







irstNev Issue 771 £2.25 26 March – 1 April 2021



SPORTS | ENTERTAINMENT | INTERVIEWS | PUZZLES |

WORLD FIRST

by editor in chief Nicky Cox

A YOUNG scientist has held the world's first ever underwater climate strike at the heart of the **Indian Ocean.**

Climate campaigner Shaama Sandooyea, from Mauritius, staged her protest 735km (457 miles) off the coast of the Seychelles.

While underwater, Shaama held up a placard with the message: "Youth Strike for Climate" and another saying: "We Demand Climate Justice".

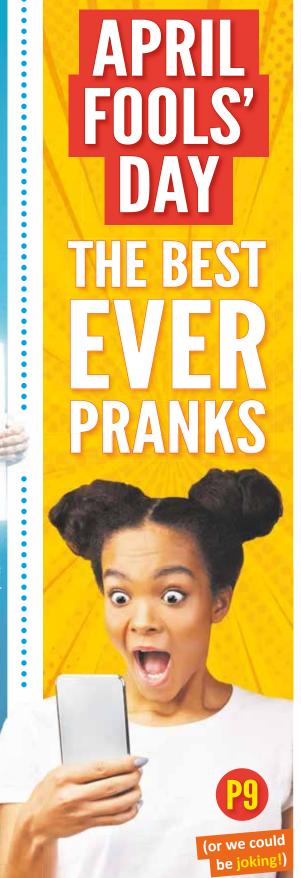
She is currently on a research mission to study the biodiversity in the area and show the importance of healthy oceans for tackling climate problems.

"We can't keep treading water on the climate crisis," said Shaama. "I've taken a stand here in this beautiful, remote area of the Indian Ocean to deliver a simple message - we need climate action and we need it now. With fellow Fridays for Future activists around the world, I want to see the climate crisis taken seriously. Reducing emissions and protecting our oceans are some of the best ways to do that.

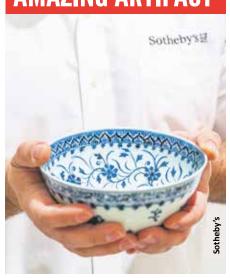
"Being from an island nation, I know first-hand just how important healthy oceans are, not just to our climate, but to the billions of people in the Global South who depend on them. That's why global leaders must commit to a network of ocean sanctuaries, protecting at least 30% of our oceans. We need urgent action if we are serious about supporting people, fighting climate breakdown and protecting wildlife."

Shaama joined youth activists and climate strikers across the world who took action as part of Fridays for Future's strike on 19 March, demanding action from world leaders.

Later this year, those same world leaders will gather in Scotland for climate talks at COP26.



AMAZING ARTIFACT



Back in issue 769, we told you about an incredibly rare Chinese bowl going up for auction. The 15th century porcelain bowl was bought from a yard sale in Connecticut, USA, for just \$35 (£25) and was expected to fetch up to \$500,000 (£360,000). Can you guess how much it sold for in the end? The pricey porcelain went for a whopping \$722,000 (£516,500)!

BEAKER BELTER

The theme tune from Tracy Beaker has been turned into a single. The song, called Someday, is being released by R&B singer Keisha White today (26 March). Dani Harmer, who plays Tracy Beaker in the TV series, features in the music video. She said there are a few other cameos to watch out for, too!

BABY ON BOARD

A baby was born mid-flight in India last week. The little girl was born on a plane travelling from Bangalore to Jaipur, after her mum unexpectedly went into labour. Crew members helped to deliver the baby, along with a doctor who happened to be on board. Babies being born on flights is extremely rare - the little girl sure will have an interesting story to tell!

QUICK NE TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS

FINEST FUNNIES



Alfie Meath from St William of York Primary School in Thornton clearly has funny bones – he won best joke in a competition to mark this year's Red Nose Day. The five-year-old made the judges laugh with his entry: "How do you make a tissue dance? You put a little boogie in it!" Barratt's Best Joke competition was set up following the results of a survey, which revealed that Liverpool has the best sense of humour in the UK.

RED NOSE DAY



Talking of Red Nose Day, this year's event raised a staggering £52,025,485! A whole host of celebrities got involved, with the likes of pop singer Justin Bieber and Prince William making appearances during the famous telethon. This year's theme was 'share a smile'. Money raised will go towards tackling issues such as hunger, homelessness and mental health stigma.

SHARE YOUR VIEWS!

Tuesday 23 March marked a year since the first COVID-19 lockdown. As restrictions start to ease, we're asking readers about some of the more positive effects to come from lockdown, like seeing your parents more. What things from lockdown would you like to see continue? Let us know at first.news/polls.

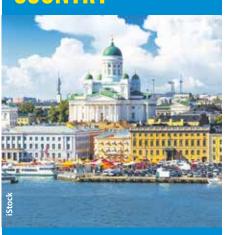
LOVING LUNA

Have you bought a pet during lockdown? If you have, what are the chances you've called it Luna? According to new figures from the website GoCompare, Luna is the UK's most popular lockdown pet name for dogs and cats. Milo, Bella, Coco and Charlie are also in your top ten favourites for both types of animal.



Eight billion drinks bottles, cans and cartons were thrown away and not recycled in the UK in 2019. That's roughly 126 drinks containers being wasted per person, says Greenpeace and the charity CPRE. Campaigners are calling for a deposit return scheme to be introduced to help tackle the problem. This would encourage people to return their drinks containers for recycling and get money back.

WORLD'S HAPPIEST



Finland has been named the happiest country in the world for the fourth time in a row! In this year's World Happiness Report, Denmark is in second place and Switzerland is in third. The UK has dropped down the list from 13th place to 17th. Mental health linked to the coronavirus pandemic is thought to be behind the fall. Afghanistan came in as the most unhappy country.

TOP MOVIE



Avatar has taken back its title as the highest-grossing movie of all time. The science fiction film first scooped the top spot in 2009, before being overtaken by Marvel's Avengers: Endgame in 2019. It's now back in first place, after being re-released in China. The movie has made more than \$2.8 billion (£2bn) in ticket sales across the world.

FOOTIE CAMP

La Liga (Spain's top football division) is to open its first ever training camp in the UK. La Liga Camps will teach the Spanish brand of football to players aged 12 to 17 this summer. Selected players will also be invited to a ten-day training programme with the youth club of a La Liga team in Spain. See laligafootballcampsuk.com.

3. BIG NEWS

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STARLING SURPRISE



THIS might look like one giant creature but it's actually thousands of tiny starlings flying together.

The incredible photo of the birds was taken by James Crombie at Lough Ennell, a lake in Ireland. It shows the starlings moving together to create a huge shape above the water. This is

known as a murmuration, and is formed by the birds to fool predators. Together the starlings can protect themselves better from other animals, such as peregrine falcons.

TOP electronics brands and global organisations have joined together to help tackle electrical waste.

Companies including Microsoft, Google and Vodafone will work together to solve the problem.

E-waste is the fastest-growing type of waste in the world. Each year, there's estimated to be nearly 50 million tonnes of the stuff. Research shows that only 17.4% of that waste is collected and recycled. The waste is also worth a lot of money – at least \$57 billion (£41 billion) every year!

The companies have announced the launch

of an action roadmap, outlining ways they can work together to cut down on e-waste by 2030. It includes ideas such as using recycled or renewable materials in electronic products.

Peter Bakker, president and CEO of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, explained the importance of dealing with the issue. He said: "Far beyond just computers, monitors and phones, electronics are commonly found in everything from clothing to toys."

INSTAGRAM FUR KIDS

FACEBOOK is building a version of Instagram especially for children.

The social media giant is creating a version of its photo sharing platform, designed for those under 13 years of age. At the moment, you must be 13 or older to use Instagram.

Facebook's Joe Osborne said the company is working on building products that are suitable for kids to use safely, but managed by parents.

However, Amnesty International said that "social media companies have a responsibility to protect children and young people online, but building a separate version of their platforms is not the answer."

POLL OF THE WEEK

Do you think an Instagram app for kids is a good idea?

VOTE AT FIRST.NEWS/POLLS

4. NEWS IN PICTURES



THE mascot for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games has been revealed as Perry, a multi-coloured bull, inspired by the design of ten-year-old Emma Lou, who won a national children's design competition. Perry is named after the Perry Barr area, the home of the Alexander Stadium, and he is a bull to reflect the city's long association with the animal. Perry is the first mascot at any multi-sport Games who will be brought to life through augmented reality.



TO mark the launch of The Falcon and The Winter Soldier on Disney+, Captain America's iconic shield landed on several renowned global landmarks, including the Planetario. By using a technique called projection mapping, the legendary shield also appeared on the Melbourne Star, the Luneur Ferris wheel in Rome, the London Eye and the Torre Latinoamericana in Mexico City.



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A MURAL of Captain Sir Tom Moore has brightened up the side of this house. The mural, which remembers Sir Tom and thanks the NHS for their hard work throughout the pandemic, was created by artist Frank Styles and was commissioned by an anonymous patron.



CHERRY blossom trees in full bloom. On 14 March, the Japan Meteorological Corporation declared the arrival of this year's cherry blossom season after spotting five blooms on its sample tree in Tokyo. It's the earliest date that blossom has been recorded since records began in 1953.



