. Visit [beano.com/birthday](http://beano.com/birthday) for lots more Dennis fun!

# THEATRE IN THE SKY

LEGOLAND Windsor Resort has announced that its brand-new ride for 2021 will be the UK's first flying theatre ride.

The Flight of the Sky Lion ride will stand 25m tall at the heart of LEGO MYTHICA: World of Mythical Creatures, which is the brand-new land opening at the resort this year. Riders will be transported to the magical world of LEGO MYTHICA, where they will come face to face with magical creatures as

they swoop through a fantasy landscape.

The new land will also feature LEGO models of 13 magical creatures made from a whopping 1.7 million LEGO bricks. The stunning sculptures have taken a team of 15 master builders almost a year to create! Wow!

LEGOLAND Windsor Resort will open in line with Government guidance. See [www.legoland.co.uk](http://www.legoland.co.uk) for more.



# PICS OF THE WEEK

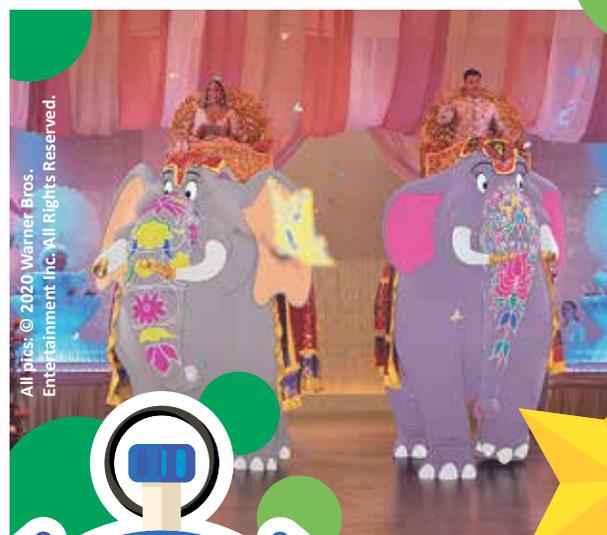
**BEN Shephard and Kate Garraway will appear in the new live-action *Tom & Jerry* film.**

The TV presenters provide the voices for two very theatrical elephants called Ben and Kate!

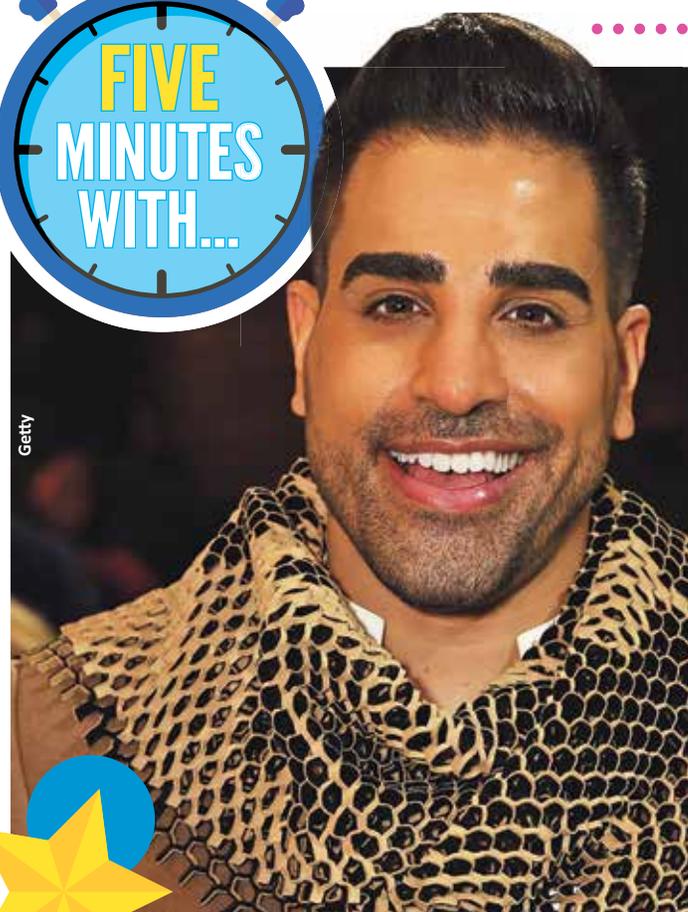
Kate said: "We are there to be elegant and carry in the stars who are getting married. Unfortunately it all goes horribly wrong!"

The film is a mix of live-action and animation, with the cartoon cat and mouse causing chaos at a hotel that is hosting a very important wedding!

***Tom & Jerry: The Movie* will be available to rent at home via Premium Video on Demand from 25 March.**



All pics: © 2020 Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. All Rights Reserved.



## DR RANJ

HE'S swapping his stethoscope for a microphone! Dr Ranj told us why he's signed up for *All Star Musicals*.

● **What made you want to do this show?**

People know me from my medical job, but my very first love was actually music. I've loved singing since I was a little child and it's always been really special to me. I've never had the guts to do it on screen, but this opportunity to perform in front of musical theatre legends was too good to miss! And after the year we've had, I think it's more important than ever to remind ourselves of the magic of theatre. So I'm hugely honoured to get the chance to do this – and equally terrified!

● **What was the first musical you ever saw?**

It was actually only 15 years ago. I went to see *Rent Remixed* and a bit of me fell in love. I was absolutely mesmerised. It felt like magic! I remember thinking to myself: wouldn't it be amazing to do something like that?! Fast forward a few years and I still can't quite believe this is happening.

● **What is your favourite musical?**

How do you pick just one?! I've seen *Wicked* and *Aladdin* several times both in London and New York. You could say I'm a little obsessed with those. One of my more recent favourites is *Everybody's Talking About Jamie*. I don't think I've ever laughed or cried so much in one show. And the soundtrack comes out every time I need a bit of a boost!

● **Are you nervous to perform in front of the panel?**

I'm utterly terrified. Singing solo on stage is daunting enough. To do it in front of three musical

## THIS WEEK

**1** JOE Wicks has been awarded the UK Kids Fitness Hero award at the Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards. Joe said: "Thank you so much for this amazing award! I feel super proud to be receiving it. It's been a challenging year and I'm so happy that PE with Joe has helped and inspired so many people to get moving and stay active."



