Sir David Attenborough warns world leaders, but...

**IS ANYBODY LISTENING?**

"The world’s people have spoken. Their message is clear. Time is running out"

"The extinction of much of the natural world is on the horizon"

Turn to page 5 to read more of Sir David’s words at the UN climate change conference and to find out about the kids who went on strike for the planet

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First News readership is 2,235,888. Source: Opinion Matters 2016. First News is the widest-read of all children's publications audited in the UK. First News supports children's charities - see page 13
1. **MICHELLE SPEECH**

Michelle Obama revealed all about her life in the White House at a special talk at London’s Royal Festival Hall. The former First Lady said one of her biggest fears was falling over and becoming a meme! She also spoke about the time she met the Queen and broke royal rules by touching her.

2. **FRENCH STRIKES**

France has seen violent protests across the country, over plans to increase fuel prices and living costs. In response, the French Prime Minister Édouard Philippe has said the tax rises due in January will be suspended.

3. **VINTAGE TREE**

A vintage Christmas tree from the 1930s is being put up for auction. The tree was bought in a popular supermarket chain known as Woolworths and has been owned by the same family for 80 years. It’s expected to fetch between £200 and £300, along with some decorations.

4. **PADDINGTON’S PARCELS**

Paddington Bear has teamed up with UNICEF to spread Christmas cheer this year! The Paddington Parcels campaign is hoping to deliver presents to children all over the world, by creating online shoeboxes! Find out more at market.unicef.org.uk/paddington-bear-parcels.

5. **SUGARY DRINK CRACKDOWN**

Children in Scotland are drinking almost 4.4 million soft drinks a week, show new figures from Cancer Research UK. That’s roughly 600,000 a day! The charity is urging the Scottish Government to change the laws on multi-buy deals in supermarkets to help tackle the problem.

6. **CHRISTMAS CHAOS**

A family’s Christmas decorations caused panic for one passer-by in Austin, Texas. The Heerlein family decided to recreate a scene from one of their favourite festive films, with a man dangling down from the roof. They put a mannequin up, but someone walking past thought a real man had got stuck putting his Christmas lights up!

7. **CHESS CHAMPION**

Magnus Carlsen (left) has won the World Chess Championship. He’s now held the title since 2013! The 28-year-old from Norway won £1m (£880,000).

8. **POLL RESULTS**

Lots of people are talking about whether police officers should be allowed to knock suspects off their mopeds deliberately while tackling crime. We asked you: Should police ram suspects off their mopeds? 60% of you voted YES, while 40% of you voted NO.

9. **BIG ANNIVERSARY**

Top children’s book illustrators have helped to celebrate the 40th anniversary of The Snowman, by creating their own drawings of the iconic character. Here’s one by Helen Oxenbury.

10. **LIGHTWAVES**

A free interactive light festival opens in Manchester’s Salford Quays tonight (Friday). Lightwaves 2018 will showcase light art until 16 December.

11. **ANTIQUE DISCOVERY**

A man’s toothbrush holder has turned out to be a 4,000-year-old ancient relic! Karl Martin bought the pot at a car boot sale for just £4, but decided to get it checked out by his colleagues at Hansons Auctioneers after seeing some similar ones arrive at the auction house. One of the experts confirmed that the pot was actually an antique from Afghanistan, dating back to 1900 BC!

12. **WINNING WRITER**

The winner of the 2018 Jacqueline Wilson Creative Writing Prize has been revealed! Congratulations to ten-year-old Harry Mayou from Ulverston in Cumbria. Harry won with his story, A Fantastic Tail, about the stranded football team in Thailand.

13. **UNUSUAL RUMOUR**

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari has had to deny that he died and was replaced by a lookalike! The unusual rumour spread on social media, causing lots of confusion.

14. **TOY TESTER**

A seven-year-old boy has been named the highest earning YouTube star, after making £17.2m by reviewing toys. Ryan ToysReview has 17m followers.

15. **RISING POVERTY**

In a typical classroom of 30 children, nine are now living in poverty, says a new report. Figures from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation show that the number of children living in poverty in the UK has risen by more than half a million in the last five years. The statistics show that more families are struggling to pay the bills and provide food.

16. **STAGE INVADER**

A little boy gatecrashed the stage during Pope Francis’ family day address at the Vatican. Luckily the Pope saw the funny side and let the youngster carry on playing.

17. **CYBER COMP**

A competition is encouraging girls aged 12-13 across the UK to consider a career in cybersecurity. The CyberFirst Girls Competition will ask teams to complete a series of challenges split into four categories: cryptography, cybersecurity, logic and coding, and networking. Schools can find out more at www.cyberfirst.ncsc.gov.uk/girlscompetition.

18. **BUSH FUNERAL**

The funeral of former American president George HW Bush took place last week. Lots of leaders paid their respects. Bush was the 41st president of the United States and led the country into the 1991 Gulf War. His son later followed in his footsteps and became president, too.

19. **MOUNTAIN TRAGEDY**

A British man has died after falling 24m while abseiling down Monte Ponoig in Spain. The rocky mountain on the Costa Blanca is very popular with climbers. An investigation has been launched to find out what

20. **MAGIC XMAS**

It’s Christmas all day long at Magic Radio! The station has replaced its usual playlist with festive tunes to get everyone in the mood for the holidays.
3. HEADLINES

CAN SANTA BE FEMALE?

by Ben Pulsford

A ROW has been going on in Newton Aycliffe in County Durham about whether a woman could play Santa Claus in this year’s Christmas parade.

It’s that time of year again when lots of people are dressing up as Father Christmas for charity events, plays and parades all over the world – but should Santa Claus always be a male role? Great Aycliffe Town Council says yes, after putting the issue to a vote.

The argument began after a woman from Newton Aycliffe offered to take on the role of Father Christmas in the town’s Santa Claus charity parade.

But, one of the town’s councillors argued against women performing as Father Christmas in the parade. The councillor told The Times newspaper: “I have no issue with a Mrs Claus. But Santa Claus being a man is a long-held tradition accepted by the vast majority of society.”

Great Aycliffe Town Council’s Recreation Committee decided to vote on whether or not the traditionally male role should be made available to women. Councillors voted against the idea last Wednesday and released this statement: “The Recreation Committee confirmed by resolution that the role of Santa Claus should continue to be a male role.”

News of the vote has since hit newspapers and social media and became a nationwide gender debate, with some people arguing that men or women should be able to act as Santa Claus at official events.

What do you think?

Ho ho ho!

Editor’s comment

Nicky Cox MBE

GOOD for David Attenborough!

The TV presenter has been the voice of the people at the UN climate change conference in Poland this week.

He and other environmental experts, like WWF, have been warning the world for many, many years that things need to change.

But our world leaders don’t seem to be doing enough. That is why our front page asks: “Is anybody listening?” Maybe write to your MP and demand action…

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A WEIGHT OFF YOUR SHOULDERS

INDIA has set a weight limit on pupils’ school bags, to protect them from injury and to help lower stress levels.

