First

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FirstNews
UKRAINE
SCHOOLS
APPEAL p6

2.GM READERS Issue 821 £2.35 11 – 17 March 2022

UKRAINE SPECIAL

PAGES 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6
YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

WAVING GOODBYE TO UKRAINE

ONE DAY THEY WERE AT SCHOOL. NOW THEY DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY ARE



500,000 CHILDREN (AND COUNTING) FLEE UKRAINE

EDUCATION SECRETARY BACKS OUR



Nadhim Zahawi, Secretary of State for Education, is supporting our appeal: "Russia's invasion of Ukraine is deeply distressing and heartbreaking. I know that seeing this illegal and immoral attack on such a beautiful country can be confusing and upsetting for children and I'm pleased to see the work that First News is doing to help navigate this difficult issue.

"I fully support First News' campaign launched in partnership with the Disasters Emergency Committee, which will help raise vital funds for the people impacted by the invasion, while at the same time showing our support for the incredible people of Ukraine."

AS Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, continues to order attacks on Ukraine, the United Nations (UN) says the fighting has caused the "fastest growing refugee crisis since World War Two". More than 2m people have now fled Ukraine.



Bombing continues

Lots of towns and cities in Ukraine have been targeted by Putin. Kherson, a port in the south, was the first city to fall under Russian control. Controlling ports and other routes will allow



Irpin residents escape the fighting by crossing a destroyed bridge

Russia to cut off Ukraine's supplies, and supply Russian troops instead.

Some cites in Ukraine haven't had water or power for days, so many are surviving in below-zero temperatures with no heating or hot water. Food is running out too, and there have been reports of some people in Mariupol having to eat snow.

Putin has also been criticised for not allowing civilians to leave, and some have been killed by Russian bombs while trying to flee.

Protests continue too

It's not clear exactly how much support Putin has in his own country, but there were more anti-war

protests again at the weekend. More than 4,300 were arrested during protests in 44 cities around Russia. Punishments can be harsh in Russia, but a lot of people obviously feel strongly enough about the war to risk being put in jail.

War against reality

Putin is so determined to control what Russian people know about the war that he has brought in new laws that mean someone could go to jail for spreading "fake news". The BBC and other news organisations have halted their services for now inside Russia, to avoid any of their journalists being sent to jail.

Russia's schoolchildren are also being given a false idea of what's happening, thanks to a document sent to schools by Russia's Education Ministry. Campaign group Human Rights Watch revealed that the two-page document is meant to be read out in class, and it says that Russia is carrying out a "special peacekeeping operation" and has "done everything possible to resolve the situation by peaceful, political means".

Sporting ban

Athletes from Russia and Belarus have been banned from competing at the Paralympics, in the latest example of sport trying to put pressure on Putin and his ally, the country of Belarus. However, many people don't agree that banning athletes is fair, as they've spent four years preparing for the

event and may not even support the war anyway.

A kind welcome

Although a lot of the news about the war is upsetting, there were lovely scenes in Berlin, Germany, when trainloads of



Berlin locals queue up to offer rooms to Ukrainian

Ukrainian refugees arrived by train. Lots of locals turned up with signs saying that they had a spare room available for refugees.

For a quick daily update on the Ukraine situation, see live.firstnews.co.uk. If you're worried about this or anything else in the news, talk to an adult you trust or call Childline on 0800 11 11.

UKRAINE Q8

YOU'VE been sending in more of your great questions via our website (first.news/ukrainequestions), so we've answered a few more below.

How can we help, apart from donating supplies and money? Is there anything we could do to welcome refugee children?

The Government has a page of advice at tinyurl.com/ukrainegovhelp about donating, which is also where it will publish details of a



Volunteers in Edinburgh help to load a van with donations for Ukraine

sponsor scheme to match refugees to people, charities and businesses in the UK. The Refugee Council also has lots of ways that you can help at www. refugeecouncil. org.uk. And see p6!

Are any other countries helping Ukraine physically fight Russia?

No, but the EU, UK, US and more are sending lots of weapons. Anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles are helping Ukraine to defend itself against Russia's bigger and more advanced military.

Do the Russian soldiers want to be there or is Putin forcing them?

Soldiers don't get a say in which wars they fight, so the decision is Putin's alone. However, there have been reports of Russian soldiers not being told the truth about the war and deciding to abandon their vehicles and equipment. Some Russian prisoners said they thought they were helping to "free" Ukraine and would even get a warm welcome.



Why can't we just kill Putin?

Ukraine could try to, although he's very well defended in Moscow, miles away from Ukraine's border. But if another country, such as the UK or US, tried to kill Putin, that would be illegal and seen as declaring war on Russia.

If Putin dies or loses power, will someone just as bad take his place?

We can't know, but many experts agree that Putin has made a big mistake by getting Russia bogged down in this war. Combined with the huge effects that sanctions (restrictions) are having on the Russian economy, Putin's replacement would likely have to be more careful.

THEWORLD Population of Ukraine is 41.4 million, including 7.5 million children.

THE conflict in Ukraine has forced more than two million people to abandon their homes and escape to the safety of neighbouring countries – in less than two weeks. The Disasters Emergency Committee's (DEC) Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal was launched on Thursday 3 March and has already raised well over £100 million.

The refugees

Women and children have fled with little more than a suitcase, leaving behind their schools, friends and fathers – with men aged between 18 and 60 years of age ordered to stay behind in Ukraine to defend the country.

Many older people who are unable to travel have had little option but to remain in their homes in what has become a conflict zone. People have been injured and lives have been lost. Homes have been destroyed or are unsafe to live in, and essential services such as schools and hospitals have been hit.



The conflict in numbers

The United Nations Refugee Agency, UNHCR, says two million people have fled Ukraine since 24 February, with millions more expected. More than 1.2m have crossed into Poland alone.

The United Nations (UN) estimates that four million people could flee the country due to the conflict.



The UN's children's charity UNICEF has said that more than 500,000 children have already fled.

The UN's Ukraine Flash Appeal says that up to 6.7 million more people could be displaced from their homes within the country.

What will happen next?

Millions more Ukrainians are expected to leave their homes over the coming days, weeks and months. The UNHCR says there are fears this could become the biggest refugee crisis this century.

Where have people been going?

People have mainly been fleeing to countries bordering Ukraine to the west, such as Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Hungary and Moldova.

In many places there are long waits to cross borders, and few facilities are waiting for them on the other side, with temperatures dropping below freezing overnight.

Some have friends or family in these countries, but many do not and are staying in reception centres, or with families who have kindly invited refugees to stay with them.

Celebrity and royal support

The DEC appeal has been supported by leading



actors, celebrities and the royal family. Actors Adrian Lester, Kit Harington and David Tennant have filmed or recorded TV and radio appeals, and a social media film has been made by Hugh Bonneville.

Who is helping?

At times of very great need, the Disasters Emergency Committee brings together the UK's leading aid charities to raise funds and quickly deliver effective emergency relief. Thirteen of the DEC's member charities are responding to this crisis, including Save the Children, CARE International, Plan International and World Vision.

DEC member charities are working fast to provide the support and protection that people need, including clean water, emergency shelter, food, health assistance, sanitation and hygiene, and trauma counselling.



Children take part in art therapy at one of the safe places set up by CAFOD partner Caritas Ukraine in Boryslav

WORRIED ABOUT THE NEWS?

STAYING IN UKRAINE

OUR partner children's news show, FYI, has been filming with Myroslava, a teenager from the city of Khmelnytskyi (Khemel-nit-ski) in the west of Ukraine. She has stayed behind to help provide food and aid to refugees, and to support the soldiers who are fighting for their country. We found out more about her life right now.

What is it like in Khmelnytskyi?

Air sirens are going off all the time that warn people of possible missile strikes. Myroslava says that a separate siren in her building was put in because the local one wasn't working properly and "every minute is valuable".

Whenever a siren goes off, everyone has to run to the bomb shelter, which is at a local school, one of many buildings that have been transformed.

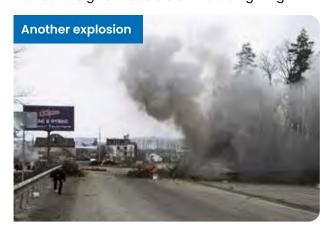
Her local cinema has become the headquarters of the volunteer support effort, and sandbags have been placed around the walls to support the structure, and to protect it from damage that might be caused by incoming missile strikes.

She says that, in comparison to the capital city Kyiv, it's still relatively safe in Khmelnytskyi, but she finds it difficult to sleep at night.



What are people doing?

Volunteers are collecting food and medicine, and gathering it in one place so it can be boxed up and distributed to those who need it. This might mean providing meals to refugees who are trying to pass through the city and escape the war, or medicine that can be given to soldiers who are fighting.



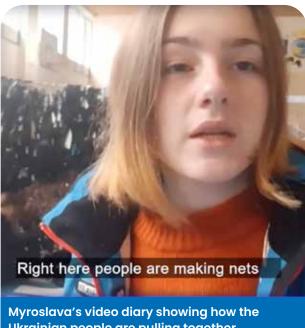


In episode 161 of FYI (QR code on this page), Myroslava says that "it's horrible to see mothers with their toddlers and just one bag and documents, and no access to warm clothes.

