

NEWS
FOR KIDS!
2.6 MILLION+
READERS*

EARTH
& SPACE
SPECIAL

ASTRONAUT SAMANTHA CRISTOFORETTI P2 AND 27
GRETA THUNBERG P4
EPIC MARS PHOTOS P8
CLEANING UP AFTER COVID P28



First News

Issue 775 £2.25 23 – 29 April 2021

HELPING
THE UK GROW



NEWS | SPORTS | ENTERTAINMENT | INTERVIEWS | PUZZLES | COMPETITIONS

OVER TO YOU!

GRETA THUNBERG
CALLS FOR YOUNG
PEOPLE TO **LEAD THE
RECOVERY FROM
COVID-19**

SHE SUPPORTS
£1.4 MILLION FUND
TO PAY FOR YOUNG
PEOPLE'S IDEAS **PAGE 4**

Greta loosens
her mask as
she takes to an
outdoor stage to
make a speech

**NEW FOOTBALL
SUPER LEAGUE
ROW PAGE 25**

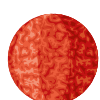
OH, WHAT A FLIGHT



Samantha in the Cupola of the ISS, celebrating her 200th day in orbit

ESA/NASA

A FEW weeks ago, we asked you for your questions for Italian astronaut Samantha Cristoforetti, who'll be taking her second trip to the International Space Station (ISS) with the European Space Agency next year. You sent us absolutely loads of great questions, so we got Samantha to answer the best ones, plus a few of our own, in a Zoom chat last week.



What did you learn personally from your first trip to the ISS?

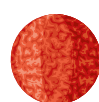
It's hard to say. It's not like one day I was up there and thought: "Well, I learned this thing about life that I didn't know before!" But I think it helps you grow as a person and helps you understand other people's experiences better, and in a way be a better member of the human community. I kind of still think today that I am not really entitled to be unhappy or angry about anything, because I was able to fulfil such an amazing dream, so I should just be grateful all my life.



Amanda, aged ten, asks what you'll do differently on your second trip?

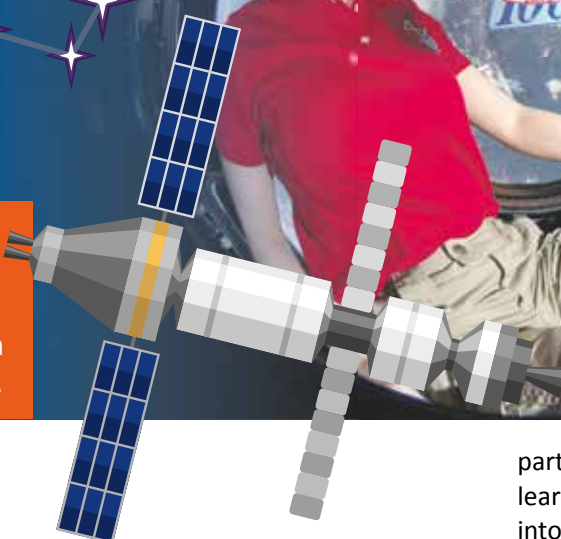
The first time you get there, you have to learn everything and you also have to prove yourself. The second time, you kind of know what you're going to do

and the learning curve is a lot smaller. I think I'm going to get there and be more or less immediately able to work and perform, and that gives you a lot of free mental energy to really observe your experience. Observe yourself, maybe. Live it in a more deep way than I did the first time.



Did you learn anything from your time on the ISS that will help with your work on the Lunar Gateway [the planned space station that will orbit the moon]?

Having been in space, when you are shown ideas and design proposals, you do see things differently. Even designers who are very much used to working for space, they still think in two dimensions, having a floor and a ceiling. It's nice to have something that is familiar to people, but at the same time, it's not



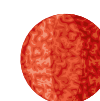
a must. You can also have things on the walls, on the ceilings!



In your book, *Diary Of An Apprentice Astronaut*, you talk about how disappointed you were at not being able to do a spacewalk on your first trip, and Ashan from St Cedd's School wants to know if you might be able to do one this time?

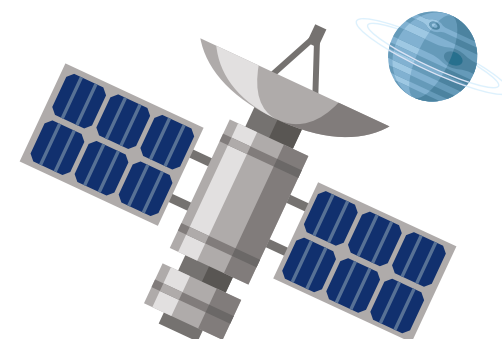
The chances are maybe 50/50. The situation has changed a lot since 2014, so I would say it's quite unlikely that everyone will be trained. I'm not sure that I will be chosen to be trained for spacewalks this time. I was really disappointed last time because I had trained so hard, I had invested so much time and I felt that I could do it, but then it didn't happen. If I was a millionaire and somebody said I could buy a ticket to space, I'm not sure I would have bought it, because you're missing all the

part of being a professional and actually learning things and then putting them into practice.



It's a great book, but you tweeted that you don't want to write another one. Why not?

This might sound like a joke, but it was harder to write about my space flight than actually training or going to space! I remember sometimes spending hours to write a sentence or two. So I'm not sure that I want to do that to myself again. If I do write another, it will be much shorter!



continued on p27



Getty

When Samantha took off for the ISS the first time (above), the song she chose to listen to in the Soyuz capsule on the launchpad was *December, 1963 (Oh, What A Night)* by The Four Seasons

DID YOU KNOW?

TO train for the microgravity in space,

astronauts practise on board a plane that flies in a series of climbs and dives, which provides 20-second spells of weightlessness. Because it often makes people sick, the plane is nicknamed the 'Vomit Comet'. Even experienced fighter pilots can get sick when they first go to the ISS, so Samantha told us that she "had a barf bag in my pocket for the first three or four days, just in case!"

Samantha in training on the 'Vomit Comet'



ESA-Annette Le Floch

PINK MOON SOON



Getty

Look up at the sky on 26 April and you might spy a super 'pink moon'. Unfortunately it won't really look pink, but it will be super big and bright, as it is the first supermoon of the year. It is thought to have been nicknamed a pink moon because of the pink flowers that bloom in April. A full moon occurs when the Earth is between the sun and the moon, and the moon's sunlit side is entirely visible from Earth.

ROYAL SUMMIT DUE



Getty

A royal summit is to be held to decide what happens next with the royal family. Prince Charles and his son, Prince William, will lead the meeting. The future kings will discuss which members of the family should be working royals and what they should do. They will also look at who takes over the patronages (charity roles) and military titles left by Prince Philip, as well as those left by Princes Harry and Andrew, who have stepped down. The monarchy is expected to become much smaller in the future.

OUTDOOR FUN FUND

A new campaign aims to give more young people the chance to learn and play outdoors. The Waterproof and Wellies Project hopes to raise £5m to provide primary school children with outdoor clothing and boots. Four Acres Academy in Withywood is the first school to benefit from the scheme.

QUICK NEWS

TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS

GOLD DISCOVERY



Getty

Three jam jars filled with gold bars and a stash of gold coins have been discovered in an old building that was bought for renovation by the Town Hall in Morez, France. The haul has been valued at €600,000 (£520,000), leaving the small French town shocked but happy! The mayor says the money will be spent on a special public project, which is yet to be decided.

RAP ON THE RISE

Rap music had its most successful year ever in the UK in 2020. New data from the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) shows that over a fifth of songs streamed last year were rap and hip-hop. "The genre has exploded in recent years, propelled by artists such as Stormzy," said Geoff Taylor, chief executive of the BPI and the Brit Awards.



Stormzy

WHEELED TORTOISE

A tortoise has been given his own skateboard at a zoo in Germany. Helmuth, the 23-year-old African spurred tortoise, was given the board by zookeepers to help him get about after suffering joint pain. ZOOM Erlebniswelt Gelsenkirchen Zoo said Helmuth is enjoying his new set of wheels and getting some exercise!

CELEB CASTLE OPEN

The public can visit Gwrych Castle, where last year's I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here! was filmed. The castle in Abergele, Wales, has opened its outdoor areas once more, after coronavirus restrictions were lifted in the country. Fans of the ITV show can see some of the set that was used, including Cledwyn's Kiosk.

SCHOOLGIRL NAMES SPONGE



Dawn Watson

A schoolgirl from Norfolk has named a new species of sea sponge. Nine-year-old Sylvie won a competition by Agents of Change, part of The Marine Conservation Society. She chose to name the unusual looking creature (above) Parpal Dumplin, because she said it's a purple colour and looks like a dumpling. A sea sponge is a living creature, normally found in the ocean. This particular species was discovered in chalk beds off the north Norfolk coast ten years ago.

RASHFORD COOKS UP FOOD VIDEOS



Getty

Marcus Rashford has teamed up with TV chef Tom Kerridge to encourage more young people to cook. The footballer, who previously campaigned for free school meals, is launching a series of five-minute cooking videos. The series, named Full Time, aims to show children and their families how to cook cheap, healthy and delicious meals. Recipes will include chicken stir fry and fish pie jackets. Yummy!

IT'S OSCARS TIME



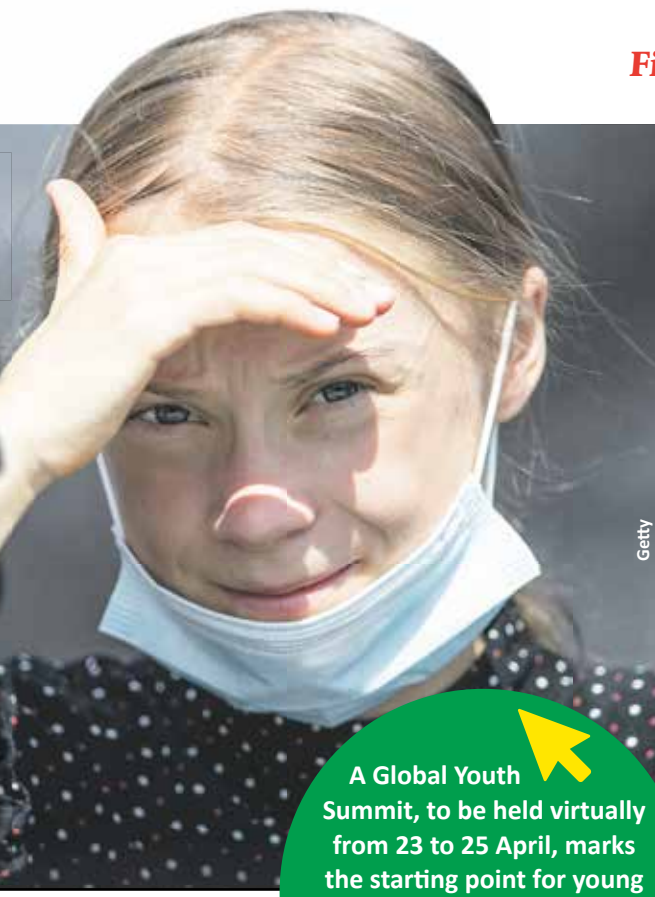
Getty

The Oscars are taking place in America on 25 April. The awards celebrate the best movies of 2020 and early 2021. The nominees for Best Animated Feature Film are Onward, Over the Moon, A Shaun The Sheep Movie: Farmageddon, Soul and Wolfwalkers. The Oscars is considered the most famous movie awards show in the world, with winners receiving a golden statue prize.

SUPERHERO DAY

It's time to get out those capes as it's Superhero Day on 28 April! Have fun dressing up and reading all about your favourite superhero characters. Or maybe you could celebrate a very special hero in your own life.

GRETA CALLS ON YOU



Getty

GRETA Thunberg has called on young people around the world to help lead the world's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The teenage climate campaigner was speaking at the launch of the World Health Organization's (WHO) new Global Youth Mobilization project. Young people will be able to apply to the project to get money to improve people's lives in their local areas, in a world recovering from COVID-19.

Hundreds of millions of young people have had to put their lives on hold because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nine out of ten of them have reported increased mental anxiety during the pandemic, and more than a billion students in almost every country have faced school closures.

The WHO says \$2 million (£1.4m) of funding will be available from the project to begin with. Young people will be able to apply for sums from \$500 (£350) to \$5,000 (£3,500) to back good ideas. More

funding has been lined up over the coming months.

