

NEWS  
FOR KIDS!  
2.6 MILLION+  
READERS\*

40 DAYS  
IN A  
CAVE!  
P5

FOOTBALL  
VS SOCIAL  
MEDIA  
P5

A BEAVER  
BREAKS THE  
INTERNET!  
P3

# First News

Issue 776 £2.25 30 April – 6 May 2021

HELPING  
THE UK GROW

NEWS | SPORTS | ENTERTAINMENT | INTERVIEWS | PUZZLES | COMPETITIONS

“LESS  
FREEDOM”  
FOR KIDS  
TO PLAY

VOTE IN OUR POLL

At what age should kids be able to play alone outdoors?

VOTE AT [FIRST.NEWS/POLLS](https://www.firstnews.com/polls)

**A STUDY into children's play has shown that your parents were allowed to play alone outdoors two years earlier than you.**

The British Children's Play Survey found that children now are nearly 11 years old before their parents let them out alone. However, the parents say they were playing alone outside before the age of nine.

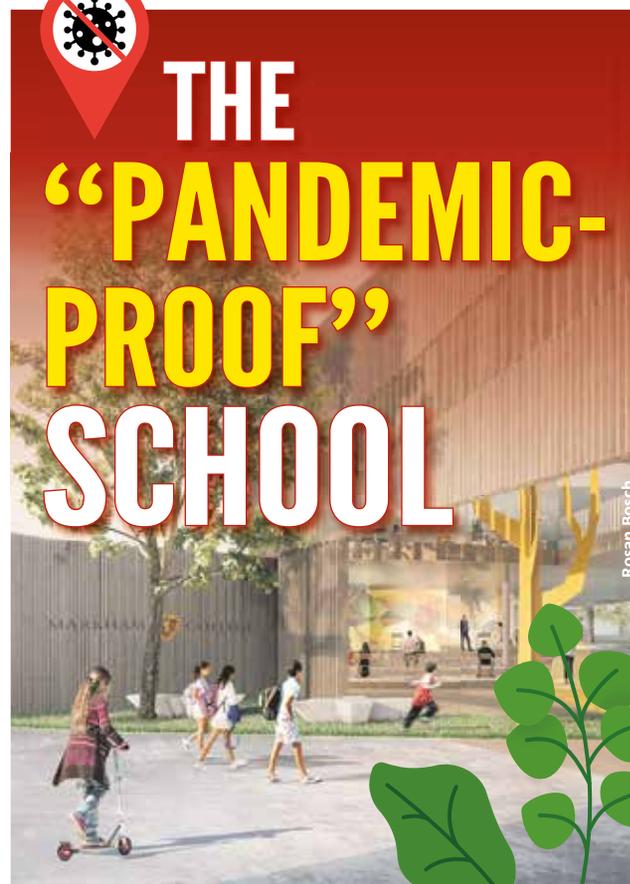
“In the largest study of play in Britain, we can clearly see that there is a trend to be protective and to provide less freedom for our children now than in previous generations,” said the University of Reading's Professor Helen Dodd,

who led the study. She said the “complex” reasons for the change include worries over “stranger danger and the increase in traffic in the neighbourhoods where children live and play”.

Children in Scotland are allowed out alone at an earlier age, and were also found to play more, although levels of adventurous play, such as climbing trees or riding a bike fast downhill, were about the same across the UK.

Experts say that adventurous play helps children learn to judge risks and can help to reduce anxiety. The report adds that some playgrounds aren't challenging enough for kids.

Dr Dan O'Hare, from the British Psychological Society, said: “The findings of this survey highlight the urgent need to prioritise play for our children, and the importance of all children and young people having access to free, high quality, and local opportunities for play.”



THE  
“PANDEMIC-  
PROOF”  
SCHOOL

**ONE place where kids will get to play outside a lot is at this fantastic school in Peru.**

This cool design for Markham College is said to be “pandemic-proof” and “future-proof”, and is naturally ventilated so that fresh air is constantly blowing through it and blowing germs away. Architects Rosan Bosch have given the school foldable walls to allow as much outdoor play and learning as possible, with lots of outside areas and a rooftop playground.

However, Peru is close to the equator and has mostly warm weather throughout the year, so the school doesn't need to protect against the freezing winters that other countries experience!



### KIDS CONCERNED ABOUT POLLUTION



Half of UK pupils are worried about air pollution near their school. The walking and cycling charity Sustrans surveyed 1,305 pupils aged six to 15 years old across the UK, and a total of 71% admitted to feeling worried about climate change. Just over half (53%) felt that adults don't listen to children's concerns about the topic. When asked about air pollution, 40% of pupils thought more people walking, cycling or scooting to school was the best way to bring down harmful levels near their school.