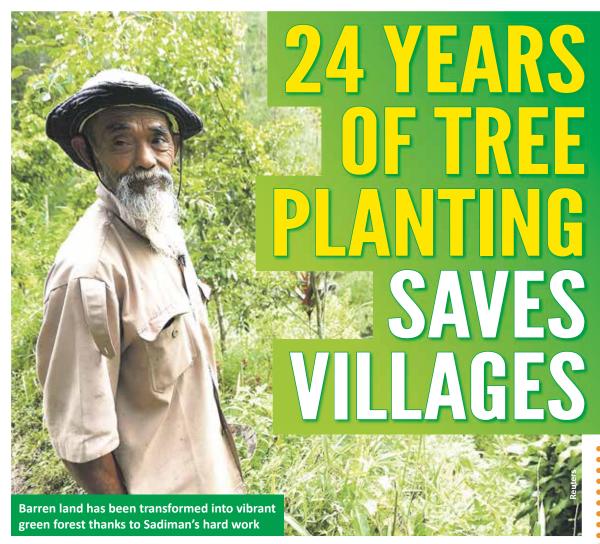
ARTIST Luke Jerram with his new giant glass sculpture of the virus that causes COVID-19 alongside the smaller version. The giant sculpture marks the anniversary of the UK's first national lockdown on 23 March 2020. Profits from the sculpture will go to the global charity Médecins Sans Frontières to help communities heavily impacted by the pandemic.







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AN Indonesian man who has been planting trees for more than 24 years has turned his local hills green, making water available for several nearby villages.

The 69-year-old farmer has spent decades reforesting the dry hills in his neighbourhood to solve the local water shortage problem. Sadiman became focused on planting banyan and ficus trees because he knew they "can store a lot of water". Their long, wide roots help retain water, which stops the soil blowing away. Between 1996 and 2015 he planted more than 11,000 trees on 250 hectares, single-handedly.

Springs have since formed on the once barren

land, and water is piped to villages for use in homes and on farms. This means farmers are able to harvest two or three times a year now, instead of just once.

Gendol, a local villager, said: "In the past, people thought he was crazy, but look at the result. He is able to provide clean water to meet the needs of the people in several villages."

Sadiman said: "I hope the people here can have prosperous lives and live happily."

CONGRATULATIONS to Max (p10) for sleeping in a tent for a whole year.

His back garden camping wasn't planned because of lockdown, but ended up happening alongside the COVID-19 pandemic.

It's made Max think a lot about all the young people across the world who have been feeling isolated because of the restrictions to keep us safe from the virus. Why not join him for his Big Camp Out – see page 10.

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GOOD WEEK FOR



FOSSIL HUNTERS

MATTHEW Basak, from South Carolina, USA, found a tooth belonging to the biggest shark that ever lived. The Megalodon tooth is 16.4cm (6.45in) long and could sell for \$6,000 (£4,308).

BAD WEEK FOR

THIS FERRARI DRIVER

A GERMAN man crashed his brandnew Ferrari while driving it home. He had waited a year for the Italian supercar to be built, but wrecked it on his first drive. Luckily, there were no serious injuries in the crash.

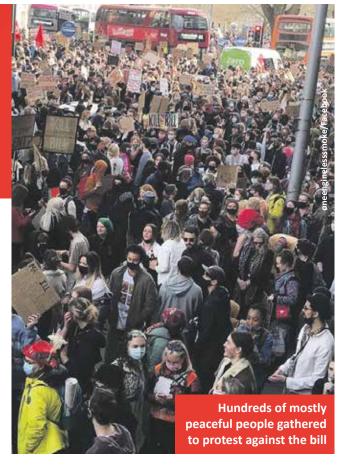
PEACEFUL PROTEST TURNS

PROTESTS in Bristol have been widely criticised after a demonstration turned violent.

Avon and Somerset Police said that 20 officers were injured, some suffering broken bones. The police said that the peaceful protest was "turned by a small minority into a violent disorder".

The protest was organised due to anger at the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill. Some people think the proposed law would reduce freedom of speech and stop protests from taking place.

Bristol mayor Marvin Rees said he understood people's frustrations with the bill but added that "smashing buildings, vandalising vehicles, attacking our police will do nothing to lessen the likelihood of the bill going through".





A LEADING disease expert has warned that face masks and social distancing could be needed for several years.

Mary Ramsay, head of immunisation at Public Health England, said that "lower-level restrictions" could stay in effect "at least until other parts of the world are as well vaccinated as we are".

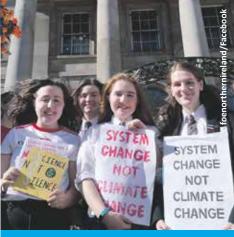
The UK's vaccination programme is still making good progress. Saturday 20 March saw a record 844,285 jabs being given, although vaccine supplies are expected to slow temporarily in April.

6. HOME NEWS

NORTHERN IRELAND

First NI climate bill

Northern Ireland's first proposed law designed to tackle climate change has been presented to the Government. It was created by Climate Coalition NI and it is hoped that it will be passed into law. The bill suggests that Northern Ireland should reach net zero carbon emissions by 2045. It also recommends ways to address issues of water quality and to minimise the loss of biodiversity in the country. The proposal has the backing of all the main political parties, apart from the Democratic Unionist Party.

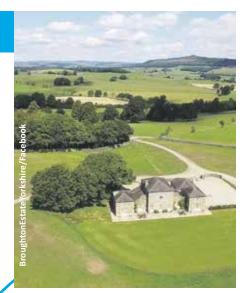


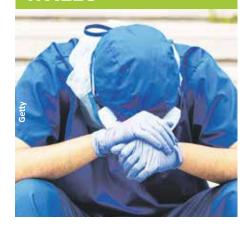
Young people campaign for change in Fermanagh and Omagh

NORTH YORKSHIRE

Tree planting on big scale

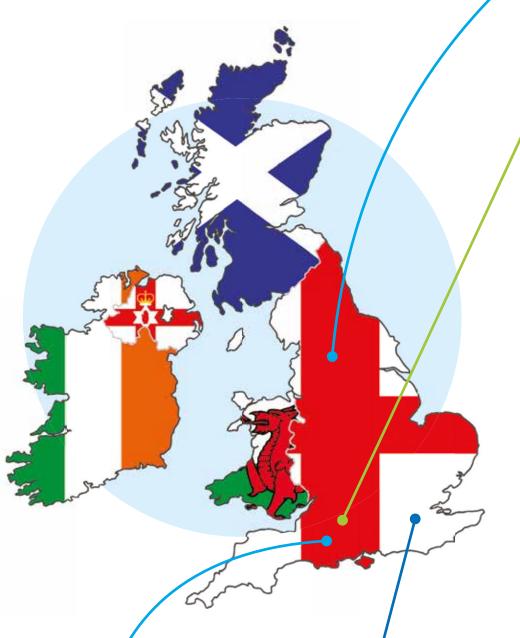
Broughton Hall Estate has become home to the largest tree planting scheme in England this year. Working with the White Rose Forest, 160 hectares of trees will have been planted by the end of April. That's an area about the size of 224 football pitches! The woodland will protect the surrounding areas from flooding, as well as store large amounts of carbon. The planting is the start of a programme to increase biodiversity and wildlife on the massive 1,200 hectare estate.





Stressed staff

The Royal College of Physicians (RCP) in Wales has said that a third of the country's doctors have asked for mental health support during the pandemic. The RCP report highlights other issues for doctors, like poor planning in their work rotas. This led to around 75% of doctors surveyed saying their work-life balance had been badly affected. The report calls for an increase in the number of doctors to tackle the stress. Olwen Williams, RCP vice president, said: "Long hours, unprecedented [never seen before] stress – many doctors have been living on the edge for more than a year now. It's not enough just to offer resilience training to individuals, we must change the wider system." The Welsh Government says it is working to make it easier for NHS staff to access mental health support.





Down syndrome doll

A six-year-old girl had a doll modelled on her in time for World Down Syndrome Day last Sunday. Toy company Lottie Dolls chose Rosie Kneen as the inspiration for their new Rosie Boo doll. Ian Harkin from Lottie Dolls said: "[It is] extremely important kids play with a diverse toy box. It's incredibly powerful for kids to be able to see a doll in their likeness."



SOUTHWEST ENGLAND

Fireball meteor spotted

Reports of the sound of a sonic boom (a loud bang) across the southwest were due to a fireball meteor. On Saturday 20 March, there were many reports of people hearing a loud bang and seeing a streak of light across the sky. Such an event happening in the daytime is very rare. The UK Fireball Alliance has asked people around Devon, Dorset and Somerset to keep a lookout for any fragments that might have landed.



GREATER LONDON

Anti-lockdown protests

Thousands of people took to the streets of London to protest against lockdown restrictions. Under current coronavirus rules, it is still illegal to go to protests. However, after police were criticised for their handling of a demonstration in memory of a murdered woman, some MPs have urged the Government to allow peaceful protests during lockdown. More than 30 arrests were made by police at the anti-lockdown protests.



Maskless protesters gather at **Trafalgar Square in London**

A MISSION to clean up space was launched this week.

There are about 9,200 tonnes of space debris speeding around the Earth's orbit. At any point, they could collide with one of the 3,000 active satellites above us, including ones that we rely on for forecasting the weather or for mobile data.