Greta said it was time for people to think hard about how they were living their lives: "Science shows that in the future we will most likely experience more frequent and more devastating pandemics unless we drastically change our ways and the way we treat nature."

"Today up to 75% of all emerging diseases come from animals, and as we are cutting down forests and destroying habitats we are creating the ideal conditions for diseases to spill over from one animal to another and then to us."

"We can no longer separate the health crisis from the ecological crisis and we cannot separate the ecological crisis from the climate crisis. It's all interlinked in many ways."

A Global Youth Summit, to be held virtually from 23 to 25 April, marks the starting point for young people to get involved in the mobilisation.

To find out more visit globalyouthmobilization.org

WHO'S BEHIND THE FUND?

The Global Youth Mobilization project is funded by the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund. Other global partners who are supporting it include: Salesforce, FIFA, the Special Olympics, UNHCR, Cambridge International, Peace First, Generation Unlimited and Influential.

COVID-19 LATEST



Getty

INDIA has been added to the UK's 'red list', which means most travel between the two countries is now banned.

The decision comes after a new variant of COVID-19 was found in India. It may be more contagious, or more resistant to vaccines, but it needs to be studied more before we know for sure.

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps tweeted the decision was made to make sure that the UK did not lose its "hard-won progress on the vaccine rollout".

The Government also confirmed that, later this year, booster shots of the vaccine would become available to protect people from new variants.

Health Secretary Matt Hancock (above) said he expects that people will need annual booster vaccines against the coronavirus "for some time to come".

US FORCES OUT OF AFGHANISTAN



Getty

US PRESIDENT Joe Biden says he will withdraw all US troops from Afghanistan by 11 September.

President Biden has used a televised speech from the White House to say: "It's time to end America's longest war. It's time for American troops to come home."

US soldiers have been in Afghanistan for almost 20 years, supporting the Afghan government in their fight against Islamic terrorists. Troops were first sent to the country by President George W Bush, following the Al-Qaeda attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington on 11 September 2001.

President Biden promised the US would continue to support the Afghan government, saying: "While we will not stay involved in Afghanistan militarily, our diplomatic and humanitarian work will continue."

Around 3,000 US troops will be leaving the country by 11 September, the 20th anniversary of the attacks.

Most British forces left the country in 2014, but the remaining 750 troops will also leave by the same date.

More than 100,000 people have been killed in the war.

WHITEST PAINT EVER



Purdue University/Jared Pike

A NEW "ultra-white" paint that can reflect 98.1% of sunlight energy has been unveiled.

In comparison, the standard white paint that you buy in shops typically reflects between 80% and 90% of sunlight energy.

The new paint is, in fact, so white that it reflects the energy back into deep space! It could help cool buildings, reducing the need for air conditioning, which uses up a lot of energy.

The scientists behind the invention say that if 0.5–1% of the Earth's surface was covered in the paint, the effect would reverse global warming so far.



THE Queen follows other members of the royal family by car, in the ceremonial procession before the funeral of her husband HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. Philip served as Consort to the Queen until his death on 9 April, just short of his 100th birthday. His funeral took place at Windsor Castle with only 30 guests invited because of coronavirus restrictions.



A PORTION of the US-Mexico border wall stands unfinished. President Joe Biden paused wall construction by executive order on taking office in January.



LEGO’s new range of Braille bricks for blind and vision-impaired children has raised bumps. They have been altered to relate to a letter or character of the Braille alphabet. Each brick also has a printed letter or character so the children can learn and play alongside other sighted children.



FIBRE-OPTIC lights glow at the Field of Light immersive art installation from artist Bruce Munro, part of the Light at Sensorio. The installation has a solar-powered display of more than 58,800 stemmed spheres lit by fibre-optics.



BRISTOL Zoo’s newest gorilla has been named Juni, after his dad (Jock) and mum (Touni). Four-month-old Juni is one of a troop of eight gorillas at Bristol Zoo. All are part of an international breeding programme to help safeguard the future of western lowland gorillas, a critically endangered species.



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THE HEAT IS ON AS CATERPILLARS GO TO COURT

THE GREAT BRITISH CAKE OFF!



Twitter/@AldiUK



iStock

Is Colin trying to put Cuthbert behind bars?

Aldi mocked up this photo of Cuthbert in jail!

SUPERMARKETS are having a battle over caterpillar cakes. Yes, really!

Marks & Spencer have started a legal case against Aldi who they claim copied its hugely popular Colin the Caterpillar chocolate cake. Sales of Colin help raise money for cancer charity Macmillan.

M&S wanted to stop Aldi selling its Cuthbert cake, which it says could confuse shoppers into thinking the cakes were of the same quality.

Now, Aldi has said it is putting its Cuthbert the Caterpillar cake back on supermarket shelves, and will give its profits to charity.

Aldi says sales of Cuthbert will benefit Teenage Cancer Trust and Macmillan, for a limited time.

At first, Aldi responded to the case with light-hearted comments on Twitter. One

read: "Cuthbert has been found GUILTY... of being delicious." Another read: "Marks & Snitches more like."

The case of the cakes has caused a lot of fun on social media, with the hashtag #FreeCuthbert trending online, and thousands of people getting involved.

Some have questioned why Aldi is the only supermarket M&S are fighting, when lots of other big stores have their own caterpillar cakes.

Since announcing that Cuthbert was going back on sale, Aldi have tweeted that they were "taking a stand against caterpillar cruelty. Can Colin and Cuthbert be besties?" They also called on other supermarkets to help raise money too.

The case looks set to run and run...

What's your verdict? Are you Team Colin or Team Cuthbert?!

EDITOR'S COMMENT



SHOUT OUT to the World Health Organization for giving young people a voice as we all recover from the COVID-19 pandemic (front page and p4).

At First News, we have always known that young people are brilliant at coming up with solutions to problems – whether small or big. So, get your thinking caps on, and see what ideas you can come up with to help those who need a helping hand to move on happily with their lives after these difficult times.

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GOOD WEEK FOR



TAYLOR SWIFT

THE American pop star has smashed a music record held by The Beatles for 54 years! The singer has achieved three UK No 1 albums in just 259 days (nine months). The Beatles managed the same feat in 364 days.

BAD WEEK FOR

JOSÉ MOURINHO

THE Portuguese football manager has been sacked by Tottenham Hotspur, just 17 months into the job. Spurs have had a disappointing season, losing ten Premier League matches and crashing out of the Europa League in March.



REMARKABLE ROMAN REMAINS



MAP Archaeological Practice

A HUGE Roman site has been discovered near the seaside town of Scarborough in North Yorkshire.

Archaeologists found the remains of a large villa and bathhouse on the site of a new housing development. Experts say it could be the first of its kind within the entire Roman Empire, which existed from 27BC until 395AD.

Keith Emerick, inspector of ancient monuments at Historic England, described the complex as like the Roman version of a stately home. It's not known what its purpose was, but it could have belonged to someone with wealth and status. It could also have been a place for religious reflection.

The site will now be preserved and no housing will be built on top of it. It's hoped it could be opened to the public one day.

NOISE AFFECTS NATURE



iStock

NOISE made by humans is affecting plants.

New research from the USA has found that the noises made by traffic and industry are having a bad impact on our wildlife and woodland.

Researchers chose to look at Rattlesnake Canyon in New Mexico, USA, which has lots of woodland plants, but also natural gas wells. The area was first studied back in 2007, with findings showing that noise pollution from the wells was disrupting nature. Fewer seedlings were growing (specifically pinyon pine), which meant animals couldn't find food or disperse the seeds.

Twelve years later, researchers went back to the area to check how things were. They found that fewer pinyon seedlings were found in environments that were constantly loud, and there were also fewer saplings (young plants). Some animals were being put off by the disturbing noise, too.

The study was published in the journal *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*.

DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

● Mountain rescue for pup

A 15-month-old puppy was rescued after falling 91 metres (300ft) down a Scottish hillside. Springer spaniel Louis took a tumble when he slipped off his lead and Moffat Mountain Rescue Team were called to rescue him. It took about 45 minutes to find Louis, who was stuck on a small ledge. The team used a pulley system to lower a rescuer down to Louis and bring him back to safety. Amazingly, the pup suffered no injuries in the fall. A team spokesperson said: "The whole of the team wishes Louis well and hopes he gets a good supper tonight."



MoffatMRT/Twitter

ABERDEENSHIRE

● Ice cream ban

Pupils at a Scottish school have started a petition after treats like ice cream and custard were taken off the school menu. Angus Beverly, aged ten, and William Dibb, 11, from Rhynie Primary School, started the petition, saying the "puddings that we love, cooked by Mrs Moir, are the best in the world and we don't want to lose them". But Aberdeen Council said the "refreshed" healthier menus were in line with the Scottish government's new nutrition guidelines and affected all Aberdeen schools.



"No more ice cream?!"

Getty

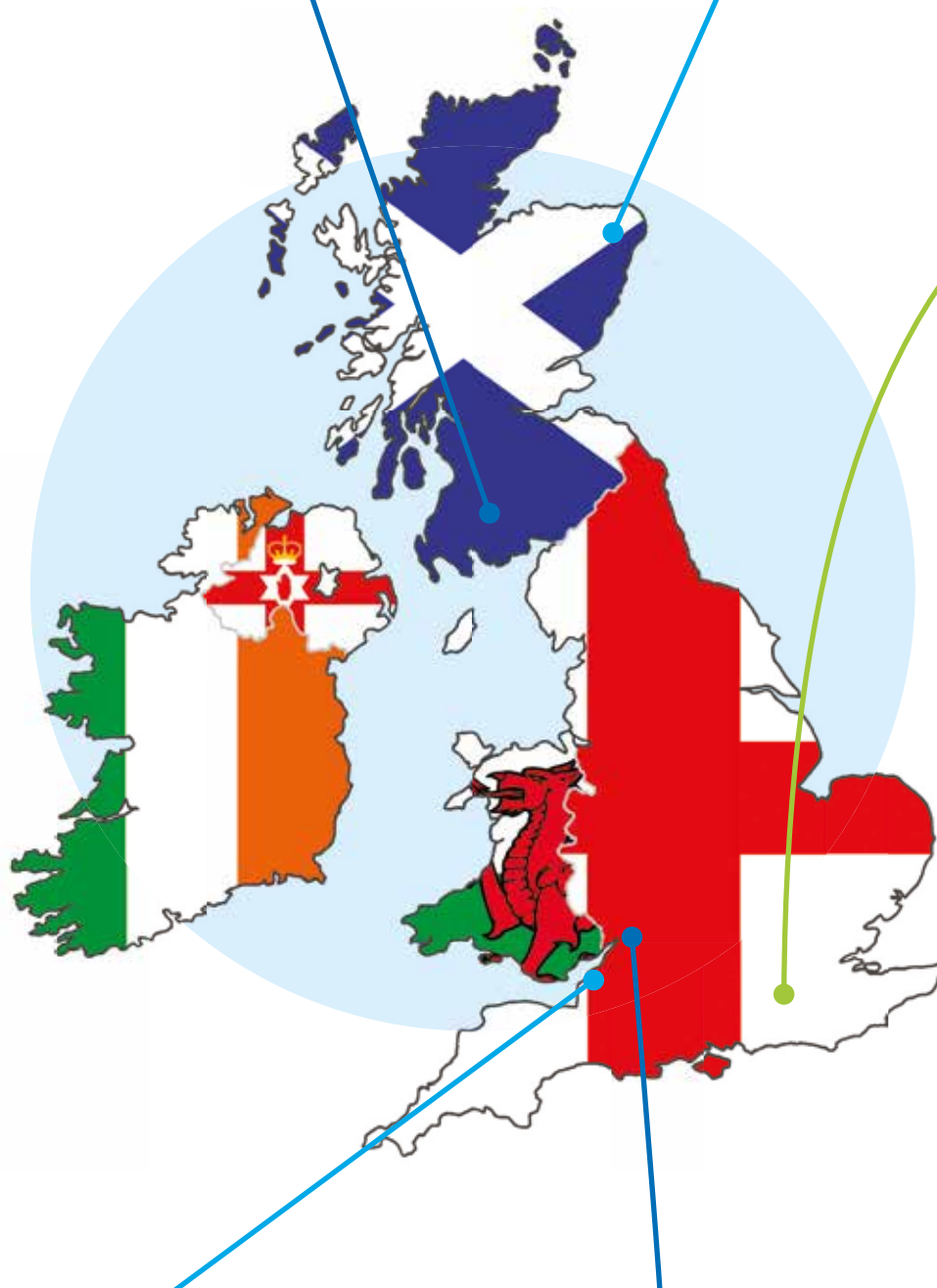
WALES



futureagencyymru/Twitter

● Young people to vote

The Welsh Parliament elections take place on 6 May and, for the first time, 16 and 17-year-olds will be allowed to vote. However, the Electoral Reform Society says that thousands of young people have failed to register in time. For those who have registered, young climate activists have been calling on young people to "amplify and empower the youth voice". Poppy Stowell-Evans, the 16-year-old chair of the Youth Climate Ambassadors for Wales, said: "When I found out I could vote I was so excited. By voting, politicians respect our say. Ultimately, if you're not passing policies that appeal to young people, you could be out of a job. We're going to influence this election massively."