Nickelodeon

**2** DON'T forget to tune into Comic Relief's Big Night of TV, Friday 19 March on BBC. There are tons of brilliant stars involved and lots of funny shows to watch while raising money for good causes.



Comic Relief

**3** WE can expect new music from JLS this year, after the band signed a new record deal. The band announced the news on social media a year after they confirmed they were reuniting. Their comeback tour was originally scheduled for the summer but has now moved to October and November.



theatre powerhouses is next level!! But I have a habit of pushing myself out of my comfort zone and I'll never have an opportunity to do this again. So I'm gonna make myself get out there and do my best... no matter how sick with nerves I might be!

● **How competitive are you?**

Weirdly, I've not even paid any attention to the fact that this is supposed to be a contest. I think I've secretly been in competition with myself the whole time, as I am probably my biggest critic. Of course, everyone wants to win, but for me, just giving a performance that I can be proud of is enough. But winning would be amazing – I never win anything!

Tune in to *All Star Musicals*, 21 March at 6:30pm on ITV to see how Dr Ranj gets on!

## MEET OLIVIA

At her recent nursery graduation, six-year-old Olivia overcame her nerves and stood smiling on stage as she led her classmates in a singalong in front of her proud family. It was a big moment for Olivia, as she had been given a head start in her education from an early age – something that most children living in rural northern Uganda don't get.

## WHAT HAPPENED?

Olivia is one of the first children in her family to receive a nursery education after a Home Learning Centre opened in her village. The centre, run by community volunteers, provides community-based, pre-primary care, and also gives parents the chance to sit alongside their children and take basic literacy classes too.

Olivia's grandmother, Dorian, says the centre has made a huge difference to Olivia, who can now write her own name, count to ten and loves drawing. "The centre was not here when I had my older children and they had to finish school early," she says. "The start in life these children are getting is completely different to what there used to be. I felt very happy when Olivia led the other pupils in the song, she is really doing something great."

Olivia will soon be starting at primary school and her grandmother is confident she will do well, because she already loves learning, thanks to her attendance at the centre.

"My favourite thing is the slide and swings," Olivia said.

## LITERACY AND ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

The Home Learning Centre is an initiative that's run by a Ugandan organisation called Literacy and Adult Basic Education (LABE), funded by Comic Relief and UK Aid's long-standing partnership. LABE found that in Olivia's community, like in many others, there was no form of nursery or pre-primary education available. This meant that children were only able to start learning when they started primary school at the age of seven or eight, and for some, starting primary school with no early education is tough. So, with the support of the community, LABE set up a centre to change this. Now more families understand the difference that education can make to their children's lives.



Comic Relief

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Just one out of ten children aged between three and five have access to formal pre-primary education in Uganda (UNICEF, 2016).
- Comic Relief and UK Aid are working together to improve access to quality education for some of the poorest and most disadvantaged children across nine African countries.
- Over the last ten years, the partnership has helped 418,000 children have better access to education.

# SUPPORTING RED NOSE DAY

RED Nose Day is here again, so people around the country will be helping to raise money for Comic Relief. Money raised through Red Nose Day is used to support people living incredibly tough lives in the UK and around the world. This week we found out about Olivia's story.



Comic Relief



Comic Relief

## RED NOSE DAY

- Red Nose Day hopes to bring the nation together to show just how powerful humour can be through the toughest of times. It has never felt more important to raise smiles and money for those who are struggling, as the impact of COVID-19 brings challenges to many.
- The money raised by Red Nose Day will support people in the UK and around the world, and help tackle hunger, homelessness, domestic abuse and mental health issues.

# MARVEL MAGIC



Disney+

SEBASTIAN Stan and Anthony Mackie team up in the brand new, action-packed Disney+ show, *The Falcon and the Winter Soldier*. Adam Tanswell caught up with the duo for the lowdown...

● **What can you tell us about the storyline of *The Falcon and the Winter Soldier*?**

**Sebastian:** It's about friction and friendship. It's about new discoveries and continuing the story of these two characters.

**Anthony:** The show is a lot of Sebastian and I getting up to our antics. It's about us literally getting in trouble every day on set and [Marvel boss] Kevin Feige having to come to set to punish us for being over-zealous with our characters!

● **When did you first hear about the show?**

**Sebastian:** Marvel called us up and said: "Look, we want to get into these characters' pasts. We want to figure out where they are at in the world now. What's going on with these guys?"

● **How many episodes will there be?**

**Sebastian:** The storyline is divided over six one-hour episodes, and you're going to be surprised along the way. What I love about Marvel is the fact that they always find a way to surprise you in a different way. With this show, you're going to see these characters in very everyday settings. That's very new for us. It's been very surprising.



Anthony Mackie plays Sam Wilson/Falcon



Sebastian Stan plays Bucky Barnes/Winter Soldier

● **The show's cast is a lot smaller than *Avengers: Endgame*. Did you miss having the other superheroes around?**

**Anthony:** The energy is still the same. The feeling is the same. The tone is the same. The ability to craft our performances and show up is the same because if you look at *Endgame*, *Infinity War* or *Civil War*, all of us weren't on set together at the same time.

● **Really? We didn't know that...**

**Anthony:** It's always two or three actors on set, or one or two actors and a director. At no point were there 700,000 people on set all running to fight. It was always smaller pods, so the energy on set felt exactly the same. Plus, we knew that even if our friends were not physically there, they were there in support and spirit.

● **Is it quicker to shoot a show without the other *Avengers* actors around?**

**Sebastian:** It's definitely quicker without Paul Bettany [who plays Vision]! No, I'm joking. I could have said Robert Downey Jr [who plays Iron Man], but I went for Paul. Honestly, it didn't really feel very different to shoot. It was just that we had a lot more stuff to dive into, which was nice. To be honest, I didn't have much in *Endgame* anyway.

● **What kind of action can we expect in *The Falcon and the Winter Soldier*?**

**Sebastian:** There are a lot of action sequences that are very similar to *Captain America: The Winter Soldier*. There are a lot of fight scenes that are very *Bourne*-esque. They are very grounded and very one-on-one. Anthony has a lot of other action pieces because he can fly, too.

● **How competitive does it get on set?**

**Anthony:** I am a very competitive person. When I see Sebastian go running to prepare for the action scenes, I go out and run. When he's in the corner doing push-ups, I do my push-ups.