A Tokyo-based company called Astroscale is looking to clean up that space mess. On Monday (22 March), a Soyuz rocket launched from Kazakhstan's Baikonur Cosmodrome, carrying two spacecraft.

These two spacecraft will attempt to clean up the space debris that surrounds the Earth in the first mission of its kind. The mission has been called the End-of-Life Services by Astroscale demonstration, or ELSA-d.

One of the spacecraft is called the servicer - which will collect the space debris - and the other is called the client, which will act as the debris itself. The servicer will chase the client and dock with it before separating again. This will be repeated several times so that Astroscale can prove that its spacecraft is capable of finding and latching onto old and broken satellites.

The two spacecraft will be controlled by technicians working at the In-Orbit Servicing Centre in Oxfordshire, UK.

If the mission is successful, Astroscale hopes that it will be hired to be a much-needed space cleaner. Currently, space companies aren't responsible for clearing up their space junk.

WHALE-Y CLEVER! Sperm whales have the biggest brains on the planet!

NEW research about how whales behaved when they were attacked by humans in the 19th century has claimed that the creatures can quickly adapt to new threats.

The study, published by the Royal Society last week, examined how sperm whales reacted when humans started hunting them in the 1800s.

Before humans, orca (killer whales) were the only predators of sperm whales. The sperm whales would form defensive circles to fight them off, using their tails held outwards to keep the orca away.

Using digitised logbooks written by whalers (who hunted whales) more than 100 years ago, the research team learned that, at first, this is how the sperm whales unsuccessfully tried to defend themselves from humans.

However, within just a few years, the number of whales being harpooned fell by over half. The researchers discovered that the whales learned to swim upwind, away from the whalers, whose ships were powered by the wind.

The study suggests that the whales, who are sociable creatures that can communicate across huge distances, passed this information around.

It's hoped that whales will be able to do the same thing to adjust to new threats, such as deep sea fishing and the effects of warming seas caused by climate change.

SPERM whales weren't the only sea creatures in the news this week!

When octopuses go to sleep, they change colour. A new study, published by iScience, suggests that when this happens, octopuses may, in fact, be dreaming. Researchers watched octopuses sleeping, and found that the creatures had two stages to their sleep: 'quiet sleep', where the creatures kept still and stayed one colour, and 'active sleep', where they moved their eyes and changed their skin colour.

> An Arctic walrus has appeared in Wales, after first being spotted in Ireland! southwards, looking for food. The RSPCA was called out and confirmed he was healthy. They see a walrus in their history!

AID CUT QUESTIONED

A LEGAL expert has said that the Government's planned cut to foreign aid is "unlawful".

Lord Macdonald of River Glaven is a legal expert who was once the Director of Public Prosecutions. He says that the Government's planned cut to the amount spent on foreign aid (helping other countries around the world) was "outside the law" and could be challenged in court.

The International Development Act 2015 says that the Government must spend an equivalent to at least 0.7% of all the money made by the UK each year (called national income), on helping other countries.

Last autumn, the Government announced plans to cut spending to just 0.5% of national income, which would save about £4 billion a year. This change to spending was made without a vote from MPs.

Lots of Conservative and Labour Party MPs want a say on the decision, and are calling for the Government to put it to a vote.



The prime minister says the cut to aid is only temporary

USA





just setting up my twttr

8:50 PM - Mar 21, 2006

\$2.9 million tweet

Twitter founder Jack Dorsey has sold his first ever tweet for a whopping \$2.9 million (£2.1 million). The money will go to GiveDirectly's Africa Response charity fund. The tweet, which read "just setting up my twttr," was tweeted on 21 March 2006. While the tweet still exists on Twitter for anyone to access, the version of it that was sold is known as a 'non-fungible token' or an NFT. An NFT is a unique digital code that shows who owns a piece of digital media. Since it can't be duplicated, it's rare, like a piece of art or collector's item.

USA

Lost and found

A man from Chattanooga, Tennessee, who won more than \$1 million (£719,000) in the Tennessee Lottery briefly lost his winning ticket in a car park! After retracing his steps, the man found the important slip of paper by the driver's side door of another car. "It's a million-dollar ticket, and someone stepped right over it," he said.



HUNGARY

Volunteers needed

Hungarian doctors are appealing for volunteers to help medical staff, stating that the country's COVID-19 wards are "overwhelmed". Like much of Europe, Hungary is experiencing a third wave of the coronavirus pandemic. Hungary has a higher rate of vaccinations than many other EU nations, after importing Russian and Chinese vaccines, but it has reported a record number of 11,276 patients in hospital. Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said that hospitals had plenty of capacity, but needed more doctors and nurses.



JAPAN

A super day out

Super Nintendo World has finally opened its doors, almost a year after it was originally scheduled. The theme park - based on levels in Mario games – is a new area inside Universal Studios Japan in Tokyo. The grand opening, delayed due to COVID-19, was attended by the creator of Super Mario, Shigeru Miyamoto. Three more Super Nintendo World parks are due to be built at Universal Studios in LA, Orlando and in Singapore.

TAIWAN





Extreme floods

Communities in Sydney and the northern coast of Australia have been hit by sudden flash floods that have forced more than 18,000 people to be evacuated. As First News went to press, hundreds were still waiting to be rescued by the emergency services. Bureau of Meteorology national flood services manager Justin Robinson said: "I've been a flood forecaster with the bureau for 20 years and this is probably the worst flooding that I've experienced."



Salmon chaos!

Last week, a chain of sushi restaurants offered a free all-you-can-eat meal to anyone with "gui yu" (the Chinese characters for salmon) in their name - along with five friends. Taiwanese citizens can legally change their name three times, and it's cheap to do, so it caused a rush on government offices, as dozens of people changed their name to take advantage of the promotion. Some of the salmonthemed names chosen included 'Salmon Prince', 'Meteor Salmon King' and 'Salmon Fried Rice'!

OUR WORLD

NAME: COURTNEY LIVES: UK

To find out more, go to www.comicrelief.com/rednoseday



FOR much of Courtney's childhood, her dad was facing addiction and homelessness.

Now in recovery, he set up a charity called Steps to Hope, helping homeless people in Edinburgh. Funding from Comic Relief has helped the charity to support people in need of a safe, secure place to live.

Courtney now helps her dad run Steps to Hope, and says: "I can't put into words how proud I am of him. From what he came from and what he is now, it really is a miracle."



IT'S April Fools' Day this week, a day that's entirely dedicated to tricking and pranking others! But how did it all begin Well, April Fools' Day isn't as old as you might expect! The first April Fools' Day was actually in 2001, and began after an online campaign called for foolish people to be recognised with their own international day of celebration... ...APRIL FOOLS! Yes, April Fools' Day is actually much, much older than that!

While today it's celebrated around the world, there's actually a lot of dispute around where exactly April Fools' Day comes from.

In Roman times, it's thought that the beginning of spring could have been considered the start of the new year. To celebrate this, there were 'renewal festivals', where servants would control masters and children would tell their parents what to do. Some people think that April Fools' Day grew from this.

Another theory is that April Fools' Day was first mentioned in one of the Canterbury Tales stories written by Geoffrey Chaucer in the 14th century. The Nun's Priest's Tale is thought to be set on the 32nd day of March, as it says in the text of the story itself, which could be interpreted as 1 April.

In France, 1 April is also known as poisson d'Avril or April Fish Day! On this day, pranksters attach a paper fish to somebody's back without them knowing. Chocolate fish are also given as gifts. It's thought that this is because there are lots of fish in streams at the beginning

of April, making them very easy to catch - just like a fool who's easy to trick! It could also be that the sign of the zodiac at that time is Pisces, the fish.

No matter how it began, we love April Fools' Day here at First News. So much so, we've collected a few of our favourite tricks from across the years for you to read about!

57 SPAGHET-TREES

Thought to be one of the first ever televised April Fools, the BBC tricked its viewers into believing that spaghetti was grown on trees. The prank was broadcast in a special Panorama TV programme, explaining that a mild winter, and the disappearance of the 'spaghetti weevil', had meant that Switzerland had seen a bumper crop of

spaghetti that year!



2002 DEAFENING W

Tesco supermarket rocked the world of science by introducing geneticallymodified 'whistling carrots' in an advert that was placed in the Sun newspaper. According to the ad, the carrots had holes on the side that would produce a 97-decibel whistling sound when the carrots reached their perfect cooking temperature about the same level of noise as a road drill.



1974 TRICKING AN

On April Fools' Day 1974, an entire Alaskan town, and the local coastguard, was tricked into thinking that the nearby Mount Edgecumbe volcano was about to erupt for the first time in 4,000 years! In actual fact it was Oliver 'Porky' Bickar, who, with a bunch of his mischievous friends, carried dozens of tyres to the top of the volcano and set them alight. He'd told the police ahead of time about his plan, but not the coastguard. When a plane was flown over to investigate, Porky was seen waving, next to the words APRIL FOOL, which had been spray painted in the snow!

<mark>1998</mark> a burger

In 1998, Burger King published an advert in the USA Today newspaper, announcing the creation of the lefthanded Whopper. While it contained all the ingredients of the standard Whopper, the left-handed version's sauces had been rotated 180 degrees to the left! The next day, Burger King revealed that thousands of customers had requested a left-handed Whopper at their restaurants, while a few had demanded that they received a right-handed burger!