SURREY



ExpeditionJosh/Facebook

● Man begins epic ride

A man has started a 5,000 mile (8,000km) cycle ride to raise money for a child with a rare disease. Josh Garman, 22, is planning to cycle around the UK coast, pulling a camping pod that he will sleep in throughout the challenge. He hopes to raise £50,000 for Hope for Hasti, a charity which funds research for children with Cornelia de Lange Syndrome, like eight-year-old Hasti. Josh said: "The idea of a child like Hasti, bubbling with laughter and smiles, not being able to live a full life seems like an injustice."



ExpeditionJosh/Facebook

BRISTOL

● Baby sloth born

For the first time in almost a decade, a baby sloth has been born at Bristol Zoo Gardens. The zoo shared the photo (right) of the newborn snoozing happily on mum, Trixie. Al Toyne, mammals team leader at the zoo, said the baby is "doing really well and we are all delighted". It is not yet known if the baby is a boy or a girl and it is still to be named.



BristolZooGdn/Twitter

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

● Six-year-old donates hair

Amelia Barratt has raised more than £1,000 for charity by having her hair cut off! The six-year-old also donated her hair, all 25cm (10in) of it, to the Little Princess Trust, which will turn it into a wig for a child with cancer. Mum Jenna Barratt said: "She's been growing it out since she was very young, so it's taken quite a while to get to this length. But she has never had a dramatic cut before."



Jenna Barratt/Facebook

NEW ZEALAND TO BAN SMOKING?



THE New Zealand government has suggested several new restrictions on cigarettes and tobacco products that could lead to a smoking ban for young people and future generations.

The country is aiming to be completely smoke-free by 2025. Several ideas for how to reach that target are under consideration, including a gradual increase to the legal smoking age that could effectively ban those born after 2004 from buying cigarettes, setting a minimum price for tobacco, and restricting where tobacco is sold.

Many health organisations in the country came out in support of the proposed restrictions. Cancer Society chief executive Lucy Elwood said: "Tobacco is the most harmful consumer product in history and needs to be phased out."

Smoking rates are particularly high among Māoris (the indigenous people of New Zealand). Shane Kawenata Bradbrook, who campaigns for a tobacco-free Māori community, said he hopes the plans "will begin the final demise of tobacco products in this country".

However, not everyone agrees that the plans are a good

thing. There are concerns that small shops and convenience stores could lose money or even go out of business. The New Zealand government also admitted that clamping down on tobacco products risks an increase in criminals smuggling them into the country.

According to Associate Health Minister Dr Ayesha Verrall, about 4,500 New Zealanders die each year because of smoking. One in four cancer deaths in the country are due to smoking, while around 500,000 people, or one in ten, smoke daily.

VOTE IN OUR POLL

Do you think smoking should be made illegal?

VOTE AT FIRST.NEWS/POLLS



WOODLANDS IN CRISIS

ONLY 7% of Britain's woodlands are in a good condition, according to a new report.

While UK woodlands have increased slightly over the last 20 years, the State of the UK's Woods and Trees 2021 report found that the wildlife within it is going down.

Speaking to the BBC, Chris Reid, lead author of the report, said that wildlife is decreasing due to "factors such as pollution, invasive species and fragmentation – woods chopped up into small parcels".

The Woodland Trust are one of many groups who want the Government to make restoring nature a legal requirement.

Abi Bunker, a director at the Trust, said: "The warning signs in this report are loud and clear. If we don't tackle the threats facing our woods and trees, we will severely damage the UK's ability to address the climate and nature crises."

WORLD'S LARGEST ICEBERG MELTS AWAY



ONCE the largest iceberg in the world, A68 has broken up and melted away.

The once-gigantic berg broke away from Antarctica in 2017. At the time it was nearly 6,000 sq km (2,300 sq miles) in size. But although it was very big, it was also very thin.

There were fears last year that the iceberg would collide with the remote island of South Georgia in the South Atlantic, affecting the seals and penguins that lived there.

However, A68 largely avoided the island, swirling around in nearby waters, breaking off into smaller and smaller pieces. Due to a combination of waves and warmer waters, the largest mass of ice now measures just two by three nautical miles, a size that the US National Ice Center says is not worth tracking.



NASA/JPL-Caltech/ASU



NASA/JPL-Caltech

Ingenuity spins its blades (above) and takes a black and white shot of the Martian floor while in the air

MARS HELICOPTER TAKES FLIGHT

US space agency NASA has successfully flown a helicopter on Mars, the first instance of powered, controlled flight on another planet.

The helicopter drone, called Ingenuity – meaning to be clever and inventive – was in the air for less than a minute, but engineers say there are more adventurous flights to come.

MiMi Aung, project manager for Ingenuity, called the flight NASA's "Wright Brothers moment", referring to Wilbur and Orville Wright, the brothers who performed the first controlled flight on Earth back in 1903.

Ingenuity even carries a piece of fabric from Flyer 1, the aircraft that made that historic first flight more than a century ago.

USA

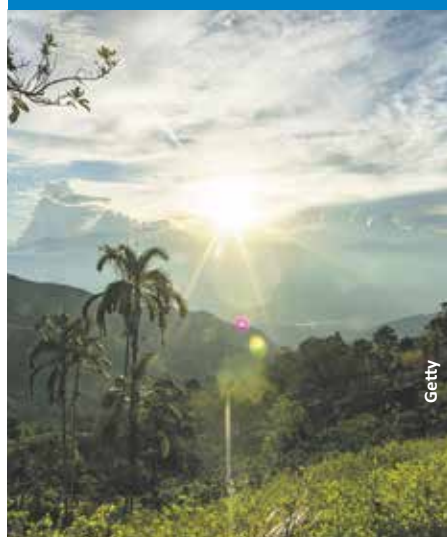


US climate envoy, John Kerry

● Climate change talks

Ahead of a climate-themed meeting of world leaders to be hosted by US President Biden, the USA and China released a joint statement this week. They said that the countries are committed to working together, and with other countries, to tackle climate change. Representatives from the US and China also met last week in the Chinese city of Shanghai to discuss actions to reduce emissions. It's a positive sign for those worried about the planet, as the US and China are the world's two biggest polluters.

PERU



● Tribes protected

The Peruvian government will establish a new 1.1 million hectare (2.7 million acre) rainforest reserve, called Yavarí Tapiche, to protect the isolation of indigenous tribes. Plans for the creation of the reserve were first submitted way back in 2004. Peru's Ministry of Culture said that the creation of Yavarí Tapiche was "a historic milestone in the protection of the rights of Indigenous peoples".

FRANCE



● Sponsor Notre-Dame

The restoration of Paris' famous Notre-Dame Cathedral has received a boost in funding this week, after a new scheme was launched that allows people to sponsor specific parts of the almost 860-year-old cathedral. A fire destroyed the cathedral's spire and roof in 2019 and, while most of the building remained intact, lots of other artifacts were damaged. You can track the progress of restoration funding and see which parts need restoring on the Friends of Notre-Dame de Paris website at restorennotredame.org.

RUSSIA



● Putin critic "unwell"

Russia's opposition leader, Alexei Navalny (above), is said to be "extremely unwell" after three weeks on hunger strike, but his doctors have been forbidden from seeing him. Last year, Mr Navalny was targeted with a deadly poison and spent five months recovering in Germany. On his return to Russia, he was arrested and taken to prison, where he has refused to eat in protest at poor medical treatment. As First News went to press, mass protests in support of Mr Navalny were being organised.

AUSTRALIA



● Oz bubbled with NZ

After months apart, New Zealanders and Australians are able to travel freely between their two countries following the opening of a new travel bubble. The leaders of both countries warned that disruptions may occur at short notice, should there be any new outbreaks of COVID-19, but welcomed the bubble. New Zealand PM Jacinda Ardern said the step was "a moment to be proud of". After tough lockdowns, both countries have had their borders closed for some time, helping to keep COVID cases low.



DENMARK



● Syrian refugees must go

Dozens of refugees from war-torn Syria have been told that they can no longer stay in Denmark because Danish authorities say the situation in some parts of Syria has "improved significantly". After a decade of fighting, Syria's leader Bashar al-Assad has taken control of most of Syria. Buildings are still in ruins and it's hard to get things like water and electricity. The Danish Refugee Council said that "the absence of fighting in some areas does not mean that people can safely go back".



Many buildings in Syria have been destroyed

OUR WORLD



NAME: SANIYA
LIVES: INDIA

SANIYA, aged 14, dreams of being a doctor. Alongside her school work she also has to care for her sick mother, while her father works.

During the pandemic, schools closed, but through Butterflies – a Comic Relief funded project – Saniya received educational support online and via the phone, and training on how to protect against COVID-19.

Saniya said: "I taught my family the safety protocols to follow and trained six other children in my community on the importance of physical distancing, wearing masks and washing hands."



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





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and audiobook narrated by Sir Ian McKellen.

HEADOFZEUS.COM

MICHELLEPAVER.COM

WOLFBROTHER.COM

ZEPHYR



KILLER fungus sounds like something out of a horror movie, but it's fast becoming a worrying cause of disease.

Most types of fungus are harmless, but 1.7 million people die worldwide from fungal infections each year, and those with weak immune systems are especially vulnerable.

In view of the number of deaths and infections, a team in South Africa has been researching fungal infections and has discovered some worrying trends. Lead researcher Professor Carlien Pohl-Albertyn, from the University of the Free State, says that a new strain of yeast, like some viruses, could have transferred to humans from birds. Climate change could also have played a role in the emergence of the yeast.

Fungi exist naturally all around us, even inside our bodies. Some are even helpful to us: the antibiotic penicillin was developed from a fungus, and yeast, which is a single-cell fungus, is used to make things like bread, beer, wine, blue cheese, coffee, chocolate, tofu and soy sauce. Our food would

be a lot less interesting without fungi!

and soreness but are usually quickly cured. Some fungi are also found in our mouths, lungs and gut, but they only become a problem if a person's immune system is weakened.

There are some more dangerous kinds of yeasts and fungi that can cause disease when they get into our bodies, usually by being breathed in and entering the bloodstream from the lungs. White blood cells are our biggest defence system and in most cases will kill the fungi before they are able to take hold in our bodies and cause a major infection. Only if the fungus survives our defences does it become potentially dangerous.

One of the problems is that there are only three types of antifungal drug to treat infections. Not only do they have some nasty side effects, but some strains of fungi are becoming resistant to drugs which means that they might not be treatable at all. Professor Pohl-Albertyn's team are investigating all aspects of fungi and yeasts in order to find new treatments – including gene therapy – as well as exploring how to make existing drugs more effective.

Some fungi are becoming resistant to drugs



Penicillin is an example of a useful fungus



Yeast makes bread rise and gives it texture

be a lot less interesting without fungi!

Yeast infections on our bodies are quite common. Things like athlete's foot, ringworm and mouth infections are all caused by fungi. They cause itching, redness

MAKE LIKE A SNAKE!



SNAKE scales are not all the same and vary depending on the terrain they move across.

Researchers from the American Chemical Society have discovered that whether they slither across land, wind across sand or climb into the trees, the surface of a snake's scales is different for each type of environment.

Some people think snakes are slimy, but their skin actually feels dry when you touch it. Now, new research has shown that the scales are covered with an oily layer that is so thin it hasn't been spotted before.

Mette Rasmussen, one of the scientists working on the project, examined skins that had been recently shed by ground, sand and tree snakes.

She found that the oil on the scales gave more overall protection on a sand snake that moves through its environment than land and tree snakes that move over it.

The research has great potential for the development of new materials which could be made to imitate the protective quality of the snake's scales.