### IT'S ELECTION WEEK



Lots of different elections are taking place across England, Scotland and Wales on Thursday 6 May. In Scotland and Wales, people are voting in parliamentary elections for members of parliament who make their country's laws. In some parts of England, people will get to vote on who they want as their local councillor and decide who runs their local services, such as schools and libraries.

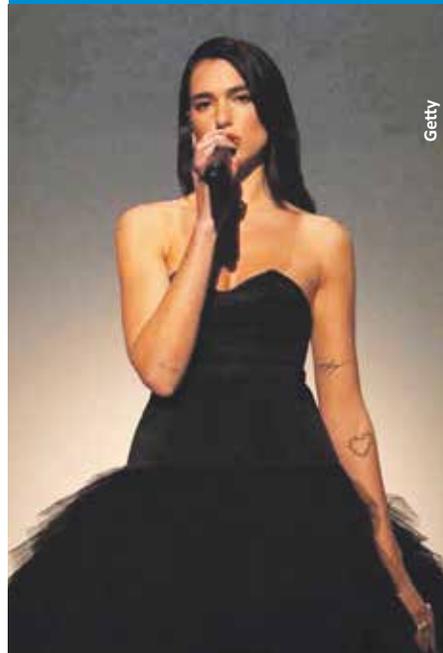
### WORLD LAUGH DAY

Get ready to giggle, as it's World Laughter Day on 2 May! The day aims to highlight the benefits of laughing out loud. Why not crack some jokes for your friends at school? Our favourite funny is: "What do you call cheese that isn't yours? Nacho cheese!" Ha!

# QUICK NEWS

TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS

### THE BRITS ARE LIVE!



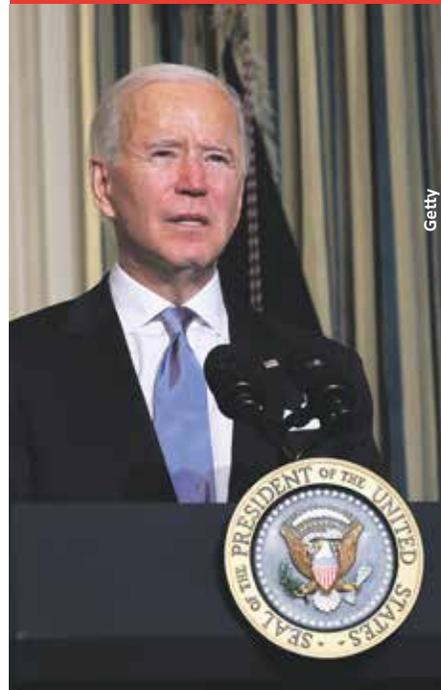
The BRIT Awards will have a live audience this year when the show takes place at London's O<sub>2</sub> arena on 11 May. The ceremony will be part of the Government's coronavirus research trials. These aim to look at how people can safely return to live events following the pandemic. The audience will be made up of 4,000 people. They won't have to wear masks or socially distance, but will have to show they've had a negative COVID-19 test.

### FOLLOW UK SPIES!

MI5 has joined Instagram. The British secret service has said it wants to be more open with the public. It plans to use the account to reveal never-before-seen material, and explain some popular myths behind its top-secret work. This was the first photo MI5 shared, with the caption: "This is the view our staff see as they enter MI5 HQ in Thames House, London. Behind these pods lie some of the UK's best kept secrets."



### BIDEN TO VISIT UK



US President Joe Biden has confirmed that his first overseas trip since taking office will be to the UK in June. He will be visiting Cornwall to attend the G7 Summit between 11-13 June, representing his country alongside France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Canada and the UK. The summit aims to unite the countries in discussing how to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and work towards a greener future. From there, he will head to Belgium for the NATO Summit to discuss more global issues.

### WRITING WINNERS

The winners of the Young Walter Scott Prize – a historical writing prize – have been announced! Ten young writers were awarded this year, after loads of you got creative during lockdown. Taking first prize in the 11-15 Years category is Atlas Weyland Eden from Devon for his story, *We Wolves*. The tale is set in the Ice Age and written from a wolf's point of view. Scooping top prize in the 16-19 Years category is Madeleine Friedlein from Hertfordshire with her story, *Slaying Holofernes*. The piece was inspired by the National Gallery's exhibition of work by the artist Artemisia Gentileschi. Congrats, guys!