2013 WHO NOSE IF IT'S REAL?

and phones!

Back in 2013, Google announced a new way for you to search the web: Google Nose. By googling things like 'wet dog' or 'grandma's closet', you'd be provided with the scent of your search. Of course, you wouldn't really, but that didn't stop people from using the fake **Google Nose search option** to trick their friends into sniffing their computers

MAX'S B

SCHOOLBOY Max Woosey, 11, has raised more than £150,000 for charity by camping out in his North Devon garden for a WHOLE YEAR - and he's still going!

Max, from Braunton, has slept in a tent in his family's back garden every night since the first lockdown in March. He is raising money for North Devon Hospice, who looked after Max's friend during him "for one night only" for Max's Big Camp Out

his final days dying from cancer.

Now, to mark one year of Max's epic challenge, he's inviting young people across the world to join this Saturday (27 March). It could be outdoors if you have a garden, or indoors in a home-built den, with cushions and blankets. Join in to raise funds for a charity of your choice. Over to Max:

by Max Woosey, aged 11

"I'm Max! Since the end of March 2020 I've been sleeping outside every night in a tent, raising money for the North Devon Hospice. They were amazing in looking after our family friend Rick, enabling him to pass peacefully at home, with those closest to him.

To mark the one-year anniversary, please join me for Max's Big Camp Out on Saturday 27 March.

I'd like to raise awareness that many children across the globe have found lockdown and the coronavirus tough to cope with. At the beginning of my camp out I was focused on my friend Rick, but as I reach one year in the tent, and it's coincided with the coronavirus, I really understand what it's like to be isolated from your friends. We all understand why it's been necessary, but some young people have found it really tough going."

"My friend Rick gave me his tent before he died and made me promise to have an adventure so that's what I'm doing'



Max had a message of support from Bear Grylls!

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 Max about his incredible camping adventure. Tune in to episode 115 to see him talking about his experiences at first.news/EducationTV.



11. ANIMAL NEWS

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EASTER is just around the corner and this often means an increase in the demand for pet rabbits. But is it a good idea to get a real-life Easter bunny as a pet?

Rabbits may look like the ideal pet, but they are actually very complicated animals, with a long list of needs you have to consider before getting one.

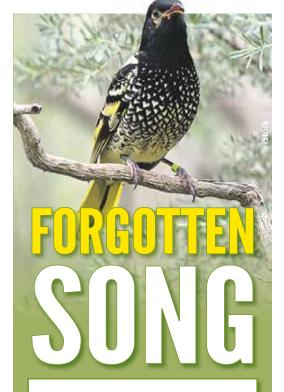
Every year the RSPCA (Royal Society for the Protection of Animals) receives more than 5,000 calls about rabbits and rescues around 300 abandoned rabbits. It believes that lots of owners don't do their research first.

Dr Jane Tyson, RSPCA rabbit welfare expert, says: "Sadly, when rabbits are bought on impulse, an owner may not realise how complex they are to care for and what a

commitment caring for rabbits can be."

Rabbits can live for around ten years, which is a long-term commitment. They are sociable animals and need to live with another rabbit to be happy, their enclosures need regular cleaning and they need to have plenty of time to roam and run freely.

So, if you are thinking of getting a rabbit as a pet, make sure you do your research and that you understand exactly what you need to do to keep a healthy, happy bunny.



A THREATENED species of songbird is becoming so rare that it is starting to forget its song, say scientists.

Regent honeyeaters from Australia have been heard singing the songs of other birds instead of their own.

"They don't get the chance to hang around with other honeyeaters and learn what they're supposed to sound like," explains Dr Ross Crates from the Difficult Bird Research Group at the Australian National University in Canberra.

During a field trip to try to find the birds, scientists noticed the birds singing different songs. Usually young birds learn their songs from older birds, but with only around 300 regent honeyeaters left in the wild, finding another member of the species is becoming harder and harder.



A BABY orangutan has been rescued from a village in Borneo, where he was being kept as an illegal pet.

A team from the Wildlife Rescue Unit of the Natural Resources Conservation Agency and International Animal Rescue (IAR) Indonesia rescued the orangutan after being alerted by local people who were concerned about his welfare.

The baby, who has been named Bomban, is around one year old and is in good health, despite being fed on a diet that would not be normal for orangutans. He was transported to IAR's Orangutan Rescue and Conservation Centre for a full health check, where X-rays showed air rifle pellets lodged in his thigh. Experts believe Bomban's mother was killed so poachers could steal him.

He will be cared for at the Orangutan Rescue and Conservation Centre, where he will be taught all the skills he would normally learn from his mother, before being released back into the wild. Work is being done in Borneo to help educate people about orangutans and why they shouldn't be kept as pets. If the demand for keeping orangutans as pets can be reduced, then there will be fewer reasons for poachers to hunt them.





Air pollution causes 40,000 early deaths a year in the UK

MAJOR oil companies including Shell and Esso have known for 50 years that air pollution from burning fossil fuels can cause serious health problems.

In public, the oil industry has expressed doubts over scientific to fossil fuel air pollution. studies and evidence linking poor air quality with serious conditions such as asthma, heart disease and stroke.

But a report in The Guardian newspaper revealed documents that show petrol firms were aware of the link between air pollution and illness at least half a century ago. A Shell document from 1968 (below) said that the oil industry "reluctantly" must accept that cars "are by far the greatest sources of air pollution". The same report said that small particles emitted by fossil fuels are the "real villains in health effects" because they can carry dangerous toxins "deep into the lungs". The same report said that sulphur dioxide, caused by the burning of oil, can lead to "difficulty in breathing" in

Another document from 1967, written by staff at Canadian company Imperial Oil, said that "the petroleum industry, directly or indirectly, is a major contributor to many of the key forms of pollution".

people with lung problems.

Yet many years later, in 1997, a scientist representing US oil and gas companies told American politicians that the connection between air pollution and death was "weak". A recent study found that nearly one out of five deaths every year is linked

Last year, a coroner (who examines a cause of death) ruled that air pollution was partly responsible for the death of a nine-year-old girl in London. Ella Kissi-Debrah was exposed to dangerously high levels of

nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter.

Air pollution campaigners have compared the behaviour of the oil companies over the past 50 years with that of tobacco manufacturers, who refused to accept the link between

cigarettes and lung cancer.

Whenever a fossil fuel like oil is burned, several pollutants are produced. The most harmful types of air pollution caused by vehicles are:

- Particulate matter a mix of solids and liquids, the most dangerous of which are tiny and invisible to the naked eye. These are known as fine particles and can sometimes cause death from lung and heart disease, asthma and lung cancer.
- Nitrogen dioxide high levels of this gas can make people with asthma suffer worse symptoms, and can cause coughing and breathing difficulties.
- Sulphur dioxide this gas is particularly problematic for people with asthma.

SOUNDS OF



NASA has released audio of the bangs, pings and rattles that can be heard as the Perseverance rover trundles across Mars.

Since its historic touchdown on 18 February, the rover has sent back sounds of the Martian wind and many pictures of the dusty ground.

Now it has shared the sound of its six metal wheels exploring the alien surface. Perseverance posted on its social media: "Hear that? That's the sound of me driving over Martian rocks. This is the first time we've captured sounds while driving on Mars."

Dave Gruel, an engineer on the rover team, said: "If I heard these sounds driving my car, I'd pull over. But if you consider what you're hearing and where it was recorded, it makes perfect sense."

The rover's main mission is to collect rock and soil samples to help scientists learn about the geology and history of the Red Planet.

You can hear the recording for yourself at tinyurl.com/PerseveranceSounds.



Adverse Levels, Current and Future Standards for Contaminants in Air and Water

MYSTERY OBJECT IDENTIFIED



THE first interstellar visitor to our solar system was a cookie-shaped shard from another world.

That's what a new study by astronomers at Arizona State University says. 'Oumuamua, which means 'scout' in Hawaiian, was spotted using a powerful telescope in 2017. At the time, some scientists thought it could

be a comet (a ball of frozen gases, rock and dust), while others reckoned it was an asteroid (rocky object). There were even some theories that it was an alien craft.

But the new study says the 45-metre object seems to be made from frozen nitrogen. This is found on Pluto and on Neptune's biggest moon, Triton. Experts think a shard of it broke off 500 million years ago and floated through space until it entered our solar system four years ago. 'Oumuamua is currently more than three billion kilometres away and is now too far away to be seen by telescopes.



This report is from the Science and **Industry Museum in Manchester**

HAVE you heard of eco-anxiety?

Eco-anxiety is a fear about environmental damage and the current and future impact of climate change. We often see the results of extreme weather reported in the news and on social media, or hear how climate change is impacting humans and wildlife. All these things can be worrying, but feelings of ecoanxiety are normal. When faced with this information and uncertainty, it can be turned into positive action.

A group of young people from Manchester developed a talk around eco-anxiety for this year's Manchester Science Festival.

You can find out more at tinyurl.com/ManchesterScienceFestival.



LOADS OF STABILO GOODIES BY WRITING YOU LOCKDOWN DIARYI

STABILO is launching a brand-new competition to highlight significant moments that have happened during lockdown!