There are already scientific teams trying to create robots that move like snakes. The discovery of the structure of the oil and the way it works to protect the snake could help improve the performance of these robots. One day we might even have a robot that could carry out rescue operations such as freeing the Mars Rover Perseverance if it gets stuck in the Red Planet's terrain!

DID YOU KNOW?

THE OLYMPIC GAMES have become increasingly less sustainable in the last 20 years despite more attention being focused on sustainability. A recent study showed that the most sustainable games took place in Salt Lake City in the US in 2002. Since then, there has been a decrease, partly due to the vast sums of money that are spent on the venues. This summer's Olympic Games in Tokyo are expected to cost £11.5 billion. The study suggested reducing the number of on-site spectators and having a rotation of just a few host cities so that venues can be reused in the future.



SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

This report is from the Science Museum in London

MANY incredible people worked behind the scenes to enable NASA astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin to walk on the Moon in 1969.

One of these people was Annie Easley.

Born on 23 April 1933, Annie was one of the first African-American employees to work as a computer scientist at NASA. Starting as a 'human-computer' who performed hard maths problems by hand, she soon became skilled at computer programming. Annie contributed to many projects, including developing battery technology for a rocket. She helped break down barriers for women and people from minority ethnic backgrounds in STEM, and always carried her mother's advice: "You can be anything you want to be, but you have to work at it."



Getty

DINO DISCOVERY



A GIANT dinosaur footprint has been discovered on a beach in Yorkshire.

The huge imprint was unearthed by archaeologist Marie Woods (left) while she was out collecting shellfish. It measures a huge nine metres long, with experts believing it could belong to a large meat-eating Megalosaurus. The Jurassic beast roamed the Earth 175 million years ago!

The amazing find has actually been partially spotted before, by fossil collector Rob Taylor back in November 2020. It could not be properly seen though and no-one knew how important it was.

This is the biggest dino print ever to be found in Yorkshire, but not the first. In fact, the area is very famous for its roarsome markings!

The exact location of the fossilised print is being kept secret!

Twitter/
@MarieEWoods

REAL LIFE RAPUNZEL



Guinness World Records/
Ripley's Believe It Or Not!

A REAL life Rapunzel has cut off her long locks to donate them to a museum.

Nilanshi Patel, who holds the record for the longest hair ever on a teenager, has cut off her mane and donated it to Ripley's Believe It or Not! Museum in Hollywood, USA.

Eighteen-year-old Nilanshi, from India, has been growing her hair for 12 years. At its longest, in July 2020, it measured an impressive 200cm (6ft 6.7in) long.

MYSTERY TREE BEAST WAS A CROISSANT!

A MYSTERIOUS beast spotted in a tree in Poland turned out to be nothing more than a croissant!

Animal welfare officers were called to investigate after a woman reported seeing an unusual creature lurking in a tree in Krakow. She told the officers people were too scared to open their windows.

The Krakow Animal

Welfare Society suspected the animal might be an escaped pet, but when they arrived on the scene, they discovered it wasn't a living thing at all. In fact, it was a tasty pastry!

D'oh! (Or should that be 'dough'?!)



iStock

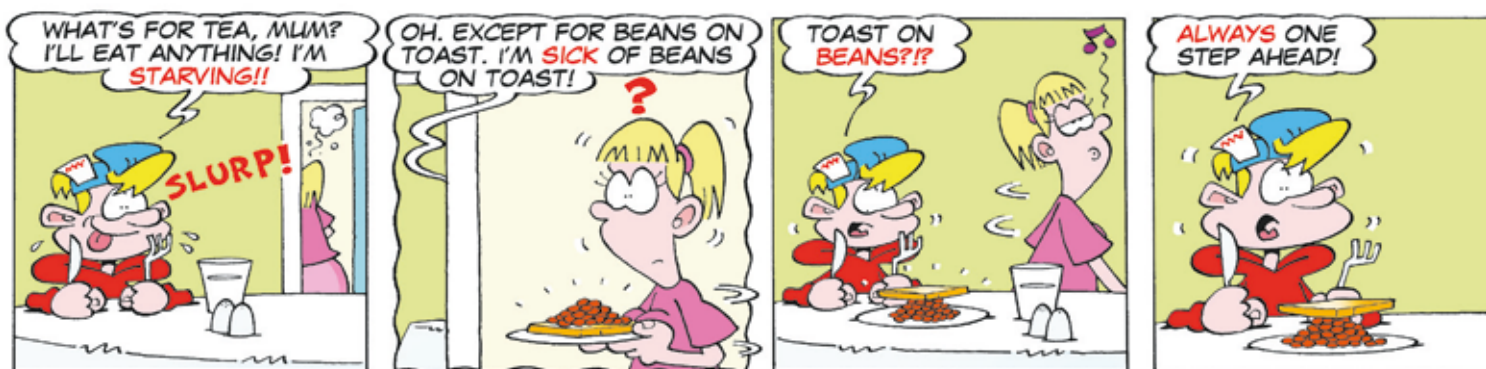
HUGE TUNNEL DISCOVERED UNDER HOUSE!

A COUPLE from Illinois, USA have found a giant tunnel under their house!

Gary and Beth Machens made the unusual discovery after carrying out some repair work. The tunnel is roughly 2.7m high by 2.7m wide, and at least 18m deep. Experts believe it was created in around 1840, before the house was even built. It remains a mystery what it was used for.



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer



LITTLE ROBIN WHITE BREAST!

A SUPER rare all-white robin has been spotted in North Yorkshire.

The striking bird has a rare albinism, which affects the production of melanin – the pigment that colours skin, hair and eyes. The condition is seen in just one in 30,000 robins.

The rare bird was spotted gathering twigs and leaves to make a nest above a cycle path in Middlesbrough. Wildlife photographer Brian Matthews revealed: “You usually only see one every couple of years around the UK. And even then they’re not usually as white as this one – usually they have a little bit of grey or brown on them.”



The rare white robin

SUPER SEAL COUNT



A RECORD number of seals have been spotted on a beach in Barrow.

The Cumbria Wildlife Trust used drones to count grey seals at South Walney Nature Reserve between September 2020 and March 2021. It recorded an impressive 518 – an increase of 7.2% since 2019. Grey seals can weigh up to 150 kilograms and grow to a whopping 2.6m in length.

EYES TO THE SKIES, EVERYONE!



RSPB Scotland is asking everyone to keep their eyes peeled for one of the UK's rarest birds of prey.

Hen harriers are a medium-sized bird of prey and their Scottish population is really important. The RSPB has set up a special Hen Harrier Hotline for anyone who thinks they've spotted one of the birds, which are often hunted, to help keep track of them. At this time of year hen harriers often return to their breeding grounds and nest among heather or soft rushes in the uplands.



FROGS AND TOADS CROSSING ROADS!

NEW research has revealed that frogs and toads often migrate during a full moon.



The research, carried out by the charity Froglife, is really important for the conservation of the amphibians. Common toads are very particular about where they breed, and often migrate back to the same breeding ponds each year. This can lead them to cross busy roads and get stuck down drains. This new information will help initiatives such

as 'Toads on the Roads' to know when toads and frogs are going to be migrating, and to help them across roads safely.

Common toads are currently under threat. A study in 2016 showed that their populations had declined by 68% over 30 years. If this continues there could be no common toads left in the UK by 2030.

Wallace & Gromit's CRACKING IDEAS! COMPETITION

SINCE 1989, Wallace and his canine companion Gromit have been coming up with all kinds of imaginative ways to make life better. Now it's your turn to reinvent an everyday object to make it even better than before. Come up with a Cracking Idea that helps get boring jobs done quicker and better, so you can sit back in your favourite chair, just like Wallace! Then enter your Cracking Idea into our competition for the chance to win a fantastic selection of prizes.

WALLACE & GROMIT'S WINNING TIPS

Remember if you're going to get value from your ideas, they'll need protecting.

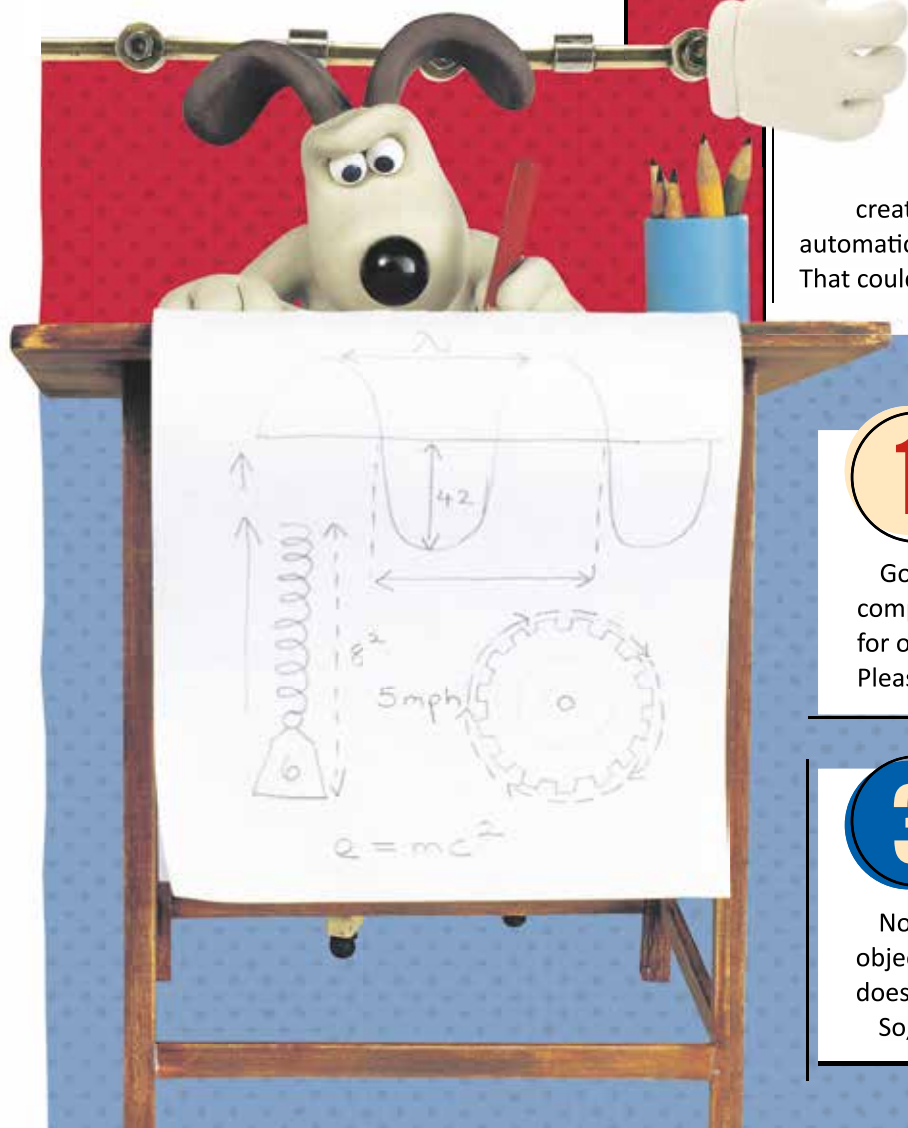
First, your product needs protecting with a **Patent**, so nobody can claim they came up with it first. It could be a gadget or gizmo, mechanism or machine.

Don't forget to apply for a **Trade Mark** too, so your product name and logo stand out from all the rest.

You can register a **Design** so it looks different. Maybe it's long and thin or short and square, or maybe it has a pattern with pink spots on or even blue bananas!

Finally, **Copyright** can protect the creativity behind your ideas. Copyright is an automatic right and protects original (or new) work. That could be music, an image or advert for your product.

CLOSING
DATE FOR
ENTRIES
21 MAY



1 WATCH

Go to crackingideas.com to learn more about the competition, or our YouTube channel IPO Education for our hints and tips playlist: [ow.ly/1dR50DddFP](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL1dR50DddFP). Please be aware of age restrictions on social media.

3 DESIGN

Now it's time to design your new and improved object – your Cracking Idea! Think about what it does, what it sounds like and what it's called. So, grab some paper and get sketching!