"We are providing them with food. We're hosting them in our home, schools, cinemas and churches. Other volunteers are weaving camouflage nets that can hide Ukrainian military equipment from Russian forces."

Myroslava says she's never seen so many volunteers working together.

"Everyone understands that we need to work together during these tough times."



Ukrainian people are pulling together

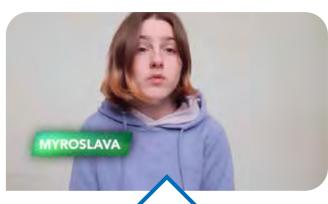
Why is Myroslava staying?

Myroslava told us that she's staying in Ukraine because she and her family belong there.

"It's my culture, it's our home – it's got the garden that we planted!"

THE question for many Ukrainians caught up in the war is whether to stay in Ukraine, or whether to flee to a safer country, leaving behind their homes, possessions and, possibly, other family members and friends.





"It's our home - it's got the garden that we planted!"

– Myroslava, a Ukrainian teenager staying behind



FYI: UKRAINE EXPLAINED

For the special FYI Ukraine episode that explains the background to the conflict and looks at what is

happening now, go to first.news/educationTV and watch episode 161 of FYI or scan this QR code to go directly to it.



LEAVING FOR OLAND

THE war in Ukraine has forced more than two million people to flee the country looking for somewhere safe to live, with many more expected to follow. Most of them have been heading to Poland, one of Ukraine's neighbouring countries. Our partner Sky News weekly children's programme FYI has been to Poland to see how people from Ukraine are being helped.

Reporting from Poland

Just a few miles from the border between Ukraine and Poland, in the town of Przemyśl, there's an abandoned warehouse.

It used to be a Tesco superstore but, over the last week, it's become a reception centre for Ukrainian families fleeing the war.

Nearly all of the refugees are mums and their children because the Ukrainian government has asked men under 60 years old to stay behind to fight for the future of their country. They arrive in an endless stream of buses from the border, exhausted, traumatised and desperately worried about the people they've left behind.

Many of the Ukrainians have friends or family members in Poland where they can go and live. But not all of them. FYI met some families who had

no idea where they would be staying. They were scared and worried about what would happen to them. Their lives had been ripped apart and all they had left was



A Ukrainian mother reaches the Polish border with her three children

a small suitcase of clothes.

People rushing to help

But people from all over Europe have been rushing to help. Both inside and outside the old Tesco building there are tents offering warm food, medical supplies and mobile phone battery packs. Charities have been working around the clock to offer help, and some people have driven hundreds of miles across Europe to offer rooms for people who have nowhere to go.

We met one couple who had driven all the way from the Netherlands to offer their home to refugees. They felt they had to take action, having been so upset about the pictures of the war they'd seen on the television. They left with a 13-year-old boy and his mum, promising they would provide a safe and comfortable home for them for as long as it was needed.

The kindness of strangers

In the middle of misery and heartbreak, the kindness of strangers shone bright. In one of Poland's biggest cities, Kraków, we met



a family who have also offered their home as a temporary shelter for Ukrainian people forced to flee the war. During the first week of the invasion, they took in two families, giving up their own bedrooms so their guests could sleep comfortably. They also found them a flat where they can live in safety while it's still too dangerous to return home to Ukraine.

Gabriele, who is 11, told us that her family felt that opening their hearts and their home to Ukrainian families was the least they could do to help. She said they thought it was their duty to look after refugees from Ukraine when they needed support the most.

Meanwhile, back at the old Tesco building, it's been very cold, with temperatures regularly falling below zero. We saw children wrapped in blankets, clasping their favourite teddy bear, while they waited for their mum to find somewhere new for them to live.

It was an upsetting scene, even for adults. And as we watched these innocent victims of the Russian invasion, another bus pulled into the Tesco car park.





Special FYI episode 162 from Poland at first.news/ **EducationTV**

Teachers/parents you can watch the film alongside our tie-in award-winning educational resources





Join in the discussion and set up an FYI News Club in your school! Ask your teacher to go to first.news/FYInewsclub to find out more about the First News FYI **News Clubs.**







in partnership with the Disasters **Emergency Committee's Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal**



WEAR YELLOW AND BLUE at school

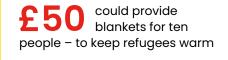
on our special DAY FOR

UKRAINE next Wednesday 16 March – and donate £1 to our appeal if you can.

If school can't do it that day, ask them to arrange it for another day soon. Other activities can be organised, such as a sponsored WALK FOR UKRAINE. Bake sales always go down well, too, and are yummy ways to raise money. Don't forget you can fundraise at home as well.

could provide essential hygiene supplies for one person for one month

could provide emergency food for one person for one month





Nadhim Zahawi, the UK Government's Education Secretary says:

"Russia's invasion of Ukraine is deeply distressing and heartbreaking. I know that seeing this illegal and immoral attack on such a beautiful country can be confusing and upsetting for children and I'm pleased to see the work that First News is doing to help navigate this difficult issue. I fully support First News' campaign, launched in partnership with the Disasters Emergency Committee, which will help raise vital funds for the people impacted by the invasion, while at the same time showing our support for the incredible people of Ukraine."

Donate to our DEC Just Giving page at first.news/ukraineappeal

Write a message to Ukraine

AS well as taking part in our blue and yellow DAY FOR UKRAINE, your support in words and pictures will also mean so much.

On that day, we'd love you to draw a picture or write a message to a



Ukrainian child in the heart in the middle of the Ukraine flag, and we will publish them on the First News website for everyone to see.

Cut out this one carefully or you can download as many as you want from first.news/ ukraineflaa.

Send your completed flags to us via first.news/Ukraine.



MAMMOTH MAMMAL



A huge porcupine puppet created by Jim Henson's Creature Shop, of Muppets and Sesame Street fame, has been unveiled in Los Angeles, USA. Percy the porcupine weighs around a tonne, which is similar to a black rhinoceros, and has 2,000 spines made from foam. He blinks and even opens his mouth to reveal his huge teeth. Two storeys tall, this is the largest animal puppet the Creature Shop has ever worked on. Percy is travelling to his permanent home at the San Diego Zoo.

SCIENTIST SEALS

With the record for the lowest recorded temperature on the planet, at -89.2°C, Antarctica is not easily explored. However, Japanese scientists have devised a clever way to study marine life under the thick ice in the winter months. They fitted eight seals with small helmets containing sensors to record data such as salt levels and water temperature. Information was gathered from a large area - one seal travelled 633km (393 miles) from the research station. It's hoped the data will reveal the effects of climate change on coastal areas.

WHAT A TOP IDEA!

When Andrew Hendy realised the jacket he was wearing was made from recycled materials, he thought that the same concept would work with toys. This led him to invent Recyclings – collectable toys made from more than 70% recycled bottle tops. The colourful characters have proved so popular that more than four million bottle tops have already gone into manufacturing them!



QUICK

TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS

SPOT THE BALL...

First played around 1667, the Royal Shrovetide Football Match is an annual game that takes place in Ashbourne, Derbyshire. Two huge teams known as the Up'ards and Down'ards try to carry, throw and kick the ball towards their opponents' goal. The match takes place over two days - Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday – and has very few rules, but transporting the ball in a car or in a bag is banned! This year saw a 1-1 tie after the first day, before the Up'ards romped to a decisive 3-1 victory



TALL STORY

An American doctor has broken the world record for creating the tallest 3D-printed sculpture of a human. Dr Vinson Eugene Allen's creation is called the Statue of Inspiration and stands a towering 6.04m (19ft 10in) tall, almost twice the size of the previous record. The sculpture of a doctor took a team of nine people 12 weeks to print and build!

PISA PROTEST



Opposition to the invasion of Ukraine by Russia has been seen worldwide. Even famous buildings have been used to condemn the attacks. In Italy, the Tower of Pisa has been decorated with a banner that simply says 'PACE', meaning 'peace.'

CLOCK THIS!

Centuries ago it was thought that the Stonehenge prehistoric monument in Wiltshire measured time. Now researchers believe it is a calendar, able to track a solar year of 365.25 days. Solar calendars follow the sun's movement and were used in Ancient Egypt, suggesting other cultures may have influenced Stonehenge's construction.



NOISE NUISANCE

Underwater noise pollution could be affecting reptiles such as turtles. Tests have discovered that activities such as shipping and offshore construction cause hearing loss in marine and freshwater animals. This is usually temporary, but can last for days and may threaten the survival of some endangered species.

FIGHTING FIRE WITH FIRE!



A unique fire-fighting ritual has been held in Bali, Indonesia, which is said to keep the universe in harmony. Men hold dried coconut leaves, which are set alight. Then they take part in a pretend fight to zap negative energy. It's an amazing spectacle to watch, but not one to copy at home!

MONEY IN THE BANK-SY!



Two artworks by Banksy have been sold at auction for more than £7 million. Girl with Balloon fetched £2.8m, while Vandalised Oil (Choppers), an anti-war artwork featuring two army helicopters, sold for almost £4.4m. Both pictures were owned before by singer Robbie Williams.

TRIPLE TYRANNOSAURUS?