To enter, simply write about a significant moment that has happened to you, your family or someone you know during lockdown. COVID-19 has impacted the world and lockdown has been tough on all ages. A lot has happened during this time, but it hasn't been the same for everyone. Your significant event could be a birthday, sporting challenge or a new family member, to name a few.

WHAT YOU

One lucky winner will win a bundle of STABILO goodies AND a classpack for all of their classmates!

Runners-up will receive a STABILO goodie bag including STABILO **EASYoriginal, STABILO EASYgraph, STABILO Pen 68 and STABILO swing** cool pastel highlighters.

CLOSING

66 My birthday was odd this year as I couldn't meet my friends. But my family had arranged a surprise video call and all my friends were there. We played games and had lots of fun. It was brilliant! 🤊 🤊



66 We got a puppy during lockdown. It's been amazing to watch her grow. We have taught her how to sit and roll over! 99

I was inspired by Sir Captain Tom and decided to raise some money for charity. I walked around my local area until I covered ten miles!





STABILO Swing





TABILO point 88

Write your lockdown diary in the space below. Your diary entry must be about something significant that happened to you during lockdown. It must be no more than 100 words and can include a picture if you like.





Cut out this page and send your entry, along with your name and age, to: STABILO International GmbH UK Branch, Building 1, Concorde Park Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 4BY

You can also enter via email. Just take a photo of this page and email us your entry, along with your name and age, to marketing.uk@stabilo.com

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES IS 19 APRIL



Terms and conditions:

This competition is only open to readers aged seven to 14 years old. Every entrant must have written permission from a parent or guardian over 18 years old. All entries will be judged by a team of writing experts from STABILO.







Ashwika (Ash) Kapur, India

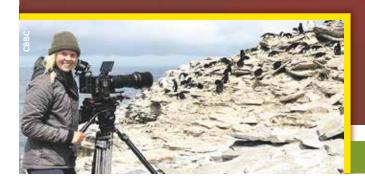


Ash is an award-winning natural history film-maker from India. Her film looks at the hoolock gibbons and the pressure they are facing in the wild. She visits a village that has learnt to live peacefully alongside the gibbons. Did you know? Hoolock gibbons are the second-largest gibbon species in the world. Ash says: "The next generation in that village is just so engaged with nature. They are definitely going to grow up to

champion the cause of conservation, and that gives me so much hope for the species."

Erin Ranney, USA

Erin is a wildlife camerawoman who has filmed wildlife documentaries all around the world. For her film, Erin visits the rockhopper penguins in the Falkland Islands to try to find out why their population has fallen so drastically since the 1930s. Did you know? Rockhopper penguins live in rocky environments, so can't slide on their bellies like most penguins. They have learnt to 'hop' to get around, which is where they get their name! Erin says: "There are little things we can all do to be better. Every single action we take has an impact; there are ways we can lessen our impact. It's not about being perfect, it's about taking steps in the right direction."



Jahawi Bertolli, Kenya

Jahawi is a trained cameraman who specialises in underwater filming. His film looks at a special pod of bottlenose dolphins off the coast of north Kenya and how he is working to get their home protected by the Kenyan government.

Did you know? Bottlenose dolphins are very, very smart and have been filmed in the wild using tools to help them get food.

Jahawi says: "You guys are the future and you are going to take this world and create a much better place. And do you know what? It starts with little steps; you build, you build, you build, you can see what you can do in your local environment. I'm so positive about the future, I think we really can do it, if we do it together."

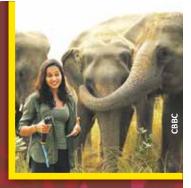


Megan McCubbin, UK

Megan is an award-winning photographer and scientist. You might recognise her from Springwatch. Her film looks at the threat to the UK's native sharks. Did you know? More than 40 species of shark can be found in British waters. Some live here all year, but others only visit during the warmer months. Megan says: "I find it hard to believe that sharks have been in the oceans for more than 450 million years; a timescale that we can't even comprehend. We have come along and, because of the way we interact with them, they are now in serious trouble. I am more motivated, more than ever, to stand up and say something to try and protect them because they really do need protection now more than ever"

Malaika Vaz, India

Malaika is a documentary maker, explorer and conservationist. Her film investigates elephants and why the tourist trade is putting them in greater danger than we realised.



Did you know? Elephants use their trunk to drink it can hold up to eight litres of water at a time! Malaika says: "Spending so much time with elephants has made me realise that the choices we make don't just define who were are, but also what sort of planet we choose to leave behind. It is our generation that can finally put an end to the torment these amazing animals have suffered in captivity. If we go out there and educate our friends and family, we can make a big difference."

Jack Harries, UK

Documentary maker and YouTuber Jack looks at rewilding in the UK and how native species, like the beaver, are being reintroduced.

Did you know? Wild boar, beavers, wolves, brown bears and lynx were all once native to the UK. Jack says: "Around the world we are losing wild spaces and the creatures that live in them at an alarming rate. But there is reason for hope, as an amazing movement is happening that is working to preserve natural landscapes and bring back species that have been pushed to the edge of extinction."



PICS OF THE WEEK

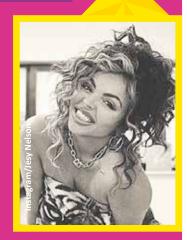
THESE colourful film stills are from the new Disney Pixar animation Luca.

Set along the beautiful coast of the Italian Riviera, Luca follows a young boy who experiences a magical summer he will never forget with his new best friend. Their unforgettable summer will see them journey into a world beneath the waves that is filled with sea



THIS WEEK

FORMER Little Mix star Jesy Nelson has signed a new management deal and said: "I can't wait to start my next chapter." Her new manager will help Jesy plan what to do next. Simon Cowell has already said he'd be interested in talking to Jesy about opportunities on one of his TV shows, so watch this space!





PRODUCTION has started on Disney's new liveaction film, Peter Pan & Wendy. The movie stars Jude Law as Captain Hook, and filming has started in Vancouver, Canada.

THE winner of The Voice UK 2021 has been crowned! Craig Eddie was coached to the final by first-time mentor Anne-Marie, who said: "I love you, Craig. You are a proper artist. You've blossomed." If you missed the show, you can catch The Voice UK 2021 on the ITV Hub.



THE star of CBBC's mysterious new

drama Mystic chatted to us about the

show, learning to ride horses and

filming in New Zealand.

What can you tell us about Mystic?

It's about my character, Issie, who gets moved to New Zealand by her mum, not long after her dad dies. She absolutely hates it there and she just wants to go back and see her friends, but then she rescues a horse called Blaze. Not long after, she starts having visions of a girl called Dora and a horse called Mystic. It's a bit of a mystery show.

Did it help you understand your character when you moved to New Zealand for filming?

Oh yeah, 100%. The rest of the cast had already met, as they were all already in New Zealand, so I was kind of like Issie in that I was making friends with new people. Also, being away from my friends, I knew how she felt, so it was really relatable to me.

How much experience with horses had you had before the show?

Growing up, I had some friends who had horses, so in the summer I would pop down and help them look after them. I didn't really have any riding experience, so I had some lessons in the UK before I went. Then when I was in New Zealand I had more lessons with the rest of the cast, which was really great. I was definitely comfortable around horses, it was just the riding part I wasn't that confident about. When I was out there I fell off a horse and it really knocked my confidence, then you have to rebuild that confidence again. I also noticed that if you aren't confident, the horse really picks up on that and they kind of muck around a little bit!



What was it like making a TV show in another country during a global pandemic?

It was a bit of a mission! We were supposed to film 13 episodes at the beginning of last year, but we only got up to episode eight and then we stopped because of the coronavirus. We had to spend a few weeks in lockdown in New Zealand because we couldn't get flights home at first. I flew back over to film the last five episodes in August, because New Zealand had the virus under control and it was safe to film again. It is crazy that the one place we were filming the show is the one place in the world that wasn't living under the same restrictions as everyone else. Now I'm back in lockdown in the UK, I feel so lucky that I was able to go away and have the opportunity to hug people and live normally for a while!

Catch new episodes of Mystic on CBBC from 23 March, with the full series on BBC iPlayer

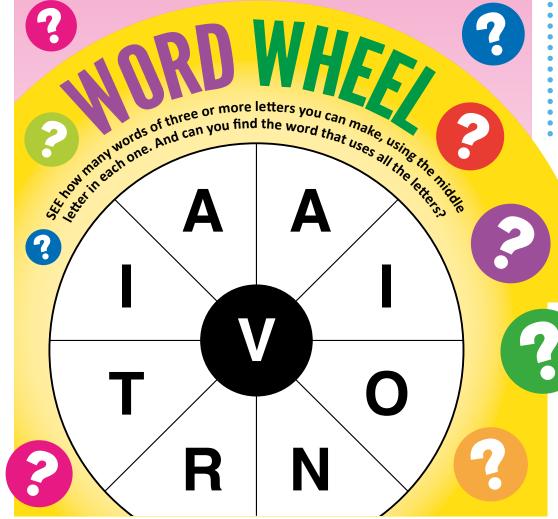
18. PUZZLE FUN 😮

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

Send in your answers and one lucky winner will win a BABY born travel accessories bundle for you or your younger sibling. Then you can travel in style with a BABY born car seat, changing bag and BABY born backpack.

Visit s

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



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.