2 RESEARCH

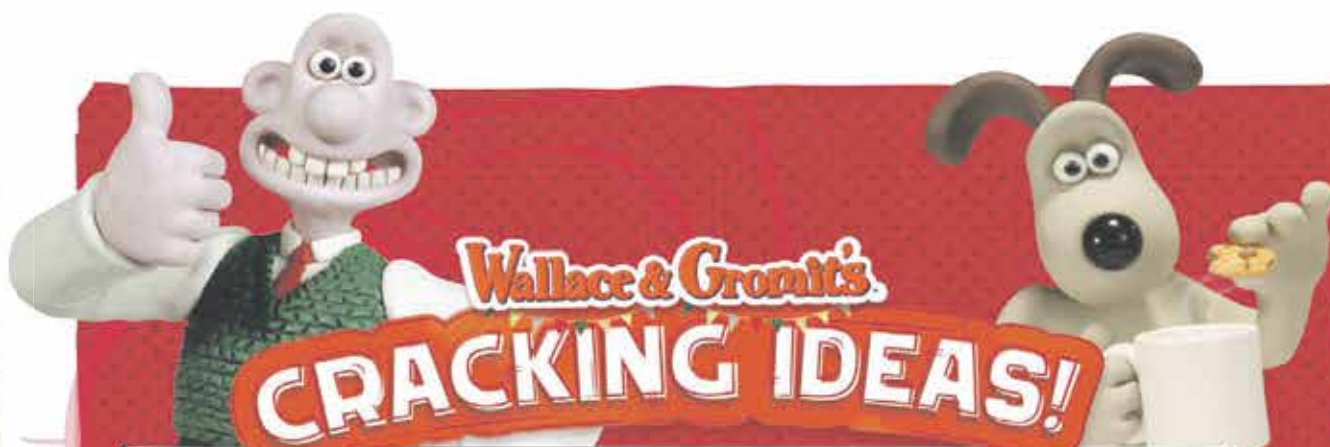
What in your everyday life could you improve for the future generation?

Think about your journey to school. How do you get there? How do you eat your breakfast? What objects do you use and how could you make them better?

4 ENTER

Get your Cracking Ideas down on the entry form on the next page.

Don't forget to name it, create a logo, identify your intellectual property and put your name against it.



Wallace and Gromit have been coming up with all kinds of imaginative ways to 'make life better' for years. Now it's your turn to reinvent an everyday object, making it better than before. Come up with a Cracking Idea that helps get boring jobs done quicker and better, draw it and explain how it works below. If you're aged between 4-11, be sure to enter the competition for a chance to win some really cool prizes too! For more information head to: www.crackingideas.com

NAME YOUR CRACKING IDEA/DRAW YOUR LOGO:

DRAW AND LABEL YOUR OBJECT:



DRAW IT IN ACTION OR DESCRIBE HOW IT WORKS:



INVENTED & DESIGNED BY: _____

AGE: _____

To enter, freepost to CRACKING IDEAS, CF 4185, NEWPORT, NP10 1BF.

Send your cracking idea to ideas@crackingideas.com

PARENT/GUARDIAN EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

POSTCODE: _____



HIGH SCHOOL HERO



HE'S the star of *High School Musical: The Musical: The Series* and a recording artist, too! We chat with Joshua Bassett all about his role in the hit Disney show, plus his upcoming music and creative talents.

● **High School Musical: The Musical: The Series is coming back! Can you give us any insider info on season two?**

Yeah, I mean, it really is like double the music, double the dancing, double the drama! I think people who were even remotely a fan of season one are going to be obsessed with season two! The super fans of season one... I don't even want to know how excited I think they'll be when they see it. There's not much I can give away, but there are loads of new characters and it's so fun and so special. I think we really knocked season one out of the park!

● **How would you describe your character, Ricky?**

I mean, he is a little bit lost. He's a little bit scattered and all over the place. But he's got a good heart and he has the right intentions. He just doesn't really know who he is and his life at home is sort of falling apart. He kind of finds his people by accidentally trying musical theatre.

● **Ricky finds himself in a bit of a love triangle this time round. How does he deal with that?**

Haha! I mean, you know it's just complicated! You watch him in season one sort of navigate that and figure out all that stuff, but it's really not so black and white. I think that's like so many things in life. I think, you know, it's complicated.

● **Do you guys have to do lots of rehearsals for the show?**

In season one we did a lot of rehearsals, just because they wanted to make sure that we actually could sing and dance. I think after we sort of got season one under our belt, they felt a lot more confident in us. With the pandemic, it was a little bit harder to rehearse

things this time, at least for dance, so we didn't have as many rehearsals. But we still had to prep for the big numbers, and for some of the songs that are a little bit more complicated.

● **You write your own songs. Have you written any music for High School Musical: The Musical: The Series?**

Yeah, I wrote a song with my co-star Olivia Rodrigo called *Just For A Moment* in season one and then in season two I wrote a song called *The Perfect Gift*. It's like a Christmas song; it's kind of cheeky and sweet. It's in the first episode of season two, so that was really special.

● **Can you remember when you wrote your first ever song?**

Oh jeez, I probably wrote my first ever song when I was like eight, just like messing around on the piano. But, I think the first time anyone heard one was when I was about 14 or 15 trying to ask a girl to homecoming. She had rejected two guys, so I was, like, okay I've got to up my game. I decided to write her a quick little song on the ukulele. Then I sang it for her and it worked!

● **You've got a new single out now. What's it like?**

I am so stoked about this one. It is so different from all my other music and it's just super fun and exciting, and I really think people are going to love that. I have been listening to it on repeat, which is always a good sign.

● **You can play lots of instruments. What's your favourite?**

Ooh, I think that over time I've grown fond of the piano the most. I think I spend a lot of time on the piano and

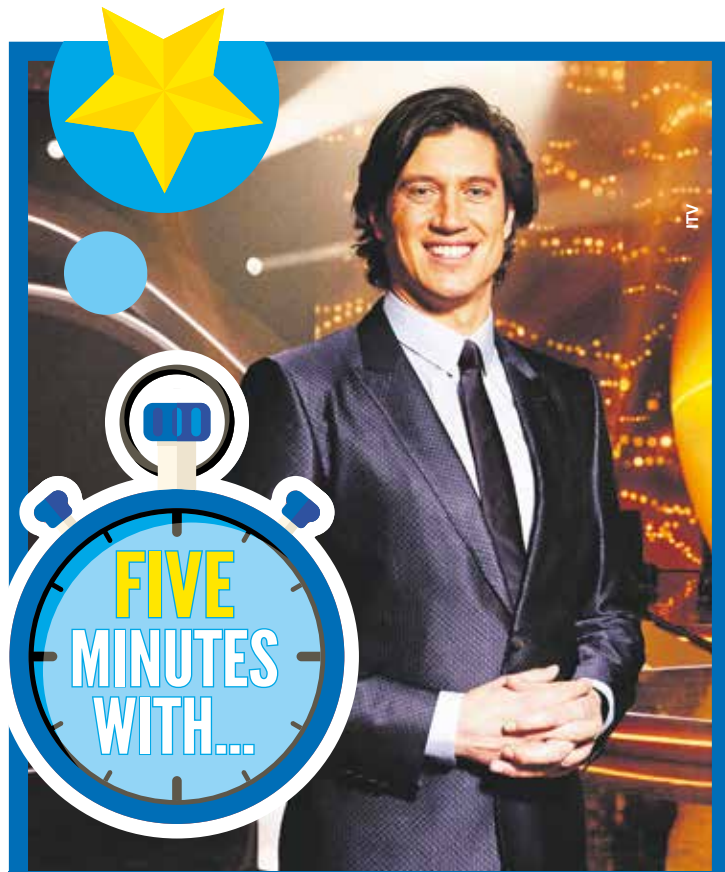
there's so much flexibility for me. I just love it so much.

● **Tell us a fun fact about yourself!**

I learnt how to play guitar in both hands, so I can flip it round. I don't do it very often, but I want to do that more. I'm a huge roller skating guy, but anyone who sees my TikToks maybe knows that. I do a little bit of tap dancing too, but I'm no pro.



Joshua Bassett's EP **Joshua Bassett** is out now. The second series of **High School Musical: The Musical: The Series** launches on Disney+ on 14 May



FIVE MINUTES WITH...

VERNON KAY

THE *I'm A Celeb* star and TV presenter chats to us about his new show, *Game of Talents*.

● **For anyone who hasn't seen it yet, what's *Game of Talents* all about?**

It's this combination of a game show and a talent show. A celebrity and a member of the public team up to form a double act, and there are two teams like that who are facing off. A performer will then come through our big double doors and the teams have to guess which talent from a list they're going to perform. They get a clue but that's it, otherwise it's up to their skills of deduction. It's a really fun guessing game where there's big money at stake for the contestants, and at the heart of it is these incredibly talented performers.

● **How does it feel to be returning to Saturday night, prime time television?**

It's an absolute pleasure, it really is. You just can't beat that shiny floor, big-scale entertainment, and I love the idea that families all over the country will be gathering around and shouting their own guesses at the TV on a Saturday night. I hope we can capture the magic of all those amazing Saturday night shows that have come before. I feel a huge responsibility to carry on that baton, but I know we're also going to add our own, wholly unique twist.

● **Do you have any hidden talents that you'd like to tell us about?**

Well, there are very few of them I must

say, but I can do a bit of breakdancing. People might not see that one coming.

● **How do the celebrities do?**

We've got a really good line-up of celebrities, some close friends, some huge names, just a load of really amazing people. I'm so glad they're all taking part, it's one of the things that attracted me so much to the show. As for how they'll do on the show, that's anyone's guess. I imagine some rivalries are going to come out between the teams and they'll all be bringing their A game – there's a lot of money up for grabs for the contestants they're paired with, so it's high stakes!



Catch *Game of Talents*, Saturday nights, ITV

PICS OF THE WEEK

WHO you gonna call? **Ghostbusters!** Especially if you run into these mini marshmallow men discovered by actor Paul Rudd, AKA Ant-Man, in a new teaser trailer for the movie *Ghostbusters: Afterlife*.

The little marshmallow men, officially called 'mini-Pufts', look super cute at first but we soon discover they get up to all kinds of mischief!

Ghostbusters: Afterlife is out 21 November.



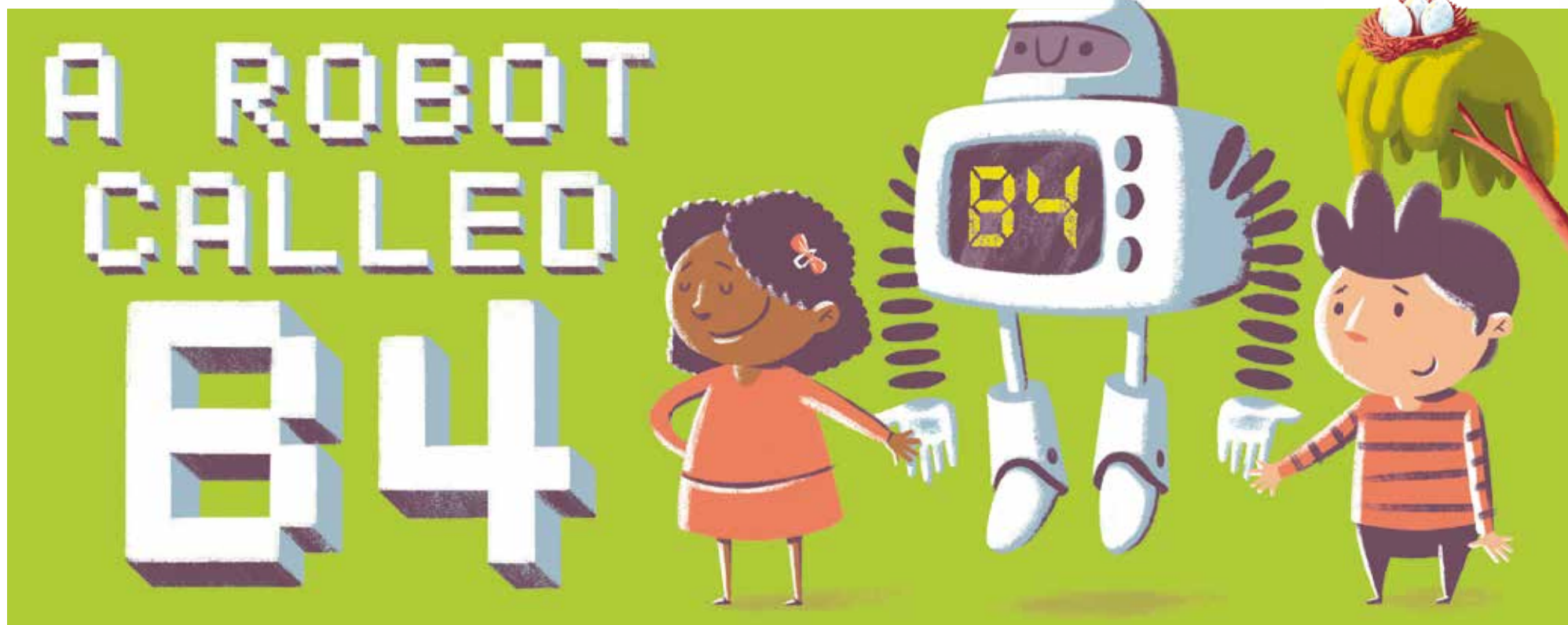
THIS WEEK

1 Harry Potter author JK Rowling has written a new children's book. *The Christmas Pig* is all about a boy named Jack whose favourite toy goes missing. On Christmas Eve he teams up with his newest toy, the Christmas Pig, to go on a magical adventure to find his old friend. The book will be released on 12 October.