● **Has it always been competitive between you two?**

**Anthony:** A funny story... when we were doing *Captain America: Civil War*, we had to run through the airport over and over again, fighting Spider-Man. Eventually, I think it turned into a race. What you see on film is us racing each other and not acting! We push each other. The reason these two characters work so well is because we always push each other.

● **Did you have any worries about moving from movies to television?**

**Anthony:** My biggest fear was about quality, because we were going from the big screen to TVs and streaming. Usually, a move like that would mean a step down in quality because the budgets are smaller. But after seeing *WandaVision*, there's no-one who could say that the quality was below any Marvel movie. It was right along the lines – if not better!



Disney+

## CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY FIRST NEWS

*The Falcon and the Winter Soldier* debuts on Disney+ today (19 March)

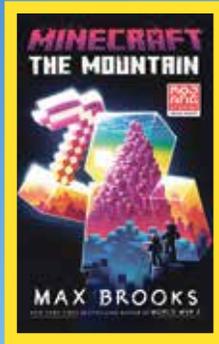


# WIN! MINECRAFT NOVELS

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

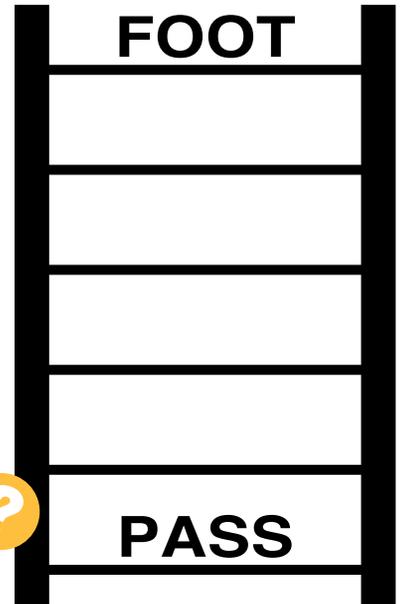
Send in your answers and one lucky winner will win copies of the new official Minecraft novels – *Minecraft: The Island* and *Minecraft: The Mountain* – by best-selling author Max Brooks. Jump into the wonderful world of Minecraft as a stranded hero stumbles upon another castaway on Minecraft Island and discovers that teamwork might just be the secret to survival.

[www.penguin.co.uk](http://www.penguin.co.uk)



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

# WORD LADDER



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

# WIN! CRAZE SENSATIONS



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

Send in your answers and three lucky winners will win Craze Sensations, a fabulous new collectable ASMR range from Canal Toys. Discover a world of sounds and textures! Mix the decorations with the special compound to create unique satisfying sensations. Inside each of the four pots there's a new sensation to enjoy!

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

**ACROSS**

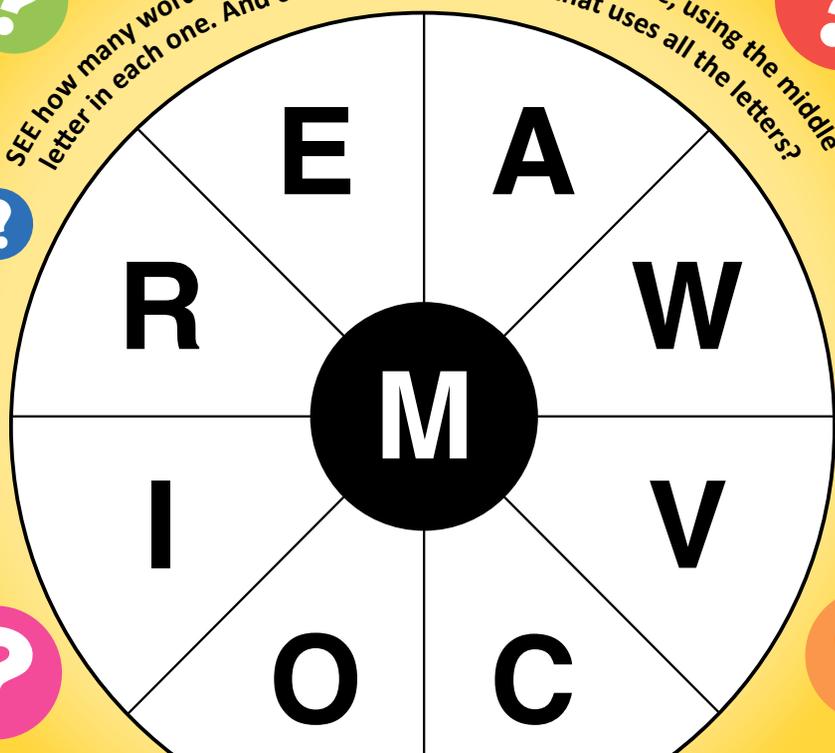
- 1 Associated with learning (11)
- 6 Great anger (4)
- 8 A country in South America (4)
- 9 Precious green gem (7)
- 10 Repeat the words of another (5)
- 11 Seize or take power by force (5)
- 13 Nevertheless (7)
- 15 Eager (4)
- 16 Grade; classify (4)
- 17 Very impressive (11)

**DOWN**

- 1 These cause the ground to shake (11)
- 2 Desire or impulse (4)
- 3 Spin around quickly (5)
- 4 Children In \_\_\_ : fundraising event (4)
- 5 Object that produces sound (11)
- 7 Feeling (7)
- 8 Sticky material put over a cut (7)
- 12 African country with a capital city called Nairobi (5)
- 13 In this place or position (4)
- 14 Liar (anagram) (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?



# SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

CAN you spot the five changes we've made to this picture from *Tom & Jerry: The Movie*?