One Tyrannosaurus must have been a terrifying prospect in the Cretaceous Period, but now some scientists believe there may have been three of them! As well as the mighty *T rex*, there could have been two other species: Timperator, meaning "tyrant lizard emperor" and *T regina*, meaning "tyrant lizard queen." Not all fossil experts agree, though - so this battle of the dinosaurs looks set to continue!

MARINE MARVELS

A new project is aiming to restore coastal waters around the UK by installing 141 oyster nurseries. The Wild Oyster Project has also pledged to teach 12,000 students about the ocean. One oyster can filter 200 litres a day to clean the seas! Ask your teacher to visit wild-oysters. ora/education-materials.



SHENZHEN, CHINA



TEDDY bears and giant tiger toys hang from an office building at the Window of the World theme park.

WASHINGTON, DC.

SOME of the 120 life-size 3D-printed statues honouring women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) that are on show outside the Smithsonian Institution. The display is part of the "#IfThenSheCan - The Exhibit," which ties in with Women's History Month.



KEEPERS at Edinburgh Zoo have placed nest rings at the zoo's famous Penguins Rock ready for the breeding season. Gentoo penguin pairs will collect as many pebbles as possible, or pinch them from other penguin couples, to store in their own nest rings, where the females will lay their eggs later this month.



RADIO 1 presenter Jordan North finishes his 100-mile (161km) rowing challenge for Comic Relief. Jordan took just five days to complete the row from London to Burnley, raising more than £700,000 for the charity.



PEOPLE walk through floodwaters as they evacuate after heavy rain.







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GLOBAL AGREEMENT AGAINST PLASTIC POLLUTION



NEARLY 200 nations have agreed to start working on an international treaty to deal with plastic pollution.

The decision was made at a meeting of the UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya.

Now, politicians and experts will begin agreeing just what will go into the plastic pollution treaty.

The plan is to set international rules on the production, use and disposal of plastics, and help countries all over the world to be able to easily phase out plastic.

There have been calls, too, for the agreement to help poorer countries

deal with the plastic waste that has been dumped on them by richer ones.

World leaders have until 2024 to agree to the treaty. And, they will have to decide which parts will be legally binding (made into laws that have to be obeyed), and who will fund it.

The UK Government is in support of the treaty. Lord Zac Goldsmith, Government minister for the international environment, said it was "truly historic".

HOLOGRAMS ARE HERE

A COMPANY has created a device that can display 3D holograms of objects and people.

Named PORTL, the device is a large, empty box that uses clever projection and lighting tricks, so that when a 2D image is beamed into the box, it looks like 3D.

This image can be beamed in live, from somewhere else in the world. PORTL call this "holoporting", a combination of the words teleport and hologram. The company says interviews or meetings could be held through holoportation.

They are also working on a smaller PORTL device that could be used to display art, used for video calls, or view 3D versions of things you might want to buy.

There's no release date just yet, but watch this space.

Maybe your teacher will end up beamed in as a hologram?



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A VACCINE against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) – a disease that can cause serious illnesses in babies – has been found to be "highly effective".

The vaccine, called Nirsevimab, was 74.5% effective against infections.

Researcher Dr William Muller, who worked on the vaccines, said that the "exciting data shows that Nirsevimab has the potential to offer protection [against RSV] for all infants."

EDITOR'S COMMENT

IT is horrible to know that people are suffering because of the war in Ukraine. And, it is hard to feel helpless. So, that's why we have launched the First News Ukraine Schools Appeal (p6) so that we can all do something. Please join in with our Day for Ukraine on Wednesday (16 March) when we'll be wearing blue and yellow in support of Ukraine – the colours of their flag. Any money raised from this, or other activities, will go directly to the Disasters Emergency Committee so that charities can help people whose lives have been turned upside down by this conflict.



WELOVEASALE!

Do you have a friend who'd like to try First News? They can try the first six issues for free







SLUGS AND SNAILS

THE Royal Horticultural Society gardening group has said that slugs and snails are no longer to be called 'pests'. Instead, they said they should be called 'helpers' – because they recycle dead leaves that would otherwise pile up!





RABBITS

THE RSPCA has said it received more unwanted rabbits in 2021 than in 2020. The animal rescue charity said that 859 were taken in by their shelters – compared with 672 in 2020. An expert said that this was because most people didn't realise how much care and space a pet rabbit needs.



WHEELS OR DOORS?

THE world was divided this week by a seemingly silly question – are there more doors or wheels in the world?

Kiwi rugby referee Ryan Nixon asked the question on Twitter, saying he was having the "STUPIDEST debate" with his friends – and received more than 220,000 responses!

It even caused quite the debate among the First News staff.

We want to hear from you! Answer our poll, and be sure to explain your thinking in the comments.

Do you think there are more doors or wheels in the world?

Vote at first.news/polls

Robert Pattinson plays

BELFAST

Under-15s can go to see The Batman

Belfast is the only city in the UK to give the new The Batman movie a 15A rating, meaning young people under the age of 15 can watch it at the cinema, as long as they are accompanied by an adult. The British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) has given the movie, starring Robert Pattinson, a 15 rating for the rest of the UK, calling it a "crime thriller". The BBFC rating is only a guideline, though, and local councils get to make the final decision. Belfast City Council agreed to change the rating at a meeting last week.



KINGUSSIE

Meet and name UK's youngest polar bear

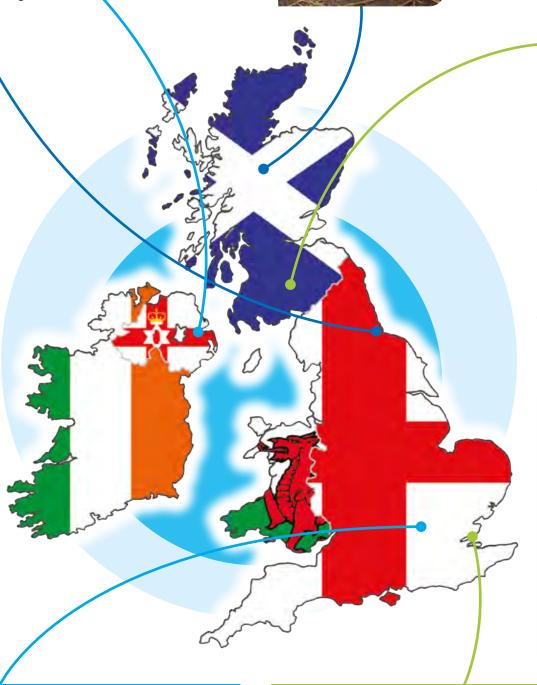
One lucky person is being given the chance to meet and name the UK's youngest polar bear, at the Highland Wildlife Park. The competition is part of a prize draw that has been launched to help build Scotland's Wildlife Discovery Centre. Keepers will come up with a list of names for the little male cub and the winner of the draw will get to pick one. They'll also get to go behind the scenes of the park to meet the bear and his mum, Victoria. Keith Gilchrist, who works at the attraction, said: "This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

MIDDLESBROUGH



Beating Heart installation to stay

A giant light installation of a red beating heart will remain on display in Middlesbrough for always. The 35-metre LED Beating Heart was created by artist Stuart Langley and lights up the sky every night from Church House, a tall building in the town centre. The heart has been programmed to beat on the hour every hour after dark, and aims to spread hope and positivity. The artwork was first seen last year and has since toured Leeds, London and Manchester, but now it will stay in Middlesbrough for good.



SOUTH SCOTLAND

Golden eagle numbers soar

Golden eagle numbers have soared in the south of Scotland, thanks to a conservation project, and are now the highest they've been in the area for 200 years. The South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project saw birds from Scotland's Outer Hebrides relocated to the Southern Uplands, to help boost their population in the wild. A total of 33 golden eagles have since been recorded. Dr Cat Barlow, the manager of the project, said: "We will continue to monitor these birds to see if they settle, thrive and breed in the south of Scotland, which will be the real measure of success.



ST ALBANS

Park turned into Wonka movie set

A famous park, once the site of the third largest city in Roman Britain, is set to star in the new Wonka movie. Parts of Verulamium Park were closed off to the public last week so that filming could take place, with Warner Brothers building a set near to the lakes. Wonka is a preguel to Charlie



and the Chocolate Factory and is due for release in 2023. Lead actor Timothée Chalamet has also been spied filming in Bath and Lyme Regis.

SOUTHEND



Southend becomes **UK's newest city**

Southend has officially become a city. The Queen agreed to grant the town city status in honour of Southend's local MP, David Amess, who was killed last year. Sir David's family said it would have been "a dream come true" for him. Prince Charles and his wife Camilla took part in a special ceremony to mark the occasion. They also unveiled a new electric train on Southend Pier, which has been named after Sir David.



RESEARCHERS say we will never be able to bring back extinct creatures like mammoths and dinosaurs exactly as they were in the past.

Experts from the University of Copenhagen in Denmark say they worked that out when exploring whether they could bring back the Christmas Island rat. The species became extinct 119 years ago, probably due to diseases brought to Christmas Island on European ships.

Researcher Tom Gilbert and his team found that they could match almost all of the rodent's genome sequence (the information needed for organisms to grow). They also found that the animal

would share about 95% of that sequence with a Norway brown rat, which is still around today.

Although the sequencing was mostly successful, the team did discover that a few key pieces were missing. The missing information would mean that the rat would be unlikely to process smells in the same way as it would have originally. "It is very, very clear that we are never going to be able to get

all the information to create a

perfect recovered form of an

extinct species," Gilbert says.