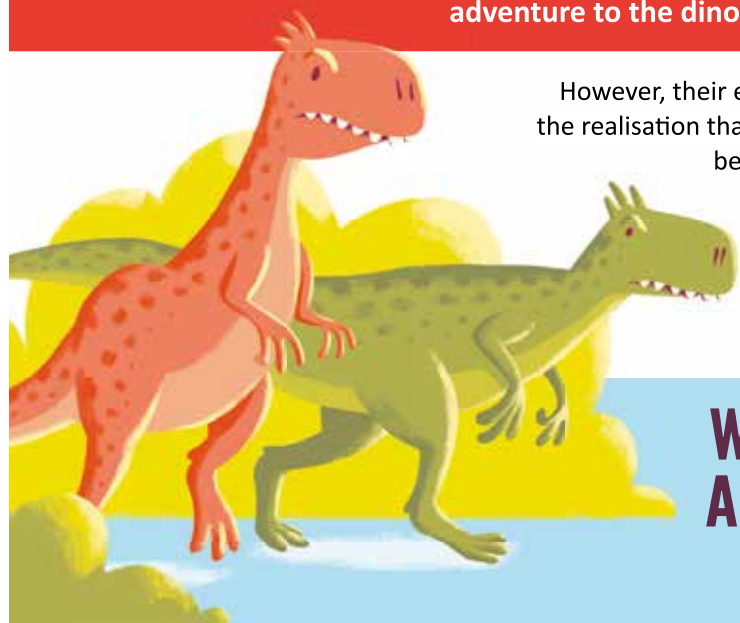


2 David Beckham is set to star in a new Disney+ show. The former footballer will mentor young players as he helps a struggling team in East London survive in their league in *Save Our Squad*.

3 *Horrible Histories* is taking to the seas... well, the Thames! *Horrible Histories Live Onboard! Terrible Thames* will be a brand-new tourist experience for London that will take people on a journey to discover the terrible truth about London's most iconic landmarks. It sets sail this summer.



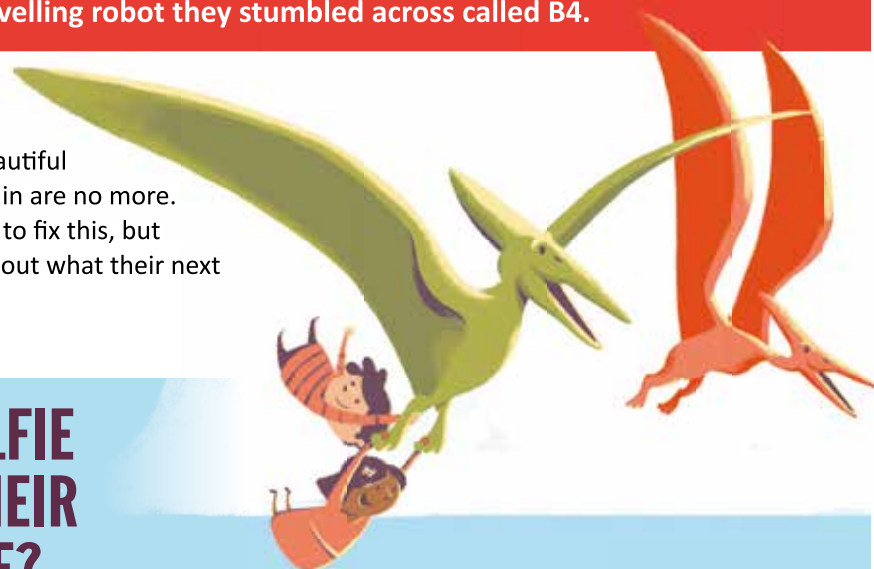
WORCESTER BOSCH has launched its new story book, *A Robot Called B4*, which sees childhood friends Alfie and Ava taken on an amazing adventure to the dinosaur age, thanks to a time-travelling robot they stumbled across called B4.



However, their exciting adventure comes with the realisation that the world we live in is slowly being destroyed, and the natural, beautiful landscapes the dinosaurs roamed in are no more.

Alfie and Ava are on a mission to fix this, but need a little inspiration to work out what their next adventure should be.

They need your help!



WHERE SHOULD ALFIE AND AVA GO ON THEIR NEXT ADVENTURE?



Are you aged between 7 and 11 years old? Then we want your story ideas! Last time, Alfie and Ava visited the age of the dinosaur. Where should B4 take Alfie and Ava on their next adventure? Would you like them to go to the past again, or into

the future? Would you introduce a new character and, if so, who?

Send us your great ideas in 100 words or less. Just email your idea, along with your name and age, to worcesterbosch@wearetheplaybook.com

GET YOUR IDEA TURNED INTO A BOOK!



One lucky winner will get their idea turned into a new book. Alfie and Ava's new adventure will be printed and released digitally!

The winner and five runners-up will also get a Worcester Bosch goodie bag, jam-packed with items including a Bluetooth speaker, a thermal bottle and a T-shirt.



**CLOSING
DATE FOR
ENTRIES IS
14 MAY**

A Robot Called B4 is out now!

WORCESTER

BOSCH

Terms and conditions: This competition is only open to readers aged 7 to 11 years old. Every entrant must have permission from a parent or guardian over 18 years old. Five entries will be selected by a team at Worcester Bosch and special guest judge Angellica Bell, then the winner chosen by Nicky Cox, editor in chief at First News.

NINTENDO SUES HACKER



NINTENDO is taking the leader and two other members of an alleged hacking gang to court.

Gary Bowser, a 51-year-old man from Canada, is being sued by the games company for allegedly being part of Team Xecuter, a group of hackers who modify Nintendo Switch consoles.

Nintendo describe the group as “an international pirate ring” that put “more than 79 million Nintendo Switch and Nintendo Switch Lite consoles at risk from piracy”.

The company wants to shut down Bowser’s operations for good, and is seeking thousands of dollars in copyright infringement from the group.

MINECRAFT SPLITS UPDATES

MINECRAFT’S big Cliffs and Caves update has been split into two smaller updates, the game’s developers Mojang have announced.

In the summer, an update will bring new mobs like goats and glow squids to the game, along with new blocks.

Then, in winter, the more ambitious parts of the update will be released. These include a revamp of the main world, to allow for much deeper caves, with more variety and taller mountains.

According to Mojang, the delay will make sure the update doesn’t affect how the game runs. The company said: “Basically, having more stuff in the game also slows it down and we want to avoid that.”



THE PlayStation 5 has become the USA’s fastest-selling console ever!

According to market research group NPD, in the five months that the console has been available for purchase, millions of PS5s have been sold.

While there aren’t any specific figures, in 2020, 4.5m PS5s were sold – and in February, Sony said they were on track to sell 7.6m PS5 units by the end of March.

The console has been so popular that it’s still out of stock in most places, and when consoles are available, they’re being bought up by people who are re-selling them at much higher prices.

WIN! AMAZINGLY ADVENTURE-FILLED GREAT BRITISH MAPS

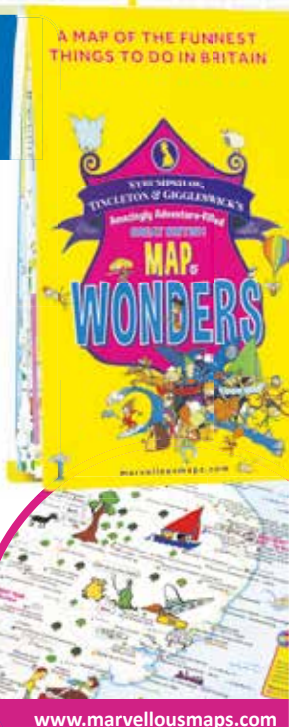
THERE are so many amazingly adventure-filled things to do in Britain that it’s hard to understand them all without a ginormous map!

That’s where ST&G’s Amazingly Adventure-Filled Great British Map of Wonders comes in!

Budding explorers will discover 1,000 of the most fun things to do and places to go around Britain on this massive map, from theme parks, festivals and museums to brilliant beaches, cycle routes and cool castles. And that’s not all, there are great games to play, tick boxes and notes to fill in and even a huge map you can colour in on the back.

Let the adventure unfold! We have 20 Amazingly Adventure-Filled Great British Map of Wonders up for grabs. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

Where would you find The Angel of the North?
a) Sunderland b) Gateshead c) Wolverhampton



www.marvellousmaps.com

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY MAP

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 21. The closing date is 6 May 2021.

WIN A SIGNED BOOK AND SECRET AGENT KIT!

Three winners will receive a copy of Britain’s Biggest Star... Is Dad?, signed by Ivor Baddiel, and their very own secret agent kit!

To enter, draw a spy gadget you would take on a secret mission and email your entry to biggeststar@scholastic.co.uk by 30th April 2021!

A hilarious whodunnit about two kids trying to save the UK’s top TV talent show from sabotage!



Illustrations © James Lancett, 2021

WIN! GEOMAG CLASSIC SET

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

Send in your answers and two lucky winners will win a Geomag Classic set. While playing together for a Healthy Planet, Geomag is 100 percent recycled, non-toxic and non-harmful, the toys are designed both to entertain and to stimulate the imagination and curiosity, and can be a pastime for the whole family, allowing both young and old to express their full potential. Available to buy from [amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk)



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

STABILO Advertisement feature

WIN LOADS OF GOODIES BY WRITING YOUR LOCKDOWN DIARY! ★ ★ ★

STABILO has launched a 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. 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.

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.

How to enter: 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 your diary entry and email your entry, along with your name and age, to marketing.uk@stabilo.com

LAST CHANCE TO ENTER! CLOSING DATE EXTENDED! NOW CLOSES 30 APRIL 2021

One lucky winner will win a bundle of STABILO goodies AND a classpack for all of their classmates worth £1,000! Runners-up will receive a STABILO goodie bag.

This competition is only open to readers aged 7 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.

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.