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## WORDSEARCH

## WHAT ON EARTH?

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

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

V	T	K	S	C	W	M	Y	S	P	Y	H	T	C	Y	W	B	J	O	B	A	K	H	X	J	Y	B	T	
E	H	N	J	X	I	R	F	O	A	K	C	V	C	R	X	D	E	Z	E	X	D	Z	L	E	K	A	R	
T	P	E	X	P	F	V	K	W	S	H	H	Z	A	W	S	W	D	W	Y	V	Q	N	E	B	O	R	A	
W	P	M	G	I	T	A	A	D	S	C	K	U	A	T	U	V	P	N	C	O	S	Q	Q	X	O	T	N	
F	H	B	U	U	O	R	J	Y	E	T	W	E	X	S	I	M	Y	L	W	X	I	F	A	O	K	W	S	
I	L	I	Y	J	H	W	A	F	N	B	W	N	G	P	R	K	W	K	L	G	C	L	H	K	V	V	A	
J	N	I	T	G	G	X	T	G	G	F	O	G	W	I	S	T	L	M	W	I	U	O	H	O	L	A	T	
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M	C	T	F	Q	S	B	F	V	R	D	E	N	L	V	Y	Y	U	S	U	J	A	A	G	K	J	X	A	
U	P	K	I	G	D	T	M	D	S	O	Y	E	E	B	L	Y	O	H	X	R	S	P	O	N	R	S	N	
M	W	R	C	C	T	N	A	F	D	H	B	R	S	A	P	B	V	C	F	R	H	S	T	C	C	A	T	
D	U	G	D	I	K	P	K	R	D	W	I	O	T	P	M	T	F	O	O	Z	D	Q	I	A	F	Z	I	
Z	U	L	Y	T	A	E	I	N	V	O	L	O	L	R	X	P	I	C	E	B	E	R	G	F	I	Y	C	
J	P	G	U	N	A	E	G	T	X	E	I	C	M	F	U	Q	S	D	X	W	O	E	L	Z	D	I	N	U
S	Y	J	A	G	J	D	H	S	R	L	H	Y	R	P	J	E	W	Z	K	S	T	D	H	U	M	F	H	
K	G	H	K	G	F	T	P	A	T	T	D	B	Y	Z	C	Z	C	Q	X	H	W	F	E	Y	E	Q	V	
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L	M	Q	P	Z	N	Z	Q	B	C	T	L	O	U	P	C	Y	F	I	Z	X	H	N	G	S	F	H	W	
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- Ship
- Tickets
- Engine room
- Deck
- Iceberg
- Lifeboats
- Passengers
- Warnings
- Captain
- Tragedy
- Transatlantic
- White Star

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

**LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS:**

**Spot the difference:** Woman has been removed, boxing ring's corner strap is bigger, monster has an extra toe, T-shirt is now purple, monster's horn has been removed. **Word wheel:** equipment. **Word ladder:** take, lake, like, life, lift, gift.

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

# BIG PEDAL IS BACK FOR 2021!



BIG Pedal, the UK's biggest cycling, walking, wheeling and scooting schools challenge, takes place from 19-30 April. Organised by Sustrans, the walking and cycling charity, the event is a fun way to promote the benefits of walking and cycling to school.

## THE BENEFITS OF ACTIVE TRAVEL

### PHYSICAL HEALTH



Regular physical activity is important for your health, and the UK Chief Medical Officers recommend that children are active for at least an hour a day. An active journey to school can help maintain good physical wellbeing.

Building regular physical activity into your daily routine from a young age can also help establish healthy habits that you can take into adulthood.

### MENTAL HEALTH

Taking care of our minds is just as important as taking care of our bodies. The Mental Health Foundation says that physical activity increases mental alertness and helps reduce stress and anxiety.

An active journey to school can help set you up for a good day of learning.



### ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Recent figures for the UK (2019) reveal that the transport sector is responsible for 27% of greenhouse gas emissions, the most of any sector.

Walking, wheeling, cycling and scooting are all good for the environment because they don't produce any harmful emissions.

By not using a car, you won't be burning any fossil fuels on your journey. In fact, the only fuel you'll need is your breakfast!

### GET INVOLVED!



Big Pedal has a daily active journey competition, as well as a range of activities and the chance to win some exciting prizes.

You can also get involved by getting your parent or guardian to enter the Sustrans Big Pedal family competition. All they need to do is share a photo or a short video of you getting active between 19-30 April.

Get them to post it on social media, tag @Sustrans and use #BigPedalWin. There are three amazing family prizes up for grabs!

## TIPS FOR AN ACTIVE SCHOOL JOURNEY

by British Paralympian Dame Sarah Storey, a 38-time world champion in cycling and swimming, and holder of 76 world records!

### PLAN ROUTES

Explore the routes! The most pleasant, least-polluted route probably isn't the one you would drive.



### WHY NOT WHEEL?

If walking takes too long, can you scoot or cycle instead?

### MEET FRIENDS

As lockdown restrictions ease, pick up friends who live on your route and do the journey together. It's a chance for parents to catch up with each other too!

### FIND FOOTPATHS

Look out for footpaths that will help you take a short cut.

### PARK IT!

Live too far away to walk? Why not park further from school and walk or wheel the last part of your journey?



Remember – the best way to start the day is with a blast of fresh air, so an active journey to school will really help you make the most out of your school day too!

For more information on [Sustrans Big Pedal](https://www.sustrans.org.uk) and how your school can get involved, visit [bigpedal.org.uk](https://www.bigpedal.org.uk)



# FOOTIE FAVE IN FORTNITE!

**BRAZILIAN football star Neymar has arrived in Fortnite (PEGI 12)!**

Teased earlier in the week, the PSG and Brazil number 10 became the latest real-world celebrity to arrive in the ever-expanding world of Fortnite.

Fortnite's latest season has seen heroes and villains from cinema and gaming history being added to the game.

They've been brought to the game by a character called Jones, who's been trying to stop the reality-powering Zero Point, found at the centre of the

Fortnite island, from collapsing. As First News went to press, Fortnite was just about to kick off its new season, with a unique single-player event called the Zero Crisis Finale.

You'll be able to play the Zero Crisis Finale whenever you first log into Fortnite's upcoming Chapter 2 Season 6.

Epic Games says that "the aftermath of this event is sure to shape Reality as we know it".

We're hyped!

## FIFA ULTIMATE TEAM INVESTIGATION

ELECTRONIC Arts (EA), which makes the FIFA series of football games, has opened an investigation after it was claimed an employee was secretly selling high-value FIFA Ultimate Team cards.



FIFA Ultimate Team is an online multiplayer mode found in the FIFA games, where you make a team from players that you buy in card packs. These can be bought for real money.

The contents of each card pack is random. Each time you open one, you have a chance to find a rare player who can improve your team's skill and make it more valuable.

This week, a scandal rocked the FIFA Ultimate Team community, after screenshots emerged showing someone selling rare player cards that can't be found in FIFA Ultimate Team packs. Some of these cards were being sold for nearly £1,500!