"There will always be some kind of hybrid [mixture]."

So that means we're unlikely to see any dinosaurs or mammoths in a real-life Jurassic Park any time soon.

The researcher said he will still try to bring back the Christmas Island rat in the future, but would like to start with tests on species that are still living first. He also says that maybe we'd be better using our time and money to focus on protecting species that are already here instead. What do you think?



A DOG food company called Omni is looking for one very dedicated dog owner to sniff their pooch's poop for two months, to see how a plant-based diet affects it.

The particularly passionate pet owner will be given £5,000 to keep track of their dog's bowel movements and how the poo smells, as well as things like their overall health, their weight, skin and fur condition. We asked you: would you sniff all of your dog's poos for £5,000?

Even though £5,000 is a lot of money, I wouldn't sniff poo for two months!

- izzy89

It might stink but if it's for a good cause then it's worth it.

- blackmamba

£5,000, of course I would (although I don't have a dog!).

youssiano7

Yes! It will help a dog food company but also I would love £5,000.

- cloandhols

Join in the conversation and vote at first.news/polls

NOT ENOUGH TREES PLANTED

GOVERNMENT plans to plant thousands of trees in England are falling behind.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) set targets for how many trees it wanted to plant across the country between 2021 and 2022. But the National Audit Office (NAO), which keeps an eye on how much money the Government spends, says the goals are unlikely to be reached and more needs to be done.

DEFRA wants at least 7,500 hectares of trees to be planted every year by March 2025, but, in



January 2022, the department estimated that only between 1,400 and 1,900 hectares of new trees would be planted in 2021-22 as part of the programme.

The NAO says that DEFRA didn't look at the numbers properly when it set its targets and now it needs to overcome several challenges, such as staff shortages, to meet them.



COMMONWEALTH **DAY 14 MARCH**

A day to celebrate and unite all 54 member states of the Commonwealth.

ST PATRICK'S DAY 17 MARCH

Ireland's national day, celebrated with parades, parties and food.

→ HOLI 17-18 MARCH

A Hindu festival that welcomes the arrival of spring. It is often known as the Festival of Colours.



TO celebrate National Cereal Day last week, food delivery company Deliveroo launched its own range of uniqueflavoured cereals for one day only!

Among the options up for grabs were Sushi Roll cereal, Margarita Pizza and Chicken Katsu Curry. The First News team was divided on whether we'd eat them for our brekkie. Would you?

Would you eat weird-flavoured cereal?

Vote at first.news/polls



Mega mansion sale fail

"America's most expensive residence" has sold for less than half of its asking price.

The Los Angeles mansion, which was also described in the sales brochure as being "twice as big as the White House", originally had a price of \$500m (£378m). That was dropped to \$295m, and it finally sold for \$141m (£107m).

The 21-bedroom and 42 bathroom home also features a bowling alley, nightclub, private running track, juice bar, cinema and five swimming pools.

Estate agents said it's unlikely that a house of its size will ever be built again.

USA

Ancient vampire squid named after Joe Biden

A 330-million-year-old octopus fossil has been named Syllipsimopodi bideni, in honour of the 46th US president, Joe Riden



An artist's illustration of Syllipsimopodi bideni

The ten-armed fossil is believed to be an ancient ancestor of the vampire squid, a dark red deep sea creature that has spikes on its tentacles.

Despite the spooky name, the vampire squid doesn't suck the blood of its victims, but instead prefers to wait around until food floats its way.

Although it's an honour for any creature, ancient or not, to be named after you, we're not sure how flattered President Biden will be by this one!

JAPAN



Killing stone splits

Last weekend, a famous volcanic rock, known as the Sessho-seki, or 'killing stone', was found split in two.

Legend has it that the rock spews poison gas and will kill anyone who comes into contact with it.

It's said to contain the spirit of an evil nine-tailed fox, who pretended to be a beautiful woman in order to murder Emperor Toba, who reigned 900 years ago.

> One Twitter user, who posted a picture of the halved rock, said the sight made them "feel like [they've] seen something that shouldn't be seen."

> > Local and national government officials will now meet to discuss what is going to happen to the split stone.

HONDURAS



Government bans open-pit mining

Honduras' new government has announced plans to ban open-pit mining, as it is "harmful to the state of Honduras".

Open-pit mining is when minerals are mined straight out of the ground, leaving a large hole.

The government said that mining is threatening the country's water supplies and natural resources, and harming public health.

Environmental activists, who have been calling for a ban on open-pit mining for years, celebrated the news, saying that it was a "positive change".

THAILAND

Jailed over sticker

A man has been sentenced to two years in prison after putting a sticker on a large portrait of the country's ruler, King Maha Vajiralongkorn. In Thailand, it is a crime to insult or threaten the king, queen or any associated royal figures.



Offenders can be punished with up to 15 years in jail. The man, called Narin Kulpongsathorn, placed the sticker, showing the logo of a political Facebook page, on the portrait during a rally.

It's the first time in more than a year that someone has faced jail for insulting the monarchy.

NEW ZEALAND

First Covid-19 cases

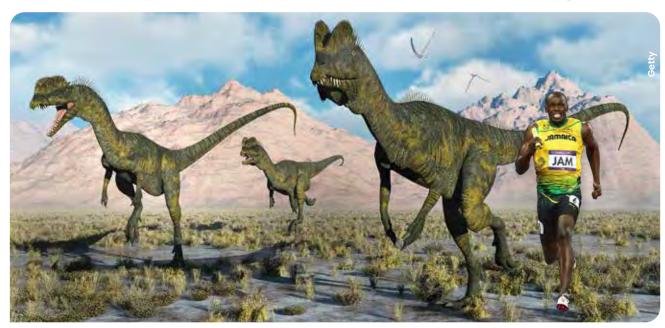
The remote Chatham Islands, 800km (497 miles) from mainland New Zealand, have recorded their first Covid-19 cases, nearly two years after the pandemic began.

Chatham Islands Mayor Monique Croon said that it wasn't the "best of news" but that they "had prepared for this."

The two people who have tested positive are now isolating, and are being supported.



USAIN BOLT vs DINOSAUR



A UNIVERSITY professor in America found an interesting way to engage his physics students by asking them if former Olympic champion sprinter Usain Bolt is faster than a dinosaur!

Scott Lee, from the University of Toledo, asked his students to work out if Jamaica's Usain Bolt could beat Dilophosaurus wetherilli in a 100m race.

Bolt is the world record holder in the 100m and 200m, and won golds at three different Olympics, so if anyone can do it, it's him.

Professor Lee chose Dilophosaurus, which appears in the film Jurassic Park, because of its maximum running speed.

He said: "The maximum running speeds of the other dinosaurs were significantly different from Usain Bolt's average speed and, therefore, would not make an interesting race. Sadly, the more famous Tyrannosaurus rex is believed to have been slower than Usain Bolt."

The students had to make spreadsheets to compare different things between the two runners. They looked at speed (how fast you are moving), velocity (how fast you are moving in a certain direction) and acceleration (how your velocity

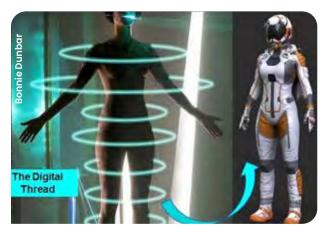
changes over time).

They also had to consider Newton's second law of motion, which explains that the greater the mass of an object, the more force it will take to accelerate it.

As Usain Bolt's mass (the proper term for what we usually call weight) is much less than Dilophosaurus', he has an advantage. It takes a lot less force for him to push off at the start of the race and build up speed over the 100m distance.

The second law of motion and Bolt's ability to accelerate proved to be the winning formula. The students calculated that Bolt would leave Dilophosaurus in the dust, beating it comfortably by two seconds.

Professor Lee says the odd race was a great way to get students to study different aspects of physics. He hopes other teachers will think 'outside the box' to present learning in a range of interesting and unique ways.



NASA has given millions of dollars to 17 different projects that could shape space exploration in the future.

The NASA Innovative Advanced Concepts (NIAC) scheme is designed to help those with amazing space ideas research them further.

Bonnie Dunbar has been given grant money to investigate custom spacesuits (above). The idea is that a computer would scan an astronaut and a system called Digital Thread would send the data to robots to create the suit. It would be specially made for the person and their space mission.

Jonathan Sauder proposed Starburst (below), a group of satellites that can better monitor storms as they move around the world, saving lives.

Other ideas include the CREW HaT system, which would create a magnetic field around spacecraft to stop space radiation, and a spider-like robot called ReachBot that could explore the caves of distant planets.



BACON BUG C

A LOCAL bug that tastes like bacon could help people who are hungry in Madagascar.

The African island has been suffering from severe drought (lack of rain) for three years. That's made it hard to grow food, so many people are going hungry there.

But now an insect known locally as sakondry could help feed starving people. It's

nicknamed 'the bacon bug' for its smoky bacon taste, and UK-based charity SEED Madagascar has been helping villages to farm the tasty insects.

The bugs provide important nutrients, are cheap to farm and can be found near many communities in Madagascar. Training will be given on how to grow a certain type of bean that attracts sakondry. That means both beans and bugs will help thousands of villagers to have a more nutritious diet.