The new rules will mean that no pupil in Year 1 or Year 2 at any Indian school will have to carry a school bag weighing more than 1.5kg. That weight limit rises to 5kg for teenagers.

Homework has also been scrapped for younger pupils, so that they don’t have to carry heavy books to and from school.

The new rules will come in following successful trials in a handful of states. It’s hoped that the change will help improve the physical and mental health of the country’s young people.

Do you think we should do something similar in the UK?

POLL OF THE WEEK

Is Santa Claus a man’s role?

Cast your vote at first.news/polls

by Ben Pulsford

BIG WEEK FOR BREXIT

ON Tuesday (4 December), the prime minister kicked off an epic five days of Brexit discussions in Parliament.

After two years of painful negotiations with the EU, Theresa May now has the very tricky task of persuading MPs that her Brexit deal will be good for the UK. The PM says that her deal “takes back control of our borders, laws and money”, but many MPs (even in her own party) disagree.

The problem is a lot of people think that leaving without a deal will be worse. Many remain voters are still asking for a second referendum on Brexit, but the Labour Party is said to be hoping that the Government will collapse, leading to a general election.

Good week for...

THIS COUPLE

A young British couple are to be reunited with their engagement ring after accidentally losing it down a grate in New York City, just moments after the proposal! The ring was retrieved by the New York Police Department, who had launched a social media campaign to help the couple find their lost ring.

Bad week for...

CRIMINALS

Forensic scientists in France are close to developing body odour kits that will allow investigators to obtain a criminal’s scent from a crime scene and use it to track them down. Their research shows every human has a unique smell that cannot be masked and can be used to identify and track them.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
4. NEWS IN PICTURES

LONDON, UK: Charity runners dressed as Santa Claus take part in a Santa Run charity fun run in Victoria Park.

LONDON, UK: The First News team show off their Christmas jumpers in support of Save The Children’s Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 14 December.

NEW DELHI, INDIA: A boy runs over a bridge alongside a large amount of toxic industrial foam that formed on the banks of the polluted Yamuna River.

LONDON, UK: The Tate Britain winter commission by artist Monster Chetwynd lights up the outside of the gallery. Tate Britain commissioned the artist to create an unorthodox Christmas lights display, so two giant, illuminated leopard slug sculptures have left LED slug trails across the building!

XIANGYANG, CHINA: Bicycles from various bike-sharing services are seen piled up after being discarded throughout the city.

SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL: Fireworks are seen during a ceremony for the city’s 43m-high Christmas tree.
5. HEADLINES

DITCH PHONES FOR DINNER!

RESTAURANT chain Frankie & Benny’s is dishing out free meals in exchange for your parents’ mobile phones.

Pop into a Frankie & Benny’s today (7 December) and your family will get a free kid’s meal – as long as your parents don’t mind handing over their mobile phones to your waiter for the duration of the meal, that is.

The restaurant chain carried out a survey that found 72% of British children want their parents to spend less time on their smartphones and more time talking to them.

The chain’s new scheme hopes to lower that percentage dramatically and get families talking again!

What do you think? Will it encourage families to talk more?

by editor in chief Nicky Cox

SIR David Attenborough has said that climate change is the greatest threat to people in thousands of years.

The TV presenter said it could lead to the extinction of “much of the natural world”.

Sir David was speaking to world leaders at the opening ceremony of the United Nations climate talks in Katowice, Poland. He said: “Right now, we are facing a man-made disaster of global scale. Our greatest threat in thousands of years. Climate change.”

Sir David had “the People’s Seat” at the conference this week, meaning that he was taking the message of the people to their leaders.

“The world’s people have spoken. Their message is clear. Time is running out. They want you, the decision-makers, to act now,” he said.

The hope is that world leaders listen and act on the environmentalist’s words. Among those who ARE listening to the warnings are schoolkids across Australia. Thousands of students ignored their prime minister’s order to stay in school and marched on the nation’s cities to demand an end to politicians’ lack of action on climate change (see photo above).

Go, kids!

GLOBAL DIETS “DIABOLICAL”

THE standard of diets around the world is “diabolical”, says the World Health Organization (WHO).

The WHO published 2018’s Global Nutrition Report, which is a detailed look at diets around the world – and things are not looking good.

Obesity and malnutrition are still enormous global problems. In fact, malnutrition is affecting every country in the world, costs trillions of pounds every year and is a bigger killer than smoking and air pollution.

The report also revealed that more than four in ten children are drinking sugary drinks every single day and one in three do not eat fruit.

The WHO wants governments and businesses to act now to help improve global eating habits.

PLATYPUS UNDER PRESSURE

PLATYPUS numbers have been declining in Australia.

The platypus is one of Australia’s most beloved creatures, so the news has understandably come as a big worry to many Aussies this week.

According to new research by scientists at the University of NSW, platypus numbers in Australia have dropped by a third over the past 200 years, as a result of land clearing and pollution. Numbers have dropped from around 300,000 to 200,000 over the last two centuries.

Now, experts are calling for the protection status of the native platypus to be reviewed, to help protect it before it’s too late.
**UK**

**Bad year for Xmas trees**

This year’s unusually hot summer weather is responsible for killing “up to half” of young Christmas trees. The British Christmas Tree Growers Association, says many Christmas tree-growers were badly affected by the heatwave, with some losing half of their saplings in the spring. The group said that the availability of smaller trees could be lower this Christmas, as a result.

**MANCHESTER**

**Ariana speaks out**

Ariana Grande has written a letter to her fans about last year’s Manchester Arena terror attack. The letter was revealed in her new docu-series. The singer wrote: “The people of Manchester were able to change an event that portrayed the worst of humanity into one that portrayed the most beautiful of humanity... I think of Manchester constantly and will carry this with me every day for the rest of my life.”

**LINCOLNSHIRE**

**Missing and hissing**

A boa constrictor has gone missing from a home in Boston. Boa constrictors are non-venomous snakes, but are known for attacking prey with their teeth and then squeezing them. Police have warned that the snake will be seeking out warm places.

**ESSEX**

** Happiest place**

Leigh-On-Sea in Essex has been voted the happiest place to live in the UK. The seaside town took the top spot in a Rightmove survey based on things like friendliness, feeling safe and job opportunities. Farnham in Surrey came in second place, with Monmouth in Wales coming in third.

**CONWY**

**Kitty calamity**

A cat has safely returned home after getting stuck up a 50-foot tree in Llanrwst. People contacted the RSPCA after noticing the cat had been in the tree for four days. When RSPCA inspector Rachael Davies arrived, she had to enlist the services of a local tree surgeon to help reach the cat – although, as it turned out, the little moggy managed to leap to a neighbouring tree and then get himself back to the ground. Thankfully the pet wasn’t hurt and is now back home where he belongs.

**HUDDERSFIELD**

**Victim thanks public**

A Syrian boy who was filmed being bullied and attacked has thanked the public for supporting him. Fifteen-year-old Jamal shared his thanks at a protest organised by the Huddersfield Pakistani Alliance outside his school. A Go Fund Me campaign raised £130,000 to support Jamal and his family soon after the shocking video went viral online. The family are planning to use the money to move to another town and begin a new life.