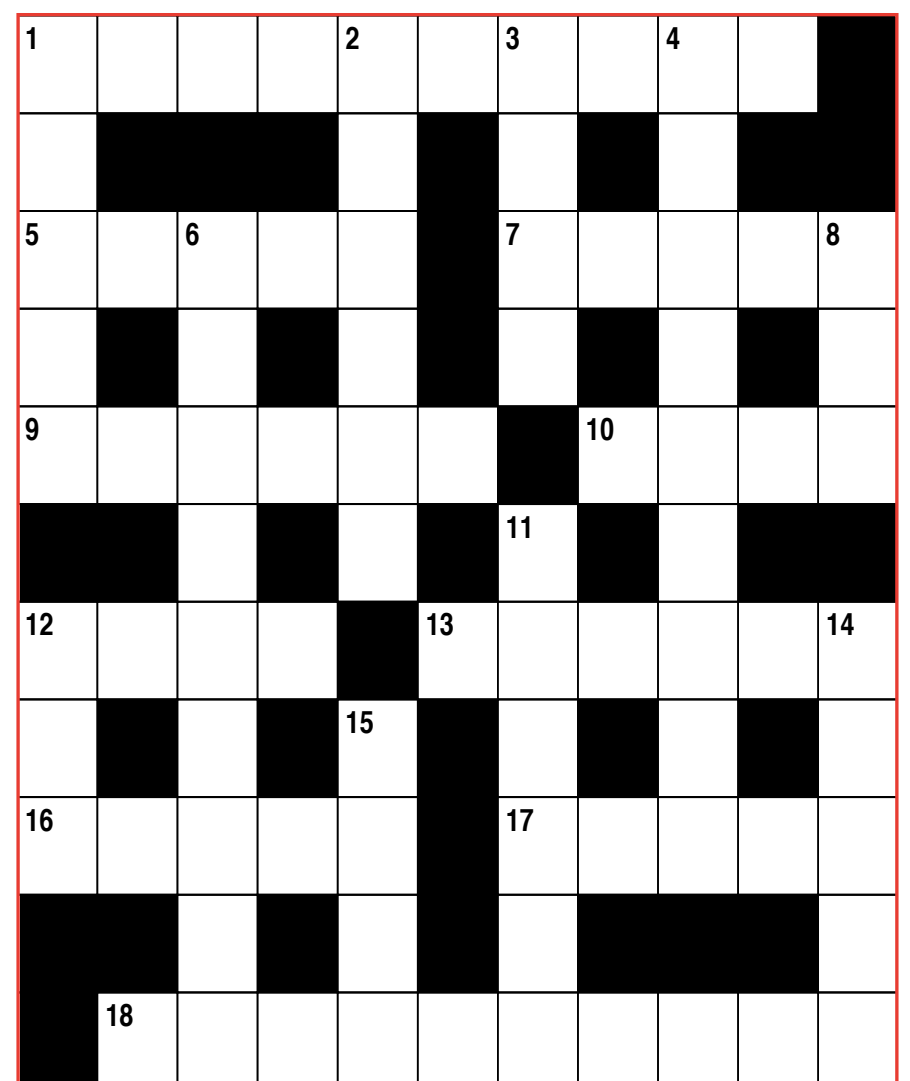


TIDY

WORK

CROSSWORD

JUST for fun this week! Can you complete our crossword puzzle using the clues below?



ACROSS

- 1 Type of ape with large ears (10)
- 5 A large parrot (5)
- 7 Annoyed (5)
- 9 Middle (6)
- 10 Price (4)
- 12 Grand ____ : Formula 1 race (4)
- 13 Complete failure (6)
- 16 Sporting stadium (5)
- 17 Country in NE Africa (5)
- 18 Country where one finds Auckland (3,7)

DOWN

- 1 Comedian (5)
- 2 Abilities; authorities (6)
- 3 Close by (4)
- 4 Absorbed or immersed in (9)
- 6 A bug with many legs (9)
- 8 Until now (3)
- 11 Party or festival in Spain (6)
- 12 Small green vegetable (3)
- 14 Possessed (5)
- 15 A type of music (4)



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

CAN you spot the five changes we've made to this picture from Netflix's *The Mitchells vs The Machines*?



The Mitchells vs The Machines arrives on Netflix 30 April 2021.

WORDSEARCH

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

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

- ☐ Chess
- ☐ The Game of Life
- ☐ Monopoly
- ☐ Battleships
- ☐ Scrabble
- ☐ Operation
- ☐ Hungry Hippos
- ☐ Mouse Trap
- ☐ Cranium
- ☐ Pictionary
- ☐ Trivial Pursuit
- ☐ Cluedo

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

WHAT ON EARTH?

THESE are all types of edible berries. Can you guess what they are?



LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS:

Spot the difference: Horse's hair is longer, dinosaur has been added in background, fence panel has been removed, waistband is now blue, T-shirt design has changed.
Word wheel: employing.
Word ladder: goes, toes, toed, told, bold, bald.

8	7	2	3	5	6	9	4	1	S	U	P	E	R	M	A	R	K	E	T
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YOUR READS!

EVERYDAY MAGIC JESS KIDD

reviewed
by Isabella
Whitty, aged
eight



Everyday Magic is a brilliant book for many reasons. For one, it's a really touching book about how friendship is important.

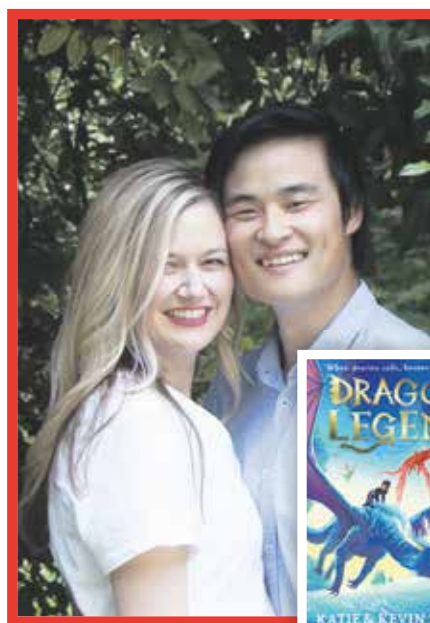
It's all about this boy called Alfie, whose parents have died, but he doesn't care as they didn't care much for him.

Then he goes to visit his aunts (Aunt Gertrude and Aunt Zita) and finds out that magic is real and that they are witches.

He meets a friend called Calypso from the circus and when her sister goes missing they go on a wild adventure to get her back.

I would recommend this book to Harry Potter fans and to the kids out there who love an adventurous book with a happy ending. Keep reading!

National Literacy Trust's Virtual School Library



ENTER the Dragon Realm with Katie and Kevin Tsang.

Katie and Kevin are our Virtual School Library authors of the week.

Visit the Virtual School Library from the National Literacy Trust and the Oak National Academy to listen to Dragon Mountain for free! Katie and Kevin recommend these books:

- A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle
- Me, My Dad and the End of the Rainbow by Benjamin Dean
- Amari and the Night Brothers by BB Alston

Step inside the library to watch an exclusive video of Katie and Kevin and read a Q&A!



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](https://www.wordsforlife.org.uk)

ZAPF CREATION Advertisement feature

BABY ANNABELL AND BABY BORN ARE GOING GREEN!

THE UK's favourite doll brands are promising to do their bit for the future of the planet by making all of their packaging plastic-free!

Single-use plastic is a big no-no and so from now on, Baby Annabell and BABY born boxes will be made purely from paper materials that are much easier to recycle – which is not only better for the environment, but much more fun to open too! It's a win-win and this big change will help reduce the tonnes of single-use plastic filling up landfills or ending up in our oceans.



animals, and a cleaner home for all the fish in the ocean!

BABY born and Baby Annabell have been creating dolls for generations. They understand that YOU are the future of the planet – and most importantly,

they want to hear about your thoughts on their new plastic-free packaging too. Check out their Instagram pages for some recent interviews with children about these issues.

These changes are part of their ongoing mission to become more sustainable, so they can continue making your favourite dolls for years to come. Nice work, Zapf Creation!

Keep an eye out for the little sunflower that will appear on all of their plastic-free packaging. That shows the packaging is totally plastic-free and safe for our planet, meaning less landfill waste, happier



Head to www.baby-born.co.uk for more information

Baby Annabell and BABY born aim to have fully plastic-free packaging by the end of 2022. Please be aware of age restrictions on social media sites.



WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?

LIGHT-UP JUMP ROPE: PACK OF TWO AMAZON.CO.UK £9.99

Add a touch of fun to your evening garden skip with these light-up ropes. The light controller allows you to choose from three different light modes: fast flashing, slow flashing and permanent. The handle can be unscrewed and the rope length shortened if needed.

*All prices correct at time of printing



WICKED MEGA JUMP DOUBLE SKIPPING ROPE WICKEDMANIA.COM £10.00

Develop and show off your jumping skills with this Mega Jump double skipping rope. This high-performance jump rope for multiple skippers is made to let you become the double Dutch trick master while having fun. The rope is thin so provides increased speed, and the handles have a textured surface to help prevent dropping during those advanced tricks.



SKIPPING

LAP COUNTER JUMP AND SKIPPING GAME ARGOS £13.00

Never lose count of all those jumps again with this jump and skipping game that can be played indoors and outdoors! Connect it to your ankle, spin the ball, jump the cord and record your skips. It records up to 1,000, so how many can you do? Help improve your co-ordination and fitness in a fun way!



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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 for more information about our environmental commitments.

WIN! CLASSIC SCIENCE FICTION PRESENTATION SETS

ROYAL Mail has launched a set of stamps featuring original artworks that celebrate six classic science fiction novels by British writers.

The specially commissioned illustrations feature striking interpretations of the classics and show key moments in the development of the genre.

The classic novels featured in the set are: *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley; *The Time Machine* by HG Wells; *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley; *The Day of the Triffids* by John Wyndham; *Childhood's End* by Arthur C Clarke; and *Shikasta* by Doris Lessing.

We have 15 Classic Science Fiction Presentation Stamp Packs up for grabs.

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

Who wrote *Frankenstein*?

a) Mary Wells b) Doris Shelley c) Mary Shelley



ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY SCIENCE

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 21. The closing date is 6 May 2021.

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with the latest science, sport and entertainment news.

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ALL STARS ROCK STARS

**SPORTING STARS
INSPIRE KIDS TO BOOST
MATHS SKILLS**



BT has launched *All Stars v Rock Stars*, a new TV show that sees a squad of sporting heroes go back to the classroom – and take on a head-to-head challenge with kids, just like you, in a series of multiplication shoot-outs, in a bid to teach the nation maths!

Launched in partnership with Times Tables Rock Stars, BT's *All Stars v Rock Stars* will see famous faces from the world of sport and beyond compete against the clock with schoolchildren, to prove they've kept maths fit.

You can watch episodes on BT Sport, and catch up on highlights on the BT Tech Tips website.

THE SEASON SO FAR...



The series kicked off last week, with episode one featuring an All Star team, including Liverpool footballer Trent Alexander-Arnold, and BT Sport pundits Robbie Savage and Clare Balding, taking on Rock Star students from Arnot Saint Mary, St Silas and Broad Square Primary Schools, in a bid to achieve rock hero status.

The Rock Stars took a 2-1 lead in the series, with both Trent Alexander-Arnold and Clare Balding getting schooled by their opponents. Meanwhile, Robbie Savage, who reveals he was in the top set for maths at school, secured the first victory for the All Stars.



WHAT IS BT'S TECH TIPS?

BT's Tech Tips Campaign has been created to help you, and your family, gain digital skills. Check it out for advice from some famous faces, including 'fun-cational' activities from the one-and-only David Walliams. During the campaign, a whopping 5.76 million people across the UK did or learnt something because of watching the series of tech tutorials – pretty cool, hey?

Times Tables Rock Stars is an app and online learning platform created to help you learn your times tables and increase your confidence and math skills – while having fun! You can find out more about the app at www.ttrockstars.com.



COMING UP NEXT

The season continues with a squad of football favourites, including Trent Alexander-Arnold's Liverpool teammate Andy Robertson, as well as BT Sport presenters Karen Carney, Reshmin Chowdhury and Peter Crouch, together with a host of other household names!



TO WATCH THE LATEST EPISODE OF ALL STARS V ROCK STARS OR GET MORE INFORMATION ON BT TECH TIPS, GO TO WWW.BT.COM/TECH-TIPS



SPORT IN NUMBERS

4 is the number of times Britain has been runner-up in the international tennis event, the Billie Jean

King Cup. However, Katie Boulter (below) has edged the team one step closer to the finals by beating Mexico's Giuliana Olmos in a play-off tie against Mexico last week.



2 British drivers were on the podium (in the top three) at the F1 Grand Prix race at Imola in Italy. Lewis Hamilton finished second and Lando Norris, aged just 21, was third, behind race winner Max Verstappen. It's the first time there have been two British drivers on the podium since 2012.



52 years is how long it has taken Leicester City to get back to an FA Cup final. Kelechi Iheanacho (below) scored as they beat Southampton 1-0 last Sunday to reach the final against Chelsea on 15 May. At present, 21,000 fans are expected to attend. Leicester City were last in the final in 1969, when they lost to Manchester City.



SUPER LEAGUE SHOCK



What we know so far...

What is the Super League?

A new league for up to 20 of Europe's top clubs. They will play a fixed number of games each year plus five other teams that will join for one season. There is no relegation or promotion but there will be a competition element.

Who are the confirmed teams?

Man United, Man City, Chelsea, Arsenal, Liverpool and Tottenham Hotspur from England; AC Milan, Inter Milan and Juventus from Italy; Atlético Madrid, Real Madrid and Barcelona from Spain.

When and where will they play?

The games will be midweek and played across Europe.

FOOTBALL fans were surprised and disappointed following the announcement of a new European Super League last Sunday. But why are so many people opposed to it?