This report is from the Science Museum in London

IN 1989, British physicist Sir Tim Berners-Lee proposed joining up existing systems to create a network of information: the World Wide Web.

The idea changed the world forever. With 3.4 billion users today, the web has grown dramatically and allows us to communicate and share data across the globe in seconds. The web gave sources of information on the internet – what we now think of as a web page – a unique address in a standard form (a URL). Berners-Lee also created software

that presented documents in an easy-to-read format (the browser). Made in 1990, the NeXT computer (right) was the world's first web server switching it off would have turned off the entire web! Now, you can find it in the Science Museum.



COMPETITION

THE steam engine, Thermos flask, cat's eyes and the hovercraft – all great British inventions that have opened a world of opportunity to us! And who could forget Wallace and Gromit's rocket? Or their wrong trousers? More great inventions that have made millions smile!

Now it's your turn to come up with an invention that answers a very important question: how should we be travelling in the future while being respectful of the environment and limiting our reliance on fossil fuels like oil?

We want you to help Wallace and Gromit to tour the UK in the most sustainable – and of course, wacky – way imaginable!

That could mean a cheese-powered engine, or some sort of magic machine, or perhaps some supersonic trainers!

SCHOOLS CHALLENGE!

FTHEUK

Running alongside this year's challenge is Wallace and Gromit's UK tour of innovation.

For every competition entry received from a school or learning group, Wallace and Gromit will move one mile on their tour!

The school or group that send the duo the furthest, will win a very special prize.

Keep up to date with the tour by subscribing to the newsletter! Email crackingideas@ipo.gov.uk to sign up.

WALLACE AND GROMIT'S

value from your ideas, they'll need protecting. First, your product needs protecting with a patent, so nobody else 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!

Remember, if you're going to get

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.

TEACHERS

DRAW AND LABEL
YOUR TRANSPORT IDEA

Invent a new way for Wallace and Gromit to travel - your invention needs to be fun, as well as kind to the environment

AN AARDMAN MODEL-MAKING WORKSHOP FOR YOUR CLASS!

NAME YOUR CREATION OR DRAW A LOGO

DRAW IT IN ACTION OR DESCRIBE HOW IT WORKS

* AARDMAN

To enter, send your design to: Cracking Ideas, **Intellectual Property Office,** Freepost CF 4185, **NP10 1BF**

Or email it to: crackingideas@ipo.gov.uk

Entries must be sent by 29 April 2022 to be in with a chance of winning.

Region: ... Contact email: School:



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Turning Red tells the story of a 13-year-old girl called Mei Lee. It's a tale about teenage life and growing up, but with a colourful twist. Whenever Mei becomes excited or scared, she transforms into a giant red panda!

POP IDOL

The animated action of the super furry movie is set in the Canadian city of Toronto in the year 2002. "I grew up in this era," explains the movie's director, Domee Shi. "At this time, it was the height of teen girl pop mania. It was the height of boy bands, pop music and idols. I wanted to tell a coming-of-age story and avoid social media. I wanted to tell the story in a simpler time; a time with flip phones and CDs!"

CITY LIFE

The director adds that Toronto is the perfect setting for *Turning Red*. "I love the multicultural aspect of Toronto," Domee Shi says. "There's an amazing mosaic of different cultures, languages and traditions in the city. We really want to celebrate that on screen."

ART ATTACK

In order to research the look of the red panda, the creative team took research trips to the local zoo to see the animal. "We took our sketch books with us and we'd study the red pandas," explains Domee Shi. "How do they walk? How do they sleep? We discovered lots of natural mannerisms that we could give to Panda Mei in the movie!"

"Turning Red is a very personal story that's inspired by my relationship with my mother," says Domee Shi. "Mei is a Chinese girl growing up in Toronto, just like me. I was born in China and I immigrated to Toronto when I was two years old. I am an only child, too. I was always very, very close with my parents. Especially my mum."



PERFECT PALS

Mei has a brilliant group of BFFs in Turning Red. "We wanted Mei's friends to reflect the diversity that I saw in my friendship groups when I was at school in Toronto," says Domee Shi. The three friends in Mei's close-knit group are called Miriam, Priya and Abby. "They are dorky, sweaty and sometimes gross – but ultimately they are always loving and supportive of each other."

BAND TOGETHER

In the story of *Turning Red*, Mei and her mates are huge fans of a boy band called 4*Town. The band-loving buddies make it their mission to get to the 4*Town concert coming to Toronto, which is where they hope to see their musical heroes in the flesh!

There are tons of terrific tunes in Turning Red,

including three original songs written by Billie Eilish and Finneas O'Connell. "We weren't sure Billie and Finneas would take a meeting with us, so we sent them something in advance," explains producer Lindsey Collins. "We made a scrapbook filled with doodles, drawings, photos and fan art. It looked like something Mei would've made herself. We cut out Billie's and Finneas' heads and put them on pictures of the 4*Town characters!"

4*TOWN 4-EVER

The scrapbook worked because Billie and Finneas agreed to sign up for the animated adventure. "We were so happy when they agreed to join us," Lindsey says. "Their songs really brought 4*Town to life. Plus, Finneas even sings as one of the 4*Town band members. He

CREATURE COMFORT

Pixar artists spent months coming up with the look of the giant red panda at the heart of the story. "It's important that Mei's panda looks very cute," explains production designer Rona Liu. "We also wanted the panda to give the vibe that she's really messy and she doesn't have it all together. We made Mei's panda fur ultra fluffy, but also clumpy in areas to show that she's not perfectly groomed!"

> Catch Turning Red on Disney+ from 11 March

THIS WEEK

Australian soap opera
Neighbours is being cancelled
after 37 years. The show
launched the careers of some very
big stars, including Kylie Minogue
and Jason Donovan (both pictured),
Natalie Imbruglia, Liam Hemsworth
and Margot Robbie. Channel 5, which
currently airs the show in the UK, says
it wants to make room for more UKproduced drama.



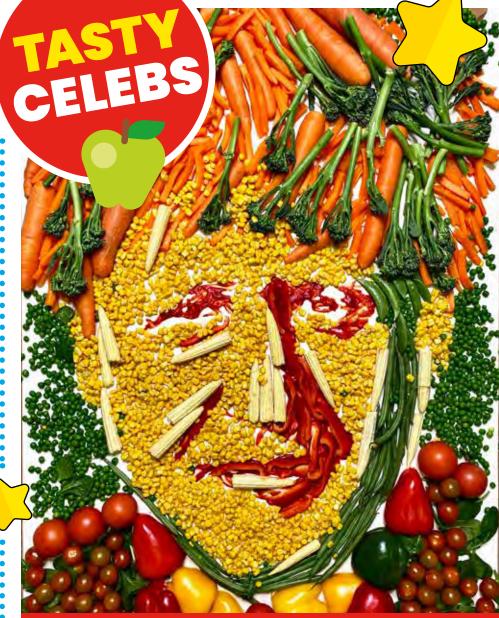
A number of musicians have cancelled planned tour dates in Russia in response to the conflict in Ukraine. Louis Tomlinson, Yungblud and Franz Ferdinand are the latest stars to cancel their shows. Louis Tomlinson said: "The safety of my fans is my priority and my thoughts go out to the people of Ukraine and all those suffering from this needless war."

ITV bosses have confirmed that I'm

A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here!

will return to Australia this year. The show has been filmed in Wales for the last two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

PICS OF THE WEEK



THIS Morning presenters Alison Hammond and Josie Gibson, along with politicians Boris Johnson and Sir Keir Starmer, have been turned into works of art using just vegetables and tomato sauce!

The amazing portraits were created by food artist and *Britain's Got Talent* finalist Nathan Wyburn, to help launch Eat Them To Defeat Them, the annual healthy eating campaign for schools. The campaign runs until the end of March and encourages schoolchildren to try new vegetables and eat healthily by



THE next magical adventure from the Wizarding World hits cinemas next month and we can't wait!

In Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore, Professor Dumbledore faces the biggest battle of his life (so far) as the dark wizard Grindelwald makes his move to take control of the Wizarding World. Dumbledore enlists the help of Magizoologist Newt





Scamander (left) and a team of witches, wizards and a brave Muggle to set off on a deadly mission to help stop Grindelwald (above). This next adventure in the *Fantastic Beasts* series features more beasts, more action and more magic!

Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore hits cinemas on 8 April



You can find out more information about Eat Them To Defeat Them at eatthemtodefeatthem.com



Day 1 - The journey begins. A six-mile (10km) row down the River Thames and a 60-mile (96km) cycle from London to Reading.

Tom was joined by his Olympic diving

partner, Matty Lee, to see him off from the starting line at the Aquatics Centre in London. Tom had to navigate narrow canals before he could make



it to the River Thames.

The River Thames was so choppy and the wind was so strong, Tom capsized into the

freezing water! Luckily, he was able to quickly get back into his boat and continue rowing.

Day 2 - Diving into cold water. A 1,600m (one mile) open-water swim and a 63-mile (101km) cycle from Reading to Southampton.

Already tired from yesterday, Tom tackled an open-water swim in 5.2°C water at the Redgrave Pinsent Rowing Lake, where Team GB's rowers train for the Olympics. This is the longest distance Tom has ever had to swim, indoors or outdoors. The windy weather made it even more difficult.