**LEICESTER**

**Royals pay respects**

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge paid tribute to the victims of the Leicester helicopter crash on a visit to the city last week. The royal couple visited the crash site, where Leicester City’s club chairman Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha and four others died back in October. They met with players and laid flowers.

**LONDON**

**Stop and search**

Cressida Dick, the Met Police boss, has defended stop and search, saying that it has helped cut knife crime. “There’s no robust research to show that high search rates significantly reduce crime,” Kath Murray from the University of Edinburgh told us. “There’s also a risk that overuse can damage relationships between young people and the police. This doesn’t mean it shouldn’t be used, but that it needs to be weighed against the costs.”

**LINCOLNSHIRE**

**Missing and hissing**

A boa constrictor has gone missing from a home in Boston. Boa constrictors are non-venomous snakes, but are known for attacking prey with their teeth and then squeezing them. Police have warned that the snake will be seeking out warm places.

**NEWS IN NUMBERS**

- 2 lorries filled with Cadbury chocolate were stolen from an industrial site in Warwickshire. Police are investigating (waiting for a Wispa?!).
- 3.1 percent is how much the price of train tickets will go up by in January. Lots of people are unhappy at the news, believing services aren’t good enough.
- 200 years old was the age of a giant redwood tree that was accidentally felled in Wales last month. The tree is to be replaced “with a mature replica tree”.
- 18,000 young people aged 16 to 25 are sleeping on the streets of the UK or living in temporary accommodation, say homeless charity Centrepoint. Nearly half of adults have reported seeing more young people living on the streets.
THIS stunning picture of an adult king penguin surrounded by a sea of penguin chicks is our favourite from this week. It was taken by Chris Oosthuizen on Marion Island, which is in the middle of the Indian Ocean between South Africa and Antarctica. Oosthuizen's cool pic was the deserved overall winner in the British Ecological Society's 2018 Capturing Ecology contest.

If you happen to be in London between 21 and 27 January 2019, all of the winning images will be displayed at a free public exhibition at the Old Truman Brewery.
USA

Airline apology
A little girl has received an apology from Southwest Airlines after a member of staff mocked her name. Traci Redford said she was travelling with her daughter from Southern California to Texas, when a gate agent spotted the five-year-old’s unusual alphabet name – Abcde (pronounced ‘ab-si-dee’). The agent reportedly laughed at the name on the boarding pass and took a picture to put on social media. Southwest said: “We extend our sincere apology to the family.”

CANADA

Bear attack
A mother and her child have died after being attacked by a grizzly bear in the remote area of Yukon. It’s believed the family were out for a walk when the bear pounced. An investigation is now underway to find out what happened.

ISRAEL

Rare mask uncovered
A 9,000-year-old stone mask has been unveiled by the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA). The mask is one of only 15 of its kind in the world! The ancient artefact was found in a field in the West Bank and dates back to the Neolithic period. Experts believe it could have been worn to worship ancestors.

UKRAINE

Russian men banned
Ukraine has banned Russian men aged between 16 and 60 from entering the country. President Petro Poroshenko (below) says the ban will prevent Russians from forming “private armies”. There has been lots of conflict between Ukraine and Russia, which has escalated in recent weeks. They are arguing over who has power in Crimea. There are now concerns that Russia may launch an attack on Ukraine. Last week, the country captured three of Ukraine’s ships and their crews in the Black Sea.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney storms
Sydney has had its wettest November day since 1984, says Australia’s Bureau of Meteorology. Last week, the region was hit by heavy storms, which caused flash floods and power cuts. The average monthly rainfall was recorded in just two hours!

NEW ZEALAND

Whales stranded
More than 200 whales have died after becoming stranded on beaches across New Zealand in the past week. The latest incident saw 51 pilot whales becoming stuck on the Chatham Islands. It’s not uncommon for whales to become stranded in the area, but it is quite rare to see mass incidents like this.

MAYOTTE

Mysterious waves
Scientists have been left baffled by mysterious seismic waves that were detected near the island of Mayotte in the Indian Ocean. The waves were picked up by seismometers across the world on 11 November, but no-one is sure what caused them! Was it a meteor strike? A sea monster? Magma shifting under a volcano? Scientists are investigating.
ALL ABOUT ADA

ON 10 December, it would be Ada Lovelace’s 203rd birthday!

Ada Lovelace was a mathematician, born in London in 1815. She worked alongside Charles Babbage, inventor of the mechanical calculator. After translating an article on Babbage’s newest machine, The Analytical Engine—which you can see on display at the Science Museum—Ada added her own notes. These said that this machine would one day convert music, text and pictures into a digital form, using a code—this is what we now call a computer algorithm.

It wasn’t until the next century that Ada’s ideas were recognised, and in 1979, a new computer programming language was named Ada in her honour.

You can see Quentin Blake’s illustration of Ada (below), alongside other scientists, at the Science Museum.

Baby Mystery

by Eddie de Oliveira

A CHINESE scientist who says he has created the world’s first ‘gene-edited’ babies has had his work stopped by the authorities in China.

Last week, He Jiankui told a genetics summit that he had altered the genes of twin baby girls so they could not get HIV. He provided no evidence to back up his claims, and the Southern University of Science and Technology in Shenzhen, where Professor He works, said it knew nothing about his experiments.

The highly controversial procedure involved editing the DNA of embryos that developed into twins known as Lulu and Nana. He claims that eight couples—made up of HIV-positive fathers and HIV-negative mothers—had volunteered for the experiment.

But there is a lot of mystery surrounding the news. Scientists usually submit their studies to journals (scientific magazines) so that other scientists can check and double-check the results. Professor He says he has submitted his work, but won’t say to who.

The Chinese authorities have declared the work illegal and demanded it be suspended immediately.

To add to the confusion, as First News went to press Professor He’s whereabouts were unknown.

Many experts worry that editing the genes of an embryo could harm both the individual and future generations that inherit these same changes. When the news broke, there was outrage from scientists across the world.

HELLO FROM MARS!

Here’s the first clear image of Mars taken by NASA’s InSight lander, which arrived at the Red Planet last week.

The image shows part of the Elysium Planitia, where the lander arrived. The snap was taken using a robotic arm-mounted camera. It was sent from the Martian surface to the Odyssey spacecraft, which is orbiting Mars, and from there it was sent to Earth, some 146 million kilometres away.
PETRA SINIAWSKI
Associate director

PETRA is the latest person from hit musical Wicked to give us the lowdown on her role in putting on this amazing show. Could you be stepping into her shoes one day?

What I do
I’m the UK associate director of Wicked. Some of the things I do include making sure that the show stays true to the original, directing new cast, conducting auditions for new cast members and giving the actors notes on their performances.

How did you get your job?
Recommendation, reputation and an interview arranged by my agent.