EA said that an "investigation is underway", and that "swift action" would be taken.

## BIG BUCKS FOR ROBLOX

THE company behind Roblox is worth billions!

Last week, Roblox went public on the stock market, which meant that people could invest in the company.

It ended up being very popular, and was valued at over \$40 billion (£28.8bn)! That's lots more than other big companies like EA and Ubisoft.

Across last year, the free-to-play title was played by more than half of all those under 16 years old in the US.



## WIN! A CREATIVE BUNDLE



GET creative and make something special with these wonderful STABILO goodies that are up for grabs!

The STABILO Pen 68 pens are perfect for adding a pop of colour to your page and you can win a wallet of 12, so the colour combinations never end!

Why not try out using watercolour to enhance your creativity with the STABILOaquacolors? Simply draw out your design and then brush over with some water to see it transform.

If you're looking to make something bold, then the STABILO swing cool pastel highlighters are ideal for the job. The wedge tip is perfect for drawing a broad line quickly and making the key elements of your work pop!

To be one of the seven lucky winners of this fantastic bundle, just answer this question:

Which colour do you get when mixing yellow and red?  
a) Brown b) Orange c) Purple

**ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY AQUA**

[firstnews.co.uk/competitions](http://firstnews.co.uk/competitions) or see page 19. The closing date is 1 April 2021.

TELL YOUR FRIENDS

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# EARTH HOUR 2021

WWF-UK

AT the end of the month, people all over the world will be switching off their lights for the annual Earth Hour. Here's WWF to tell us more and share some planet-friendly tips.

## THE FACTS

**What is Earth Hour?** It's the moment millions of people around the world switch off their lights to show they care about the future of our planet.

**When?** 8:30-9:30pm GMT, Saturday 27 March

**Where?** Globally

**Why?** Joining Earth Hour's switch-off reminds us all that even small actions can make a big difference for our planet. By working together, we're helping to raise our voices so that businesses and governments can't ignore us.

reduce the energy consumption by 57% per cycle! Most washing liquid is made to clean just as effectively at 30 degrees too.

Plus, some of the money your family saves could go towards fun activities, such as finding bee-friendly wildflower seeds to plant in the garden or a bird feeder to welcome new wildlife into your local area this spring!

## TAKING ACTION AT HOME

This past year has shown us the importance of nature and that we must work together to protect it. Nature has been our support system through these challenging times and it's what can save us from the climate crisis too.

Earth Hour is a reminder that no action is too small! We can all make a start at home by switching off our lights for Earth Hour, talking about what we love about nature and taking on a new challenge for our planet, such as trying to eat more planet-friendly foods.

This year, WWF is encouraging us to look at the size of our environmental footprint – our individual impact on the planet, from the food we eat, to the way we travel and how we use energy at home. By taking on a challenge with the new *My Footprint* app, you and your family can keep tabs on your impact with simple but effective actions. The app provides tip and challenges in response to WWF's most frequently asked question: "What can I do to help save the planet?"



## PLANET-FRIENDLY FOOD

You might not realise it, but the meat industry has a huge impact on forest destruction around the world – including important landscapes such as the Amazon. Large areas of precious rainforest are being cut down to make space for farming soy and livestock – and the soy grown is often used to feed animals reared here in the UK. Have a chat with your family about going meat-free, even for a few days every week. It significantly reduces your environmental impact, while foods like vegetables, grains, fruits and nuts are helping to future-proof the planet.



WWF-UK

## GO GREEN AND SAVE SOME £££S, TOO

Electricity generated by burning fossil fuels like oil, coal and gas cause global warming and pollution, making our climate unsafe and our air dirty. Ask your parents or guardians how they currently heat your home and suggest switching to a 100% renewable tariff, such as wind or solar power.

The UK Government will often help homeowners to switch over to a renewable energy supplier with a grant, which helps pay for some initial costs. Saving money and the planet!

Another energy-saving tip is to turn down the washing machine from 40 to 30 degrees, which can

## WASTE NOT, WANT NOT

Waste is a big problem! We've talked about wasting energy, but what about plastic packaging and food waste?

Every product we buy has its own environmental footprint and it's important that we try to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill or leaking into nature. Plastic pollution, for example, is damaging the health of our oceans and the wildlife that live there. Reusing and recycling what we can reduces the number of new materials we are making, and upcycling is a creative way to give new life to old items.

One-third of food produced for people is lost or wasted, but reducing waste at home is easy! Talk to your family about freezing anything you can't eat while it's fresh; try to find loose produce like fruits and vegetables at the supermarket, so you can buy the exact amount that you need; and head online to find new and creative recipes for leftover food at home.



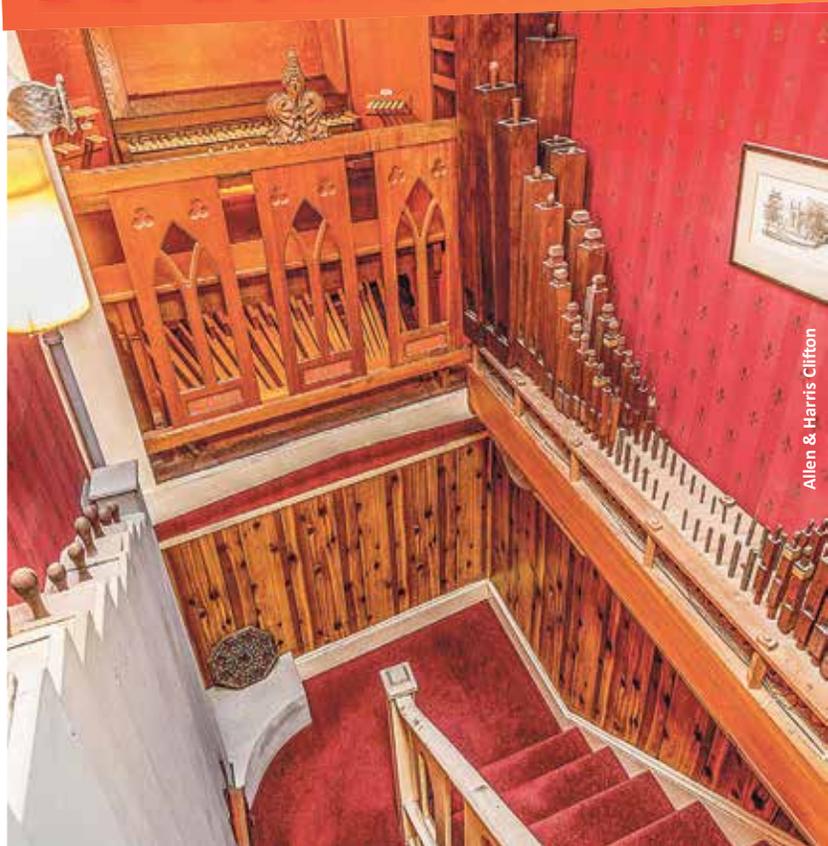
WWF-UK

Discover more at [wwf.org.uk/earth-hour](http://wwf.org.uk/earth-hour)