### CRACKING DOWN ON KNIFE CRIME



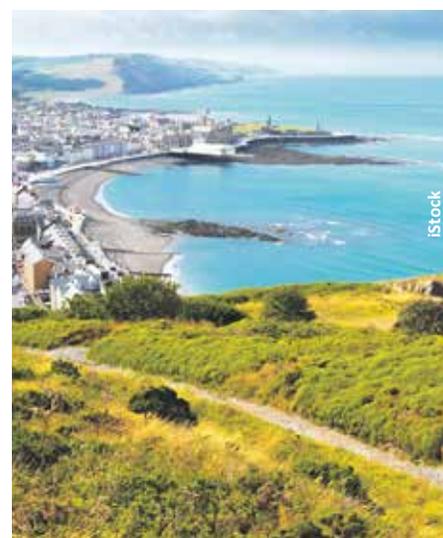
Police have been taking part in a big campaign this week, aimed at tackling knife crime. Dubbed Operation Sceptre, police officers have been encouraging people to hand in any weapons they might have. They've also been working with schools to discourage young people from carrying knives, and have been targeting violence hotspots. It's hoped the week-long crackdown will help to raise awareness of how dangerous knife crime is.

### SCIENCE IS COOL!

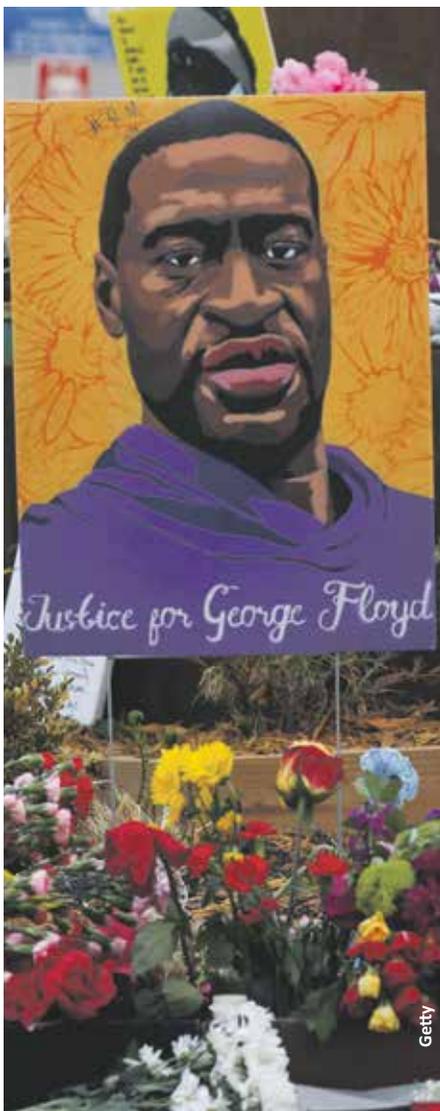
One in six children want to be a scientist following the pandemic. New research has found that 60% of young people agree that they have been inspired by the scientists they have seen on TV throughout lockdown. It's the third most popular job choice, behind being a YouTuber or a videogame developer. The study was carried out for Dr Oetker Spectacular Science baking mixes.

### TOP STAYCATIONS

Wales and the Lake District are the most popular destinations for UK holidays this year. Cornwall and the Scottish Highlands are next in the top four of a new poll carried out for American Express.