What I love about my job
Being part of this phenomenally successful production and directing the London and UK tour productions. I also love seeing talented ex-Wicked cast being a success in theatre, TV and film. Many get leading roles in the West End and Broadway (in New York).

What’s difficult about my job
If an actor has been playing their part for a long time, they can get into a ‘safe routine’, losing sight of the original concept and drive of the character. It is my job to highlight this and encourage them to reinvest in refreshing the role and exploring the script anew.

What skills I need
Comprehensive experience as a dancer/singer/actor/choreographer/director in musical theatre, TV and films. You need to show empathy and diplomacy in your leadership of the creative teams and performers. A strong visual eye is important, as is an understanding of the text. That’s because you have to make sure the actors know the journey of their characters throughout the story.

Where should young people start if they want to do the job, too?
There is no recognised route. You should see as much theatre as possible and get as much practical experience as you can, either as an actor or assistant director, or direct your own shows, however small. Build the right CV for the type of theatre you wish to specialise in.

What qualifications you need
A degree is not necessary, but practical experience is essential. There are directing courses available, which are useful if you lack theatre experience.

How my job could change in the future
It’s hard to say. If the production values and demands for this production remain the same, then not much will change, but it depends on technical advancements and what skills are required to use them.

Sounds great, right? Hear more from Petra in the latest cool film we made with the talented Wicked team, which is online now at first.news/director!

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For use on projectors and IWBs. Not to be uploaded to school websites.
MIGHTY MOUNDS
HUGE termite mounds up to four metres high have been discovered in Brazil.
In fact, the mounds, which cover an area the size of Britain, are so big that they are even visible from space. The mounds are thought to be thousands of years old and were made by a species called Syntermes dirus.
However, unlike other termite mounds, they are not homes for the insects but are actually made up of waste brought to the surface by the termites as they carve out the underground tunnels they live in.

ANIMAL NEWS
FirstNews • Issue 651 • 7 – 13 December 2018

REMEMBERING BRAVE ANIMALS
TO celebrate the 75th anniversary of the PDSA Dickin Medal – a prize given to really brave animals – the vet charity gathered animal and Armed Forces representatives together to remember the courageous actions of all the animals who have received the award.

Seven-fives years ago a messenger pigeon named Winkie became the first ever recipient of the PDSA Dickin Medal. She delivered a message under exceptionally difficult conditions, which contributed to the rescue of an air crew, while serving with the RAF during World War 2. Since then the charity has honoured 72 incredible animals – 34 dogs, 32 pigeons, four horses and one cat, plus an honorary PDSA Dickin Medal was given to ‘the real war horse’, Warrior, on 2 September 2014, on behalf of all 16 million animals that served in World War 1.

A dog, pigeon, horse and cat stood alongside members of the RAF, Army and Royal Navy at the Imperial War Museum to honour those animals who serve.

FEARS FOR SPEEDY MAKO SHARKS
THE fastest shark in the world is at risk of extinction.
Mako sharks, which can swim at up to 43mph, are classed as endangered because of excessive fishing and hunting. Also, shortfin mako don’t produce many young and mature later than other shark species, which makes them even more vulnerable to overfishing. The Shark Trust is calling on all EU member states to demand that the European Commission immediately takes action to protect the species.

MONKEY FEAST
IT’S lots of monkeys’ favourite day of the year – the annual Monkey Buffet Festival in Thailand.
The festival sees elaborate displays of fruit and vegetables given to the local macaque population in Lopburi Province in Thailand.
The monkeys are thought to bring luck to the area and its people.
SKATING SPECTACULAR
Skate your way around the magical ice rink at the Natural History Museum, surrounded by fairy lights and frost-covered trees. As well as taking to the ice, you can tuck into some tasty hot chocolate and snacks at the cafe.
From now until 20 January 2019. See www.nhm.ac.uk/visit/exhibitions/ice-rink.

A FAIRY TALE EXPERIENCE
Explore the State Rooms of Blenheim Palace in Oxford, which have been lavishly themed around the magical fairy tale fantasy world of Cinderella! As you wander the corridors, there’ll be hidden surprises to discover, as well as amazing scenes from the story.
At the end, you can hang up your own wish on the Wishing Tree in the candlelit chapel.
From now until 6 January 2019. Find out more at www.blenheimpalace.com/whats-on.

LEGO CHRISTMAS
Jump aboard the Brickmas Express before following the twinkling lights and snow-dusted Christmas trees to discover an enchanted Christmas land at LEGOLAND Windsor Resort. You can check out Santa’s magical grotto, see Miniland’s festive additions and even build your own LEGO Christmas decoration to take home!
On selected dates between now and 23 December. See what’s on at www.legoland.co.uk/christmas.

WINTER FESTIVAL
Santa and his elves are popping up at the Eden Project in Cornwall, alongside a cool ice rink and a magical after-dark experience! Visitors can expect awe-inspiring light installations, live music and stunning projections. Storytellers will also be recounting some magical winter tales.

SANTA LAND
Get set for thrills and spills at Santa Land in Edinburgh. The attraction features loads of family-friendly rides, including the Christmas tree maze, candy cane bungees, reindeer ride (not real reindeer!), bumper cars, a carousel and a rollercoaster.

DOCTOR DOLITTLE
Join Doctor Dolittle as he embarks on an extraordinary adventure to find the Giant Pink Sea Snail that holds the secret of life and makes the world a happier place. This magical family musical, packed full of puppetry, songs and fun, is touring the UK from now until November 2019.
Check out the dates at: doctordolittlemusical.com.
PAUL Rudd returns as the superhero Ant-Man, the king of the insects – and this time he’s teaming up with super-cool superhero The Wasp. We caught up with the star to talk his love of ants, meeting his young fans and how he learned magic for Ant-Man and The Wasp...

How do you feel about sharing the title of this movie with a lady hero?

This is an iconic team. I love the fact that there’s a team in the MCU [Marvel Cinematic Universe] and we’re it. It’s great when you get to share the movie with somebody as lovely as Evangeline Lilly [who plays The Wasp]. It’s cool.

As you are Ant-Man, how are you with insects now?

This is a true story and I feel as if I’m coming clean. Last week, I was in the shower and there was a little gnat flying around. Instinctively, I just went “thppppt” and I swatted it, but I felt terrible, more than I ever had in my life. It weighed heavy on me. Clearly, I made an agreement with myself. I said: “I’m not going to do that again. There’s no reason. I didn’t have to do that.” When I got this part, playing Scott Lang, my relationship to ants changed. It really did. I don’t mess with them. I feel a kinship. Are we really so much better than ants? No. Or spiders or gnats? Well, maybe gnats...

Where would you go if you could shrink down and secretly explore somewhere for the day?

The first place I think is Washington DC.

In the movie you play magic tricks – did you do those in real life?

I really learned to do them. In fact, there is a guy named Blake Vogt, who is one of the world’s best magicians. He was our advisor. I worked with him on how to make a card appear and I so wish I could have done that right. I did some sleight-of-hand stuff because we thought that when it’s real, you can tell. Even if it’s not great, if it’s real, it works better than just camera tricks. But the shaking thing, I had a card to change, I learned how to do that, but they manipulated that in post-production [with effects].