Paralympic swimming champion Ellie Simmonds paid a surprise visit to Tom during his swim, to cheer him on and help him get through the cold.



Day 3 - The longest day yet. A 130-mile (209km) cycle from Southampton to Bovey Castle, Dartmoor National Park.

Tom had to cycle through really strong winds, heavy fog and nonstop rain, while climbing very steep



hills to make it to the day's finish line.

During the Tokyo Olympics, Tom had to compete without any fans to cheer him on, but during this challenge, schools and adults came out to support



him along the route, giving him a muchneeded boost whenever he was struggling! Having cycled



for hours and climbed some incredibly steep hills, Tom began to start feeling exhausted and, after falling off his bike, needed a well-earned rest. However, nothing can stop Tom from smiling.



Day 4 - The final push. Just a 30-mile (48km) ultra marathon from Bovey Castle to the finish line in Plymouth.

With the end in sight, Tom's mum joined him on his ultra marathon to help push him to the finish line in his home town, Plymouth. Tom made it to the finish line, where his family, friends and hundreds of fans welcomed him home after what has been the most demanding and exhausting challenge of his life.

"When I signed up to do the challenge, it hadn't dawned on me quite how far London to Plymouth actually was. I had to train and push my body to places that I never even knew I could. There was a point where I thought, this is the most tired and exhausted I've ever felt in my life. I've trained for four Olympics and none of that comes close in comparison. It's been some of the hardest days of my life. It was so incredibly tough, and people will see that in the documentary."

- Tom









TWO eastern black rhinos will arrive in Bristol when the brand-new Bristol Zoo opens in 2024.

They are some of the rarest animals in the world and this is just one of the exciting new species that the zoo plans to home and help to conserve. The animals will be part of a European programme designed to act as a safety net for the species. If the animals become extinct in the wild, the idea is that there will be enough of them in captivity to help save the species. Eastern black rhinos are critically endangered in the wild and are targeted by poachers for their horns. Conservation efforts to protect the species are vital to stop them from becoming extinct.

The new rhino enclosure will be designed to look like the scrubby habitat that the species live in in Africa, with native trees and plants.

All of the animals at Bristol Zoo will live in enclosures that closely resemble their natural habitat, rather than a man-made exhibit. Conservation is a huge part of the plan for Bristol Zoo, with around 78% of the species on display being part of wider conservation plans.

The zoo is due to open in 2024, with the current zoo, Bristol Zoo Gardens, due to close in September.

SONGBIRD SORROW



THE number of songbirds being illegally trapped in Cyprus is increasing.

A new report from the RSPB and BirdLife Cyprus found that in autumn 2021, around 605,000 songbirds were illegally trapped and killed. That's more than double the number found by a similar report in 2020.

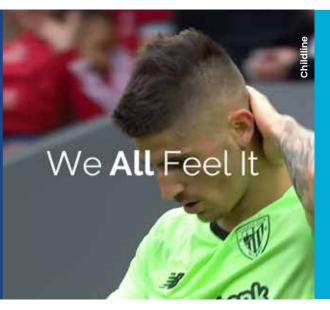
Every autumn, when songbirds are migrating between Europe and Africa, many of them are trapped in nets known as mist nets. The nets are put up by criminals who want to sell the birds illegally on the black market. They're used in a dish called ambelopoulia, which was once a traditional meal in Cyprus but is now illegal.

Work is underway by authorities and charities such as the RSPB, BirdLife Cyprus and the Committee Against Bird Slaughter (CABS) to stop these criminal gangs.

Three people caught on hidden cameras setting nets are due to be taken to court.



TACKLING MENTAL HEALTH



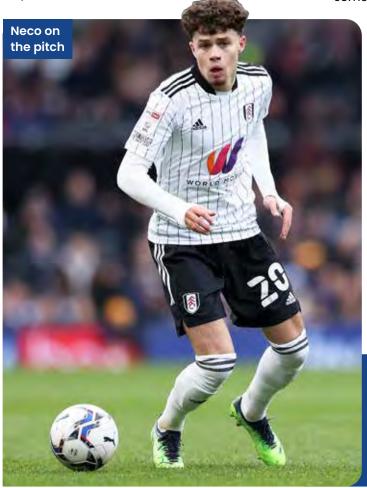
CHILDLINE, the counselling service for children and young people, has launched a new mental health campaign aimed at boys, called We All Feel It. The service has launched this campaign because they have found boys are five times less likely to talk to Childline's trained counsellors about their mental health than girls.

THE FACTS

In 2020/21, Childline carried out 31,899 counselling sessions with girls about mental health issues, compared to 5,622 with boys.

Counsellors hear from young males who say they feel alone in their experiences and aren't keen to reach out for help due to the stigma (shame) they feel around sharing their feelings.

William Blewitt from the NSPCC's Young People's Board for Change said: "The last two years have been the hardest imaginable, especially for young people. A lack of clarity [certainty] with school during the pandemic has seen anxiety skyrocket, and there's a long line of young people desperate for support. Perhaps more worryingly, we are seeing a distinct lack of boys reaching out for the help they need. I urge all those in need of help to reach out."



CELEBRITY SUPPORT

Recognising the importance of this campaign, several footballers and influencers have got involved.

Fulham footballer Neco Williams, who called Childline when he was a child, said: "I wanted to get involved with this Childline campaign as I have experienced first-hand how useful speaking out can be. When times are hard, it's amazing that Childline offers an outlet for young people."

TELL ME MORE

The We All Feel It campaign features a video with popular clips from the world of sports, social media and gaming, to reflect the emotions some young people may struggle to talk about.

> It encourages boys in particular to use Childline to help them make sense of anything that has upset or worried them. Alex Gray, Service Head of Childline, said: "At Childline, we know how hard it can be for children to speak out about their mental health.

> "In particular, it can be really challenging for boys due to the pressures they feel around not showing emotion and appearing strong.

"At Childline, we want to remind all children that sharing their mental health concerns with a trusted adult or a Childline counsellor is a brave thing to do and it will enable them to get the help and support they need.

"We hope that by putting the spotlight on male mental health we can help boys understand that they are not alone."

"I have experienced firsthand how useful speaking out can be"

- Fulham footballer **Neco Williams**

GETTING HELP

If you are struggling with your mental health, here's some advice from Childline on what you can do:

- Speak to a trusted adult over the age of 18 about how you are feeling. This could be a parent, carer, older sibling or teacher. If you can't talk to a trusted adult in your life or if you are seeking further support, then Childline is always here to listen.
- Do one positive thing a day that helps lift your mood. This could be going for a walk, listening to music or messaging a friend.
- Connect with other young people who understand how you are feeling. The Childline message boards are a safe space where you can do this. Getting support from your peers will help you feel less alone in your experiences.



 Take some time away from social media if it's making you feel bad about things. We know that some young people can often compare themselves to others when they are on social media, which can add to any negative feelings you may be experiencing. Having a break from social media can be a great way to focus on yourself and what will make you happy, rather than on what other people are up to.

Children and young people can contact Childline for free, confidential support and advice, 24 hours a day on 0800 11 11 or at www.childline.org.uk



WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?



BRITISH

*All prices correct at time of printing

MYSTERY CHEMISTRY KIT: KIDS FIRST PLANT SHOP.SCIENCEMUSEUM.ORG.UK

£12.00

Learn about the principles of chemistry with this fun kit. This kit will take you on an adventure, solving puzzling situations and uncovering clues like a real investigator. If you get stuck, there's a magical



"decrypting" wheel to help you solve the clues. The kit contains all that's needed to conduct your magical experiments, including litmus paper, mixtures, filters, a funnel, filter paper, a spatula and more.

SCIENCE KIT

NATURAL COLLECTION. COM £14.95

Research the wonderful world of leaves, seeds and roots with the Plants Science Kit. This set has lots of fun and



educational experiments. Find answers to questions like can flowers change colour? How thirsty are plants? And what do seeds need in order to sprout? Learn how plants germinate, the best growing conditions for them and basic biology principles.

GRAVITRAX STARTER SET

power of gravity with the Gravitrax STEM track system. Use your imagination to

design and build your own tracks and set the gravity spheres rolling! Or use the tasks and blueprints included to help you get going. You can rebuild and try something different as many times as you like.



WIN! A COLOURING BUNDLE FROM STABILO STABILO

UNLEASH your inner artist with this incredible bundle of colouring pens and pencils from STABILO. Bursting with a huge range of colours and textures, these STABILO goodies will help you to express your creativity every day.

Six lucky winners will be able to get their hands on the new STABILO woody 3 in 1 pastel colouring pencils. It's a pencil, wax crayon and watercolour combination all in one, allowing you to draw on a range of surfaces, including glass!



Alongside these stunning pencils, STABILO has thrown in a bundle of its most popular colouring pens and pencils to help you add a splash of colour to every page.

The winners will get their hands on STABILO's Trio Frutti pens featuring delightful fruity scents, its Trio Scribbi pens and a bumper 36 pack of beautiful aquacolor watercolour pencils to add a little extra to your artwork.

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

Which artist is famous for his paintings of sunflowers? a) Claude Monet b) Vincent van Gogh c) Pablo Picasso

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY ART

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 23. The closing date is 24 March 2022.