WWF-UK

# A MUSICAL SECRET



Allen & Harris Clifton



Allen & Harris Clifton



Allen & Harris Clifton

**THIS** might look like your average house, but there's an unusual feature hidden in its walls...

On the top floor of this property in Bristol lies a huge fully-working church organ!

The amazing instrument (and the house) belonged to 98-year-old Joan Baker, who sadly died last year. Joan's husband, Ronald, built the organ for her as a gift. She used to play at the local church and wanted to practise at home. Ronald would play his trumpet alongside her.

The organ was built upstairs but its pipes run all the way around the landing, so it takes up large parts of the house.

The unusual property has just been sold. Whoever bought it might just have inherited some musical history!

## SSSCARY DISCOVERY

**A TEENAGER** in Queensland, Australia, got rather a fright when she discovered a snake in her asthma inhaler!

The baby red-bellied black snake had managed to curl itself up inside the girl's pump, which she'd left on the floor in her bedroom.

The family had to call expert snake handlers to remove the unwelcome critter and return it to safety. Sunshine Coast Snake Catchers said on its Facebook page: "This is crazy and super lucky we were able to find the snake. It's one of the most incredible places we have ever found a snake before."

Red-bellied black snakes are often found in eastern Australia and can bite, causing serious symptoms, though they are not known to have killed anyone.



Facebook/ Sunshine Coast Snake Catchers

iStock

The snake tucked away inside the asthma inhaler!

A red-bellied black snake

## WOW!

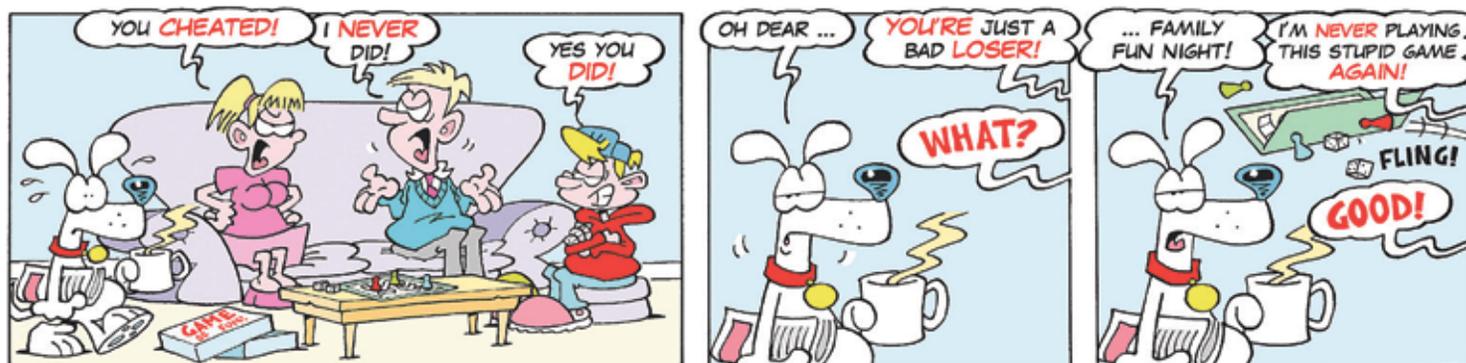
**WANTED:** Minecraft landscape gardeners.

British website WhatShed is on the hunt for virtual landscape gardeners to help *Minecraft* players. The team will be employed to improve people's outdoor spaces in the virtual world. The ideal candidates must be able to provide creative feedback on the player's set-up and stay within their Minecoin budget (in-game currency). The gardeners will get £50 an hour for their services – sounds like good fun to us!

Getty



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer



# THE BIG PICTURE

**THESE** amazing costumes are for one of the many films that are made in Sakha, a remote region of Russia, where the local film industry is jokingly called Sakhawood.

Although Sakha is nearly 13 times the size of the entire UK, it has a population of just 950,000 (compared to nearly 67 million for the UK). But it still has a thriving film industry, which is a way for the Sakha people to preserve their culture and traditional stories.

Temperatures in Sakha can be extremely cold, and the town of Oymyakon once reached  $-67.7^{\circ}\text{C}$ , which is the record for the lowest temperature outside Antarctica and lowest temperature for any inhabited part of the world.

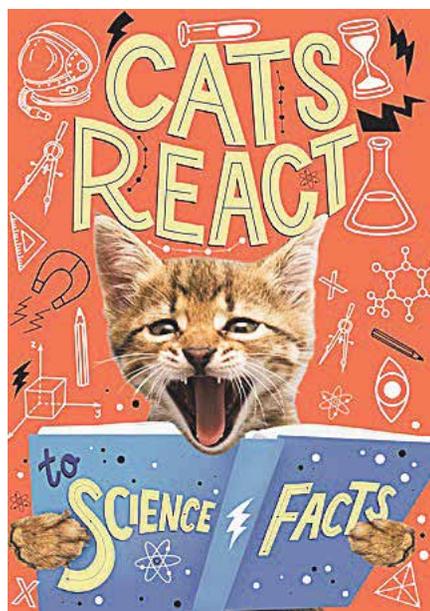
This picture is part of a series by Russian photographer Alexey Vasilyev that has been shortlisted for the 64th World Press Photo Contest.



# CAT CHEMISTRY GETS THE PERFECT REACTION

ANOTHER week, another chance to celebrate an award-winning book!

The Royal Society Young People's Book Prize is awarded annually to the best science book for children aged up to 14, and this year's winner is well deserving of a round of 'a-claws'!



Cats React To Science Facts, by children's author Izzi Howell, is the 2020 winner, bagging the grand prize of £10,000.