“I don’t mess with ants!”

PAUL RUDD

Has your fanbase got younger since you’ve been doing the Ant-Man movies?

Yeah, it got younger. I mean, it’s the first thing I’ve ever done that kids know. It’s the first thing of mine my own kids saw. I work with this children’s hospital in Kansas City called Children’s Mercy Hospital; I’m there every year, and for years the parents might know who I was but none of the kids did. That changed and that’s kind of fun to be able to talk to a kid who is legitimately interested in this kind of stuff and say: “Check it out – do you want to see the Ant-Man helmet?” This is a very fun job and it really gives it meaning when you can take a kid who is sick and suffering and actually say: “You like Captain America? Well, he’s the greatest guy.” To be able to talk about this kind of stuff with them and people being interested, that’s pretty cool.

You’re also involved with a group for children with speech problems. How did that come about?

There’s a group I work with called SAY and it’s for kids who stutter. I didn’t have a stutter growing up, but many years ago I did a play where I played somebody who stuttered and I wanted to do a realistic job. So I went online to see what I could find out and it led me to a guy in New York named Taro Alexander, who started this small group because he was an actor and he stuttered. He started bringing in these kids who stuttered and I got to know some of them. I think because I was playing this part I got so emotionally invested in the affliction itself. It’s not a life-threatening condition but growing up is really, really hard regardless, and some kids have such bad speech impediments that they’re always made fun of in school and they don’t talk. They’re terrified to speak and they don’t have a voice, so I thought this guy Taro was incredible. Not only was he bringing kids together who were meeting other kids that stuttered for the first time, but they started writing plays, then performing and directing them.
EVERYONE’S favourite web-slinging superhero is back – and this time he’s got some friends. Here’s everything you need to know about new movie Spider-Man: Into The Spider-Verse.

SPIDER-MAN’S BACK!
Spider-Man: Into The Spider-Verse is a completely new take on the Marvel hero. In this animated movie, teenager Miles Morales is struggling to fit into a new school when he is bitten by a radioactive spider and finds himself developing superpowers. Meanwhile, criminal mastermind Kingpin has developed a secret weapon that opens up a portal to other universes, pulling different versions of Spider-Man into Miles’ world.

WAIT, THERE’S MORE THAN ONE SPIDEY?
Yep, that’s right, there’s an older version of Peter Parker, Spider-Gwen, Spider-Man Noir, Spider-Ham (an ACTUAL pig) and anime Peni Parker, who all team up with Miles and help him learn what it really takes to be a superhero.

SPIDEY STAR
Shameik Moore, who voices Miles, is a super-Spidey fan, revealing: “When I was a teenager, I wrote in my diary that one day I would play Spider-Man!”

WHO’S WHO?

Miles Morales
As well as the usual Spider-Man powers, Miles – a teenager from Brooklyn – also has venom strike (an electrical power he can deliver with touch) and the power to turn invisible.

Peter Parker
The years of being a superhero have taken their toll on Peter, who is an older version of Spider-Man. He ends up training Miles to be Spidey!

Spider-Gwen
Super-cool Spider-Woman Gwen is clever and fearless. Back in her world, Gwen is also a drummer.

Spider-Man Noir
This hero is from an Earth in a parallel universe where the whole world is black and white.

Peni Parker
Anime Peni lives in a future New York where her dad was bitten by a radioactive spider. He built a robot – which she inherited – that houses the radioactive spider in its head.

Spider-Ham
This heroic animal follows the rules of his own animated universe and can do things like throw a black circle on a wall and climb right through it.

MASSIVE MOVIE
This film had the largest animation crew Sony Pictures Imageworks has ever had on a movie. While animators normally create four seconds of animation per week, on Spider-Man: Into The Spider-Verse the work was so complex that they were only able to produce on average one second of animation per week.

Spider-Man: Into The Spider-Verse is in cinemas from 12 December
THIS WEEK

1. Robbie Williams is going to headline British Summer Time Hyde Park on the Great Oak Stage on Sunday 14 July 2019. The X Factor judge has also signed up to play 12 dates in Las Vegas and will release a new album in February.

2. Netflix is going to adapt Roald Dahl’s books into animated series. Classics including Charlie And The Chocolate Factory, Matilda, George’s Marvellous Medicine and The BFG are just some of the stories that will be brought to life on the streaming platform.

3. Taylor Swift has been named the “most influential person on Twitter” for 2018. Taylor has 83.1 million followers on Twitter, but only posted 13 original tweets this year. Liam Payne is the second most influential.

4. Comedian and actor Jack Whitehall will be returning to present the BRIT Awards in 2019. Jack hosted the awards earlier this year and has recently been filming Disney movie Jungle Cruise alongside The Rock and Emily Blunt.

PIC OF THE WEEK

TAKE a sneaky look at the poster for the new movie based on the book Artemis Fowl.

The movie, which is currently being filmed in the UK, is about 12-year-old Artemis Fowl – who is descended from a long line of criminal masterminds – and how he finds himself in a battle against a hidden race of fairies he believes may be behind his father’s disappearance.

FIVE MINUTES WITH...

Laura Tebbutt from School Of Rock The Musical

THE actress tells us all about the hit West End show...

What’s it like being a cast member in School Of Rock?
I’m loving every minute. There’s an amazing energy around the building, particularly because half of the cast is made up of all the insanely talented kids. It’s a lovely place to work.

How did you get your role?
Was it a tough audition?
I had three rounds over a period of a month, which included a 45-minute working session with the creative team. I then had to wait while my video tape was sent to Andrew Lloyd Webber. I found out three weeks later.

What’s the best song from the show?
My favourite song in the show is You’re In The Band. It’s the moment in the show where, as an audience member, you hear the kids playing properly for the first time. I remember in rehearsals when they plugged their instruments into amps and began playing and I just burst into tears. It’s quite astounding.

What advice would you give to others who would like to follow in your footsteps?
Be kind. Work hard. Don’t give up. Don’t compare yourselves to others; everyone is on their own journey. Your time will come if you work hard and know your worth.

For more info on School Of Rock The Musical, go to uk.schoolofrockthemusical.com. Visit www.first-tickets.co.uk for great deals on tickets to School Of Rock and other family shows.

Hugh show

HUGH Jackman is going on a world tour performing songs from musicals.

The X-Men star will perform songs from The Greatest Showman, Les Misérables and other Broadway shows, with dates in the UK in Manchester and London.
STABILO’s annual Christmas card competition has been a real hit this year! There have been countless beautifully creative entries with festive designs, which means it has been harder than ever to choose a winner! All the entries were brilliant and a pleasure to see, so thank you to everyone who entered!

Last year we had the Brussels sprout dog and, after much discussion, this year the winning design is the penguin Christmas holiday, masterly created by Wilfred, aged 14, from Cornwall. We think that Wilfred’s design truly captured the spirit of Christmas! Congratulations!