WIN! THE STAMP ART **OF DAVID GENTLEMAN** PRESENTATION SETS

ROYAL Mail has issued of a set of six stamps that pay tribute to the designer credited with changing the face of British stamp design, David Gentleman.

Royal Mail worked closely with Gentleman to choose a selection of some of his most iconic and influential images from the world of British stamps. This is the first time Royal Mail has dedicated an entire issue to a designer of its commemorative stamps.

David Gentleman has designed 103 issued stamps for Royal Mail. He has also provided many more artworks for issues that didn't get made and is the most productive and influential British stamp designer.

We have 15 The Stamp Art of David Gentleman Presentation Packs up for grabs.

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



David Gentleman designed how many issued stamps for Royal Mail? a) 130 b) 113 c) 103

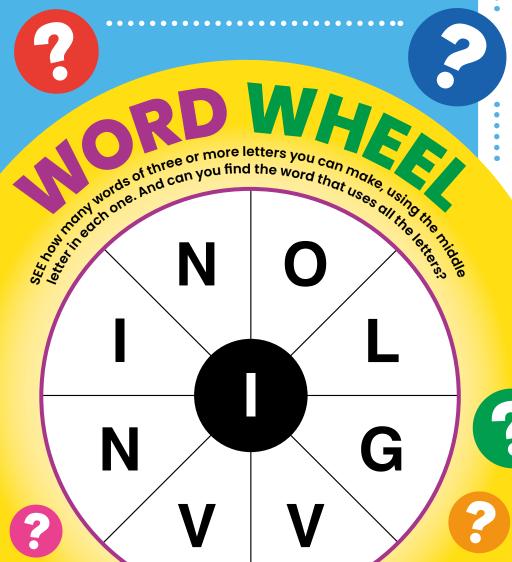
ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY DAVID

vs.co.uk/competitions or see page 23. The closing date is 24 March 2022.

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

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



How would

What's your ideal **family** day out?

WE want to make First News the best it can be, and

to do that we're asking you – our readers – to share your views! What do you love? What do you dislike?

> What would you like to read more about? Let us know and you could be in with a chance of winning £100 worth of Amazon vouchers!

you rate First News? Head to first.news/survey22 to take part in our reader survey today!

WIN! A SENSORY **FX PRIZE BUND** FROM JUST PL

CAN you complete our crossword puzzle using the clues below?

Send in your answers and one lucky winner will receive a Sensory FX ASMR Blind Bar, a Sensory FX ASMR Single Pod and a Sensory FX ASMR Recorder Cube. Create unique, soothing sounds and effects - it's oddly satisfying!



5 8 10 11 12 13 15 14 16 17 18 19

ACROSS

- 1 Lawbreaker (8)
- 6 Sheets of paper in a book (5)
- 7 Diagram you might draw in maths class (5)
- 9 Beams of light from the sun (4)
- 10 Road (6)
- 12 Done for free (6)
- 14 US state (4)
- 17 Of the same value (5)
- 18 Toys that are small models of humans (5)
- 19 Feeling of uncertainty; tension (8)

DOWN

- 2 Sport with an oval ball (5)
- 3 More than any other (4)
- 4 Opposite of days (6)
- 5 Depart or go away from (5)
- 6 Liquid with a nice smell (7)
- 8 Fast food items containing
- sausages (3,4)
- 11 Gives in; produces (6)
- 13 Edible fruits with
- hard stones (5) 15 Raised areas of land (5)
- 16 Inactive or doing nothing (4)

SPOT THE DIFFER

CAN you spot the five changes we've made to this picture from *Turning Red*, exclusively on Disney+?





WIN! A GRAVITRAX NTERACTIVE TRACK SYSTEM

EXPERIENCE the power of gravity with the GraviTrax Interactive Track System.

Using tiles and tracks, players can create and build exciting marble runs experimenting with gravity, magnetism and kinetics, making it the perfect construction activity for this year's Science Week.



GraviTrax offers limitless play opportunities, as you can build a different track every time. The open-ended building concept and numerous extensions to the range ensure endless fun watching the marble speed along the track.



Four winners will each win the Obstacle Starter Set from the GraviTrax Interactive Track System range.

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

Which material is picked up by magnets? a) Metal b) Wood c) Glass

www.GraviTrax.co.uk or download the app.

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY TRACK

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see below. The closing date is 24 March 2022.

WHAT ON EARTH?

ALL of these are associated with baking. Do you know what they are?













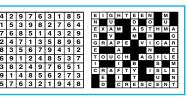
COMPETITIONS: You can enter First News competitions in one of two ways. 1. Go to firstnews.co.uk/competitions and follow the instructions.

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 affered. The winner may be required to particle in media activity relating 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: extra light added, glasses have been added, Clifford's tongue is bigger, extra cup added, hair is bigger. Word Wheel: candidate.



A BOOK TO ANSWER SOME PRETTY DEEP UESTIONS

THE winner of the Royal Society Young People's Book Prize 2021 is

I Am A Book. I Am A Portal To The Universe by Stefanie Posavec and Miriam Quick.

Iam a book. Iam a portal to the universe

Using clever data and ingenious activities, this amazing book helps you to understand a bit about, well, everything!

The book answers questions like: "How long is an anteater's tongue?" and "How loud is the sun?" Judges from Forest Hill School in London said that the book was

"so intriguing because it shows you how weird and wonderful our universe is, and how it's a pleasure to live in this universe".

The Young People's Book Prize was created to encourage and promote the best science books around. Each year, a group of top grown-up judges pick the best six science books of the year, which are then voted on by more than 11,000 young judges from 500 UK schools and youth groups across the UK.

WE WANT YOUR BOOK REVIEWS!

Read a book recently that you want to tell us about? Whether it's good or bad, if you have something to say, send us your review!

We'll need around 125 words on a book you've been reading, your name, age and a picture of yourself (with parents' permission!) sent to bookreviews@firstnews.co.uk.

YOUR READS!

THE DAY I FELL INTO A FAIRYTALE

BEN MILLER

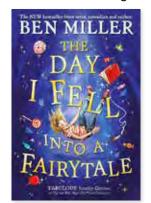
THE prologue of this spectacular story alone captures the reader's curiosity!

One night, a mound of earth in the ground transforms into a supermarket called Grimm's.

Lana, who lives near Grimm's, sets out to explore it with her mother. Her brother Harrison doesn't want to come, as he has changed ever since he started secondary school.

Lana starts to wander the shop to find a book. She learns that just one man runs the supermarket, and he's trying to hide a book - which she snatches.

The next time she goes to Grimm's, she heads to the pick 'n' mix aisle, where



she finds herself face-to-face with the man! Lana asked for some jelly babies, and when the man "helps" her to get them, he pushes her into a box! Lana finds herself whizzing down into the depths of the Earth.

When she finally manages to get out, she tries to convince her mother to read the story, to find out what happens next in the story. When no-one listens, she has to convince her brother, and you'll have to read the book to find out what happens after that!

I thoroughly enjoyed this book, as it is packed with adventures, mystery and fantasy. I would rate this



DO you have a favourite family recipe that you'd like to see in print?

The Man Man Man Mills Mills Mills

We'd love to hear the recipes that have been passed down through your family. Whether your relatives are from Glasgow or Goa, Truro or Trinidad, we know you've all got some delicious delicacies to share! It could be quiche or quesadillas, crumble or curry. We'd love to hear about the mouthwatering treats that your family enjoys, and the stories behind them.

Just send your stories and tasty recipes (including the ingredients and method) to newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk and make our mouths drool! If you have a picture of the food and the family member the recipe came from, even better.

As well as being featured in First News, we'll be linking up with BBC Good Food magazine on Kids' Kitchen, a series of videos exploring cooking skills, from chopping to pan-frying! The first Kids' Kitchen will be launched in the May issue of BBC Good Food magazine.



V WANDERL

WINDOWS across the UK are being transformed into amazing artworks this spring.

A special project called Window Wanderland encourages local communities to get creative and design colourful window displays for their homes. The aim is for the artworks to be lit up at night so that neighbours can enjoy fun walking trails to find them all.

The idea was dreamt up by Lucy Reeves Khan, after she suffered years of isolation from chronic illnesses. She'd often go for walks around her neighbourhood and found that being able to see the warmth and love in people's homes made her feel better.

In 2015, Lucy organised the first ever Window Wanderland. Since then, hundreds of the events have taken place across the world, with families and friends all getting into the crafty spirit. This March, there are projects taking place in Coventry, Warwickshire and East Brighton. Check out the pictures from Bishopston's Window Wanderland here - how cool are they?!

You can read more and find out how to organise your own event at windowwanderland.com.







H CRUM

A MAN guzzled a whopping 88 Jaffa Cakes in just three minutes during an eating competition, and is believed to have set a new world record!

Max Stanford achieved the feat at the British Eating League contest in Stockton-on-Tees. He averaged about one Jaffa Cake every two seconds!

The competitive eater said he trains hard for events like this, but only had one practice ahead of the big day.

He added: "I do it as a hobby because I like to give other people something to switch off to. I have a particular talent for it."

Max smashed the previous record of 36 Jaffa Cakes eaten in the 180-second time limit, set in February 2020.