A virtual ceremony was held to celebrate, hosted by Blue Peter's Lindsey Russell.

The winning title was picked by more than 13,000 young judges from 500 schools and youth groups across the country. They made their choice from a shortlist of six titles, chosen by a panel of adult judges including Waterstones Children's Laureate Cressida Cowell, and TV presenter and children's author Konnie Huq.

One of the young judges said it was "an incredible book" and that they would "recommend this book to anyone that loves cats and science."

## ON LOCKDOWN WITH BADGERS



**DURING** lockdown last year, a British boy researched, wrote and published his first book.

*Badgers In A Time Of Corona* was written by Thomas Gray over lockdown last year, when he suddenly had plenty more time to spend following, watching and photographing badgers.

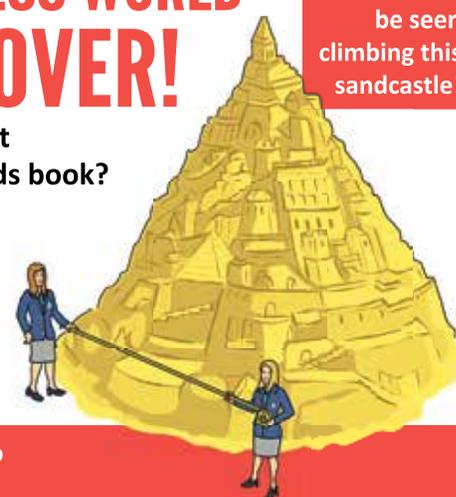
His book, which is now on Amazon, follows Thomas' interest in the animals, as he captures their activities, habitat and behaviour.

## BE ON THE NEXT GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS BOOK COVER!

You could be seen climbing this sandcastle!

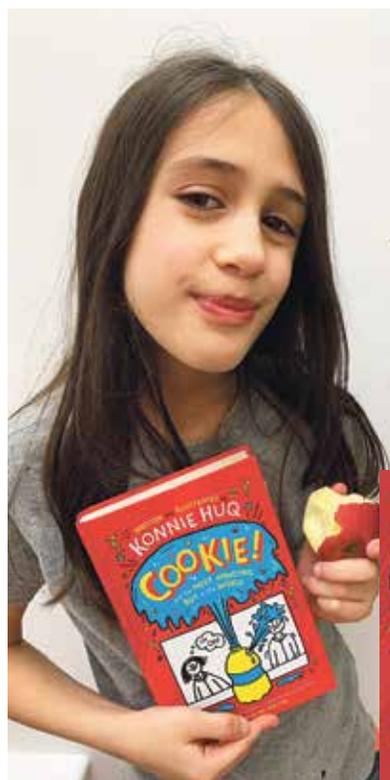
**FANCY** being on the cover of the next edition of the Guinness World Records book?

Award-winning illustrator Rod Hunt has returned to design the cover for Guinness World Records 2022, and guess what? One UK winner will be given the chance to feature on this cover, and will be pictured climbing the world's largest sandcastle!



To find out how to get involved, head to [gwr.co/CoverComp](http://gwr.co/CoverComp)

# YOUR READS!



## COOKIE AND THE MOST ANNOYING BOY IN THE WORLD KONNIE HUQ

reviewed by Millie, aged nine

I feel sorry for poor Cookie, who is nine like me, because her best friend Keziah is moving away.

To make things worse, a new boy called Jake moves in next door and Cookie decides that he is trouble when he buys the kitten that she has been wanting for ages.

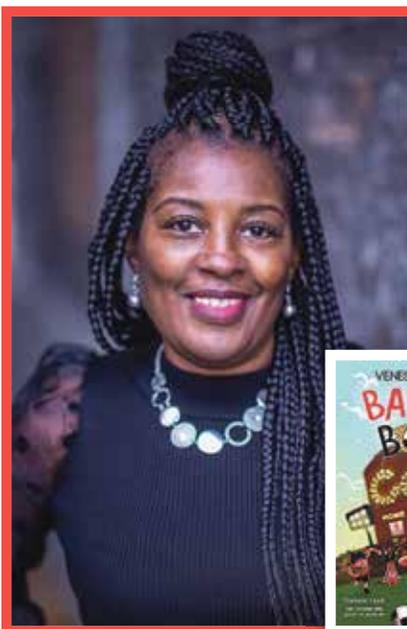
This book made me laugh and I really liked the illustrations on every page (which made things even funnier).

I loved the bit when Cookie tries to lead a bird into the house and ends up with not quite what she expected.

## WE WANT YOUR BOOK REVIEWS!

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

## National Literacy Trust's Virtual School Library



**WE'RE** on the ball with our author this week.

Yes, our Virtual School Library author of the week is Venessa Taylor!

Visit the Virtual School Library from the National Literacy Trust and the Oak National Academy to read *Baller Boys* by Venessa Taylor for free!

Venessa Taylor recommends these books:

- *Dear Zoo* by Rod Campbell
- *Amazing Grace* by Mary Hoffman, illustrated by Caroline Binch
- *Boy Everywhere* by AM Dassu, Illustrated by Zainab 'Daby' Faidhi

“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](http://WORDSFORLIFE.ORG.UK)

# WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?

## CASSETTE KEYCHAIN

JUSTMUSTARD.COM £6.00

Wind back the clock to a time before smartphones, with this retro cassette keychain. Doubling as



a keyring, this handy little cable tidy is a perfect solution for keeping your headphones tangle-free.

\*All prices correct at time of printing



## KEY BRICKS HOLDER

IWANTONEOFTHOSE.COM £9.99

Colour-code your keys with this set of four novelty keychains. They not only look great when hanging on a wall, but allow you to organise your keys in style and never pick up the wrong set again. The long block tape included has an adhesive backing that can be cut to size and easily mounted to most smooth flat surfaces.

## KEYCHAINS



## LITTLE KEYCHAIN KIT

UTILITYGIFT.CO.UK £10.00

These clever kits contain everything you need to create your own wonderful mini keychains. Create your personalised message or picture using the pen included, then pop it in the oven (ask an adult to help) for two minutes and watch it shrink down to a solid, perfectly-formed, personalised keyring. Choose from a hand print, letter or drawing.