Visit the First News website at live.firstnews.co.uk/more-prizes, where you will be able to download Wilfred’s design and print and personalise it, for you to send out to as many friends and family as you would like. Spread the festive cheer with this amazing Christmas card!
THE MAGIC OF PANTO

WHAT IS A PANTOMIME?

Pantomime, or panto for short, is a festive show that is traditionally popular with families in the UK and has been around for many, many years. A panto is a type of play that retells popular fairy tales, is often funny, full of music and involves lots of audience participation.

Pantomimes commonly run in theatres across the UK between December and January. It’s traditional for some of the male actors to play female characters and for the female actors to play male characters.

The UK’s most popular pantos include Aladdin, Jack And The Beanstalk, Dick Whittington, Cinderella, Peter Pan, Sleeping Beauty and Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs.

Pantomime dames are traditionally played by men and are often very funny characters!

WHEN DID PANTO BEGIN?

Panto was invented in the 1800s when the popular touring theatre troupes from Europe – commedia dell’arte – were hanging out with the popular West End variety performers. They thought: “We could tell commedia stories – Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, etc – with variety routines in between the scenes.” It was like taking the best actors from Netflix or the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC), and mixing them with the best comedians from the TV. Pantomime pokes fun at topical issues, including political leaders, current fashions, music and even big brands. And panto takes its silliness very seriously!

PANTO IS FOR EVERYONE

Theatre is a pretty simple thing when it comes down to it – it’s all about telling stories, laughing and crying in the same room as each other. People live 70-odd years, laws can last a couple of generations, but stories can live forever – just ask the Greeks, the Romans, Shakespeare or even religion!
THE TOP GAMES OF 2018

WHILE we might still have a month of 2018 left, there have been so many brilliant games out this year that we thought we should remind you of some of our favourites, just in case you’re keen to make some last-minute additions to your Christmas lists. Here we go!

SUPER MARIO PARTY

THIS is a brilliant one for Christmas – it features both competitive and co-operative game modes for the whole family to get involved with.

Before you play Super Mario Party, be warned: a game can easily end in tears, as you ruthlessly punish some players while supporting others! You never know where you stand in a good game of Super Mario Party, the Nintendo Switch’s minigame-based virtual board game.

Fortunately, Super Mario Party features River Survival mode, which can mend any relationships damaged by the game’s regular board game mode. Rapidly rafting along a risky river, playing as a team and constantly high-fiving will make things right again!

POKÉMON: LET’S GO

WE talked about the two new Pokémon games last week, so we won’t go on about them again.

But one thing that wasn’t mentioned in last week’s review is how – for the first time – a second player can drop in and join in on the Poké-fun at any time.

Since the game is played with just one Joy-Con, a sibling, parent, best friend or worst enemy can shake the other controller and bring in an assistant trainer. Your new trainer buddy gives you a better chance at catching Pokémon, and can lend you a hand in battle!

CELESTE

CELESTE is a game about climbing a mountain – in more ways than one.

Released at the beginning of the year, Celeste at first seems like a tough game about leaping through obstacles towards the top of a mountain. Pretty soon into the game, however, it becomes a lot more.

In Celeste you play as Madeline, a young girl who’s decided, for whatever reason, to climb a mountain. Through her journey, the game talks about important issues like mental health and looking after yourself, all while being a superb and tough, platform game. Plus, for the completists out there, there’s tons of bonus content, if you’re good enough!

FORZA HORIZON 4

WHAT could be better than speeding across the UK in a supercar?

Great Britain has never looked as lovely as it does in Forza Horizon 4, the latest in the super racing series. Featuring more than 450 different cars from real life, if you like cars, you’ll find loads to love!

This isn’t just one for the petrolheads out there, though, as the game is a really great way to explore the UK without leaving your house on a cold Christmas morning. It’ll even snow!

NINTENDO LABO

ONE of the most interesting games out this year had you spending hours building things out of… cardboard! Who would have guessed?

A sort of strange cross between LEGO, origami and a shoebox, Nintendo Labo surprised us all when it was announced back in February.

Three Labo kits later, and the box-based magic hasn’t faded. The Vehicle Kit, released in September, had us building various control devices for a car, plane and submarine – some of which could be used in Mario Kart 8 Deluxe, too!

The folding fun will be great this Christmas, since anyone can get involved with the building or the decorating! There are sure to be more Labo kits on the way next year. What kind of Labo kit would you like to see?

SUPER SMASH BROS ULTIMATE

NEXT week, we’ll really dive into Super Smash Bros Ultimate (PEGI 12), but we can tell you now that there’s a lot to love here!

The game’s new World Of Light mode is the closest thing that Smash Bros has had to a story since Super Smash Bros Brawl, which came out for the Wii in 2008.

If you’ve ever wanted to see Mario, Pac-Man, Pikachu and, erm, the Wii Fit Trainer hanging out and beating up bad guys, this is your chance!
A JUNIOR football club from Stockport has created its very own football sticker album – just like the famous Panini one!

Around 200 players and their coaches at Rose Hill JFC have been immortalised in sticker form for the album.

The idea was inspired by the famous Panini football stickers that feature Premier League and international stars.

Rose Hill JFC’s chairman, Jaume Pijoan, had seen junior teams in Spain make their own albums and decided to introduce the idea here in the UK.

The album and stickers will be sold in several local shops to help raise money for the club. Players will be able to buy, swap and collect stickers of themselves and their team-mates.

James, who plays for the under-9s team, said: “It’s wonderful having our own junior sticker album. Not many other children can say that they have a sticker of themselves. I FEEL LIKE A LEGEND!”

AN exhibition all about cats? Yes, purrlease!

The British Library in London is celebrating furry felines from some of our favourite books, as part of its Cats On The Page exhibition.

The show celebrates the amazing adventures of cats like Mog (pictured) and Winnie and Wilbur. The illustrations have been done by some much-loved artists, including Quentin Blake, Judith Kerr and Axel Scheffler. What fabulous feline fun!

DID you know that every year the UK’s top toilets are given special awards?!

We kid you not, folks! The best washrooms from across the country are honoured at the Loo Of The Year awards. Toilets can be nominated from all sorts of different places, including restaurants, theme parks, museums, shopping centres, supermarkets, cinemas, hospitals, trains and even schools!

The toilets are judged on a range of criteria. Among the top priorities are how the toilets are decorated and looked after, how well signposted they are and what the air quality is like.

The awards take place on 7 December.
CARING FOR THE ELDERLY

At this time of year, most people are busy preparing for the holiday season, buying presents, arranging parties and hanging out with friends and family. But while we are doing this we sometimes forget about the people that don’t always have someone to care for them – the elderly.

At Christmas time, many elderly members of your community might be feeling alone and isolated if they have no one to celebrate with during this special season. They can also be quite vulnerable as the temperature outside drops. There are severe health risks that come with being too cold in the winter months, so making sure they are properly looked after is important.

What can I do to help?