Anger, sadness and disappointment were some of the emotions that players, ex-pros and fans expressed following the news that six Premier League clubs were joining a new European Super League.

Many believe that the breakaway league has nothing to do with the fans and a lot to do with money. All the clubs have been promised up to €300 million (£260 million) each in "welcome bonus" payments by JP Morgan Chase, the US investment bank that is financing the league.

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and French president Emmanuel Macron both spoke out against the new league, as did other powerful figures in the world of football. The English Football Association, world governing body FIFA and European governing body UEFA are among the organisations that are strongly opposed. The clubs want to continue playing

in their existing national leagues, but that seems unlikely to be allowed. FIFA has said the clubs concerned will be banned from playing in any other competition at domestic, European or world level, and their players could be denied the opportunity to represent their national teams. As First News went to press, the European Super League had begun legal action to protect its players and members from any punishments by FIFA, UEFA or other football organisations.

TV pundit and ex-pro Gary Neville was one of the first to react. He said: "I'm fuming... there are 100 odd years of history in this country from fans who have loved these clubs and they need protecting."

There is a worry across European domestic leagues that, if more money is given to the big clubs, less will be available for the smaller clubs and some may go bankrupt.

WILL TOKYO GAMES BE CANCELLED?



Team GB's women's rowing four in 2019

WITH less than 100 days to go, the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics – already postponed from last year – are in doubt once more.

Surging rates of coronavirus in Japan and a lack of support from local fans has led to some people questioning whether the Games should go ahead. A senior official in Japan's ruling party said last week that it's possible the Games would be scrapped.

In an article in *The British Medical Journal*, scientists have urged organisers to call off the event, arguing that Japan has not done enough to reduce transmission of COVID-19. A recent poll shows 70% of Japanese people want the Games cancelled, too.

The decision is complicated, and cancelling such an enormous worldwide sporting event would have huge consequences. Athletes have been preparing for years and it would cost Japan billions of pounds in lost revenue. It is clear why everyone wants it to go ahead safely, but researcher Kazuki Shimizu from the London School of Economics says holding the Games for economic reasons and ignoring the science goes against Japan's commitment to global health and human safety.

RNLI DREAM



JUNIOR
JOURNALIST

by Steffan Williams

I WAS eight years old when I helped to rescue five people cut off by the tide.

It was back in 2017 when I spotted three members of the public stranded on the rocks near the New Quay Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) Lifeboat Station in Ceredigion, Wales.

Using my kayak and small red dinghy, I managed to bring them back to safety.

Just a few days later, I was out saving lives once again. Time was against me as the tide was quickly rising, and it was getting dark. In my kayak, I headed to the beach to raise the alarm and the New Quay RNLI volunteer crew members were soon at the scene.

I am now 12, and have always had a keen interest in sea safety and saving lives. My dad, Huw, is a volunteer on

the New Quay lifeboat crew and I often help out with fundraising events for the RNLI.

In November 2020, New Quay RNLI Coxswain Daniel Potter presented me with my prestigious gold Blue Peter badge, the show's highest accolade. Famous recipients include the Queen and Sir David Attenborough.

I even got to appear on Blue Peter a few weeks ago.

I am so shocked and really proud to receive the Blue Peter gold badge, as it's so special. It's even better to receive it from my hero Daniel Potter, as when I am 17, I want to join the crew. Since the RNLI was founded in 1824, its lifeboat crews and lifeguards have saved over 142,700 lives.



Steffan receiving his gold Blue Peter badge

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

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

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

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

READING BUS

by pupils from St Stephen's RC Primary School, Manchester

A FEW weeks ago our school opened its new Yellow Bus Library.

The Reading Champions were the first to climb aboard. It has been an amazing transformation. When the bus arrived, it was full of seats, now it is full of books!

The large sofa area is great! We can't wait to relax there with a new book.

We all love reading and we are looking forward to acting out play scripts and performing them in small groups while on board the bus. We are so grateful to our teachers and our site manager for their hard work.



Reading
First News
on the bus



Reading Champions waiting
to board the bus library

SCHOOL
NEWS

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.



Fran likes to read her copy of
First News with her puppy Monty

Florence told us: "I enjoy receiving First News each week because I love the puzzles and learning everything that's going on in the world. I am also fascinated by the articles related to saving the planet and our beautiful animals. As well as all this, I spend a lot of time looking at the sports page."



Betsy-Rose is six and lives in South Wales. She told us: "I love reading First News. I like solving the puzzles with my grandma and reading the environment articles."

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



Samantha in training under the water, testing equipment that could be used to take samples on future missions to the moon's surface

Rosie Bickerton, aged ten, asks what was your most difficult challenge when you were training?

Definitely the spacewalk training. But again, it's also the most rewarding, right? What's rewarding, what makes you really feel good after you've done it, after you've mastered it, that's when you really have that feeling of accomplishment.

Year 4 at Gayton Junior School want to know what is the most fun thing that you've done while being an astronaut?

Being in space was a lot of fun! I loved weightlessness. I would say I even miss it sometimes. That feeling of having superpowers, being able to fly, basically. I was a combat pilot before I became an astronaut and this is what I enjoy, being in high-performance manoeuvrable jets. But there are still a lot of limitations. In an aeroplane you're all strapped into your seat and you can only have that superpower from a machine, while in space you don't feel it on your body and you have this feeling of freedom. You're just in your T-shirt and trousers and you can fly around like Superman and you can move very heavy things just with a finger; everything is effortless. You can go upside down, hang out on the ceiling!

Year 5 at Forest Park Preparatory School asked if life in space is easier than life on planet Earth?

It depends from what perspective you look at it, right? I mean, there is a technical complexity; you have to be able to handle the machinery, the procedures, the communications, the constraints [limitations] of the environment. But I think there are very few jobs in the world where there is such an effort of an organisation behind you

to really prepare you to do that job; it might be something that top athletes get when they go to the Olympics. So even if it's a little bit complex, it doesn't feel like that. It comes easy because you've been prepared so well and you have so many resources to fall back on, people to ask for help. So in that sense, it really feels easy because it takes away all those other complexities of life on Earth: all the people you interact with, or the unexpected things like a power cut, a traffic jam... all those things just don't happen. When I came back, it was like, oh gosh, now I have to go out of the house in the morning, knowing that I will be gone all day, so I actually have to pack my bag. On the space station, all you need is right there. And if it's not there, too bad – it's not going to get there any time soon! So coming back, I did find that life on Earth was more complex.

Ziyad, aged nine, wants to know how it affected your body, health and mind after you returned from your first trip to space?

It feels harsh when you first come back. The impact of gravity, of your weight, it was quite brutal. You're used to this effortlessness, this complete lack of

weight and your brain has gotten used to that. So even if your muscles are still there because we work out quite a lot, your brain has to relearn. And it does, but it takes time. I would say before you start walking semi-normally it probably takes at least a day, and probably multiple days until you walk more or less normally. Your vestibular system [balance] probably takes a week or two to get back to normal. And you do feel tired for the first few days. The mere experience of living with weight is an effort, you know. People sleep a lot when they come back. I slept like a baby, 12 hours per night, for the first few days. I think it was just that fatigue [extreme tiredness] and maybe the mental relaxation. You've been really mentally alert for 200 days and then you come back and you can let go a little bit.

Lilianna wants to know what food you missed most in space, and if astronauts have pizza?

I don't think we had pizza. I'm a pizza lover, so I like the real thing; I'm not sure I would enjoy space pizza! But the food is actually not bad at all, and there's a lot of variety. But what you do not have that I really missed is fresh food. I'm someone who likes to have a big salad with fresh tomatoes and mozzarella and tuna and nuts and seeds, all that kind of stuff. So when I came back, my first meal was this gigantic bowl of fresh salad!

One of our readers, Zara, wondered what advice you have for anyone who wants to be an astronaut?

We tend not to select those who have this drive to push the boundaries of human knowledge in one specific thing. That's wonderful and great, and we need those people, but it's probably not the right path to become an astronaut. It's because we don't really get a chance to



Samantha in training in Russia. The headgear that astronauts wear is nicknamed a 'Snoopy cap', after the famous cartoon dog's black ears

specialise on one thing. Our job is more about learning a little bit of everything and enjoying that process, and accepting that you are not going to be the best person in any given field.

Another from Year 5 at Forest Park Preparatory School: can you describe how you feel and what it looks like when you look down on the Earth from space?

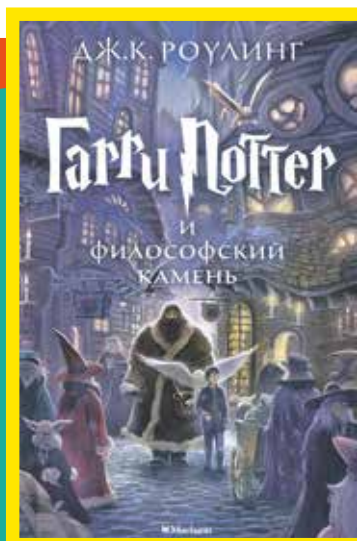
I would say at the beginning it's overwhelming. It's just a feeling of awe. Overwhelming beauty combined with the strangeness of this point of view, combined with this feeling that you have this very, very special vantage point. It's just you and a few other people up there, and all of humanity is down there on Earth. As time goes by, you still have those feelings, but I would say most of the time you also have a feeling of familiarity, where it becomes natural to go to the window and kind of say: "Oh, so where are we today?" It's like, let me hang out a few more minutes and then this city or this island or this thing will come up. And let me see if it's cloudy today or not, and if it's not cloudy I can snap a picture. So it becomes like a game, like all of the planet is your backyard.

Does Earth look more beautiful from space or from down here?

It's a different type of beauty. You're guaranteed to get that feeling of awe up there. But I would say that is probably true of some experiences on Earth as well. People who climb Mount Everest, when they get up there I would imagine that they have a very similar feeling. Once you're in space it becomes a very natural thing to have access every single day to that kind of experience, while probably in our daily life on the ground, that's not the case, or it's probably just occasionally and for a short time. So that's one of the reasons why it's so nice to be up there.

DID YOU KNOW?

SINCE a lot of astronaut training and rocket launches happen in Russia, astronauts need to understand a bit of the language. To practise, Samantha listened to the audiobook of the first Harry Potter book in Russian. She writes in her book that this means she still has "a small, but enviable vocabulary of Russian magical terms"!



If you want to learn more about the ISS, space, or how to become an astronaut, check out www.esa.int/kids

CLEANING UP COVID WASTE

ITEMS such as face coverings and gloves help protect us from the coronavirus. But if they aren't disposed of properly, they can be very harmful to the environment. Sadly, not everyone is disposing of their COVID waste properly – and animals all over the world are paying the price.



A GLOBAL PROBLEM

Reports of animals becoming entangled in masks have become more and more common over the last year. Last month, a team of Dutch biologists published a study in the journal *Animal Biology* that looked into just how widespread the problem now is.

They asked citizen scientists, including photographers, vets and birdwatchers, to send in reports of animals affected by COVID waste.

They received dozens of stories and observations from all over the world about birds, small mammals and sea life becoming caught in protective equipment.

A study from India found that **45% more biomedical waste** was being produced in the state of Maharashtra each day in 2020 compared to before the pandemic.

53 million single-use face masks are thought to be used each day in the UK



Macaques in Malaysia were spotted chewing on a face mask, and a penguin in Brazil was found to have a mask inside its stomach. Some animals have even been using COVID waste as nesting material.

The researchers ask that people report any sightings of animals struggling with coronavirus waste to www.covidlitter.com.

Sam Wockner of Greenpeace said that COVID waste like discarded face masks “are not only adding to litter and pollution across the UK’s parks, rivers and seas – they’re also hurting and killing wildlife.”

COVID WASTE TOP TIPS

CUT down on COVID waste and reduce your ecological impact by following these top tips!



CUT THOSE TIES!

If you're putting a mask in the bin, be sure to cut the ties that hook around your ears. The RSPCA says animals can easily become entangled in them, or mistake them for food. This could make them very sick.

USE A REUSABLE MASK!

You could buy a reusable mask – there are loads online and in shops – or you could make your own. The Government has advice you can find at gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering.



LITTER PICK SAFELY

You're not advised to pick up COVID waste litter by yourself. If you want to help, consider joining an organised litter-pick with adults, and you'll need a face covering, thick gloves, litter-picker grabbers and heavy-duty bags.