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We are extremely passionate about the environment and we are always looking at ways to reduce waste throughout the company and across all of our products. Our paper comes from sustainable sources. We package First News in a mixture of compostable wrapper, paper wrapper, cardboard wraps and boxes, depending on the order size. See [www.firstnews.co.uk/about-first-news](http://www.firstnews.co.uk/about-first-news) for more information about our environmental commitments.



ALL of you imaginative little superheroes can take on cool superpowers with a line of blasters that are safe and easy to use!

The Dual Blaster comes with six colourful power pods: Magma, Dino Smash, Webs, Spikes, Shock Wave and one secret power pod! The Dual Blaster can launch two power pods at once for double the fun! The Dual Blaster is super easy to launch, with a simple pull-back trigger and front-loading mechanism.

Take play to the next level with the Mighty Bow that comes with four colourful power pods: Magic, Wind, Shark Bite and one secret power pod, and is super easy to load and launch, with a pull-back trigger. The fun continues with the Boom Blaster, including three colourful power pods: Red Fireball, Missile Launch and one secret power pod. Again, launching is a breeze with front loading and a simple pull-back trigger!



One lucky winner will win a My First Mighty Blasters Bundle. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

Which mythological god is associated with a bow and arrow? a) Apollo b) Cupid c) Poseidon

**ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY BLASTER**

[firstnews.co.uk/competitions](http://firstnews.co.uk/competitions) or see page 19. The closing date is 1 April 2021.

## FIRST NEWS HOME IHUB

# FIRST NEWS HOME IHUB

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# TEA FOR THE NHS

SCHOOL NEWS

by Year 4, Highfield and Brookham Schools, Liphook

**WE have been involved with a brilliant local fundraiser.**

We spent a weekend in February raising money to provide tea, coffee and treats for the ICU [intensive care unit] staff at the Royal Surrey County Hospital in Guildford. It was our way of saying a big thank you.

Our former teacher Sarah Hollingworth started the fundraiser. A friend of hers is a staff matron at the Royal Surrey and told her the ICU is so full that they currently have over 60 staff in the hospital per shift. As in all public sector organisations they don't get any free tea or coffee

and supplying their own is tough at the moment when every shift is a full-on 12 hours with little time to get a drink.

When we heard about the initiative we jumped at the chance to get involved. So, we baked brownies, jet-washed driveways, sold eggs and home-made honey, raided our piggy banks, donated our pocket money and sold toys and books for an impressive £570.

This has been added to the fundraising total, which currently stands at £2,479.



Jacob donated his pocket money



Izzy sold toys



Ted raised money by jet-washing

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

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

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

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

# ZOOM PETS

SCHOOL NEWS

by pupils from Two Gates Primary School

**YEAR One and Year Two pupils at our school have been enjoying daily Zoom calls with our teachers. Not to be outdone by the humans, our pets have also been making an appearance.**



Harry introducing his pets to his classmates



Mrs Dodds with her tortoise

As part of the Bring your pet to Zoom mornings, with the Arthur Terry Learning Partnership, we have been sharing our screens with dogs, cats and even a tortoise.

We have been swapping interesting information about our pets too, and the furry friends are proving to be a big hit with all our classmates.

It was lovely to see our friends and pets on Zoom. Everyone was really confident to introduce their animals and talk about how they look after their pets. We are very proud of our home learners.

# SNAPPED



**WE asked you to send in photos of you with your copy of First News, and to tell us why you and your family like reading the paper each week.**

Mina Tweedie loves reading her copy of First News. Her mum told us: "It is hands down the best newspaper ever... I love reading it too and we enjoy doing the crosswords, sudokus and other puzzles. It has been amazing throughout the whole of lockdown. Extremely well written and thought out."



Zeest is Head Girl at St Pius X Catholic school in Preston. She loves reading First News to keep updated with all the latest news in the world.



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**CALL: (020) 3195 7256 EMAIL: [SCHOOLS@FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK](mailto:schools@firstnews.co.uk)**

# SPORT IN NUMBERS

**10** ATP titles have now been won by Russian tennis ace Daniil Medvedev (below). The tenth was the Open 13 in Marseille, France, which he won after defeating unseeded local player Pierre-Hugues Herbert 6-4, 6-7, 6-4 in the final. Medvedev has moved up to No2 in the world rankings.



**48** -7 was the final score as Wales thrashed Italy in rugby union's Six Nations. The result means that, if Wales beat France tomorrow (20 March), they will win the Grand Slam for the second time in three years. It was Wales' 16th victory in a row over Italy. Ken Owens (below) scored two of their seven tries.



**3** goals were scored by Sam Kerr as Chelsea won the League Cup after beating Bristol City 6-0 in the final. Fran Kirby scored two and was involved in setting up the other four, with Guro Reiten netting the sixth. It was the biggest ever winning score in a women's or men's League Cup final.



**FANS have been banned from England's remaining three Twenty20 matches in India, after a sharp rise in COVID-19 cases in the state of Gujarat.**

Cricket fans – not distanced and mostly not wearing face coverings – in the Narendra Modi Stadium during the second T20 match

Crowds of around 66,000 watched England win the first match and India triumph in the second. But the third match on Tuesday 16 March was played behind closed doors. As *First News* went to press, the fourth clash on Thursday 18 March and the final match on Saturday 20 March would also have to be played without any supporters in the 130,000-seat stadium at Ahmedabad.

Indian cricket authorities pointed out that players did not come into contact with fans during the first two matches. But coronavirus cases have been rising steeply across India recently, so the cricket board decided to change policy.

Meanwhile, the UK Government is planning to use the FA Cup final later this year to test the large-scale return of sports

fans to venues.

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) wants to start returning big numbers of fans with the FA Cup final on 15 May. The plan is to allow 20,000 supporters to attend at Wembley.

In order to keep people safe, organisers will have to plan a safe layout in the stands and in communal areas such as toilets and bars. Face coverings and ventilation are also likely to be required, and it's thought fans will need to be tested before and after the event.

Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden said: "These test events will be crucial in finding ways to get fans and audiences back in safely without social distancing."



Team GB's freestyle skier Zoe Atkin on her way to winning halfpipe bronze at the World Championships in Aspen, Colorado. It was the first medal of 18-year-old Atkin's senior career. China's Gu Ailing took gold and Rachael Karker of Canada won silver

**PIC OF THE WEEK**

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