- Look out for your elderly neighbours. Regularly check on them to make sure they’re okay and keeping warm.
- Offer a home-made gift or card to show them that they’re loved and appreciated.
- Offer to lend a hand. You could help decorate their home so that they feel in the holiday spirit.
- Most importantly, show that you care. Anything you do will be greatly appreciated and makes holidays a little more bearable for those who are in need of some love.

Childline is always available if you'd like to chat to someone about caring for the elderly this season.

I'm Esther Rantzen, President of Childline, which helps thousands of children every week. If you ever need to talk, you can visit www.childline.org.uk or call them on 0800 11 11.

NEW BOOK Advertisement feature

SHINE BRIGHTER

DELVE inside a new collection of inspirational stories for young people.

In Shine Brighter there are five exciting tales to discover, each themed around friendship and trust, how sharing is fun, to have respect for one another, how important peace and joy are in life, and positivity.

The book is all about understanding the lessons that life brings and having the ability to recognise what matters most.

CAN YOU SPOT THE FIVE DIFFERENCES WE’VE MADE?

A

B

Christmas offer! Pick up Shine Brighter for £9.99 plus postage (in the UK) through the website.
HAIR FOR CHARITY
by Kyle Tilley

BACK in July, I was watching my cousin’s cup final game, along with her best friend Sam. Sam was diagnosed with terminal cancer back in 2015.

I decided that I wanted to donate my top knot – all ten inches of it. I’ve been growing it for around two and a half years and I am known as the goalie with the top knot. I chose to donate my hair to the Little Princess Trust, who make wigs for children who have lost their hair due to chemotherapy.

I then told my mum and dad what I wanted to do. They were overwhelmed and really proud of me. My mum set me up a JustGiving page and within 48 hours I almost doubled my £100 target. I couldn’t believe it and was so grateful to everyone who had sponsored me. My teachers, Mum’s work friends, Dad’s work friends, holiday friends, football team, family and friends all helped me to get above and beyond.

I booked my barber for Saturday 10 November at 1.30pm. On that morning I felt very excited to be doing it. I’ve raised £562 so far; much more than I thought I would. I’m really pleased that I did it!
JUST for fun this week. Can you complete our sudoku by filling in the numbers one to nine?

SUDOKU

ACROSS
1 E.g. Saturn and Mars (7)
4 Unwell (3)
6 Salty Greek cheese (4)
7 Inform of possible danger (4)
8 Aware of what is happening (9)
10 Thick and strong paper (9)
12 Slightly open (of a door) (4)
13 Otherwise (4)
14 At this moment (3)
15 Loving dearly (7)

DOWN
2 Loft (5)
3 Moved goods from one place to another (11)
5 Scenery; dance pals (anag) (9)
6 Series of organisms linked by eating each other (4,5)
7 Gentle humming sound (5)
9 Stranger (5)
11 New ___ : the capital of India (5)

JUST for fun this week. Can you complete our crossword by using the clues below?

CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 E.g. Saturn and Mars (7)
4 Unwell (3)
6 Salty Greek cheese (4)
7 Inform of possible danger (4)
8 Aware of what is happening (9)
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7 Gentle humming sound (5)
9 Stranger (5)
11 New ___ : the capital of India (5)

WORD WHEEL

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

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.

LAKE

POND
WIN! THE LITTLEST REINDEER DVDs

CAN you spot the five changes we’ve made to this picture from The Littlest Reindeer? Send in your answers and four lucky winners will each win a copy of The Littlest Reindeer on DVD. Join the adorably ambitious littlest reindeer, Elliot, this Christmas as he sets his sights on becoming the newest – and tiniest – member of Santa’s reindeer team!

Available on DVD and digital download now

WIN! ROBLOX BUNDLES

ROBLOX comes to life with toys inspired by the game’s most popular characters and developers, including figures, vehicles and play sets.

This autumn sees the arrival of Series 3, and four toys, including blind boxes containing 24 mystery figures, eight individual core figures with accessories, two new game sets, mix-and-match four-pack figures, six-figure multi-packs, a new vehicle and a new environmental game set called Heroes of Robloxia.

You can take apart the mix-and-match character parts to create new characters, just like in Roblox’s virtual world! Can you collect them all?

Each of the toys comes with a unique code that can be redeemed for exclusive in-game items at roblox.com.

For your chance to win one of seven Roblox toy bundles, including a game pack, a six-figure multi-pack and four mystery figures, just answer the following question:

What is the name of Santa’s red-nosed reindeer?

a) Dasher  b) Prancer  c) Rudolph

Available from Smyths, Argos, The Entertainer, Tesco

A KURIO TABLET CONNECT & GAMES

THE awesome Kurio Tab Connect Android tablet is designed especially for kids. It comes packed with loads of apps and games, plus you can surf the web and take photos and videos! You can even make internet calls!

Plus have access to over a million new apps!

Or get pumped up and ready for Balloon Bot Battle. Customise your balloon robot fighter and get boxing in the ring!

Three winners will each win a Kurio Tab Connect and a copy of either Snot It!, Trumping Trudy or Balloon Bot Battle.

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

Which of these animals would you typically find on a farm?

a) Tiger  b) Cow  c) Crocodile

Available at Smyths Toys. For more information, visit www.kurioworld.com www.kuriowatch.com/uk

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ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY ROBO firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see below. The closing date is 20 December 2018.

COMPEITION: You can enter First News competitions in one of two ways. 1. Go to firstnews.co.uk/competitions and follow the instructions. 2. Write to us at ‘competition name’ (e.g. Holiday), First News, First Floor, 58 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 0AS. 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 open to those aged 17 and under and resident of the UK & Republic of Ireland, except employees of First News, First Group Enterprises Ltd, Trinity Mirror 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 addresses 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.

WIN! A KURIO TABLET CONNECT & GAMES

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LAST WEEK’S ANSWERS:

Spot the difference: tie is longer, head is larger, window is missing, bow has been removed, monster has been removed.


What on Earth?: kiwi, apple, pineapple, grape, strawberry, banana.
Exciting books for your wish list to Santa

Cheeky llamas!

A must-have for fans

A new fang-tastic mystery
WORDS FOR LIFE

JESSIE Burton’s favourite subjects at school were story writing, sleeping and ice cream eating. The Miniaturist was Jessie’s first novel. Her second novel, The Muse, was another No1 best-seller. The Restless Girls is her first book for younger readers. Here, Jessie tells us what books she liked to read as a child.

“I loved Roald Dahl – some of my favourites were Matilda, The Witches, The Twits and George’s Marvellous Medicine. I also adored The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe – I always loved the idea of pushing back the wardrobe door and discovering a new world.

To read Jessie’s full interview, visit wordsforlife.org.uk/author-interviews. For book recommendations, activities and games, go to wordsforlife.org.uk.