LAKE

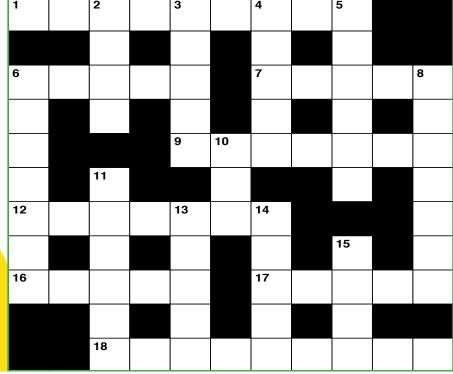
FULL



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

Send in your answers and three lucky winners will win a Moon Ball. The crazy, gravity-defying features of the Waboba Moon Ball will turn a routine game into an out-of-this-world free-for-all wherever there is space. This hyper bouncing ball makes a unique "pop" sound when it hits the ground and bounces up to 100 feet (30 metres).

Available from amazon.co.uk and leading toy and leisure stores.



ACROSS

- 1 Large northwestern
- **English**
- city (9)
- 6 Motet
- (anagram) (5)
- 7 A type of singing voice (5)

18 The day before today (9)

- 9 Loving dearly (7)
- 12 Plant with
- purple flowers (7)
- 16 What a wizard casts (5) 17 More pleasant (5)
- the colour of something (3) 11 Security (6)

DOWN

13 Raised areas of land (5)

10 Substance used to change

14 Extent or scope (5)

2 Animal doctors (4)

6 Brushes against (7)

8 Frequent (7)

4 Perform better than (5)

5 Edible legume; lintel (anag) (6)

3 Type of dance (5)

15 The opposite of an alkali (4)



TASKMASTER GAME

CAN you spot the five changes we've made to this picture from Sky Kids' Alvinnn!!! and the Chipmunks? Send in your answers and one lucky winner will win the Taskmaster game. Based on Dave's number one entertainment show, Taskmaster the Board Game brings the very essence of this popular show to the comfort of your own home. Compete with your friends and family in a series of ludicrous tasks to be crowned Taskmaster Champion. Judge or be judged. It's time to summon your inner Taskmaster!





WORDSEARCH WHAT ON EARTH

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

0 WCG 0

Melody Tune

Singing

Soul Piece Hymn

Classical

Instrumental **Heavy metal**

Modern



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













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.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS:

Spot the difference: Tie is now blue, Chloë has an extra finger, Tom's ear is now green, bartender's head is bigge picture has been removed. **Word wheel:** microwave. **Word ladder:** foot, loot, lost, post, past, pass. What on Earth: fishing rod, inflatable rings, rubber ducks, boat, pebbles, coral reef.





irstNews QUIZ

HAVE a go at our First News Challenge! See how well you did by using the answers at the bottom. Good luck!

What has Broughton Hall Estate become home to?

2 What birds have been heard singing the songs of other birds instead of their own?

5 How many drinks bottles, cans and cartons were thrown away and not recycled in the UK in 2019?

LEARNAT HAVE WE THIS WEEK? 4 Who is set to play Captain Hook in Disney's new live-action film Peter Pan & Wendy?

5 What did Bygones museum recently buy?

What is the name of the new Birmingham 2022 **Commonwealth Games** mascot?

reviewed

by Ruaan \

Who is president of the International Olympic Committee?

8 Gui yu are the Chinese characters for what?

YOUR READS!

THE BOY WHO HARNESSED

This is a true story about a boy, William from Wimbe, Malawi, and his attempt to escape the

depths of poverty through his perseverance and the will to learn.

Something terrible happened to his village, but he had an idea to fix it. He browsed through countless books to find out how. But where could he find the parts? The garbage area? His mother thought he would fail, but his dad had faith. Would he succeed or would he not? Would his village survive or would it be vanquished?

It is an inspiring book full of physics, magic, sadness and hope. I love the powerful message in this book: where other people saw garbage, he saw opportunity.

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.



VISIT Victorian Scotland with Barbara Henderson.

Barbara is our author of the week in the Virtual School Library. Step inside the Virtual School Library from the National Literacy Trust and the Oak National Academy to read Punch for free, watch

> an exclusive video with Barbara and read a Q&A! Barbara recommends these books:

The Executioner's Daughter by Jane Hardstaff

Black Powder by Ally Sherrick Wolf Brother by Michelle Paver, illustrated by **Geoff Taylor** Visit library. thenational.





academy to find out more.

Words for Life

Virtual School Library

FOR MORE TIPS AND ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE YOUR READING, WRITING, SPEAKING AND LISTENING

OW PLAY THIS!

SOMERSET House's annual Now Play This festival is back, and this year it's themed around the climate crisis.

Hosted entirely online until Sunday (28 March) the festival will explore the relationship between

play, games and the climate crisis.

Throughout the festival, you can check out games that take on these topics for free, such as Venice 2089, where you can explore (and do tricks on!) the streets of the now-struggling Venice in the year 2089, as hoverboard-riding teenager Nova.

There's also Among Ripples: Shallow Waters, where you work with a team of scientists to build, repair and maintain a delicate ecosystem of lakes.

To find out more, head to nowplaythis.net.



GRAB your pitchfork and get farming in Harvest Moon: One World! Make friends, find new crops and explore. First News games reviewer Sosuke told us what he thought:

"Harvest Moon: One World turns the classic farming simulator into an adventure game. There are five regions to explore, each with an enormously different climate, including the rural Calisson, the coastal Halo Halo, the desert Pastilla, the snowy Salmiakki and Lebkuchen, which sits under a dormant [not active] volcano.

This game has a captivating storyline; during the journeys, players can make new friends and join regional festivals. You can customise your character's look, make furniture and design the layout of your farm.

However, everything in One World looks quite bland! For example, the towns in the different regions are empty except for a few houses, and the pathways between the regions are mostly empty space.

While I thought that the idea of the Harvest Wisps and adorable animals are great, I personally don't recommend the game because there are better choices for farming games out there!"

REALITY UPGRADE

SONY has unveiled some details about the upcoming PSVR2 an 'improved' virtual reality system for the new PS5 console.

The new version of the PlayStation VR headset will connect to the PS5 with just the one cord – unlike the first one, which had lots of cords and additional parts.

Sony also revealed the controllers, which will use similar technology to the PS5's controllers. Sensitive vibrations will simulate what you're doing in VR, while the adaptive triggers will make it harder to press the triggers down, depending on what you're doing. The controllers will even be able to detect where your fingers are!

It's expected to hit shelves in 2022, but Sony said that the PSVR2 is still in early development, so we might have to wait a while before we get any more juicy details.

VIRTUAL TICKETS TO **EGGSTRACTION** HAVE you ever wanted to take

part in a crazy heist adventure? Well, now you can!

As a crack team of detectives, you are challenged by the eccentric billionaire Frederick Hampton to test the security at his museum.

The challenge? You must use

whatever means possible to break into the building and steal Frederick's treasure - one of the fabulous lost Fabergé eggs of the Romanov Empire.

Unfortunately you are not the only ones after the prize – the Master Criminal who goes by the name of The Easter Bunny is hot on your trail.

It's a fabulously funny Easter escapade for families, friends and furry felons. How does it work? Preparing to enjoy Eggstraction couldn't be simpler. Grown-ups can buy tickets directly from morpheus-show.co.uk. Just click on a date and time that suits everyone. You can book a whole room for eight or nine people, then you will be sent everything you need to enter your own personal virtual game room. We have two family tickets for Eggstraction up for grabs. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

Which animal is commonly seen around Easter? a) Parrot b) Bunny c) Cow

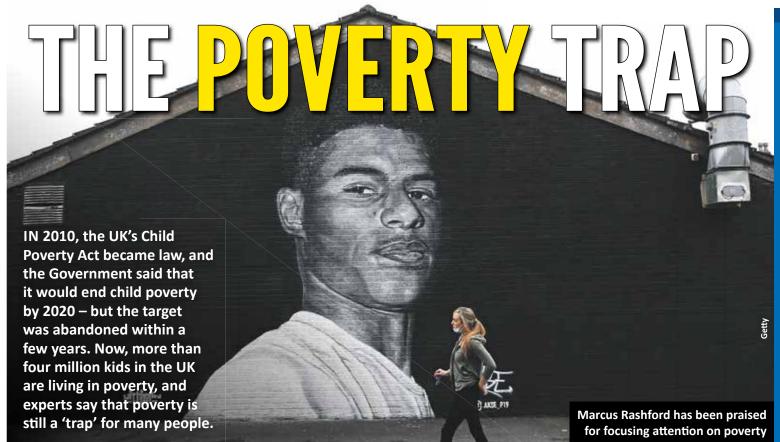
Plus First News readers can get 15% off – use the code EGGY at the checkout online!

s.co.uk/competitions or see page 19. The closing date is 8 April 2021.



HEAD TO FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK/HOMEIHUB TO FIND OUT MORE





POVERTY FACTS

- 14.4m people in the UK are living
- 4.5m of those are children, which is a third of all children in the UK.
- The overall rate of poverty is 22%, and has barely changed since

the 23% seen in 2001.