The charity worker from London usually competes in an eating challenge once a week and posts the videos on his YouTube channel.







A FASHION company invited guests to its show at Paris Fashion Week by sending them broken AppleiPhones!

The luxury brand Balenciaga decided to do away with paper invites and track down a stash of phones with cracked screens instead.

It then engraved them with the date and location of its fashion show on the back.

The company called the phone a 'genuine artefact from the year 2022' and said none of them were functioning.

Social media users weren't sure what to make of the unusual invites. Some people thought they were cool, while others thought they were 'crazy'.





Why are cats good at videogames? Because they have nine lives!

ONE lucky family is set to see their home become a new attraction at LEGOLAND Windsor Resort.

A tiny 110cm x 100cm plot (above) has been kept free in Miniland for model makers to build a LEGO house belonging to members of the public. The plot boasts views of the iconic Eiffel Tower and Leeds Castle. Thousands of bricks will be used for the build and the model makers will even create a car and the family themselves! The idea was dreamt up to celebrate the resort's upcoming new building attraction, The Brick.



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer







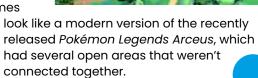
PICK YOUR NEW POKÉMON

TWO brand-new Pokémon games, with all-new Pokémon, are coming later this year.

Revealed in a special Pokémon Presents video, the new games, called Pokémon Scarlet and Violet, will be the first entries in the series to feature a fully open world.

Set for release at the end of the year, the new games





Pokémon developer Game Freak says that "various towns with no borders will blend seamlessly into the wilderness" and

that "Pokémon can be seen everywhere... in the skies, in the sea and on the streets."

The three new starters were also shown, and they're all adorable! There's Sprigatito, a Grass Cat Pokémon; Fuecoco, the Fire Croc Pokémon; and Quaxly, the Duckling Pokémon.

We're big fans of Sprigatito here - which one's your favourite?

GAME COMPANIES SUPPORT UKRAINE

LOTS of videogame companies are donating money to charities in aid of Ukraine

Clash of Clans creator Supercell said that it was "horrified" by the crisis in Ukraine, and is donating \$1m (£829,000) to international organisations helping Ukrainian refugees. It also encouraged players to donate, and will match donations up to another \$1m.

Dozens more games companies, including Ubisoft and The Pokémon Company, have announced that they will be supporting charities helping the victims of war in Ukraine.

Several companies have also stopped their games from being available to buy in Russia, and EA has said it will remove the Russian national team from FIFA 22.

Ukraine's deputy prime minister has called on PlayStation and Xbox to stop supporting the Russian market completely. As First News went to press, neither company had responded.



YOUR NEWS by Kirsty MacDonald

COMIC RELIEF CHALLENGE

by Cressie

FOR Comic Relief, Tom Daley took on an epic challenge from London to his home town of Plymouth.

His course saw him rowing, swimming, cycling and running, and was more challenging than anything he had ever done before.

I was lucky enough to welcome him, along with my parents and brother Ned, to Bovey Castle, where he finished the third leg of his journey, cycling 130 miles [209km] from Southampton to Dartmoor.

I was so excited to see him because I knew how incredible his diving was, and so it was a great

pleasure to meet someone with an OBE.

Once he had arrived and settled in, we were lucky enough to get his autograph. We saw him off on the last leg of his immense journey, which took him from Bovey Castle to Plymouth, a total of 30 miles [48km] of running.

He said that in training he had only ever run 18 miles [29km] before, so this would be huge! This was an experience I'll never forget!





Write in to let us know what you've been up to! Have you been getting creative? Been for a great day out? Raised money for charity? Whatever it is, we love hearing about your adventures, so why not share your experiences with First News readers?

Email your report (and any pictures you want to share) 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.



FIRST CAREERS

EETTHE FOUNDERS F BAMBUUBRUSH

AHEAD of Global Recycling Day on 18 March, we asked readers to send in some questions for the founders of BambuuBrush. Rebecca and Tommie set up a unique toothbrush business, which aims to tackle the problem of plastic pollution. Here's what they had to say...

TELL US ABOUT YOUR COMPANY

We make and sell bamboo toothbrushes. We launched the business in 2019 and have inspired sales of over 2,500,000 of our bamboo toothbrushes. This, in turn, has stopped over 50,000kg of plastic toothbrushes from entering commercial circulation. We have educated over 2,900 children with our Plastic Pollution educational workshops, organised 28 clean-ups and collected over 1,085kg of plastic waste from communities across the UK. We've also worked with some of the world's biggest companies, including getting Virgin Atlantic to have the first bamboo toothbrushes in the skies, Team GB at the Tokyo Olympic games, and lots of events at COP26.

WHAT MADE YOU THINK OF MAKING THIS SUSTAINABLE TOOTHBRUSH?

It's estimated that 3.6 billion plastic toothbrushes are used worldwide every year, with the average person using 300 in their lifetime. Unfortunately,

roughly 80% of these end up in the sea, where they pose a risk to marine life and habitats. Every single plastic toothbrush you have ever owned is still on this planet today. Madness!

WHAT INSPIRES YOU?

Rebecca: I was fortunate to live and work abroad for ten years of my life. Although I was lucky enough to witness our beautiful planet, unfortunately I saw the negative impact plastic pollution was having on such beautiful locations. This is what drives me every day.

• WHY IS THE ENVIRONMENT SO IMPORTANT TO YOU?

The way we treat our environment has big consequences for the future of our planet. It affects everything from human health to the wellbeing of our wildlife. The way we treat the Earth today will affect the lives of generations to come. We strongly believe that One Simple Change, multiplied by

millions, will change the world.

CAREERS

HOW DO YOU MAKE THE PRODUCT?

You can watch the whole process of how our BambuuBrush is made, from start to finish, at bambuubrush.com/pages/journey.

@Bambu

WHAT THINGS CAN I DO TO HELP THE PLANET TODAY?

Start by asking yourself what you can change in your everyday life. Start with simple changes and the rest will follow. Get out in nature and find a connection with it. It may be your favourite beach or forest, the sound of birds! Humans protect the places they have a personal connection to.



Rebecca and Tommie



FROM cross-country skiing to ice hockey, the 2022 Winter Paralympics is providing incredible excitement as athletes from 46 countries go for gold in Beijing.

The start of the Games was overshadowed by the invasion of Ukraine, with Russian and Belarusian entrants banned from the competition the day before the opening ceremony. Despite concerns Ukrainian athletes might not be able to attend, 20 competitors arrived. After the first day, Ukraine topped the medal table with three golds, as well as collecting all three medals in the men's 6km visually impaired biathlon; 43-year-old winner Vitaliy Lukyanenko won his seventh gold medal, 16 years after his first in Torino. He has since won an eighth gold.

Para-alpine skier Jesper Pedersen won two golds in two days. The Norwegian was first in the super giant (super-G) slalom sitting discipline and the super combined sitting event, which features downhill and slalom. He dedicated his second medal to his late father, who first took Pedersen skiing when he was only two years old.

Team Great Britain's first medal was won by Millie Knight in the visually impaired downhill. Her bronze was an impressive achievement as, following a number of crashes, Knight had been wondering about continuing in the sport.

Neil Simpson added to the team's tally with victory in the visually impaired super-G skiing. Guided by his brother Andrew, he became GB's first ever male gold medal winner on snow at the Paralympics or Olympics.

The hosts have been doing well and quickly moved to the top of the medal table. That was helped by China winning gold, silver and bronze in the men's snowboard cross UL (upper limb) category, with 19-year-old Ji Lijia taking top spot. With the Games continuing until 13 March, there's still plenty of time for more snowy surprises!



A TALE OF TWO CIT

MANCHESTER City fans have a lot to smile about, with the women's and men's teams both celebrating victories.

The Women's League Cup final saw Man City take on Chelsea. The London team went into the match as favourites, having won the trophy last year, as well as the Women's Super League and FA Cup – and having beaten City three times already this season! The first half was far from a classic contest, but Chelsea finished the happier team, leading 1-0, thanks to a goal from Aussie superstar Sam Kerr.

It was all change in the second half, with City looking like a different team compared to the first 45 minutes. Caroline Weir scored an equaliser after four minutes, with Ellen White hitting the back of the net nine minutes later. Weir then added a third to seal a well-deserved 3-1 victory.

The men's team might not have been playing a final, but a derby match against rivals Manchester United always feels like one! Kevin de Bruyne and Riyad Mahrez each scored two goals in a 4-1 win, prompting lively celebrations from the fans and leaving City sitting pretty at the top of the league.





birdies (that's one shot under par) in the last six holes saw Jin Young Ko win the Women's World Championship. The

South Korean golfer is the world number one, but this is the first time she has lifted the Championship trophy. Ko has now won six of her last ten LPGA tour events.



races at 50km (31 miles) had been attempted by South Africa's Stephen Mokoka before competing

this month. Impressively, he won his debut. Even more incredibly, he also broke the world record! Mokoka finished in 2hr 40min 13sec - one minute and 52 seconds faster than Ketema Negasa's time last year.



week after sheltering from bombs in an underground car park, Ukraine's Dayana Yastremska was playing in the final of the Lyon

Open. Beaten 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 by China's Zhang Shuai, Yastremska pledged to donate her €14,545 (£12,000) prize money to help people still under attack in her homeland.