BOOK REVIEW

DEBI EVANS
The Secret Adventures of Rolo – ‘Athelstan and the Time Tunnel’
Reviewed by Imogen Greening, age nine

Rolo is a Jack Russell rescue dog who now lives with the smiley lady and the floppy-haired boy. One morning on a walk, Rolo meets two tiny forest folk and a tree guardian (Athelstan). They invite Rolo to go down the time tunnel underneath Athelstan’s tree. Rolo goes on lots of secret adventures to moments in history such as the English Civil War, Pompeii, the Blitz and the invention of cat’s eyes. Throughout the book he also writes his funny Dog Blogs.

I would recommend this book to anyone interested in dogs or history, aged 8-11. There are three more books in the series that I can’t wait to read next!

My favourite character is Daisy because she’s so daring and brave! I would definitely rate this five stars. If you enjoy mystery and drama, then this book is for you!

BECOME A FIRST NEWS BOOK REVIEWER!

HAVE you read a book recently that you desperately want to tell people about? Write us a review! We’ll need around 100 words on a book you’ve been reading – good or bad – and a picture of yourself (with parents’ permission!). Email your review to bookreviews@firstnews.co.uk.

WHAT’S IN THE SHOPS?

GRAVITRAX STARTER SET
JOHN LEWIS £39.99

Experience the power of gravity with GraviTrax, the all-new STEM track system. Use your imagination to build amazing tracks and set the gravity spheres rolling! Freestyle with your own track design or use the tasks and guides included to help you to get started. Are the gravity spheres stopping or flying off before reaching the end target? Plenty of time to problem-solve this Christmas!

HARRY POTTER SORTING HAT
ARGOS £39.99

Ever wondered which Hogwarts house you’d be in? The Harry Potter electronic Sorting Hat can tell you! With five different phrases, your fate is in his hands. Will it sense bravery and place you into Gryffindor? Perhaps your hard work will see you assigned to Hufflepuff. The ambitious among you may even end up in Slytherin house.

CRA-Z-SLIMY CREATIONS SUPER SLIME STUDIO
AMAZON.CO.UK £33.98

This great set includes everything you need to make your own slime combinations this Christmas. There’s even different coloured glitter so you can add a little shimmer to your slime. It’s easy to make: just simply add your colour and ingredients to the slime machine, turn the handle, add the special activator and watch as your glitter slime takes shape.

First News team details available at www.firstnews.co.uk/team. For editorial enquiries, contact newdesk@firstnews.co.uk or (020) 3195 2000. For home subscription enquiries, email subscriptions@firstnews.co.uk or call 0330 333 0186.

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FirstNews Quiz

1. Who won this year’s World Chess Championship?
2. What item has India set a weight limit on for school pupils?
3. What went missing from a home in Boston, Lincolnshire?
4. How old is the rare stone mask that has been found in Israel?
5. Which superhero does Paul Rudd play?
6. What has a junior football club from Stockport created?
7. What is the PDSA Dickin Medal awarded for?
8. Who won the first women’s Ballon d’Or?

What have we learned this week?

4. How old is the rare stone mask that has been found in Israel?

FirstNews Quiz Answers

1. Magnus Carlsen
2. School bags
3. A boa constrictor
4. 9,000 years old
5. Ant-Man
6. Its very own football sticker album
7. Brave animals
8. Ada Hegerberg

FirstNews Quiz: Top Trumps

From Malala to Martin Luther King Jr, some truly amazing people have graced our planet. With this pack of AMAZING people, discover who is the most FirstNews-worthy!

£6.99

Order by 13 December to guarantee delivery before Christmas

Order today: www.firstnews.co.uk/toptrumps

WIN! A Razor Hovertrax 1.5

You voted for it as your Top Toy in 2018 and now here’s your chance to win one.

The Razor Hovertrax 1.5 is a super-smooth ride and with its two modes – training and normal mode – it’s great for pros and beginners alike!

You can cruise at up to 6mph and for up to 45 minutes of continuous hoverboarding action.

We’re always thinking about safety first, so our winner will also receive a wicked 3D-style helmet by Krash.

One lucky winner will win a Razor Hovertrax 1.5 plus a helmet from Krash. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer the following question:

How many wheels are there on a traditional skateboard?

a) Four  b) Six  c) Eight

Age 8+, not for use in public spaces, never ride in or near traffic and always wear safety gear when riding. You should always be supervised by an adult.
SPORT IN PICTURES

SPORTS PIC OF THE WEEK

Sweden’s Anna Lagerquist jumps to shoot during her side’s Women’s Euro 2018 handball championships clash with Serbia.

THE PERFECT TREAT FOR ALL THE FAMILY THIS CHRISTMAS

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SOUTHBANK CENTRE
28. SPORT by Eddie de Oliveira

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SPORT IN NUMBERS

- 20 games unbeaten is Saracens’ record in all competitions so far this season. Sarries beat Wasps 29-6 last weekend, with Alex Lozowski (below right) scoring two conversions and five penalties. Saracens have won all nine of their Premiership games.

- 87 runs from 32 balls were scored by the Maratha Arabians’ Alex Hales against the Bengal Tigers. The score is a new T10 League record, which Hales set just one day after Jonny Bairstow set the record himself with 84 runs.

- 46 Alpine Ski World Cup titles have been won by American skier Mikaela Shiffrin. Her latest was in the super-G and was her first ever gold medal in that discipline. Shiffrin, 23, has become the first skier to win races in all six World Cup disciplines: slalom, parallel slalom, giant slalom, super-G, downhill and alpine combined.

- 28-year-old Brit Andy Lapthorne has lost to Australia’s Dylan Alcott in the final of the NEC Wheelchair Tennis Masters quad singles in Florida. Alcott also beat Lapthorne to Paralympic gold in 2016, and to the Australian Open title last year.

LUCKY LUKA

CROATIA and Real Madrid midfielder Luka Modrić has won the Ballon d’Or, a prestigious annual award for the world’s best footballer.

His win makes him the first player other than Lionel Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo to win the prize since 2007.

Modrić won the Champions League for a fourth time earlier this year, then captained his country to their first ever World Cup final, beating England along the way.

Ronaldo, a former Real star who joined Juventus last summer, came second. France and Atlético Madrid striker Antoine Griezmann was in third place.

Surprisingly, despite winning the Spanish league and cup double, and finishing last season as top scorer, Messi only came fifth. The award, organised by a French football magazine, is voted for by journalists from around the world.

Modrić dedicated his award to “all the players who probably deserved to win it and didn’t”.

The first ever Women’s Ballon d’Or was awarded to Lyon and Norway striker Ada Hegerberg.

FOOTBALL is coming home, after all. European football body UEFA has confirmed the Women’s Euro 2021 tournament will be played in England.

The Football Association (FA)’s bid was the only one received by UEFA, so it was always extremely likely England would be awarded the tournament.

Matches will be played at nine stadiums, including Wembley and Bramall Lane in Sheffield. The competition kicks off in July 2021.

FA head of women’s football Baroness Sue Campbell said: “This is fantastic news for the FA, the country and for the development of girls’ and women’s football in England.” She went on to say that she hopes Euro 2021 will “inspire a new generation of young girls, and women of all ages, to get involved in the sport – for fitness, competition or just pure enjoyment”.

IT IS COMING HOME!