- 63% of people in poverty live in a family where at least one person has a job.
- The older you are, the less likely you are to be in poverty.
- Poverty rates are highest in families with children, and even higher in single-parent families.
- Half of all people in poverty live in a family that includes a disabled person.
- Poverty rates are higher for black and minority ethnic families. (Source: the Social Metrics Commission's Measuring Poverty 2020 report)

There are lots of ways of defining poverty, but it basically means not having enough money to do the things that other people in society can, such as have a healthy diet or access the internet at home.

There are lots of reasons for a family being in poverty, but some of the main ones include high housing costs, low-paying jobs, jobs that don't have family-friendly hours, and the high cost of childcare. But some MPs and voters argue that many people are in poverty because they simply don't want to work.

"This notion of people not wanting to work is false," says Becca Lyon, the head of child poverty at Save the Children. "The parents we talk to want to work."

"It's sometimes shown as a divide between hardworking people who can look after themselves and then people who are irresponsible and lazy, and didn't bother to work in school and haven't got a good job," says Dr Kitty Stewart, a professor at the London School of Economics. "But the pandemic has really underlined that bad luck - where you lose your job, for example, or get ill - those things can happen to anybody."



The effects of poverty include not being as healthy as other kids and not doing as well at school

"It's really demonstrated that none of us know what's just around the corner," says Francesca Maddison from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation charity, which looks at poverty solutions. "We've had lots of people losing their incomes or losing hours or having to take pay cuts, who were previously living comfortably and never would have thought something like this could happen to them."

"People who have come onto Universal Credit [the money the Government pays to people who don't have a job or enough money coming in] because

they've lost work are saying: 'I've never had to claim this before, and I can't believe I'm supposed to make this stretch to me and my two kids," says Lyon.

FAILING TO FUNCTION

"Poverty isn't about poor budgeting and it isn't about parents not wanting to do what's right for their kids," says Dr Stewart. "It's about the way that society functions, which means that wages aren't high enough, housing costs are too high and people literally don't have enough money."

Although some voters don't like to see the Government give out money to people, "the evidence shows that parents spend that money on kids," says Dr Stewart. "Early in the 2000s when we had the child tax credit system, we saw a big increase for poorer families' incomes. Surveys show they spent the extra money on vegetables, fresh fruit, toys and books."

THROUGH THE ROOF

In 1930, the average house cost about three times the average annual wage, but it's more like ten times that today. The Government is responsible for what's called social housing, which should be cheap to rent and available to anyone who needs a home.

"Some other countries invest much more in social housing, but we haven't done that for several decades," says Dr Stewart. "Then some countries place limits on rents to try and keep housing affordable, but we don't do that either."

"We know that poor quality, unstable employment is what puts people into poverty and traps them in poverty," says Maddison. "But unaffordable housing, particularly in areas like London, also traps people in poverty. When people are struggling they find themselves in more money problems, which traps them in poverty for a longer time in the long run."

COSTLY CARE

"The cost of childcare is a massive issue and a huge barrier to parents getting back to work, particularly single parents," says Maddison. "And Universal Credit hasn't kept pace with the rising costs of childcare."

"Childcare is very expensive and the jobs that parents can get aren't flexible enough to fit around their life, or just don't pay that well," says Lyon.

CAN WE FIX IT?

Although most people agree on the causes of poverty, they don't agree on how to tackle it. However, although overall rates of poverty have barely changed in 20 years, rates of poverty among pensioners and single-parent families have fallen by quite a lot, which shows it is possible to do something about it.

"The countries that provide more equal opportunities and have lower child poverty and more affordable housing, they take more money in tax, on average, from everyone," says Dr Stewart. "It would be good if we could have that debate. Are we prepared to go out to restaurants less often so that we can have more support for health and education and so on?"

"The ability to tackle poverty relies heavily on public views about it, and we know that attitudes towards people in poverty, particularly people on Universal Credit, have remained largely the same over the last couple of decades," says Maddison. "But there's a bit of a softening in attitudes now, due to the pandemic."

She says the climate protests have shown that kids can change things: "Knowing that they've got a voice, they can get involved in simple actions like writing to their MP or getting involved in local campaigns."



To find out more, see: www.jrf.org.uk www.savethechildren.org.uk

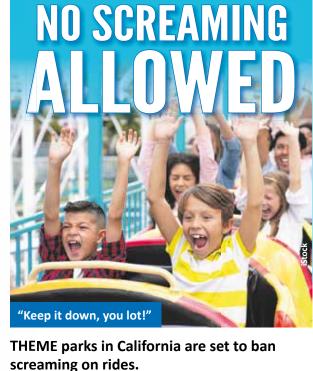
A 97-YEAR-OLD uneaten Easter egg has just been bought by a museum in Torquay.

The rare egg comes with a doll wrapped around it (right), which was given to Christine Lilian Metcalf all the way back in 1924. The then two-year-old tot didn't want to eat it because she loved the doll so much!

The egg was discovered at Christine's home in Derbyshire, after she died in 2019. Auctioneers revealed that it had been created by James Pascall Ltd in London, and amazingly still smells of chocolate!

Bygones museum in Torquay, Devon, loved the story so much, it snapped up the item for £1,040 at auction. It will go on display for everyone to enjoy when the museum reopens in May.

Charles Hanson, owner of Hansons auctioneers, said: "What a wonderful happy Easter story. It's a cracking result for a cracking find."



screaming on rides.

The California Attractions and Parks Association (CAPA) is calling on its theme parks to stop guests from screaming or shouting on rollercoasters, to help stop the spread of coronavirus. Riders will also have to wear face masks when the parks can reopen.

Attractions such as Disneyland and SeaWorld San Diego could sound very quiet soon!



CHIMPS in the Czech Republic are using Zoom to stay in touch with mates during lockdown.

The chimpanzees at Safari Park Dvůr Králové are enjoying Zoom calls with a fellow troop at a zoo in Brno, 150km (93 miles) away. The animals interact with each other via big screens in their enclosures.

Keepers came up with the idea as a way to give the chimps some entertainment while they can't see visitors. The zoos have had to close because of COVID-19.

The chimps weren't sure about the screens at first, but have apparently taken to them quite well now. Keepers say they'll even grab some snacks and watch snippets of action, like being at the cinema!

The video conferences are running daily between the zoos from 8am until 4pm, until the end of March.



IS it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's a flying curry!

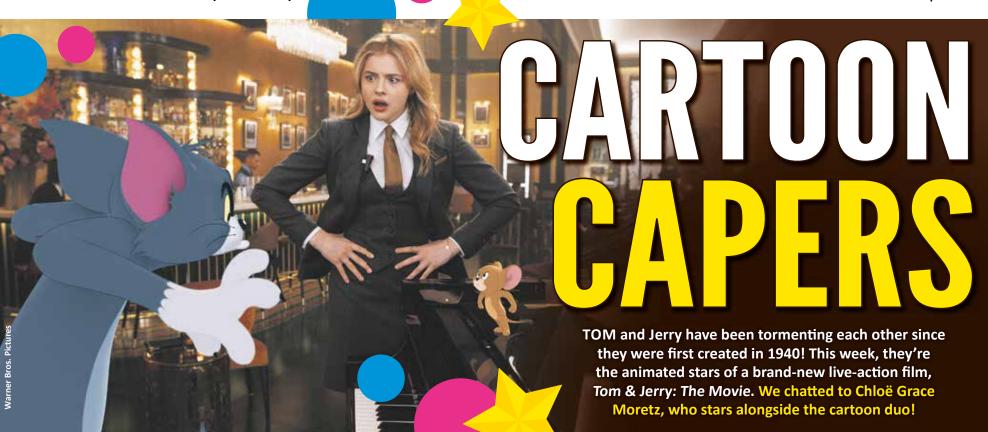
A curry house in Glasgow plans to start sending its takeaways via drone. The Shish Mahal restaurant is to trial the UK's first drone delivery service, after teaming up with drone pilot John Crawford. John's drone can carry 1kg of food and travel at 50mph (80km/h), providing a super speedy delivery. The service is in testing stages at the moment, but it could be up and running (or flying!) soon.





Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer





• Have you always been a Tom and Jerry fan?

I'd say so! I'm a massive fan of cartoons. To this day I still watch cartoons fairly regularly because I feel I can really check out of my mind and be in some other world. I loved Tom and Jerry for the fact that it's always been a silent cartoon. You didn't have to follow what they were saying, you were able to interpret what you wanted out of it. It's been fun playing Kayla [in the film] because in the scenes that I act opposite them, my character is able to understand their miming and I kind of speak for them. So, in the same way that I used to watch the cartoon as a kid, I've now been able to play a character that is interacting with them, which is mind-boggling.



How did you feel when you found out that you were going to be in this film?

I was very, very excited. For a while, I have wanted to do something kind of big, exciting and different. When I heard that they were making this story, I was immediately interested. Then, when I found out the director was Tim Story, I was incredibly excited because I'd heard really wonderful things about him. We sat down to chat and he was just the coolest guy. We both knew that we wanted to do something that hadn't really been done in this sense, and to also be out of our own comfort zone with this movie. So much of it is this kind of wild acting where I'm acting opposite a stick with a little orange tape on the top. Sometimes the tape had a name of a character on it, but half the time it really was up to me and what

I did. I could improvise whatever I was feeling in that moment and that gave the animators the ability to create the animation later. It was incredibly freeing and also terrifying!

What was the best thing about working with animated characters?

They always show up on time, they always know their lines and they're the hardest workers on set! Ha ha! No, I think the freedom of working opposite them is because actually I'm really working opposite the animators, who were on set every day. There's a moment when I knock on Jerry's door and Jerry comes out and gets in a bit of a tiff with Tom. I suggested that I lift my leg up so they could go underneath my leg, then I start twirling and moving my arms in a circle and screaming. The animators said to go ahead because then they could animate Tom and Jerry going underneath me. It's things like that, there's kind of a freedom that I've never had before. It's such a great feeling.



Are you more like Tom or Jerry?

I would say Jerry, for sure. I think my character Kayla is like Jerry too, but I think I'm a bit more savvy. Michael Peña [who plays Terence] and I are the physical, human Tom and Jerry. He's Tom and I'm Jerry and that's kind of the crux [heart] of the story, that by the end they have to learn to work together. Tom and Jerry are different but are learning to work together, and there's this realisation that if they can do it, a cat and a mouse, then why can't we? We're

the adults who are acting like a bunch of children and bickering with each other. It's very silly and it's very fun.

The film is set in a New York hotel, but was actually filmed in the UK!

Yes, a great New York tale not filmed in New York at all. The Central Park scene was actually shot in Battersea Park. Don't tell anyone!

Have Tom and Jerry inspired you to get a pet cat or mouse?

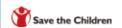
No, I feel like my little dog Ruby would be very unhappy about that. Ruby is a French bulldog who came to set every day, and everyone would come to my trailer just to hang out with Ruby! I love animals, and I will always continue to be surrounded by animals as much as possible. Sadly, I'm allergic to cats, so I can't get a kitty!

Tom and Jerry are famous for being quite violent to each other, is that still the case?

Yeah, all Tom wants to do is kill Jerry and all Jerry does is continue to beat him up with mallets and chainsaws and whatever else he can find. It is as extravagant and as fantastical as a comic-book film. Movies like this are big and they're decadent [wild], shiny and fun. Parents can take their kids to them and know that you're going to have a good time. There are a lot of things that are fun for adults as well!



Tom & Jerry: The Movie is available to rent at home from 25 March

























AT'S IN THE SHOPS?

VIVI THE BUNNY CROCHET KIT JOHNLEWIS.COM £19.99



Crochet your own cuddly bunny pal with this fun kit from Knitty Critters. Suitable for beginners, this kit contains everything you'll need to crochet your own little bunny friend including yarn, crochet hook, stuffing and clear instructions to guide you through the process.

EGG DECORATION KIT AMAZON.CO.UK £7.95

Get creative this Easter with the Talking Tables egg decorating kit. Each kit comes with adhesive stickers, pom-poms, card accessories and card egg holders for 12 eggs. Which animal will you create? Eggs not included!





Create a spectacular bonnet this Easter! Choose your hat base from a cream boater, yellow cowboy hat or a pink bonnet. The kit includes everything you need to make your Easter hat something special! The set includes bright felt sheets, three foam sheets, pompoms, wool tops, ribbon, double-sided tape, foam feathers, small flowers and tissue paper.

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THELEGEND

ROYAL Mail has issued a set of ten stamps that tell the story of the legend of King Arthur.

The legend of King Arthur is one of the most enduring stories of all time. Though his tale is rooted in the fifth and sixth centuries, it has captivated people for a millennium and a half, with its sword in the stone, knights of the round table and the wizard Merlin.

At least 50 films and hundreds of novels have been produced about the story, which over centuries has come to symbolise part of British identity.

We have 15 The Legend of King Arthur Presentation Stamp Packs up for grabs.

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

> What is the legendary sword of a) Guinevere b) Excalibur c) Camelot

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 19. The closing date is 8 April 2021.





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Follow-on price:

CAR DESIGN WINNER

by Martin

I DECIDED to enter the Toyota Dream Car Art Contest because to me it was a wonderland for imagination.

There are so many different car designs. I was also excited by the thought that the UK winner might get a chance to go to Japan! Sadly, this couldn't happen due to COVID, but I had fun drawing and colouring my dream car.

My car is the Homeless Helper. The reason I chose this design is because when I see homeless people on the streets, I feel sad. I once remember seeing a homeless person reunited with their dog like they hadn't seen each other in years. They looked happy to be together again. This gave me the inspiration to design something that could help all homeless people.

My dream car is bigger than a double-decker bus. It has everything to help homeless people and you can see this in the picture.

There is medicine, food, a salon and all the essentials. This can help the homeless people to feel happy, find work and places to live.

When I discovered that I was a finalist in my age group, I was bursting with excitement and felt butterflies in my tummy at the same time!



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.

RUNNING FO CHARITY

by Alice Richmond

I AM an avid First News reader and really enjoy the stories about young people making a difference.

I was inspired by other fundraising campaigns to have a go myself, and have set myself the challenge of running the Peace Mile at Cutteslowe Park every day during Lent. I am raising awareness of and money for Dnipro Hope Mission, a charity set up by my Auntie Varduyi, who grew up in Ukraine, and my Uncle Joshua, who has lived and worked there.

They have been unable to do visits this year, and the people in Ukraine have been suffering even more because of COVID-19 so I really wanted to do something to help. I usually have a cake sale, but this year, I had to think of a more socially-distanced way to do some fundraising.

We set up a fundraising page and within the first few hours, my generous friends and family had absolutely smashed my target!

It's so exciting to know people are interested in my fundraising fun-running project and want to support the amazing work of the charity I have chosen.



BUNNY 1

by Kiva Lewin

I HAVE three rabbits called Chilli, Lentil and Honey. Since owning rabbits I have researched lots about how to care for them.

I have read some books and articles that have said the wrong things about how you should take care of your bunny. I have also found out that 35,000 rabbits are abandoned every year, which is why people should think very carefully before they take on the responsibility of caring for rabbits.

This Easter, I'd like to share my top tips for keeping rabbits:

- Water: Make sure your rabbit always has access to fresh water.
- Hay: It is important your rabbit has a constant supply of fresh hay. Hay is a large proportion of their diet and is vital for a rabbit's digestion.
- Space: Rabbits need enough room to stretch out, exercise and play. Keeping them in a small hutch will mean your rabbit will become bored and unhappy.



- Grooming: Rabbits groom themselves all the time but owners need to brush them so they don't swallow their hair. This is particularly important for long-haired rabbits.
- Friendships: Bunnies are social animals and need a friend to keep them company. Rabbits on their own can get lonely and it's recommended to keep them in pairs. You'll need to research how to 'bond' the rabbits, and neuter them to make sure you don't have lots of baby rabbits to look after!
- Vaccinations: Rabbits need to be vaccinated every year, and on average live for ten years.

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SPORT IN NUMBERS

tennis titles have been won by British brothers Ken and Neal Skupski. Their latest victory was at

the Mexico Open, where the doubles pair defeated Marcel Granollers and Horacio Zeballos 7-6, 6-4 in the final. It's their first title together since 2019.



-30 was the final score as France dashed Wales' hopes of a Grand Slam in the Six Nations

championship. The Welsh led 30-20 with eight minutes to go, before a remarkable comeback and last-gasp try by Brice Dulin (below) gave the French a memorable win. But Wales remain on course to be champions.



Women's Super League (WSL) matches will be shown live on the BBC next season, and

at least 35 other games will be shown on Sky. It's part of a new deal between the FA, Sky and the BBC that will give fans more access to live women's football than ever before





OVERSEAS fans will be banned from this year's Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Organisers made the announcement last week. The Games were postponed last year for the first time in their history, with the Olympics now due to begin on 23 July and finish on 8 August, and the Paralympics running from 24 August to 5 September.

But no fans will be allowed to travel to Japan to cheer on the athletes, and only limited numbers of Japanese residents are likely to be watching. The Tokyo organising committee explained that travel restrictions around the world and new variants of COVID-19 were behind the decision to ban international fans.

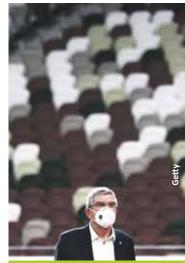
The 600,000 Olympics tickets purchased by overseas residents will all now be refunded,

as will the 300,000 Paralympic tickets.

Thomas Bach, president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), said: "We share the disappointment of all enthusiastic Olympic fans from around the world, and of course the families and friends of the athletes, who were planning to come to the Games. For this I am truly sorry. Every decision has to respect the principle of safety first."

Organisers will meet again in April to decide how many spectators will be allowed into Olympic and Paralympic venues.

Before the pandemic, there was huge demand from Japanese people for tickets. Now, polls show a majority think the Games should not be held at all this year.



front of empty stands at the



It's the first time either athlete has won the annual competition, which takes place over several meets, starting in October and ending in late March.

Vlhová topped the ladies' overall rankings on 1,416 points, well ahead of Lara Gut-Behrami of Switzerland on 1,256. In the men's rankings, Pinturault scooped 1,260 points throughout the season, with another Swiss athlete, Marco Odermatt, finishing second with 1,093 points.

Pinturault also won the individual giant slalom and parallel titles, and finally won the overall World Cup prize, after finishing third three times and second in 2019 and 2020.

Vlhová also bagged the parallel title and has become the first Slovak skier to ever win a World Cup title.