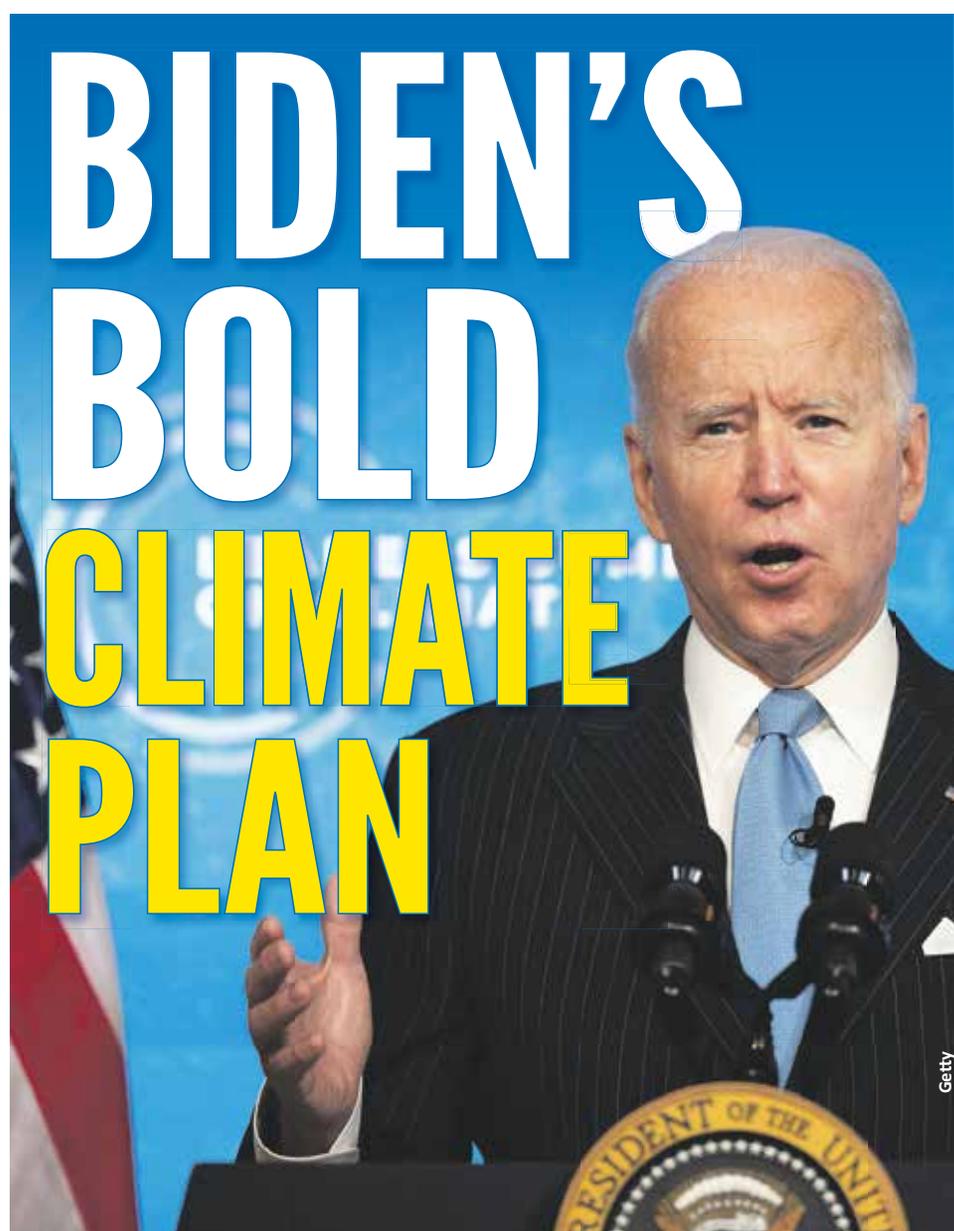
# JUSTICE FOR GEORGE



Flowers laid after the verdict

**FORMER policeman Derek Chauvin was found guilty of three charges of the murder of George Floyd last week, just after First News had gone to press.**

Across the US and the world there was relief at the guilty verdict. The death was seen by many as evidence of racism, and a not guilty verdict would have reinforced those opinions. Derek Chauvin was filmed kneeling on George Floyd's neck for more than nine minutes during his arrest in May 2020. He has yet to be sentenced but is expected to appeal.



**PRESIDENT Joe Biden has committed the US to a bold new target to reduce carbon emissions.**

At a virtual world leaders' conference on climate last Thursday, the US president pledged to cut carbon dioxide levels by at least 50% of 2005 levels by the year 2030.

Tackling the climate crisis is at the forefront of Mr Biden's plans for America, and a reduction in fossil fuel use is already included in his huge plan for the future of the US.

At the conference he stressed the urgency of his plan and said: "The US isn't waiting, we are resolving to take action."

He was supported by UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who described President Biden's aim to drastically cut greenhouse gas emissions as

"game-changing".

Of the 40 leaders taking part in the conference, Canada, Japan and South Korea also proposed reductions in their emissions but not enough to make any significant difference to global warming.

As host of the Climate Change Conference COP26 in Glasgow in November, the UK will play an important role in getting future agreement between world leaders. This may prove a challenge, as some of the world's biggest polluters, such as India and China, are reluctant to make big new commitments on emissions.

Getting to the levels proposed will require major lifestyle and industrial process changes across the world.

# OXYGEN MADE ON MARS



MOXIE going into the rover

**THE Mars rover Perseverance has successfully completed a major experiment that could be a big help for future space missions to Mars and beyond.**

A tiny gadget the size of a toaster made five grams of oxygen, which is enough for an astronaut to breathe for ten minutes, NASA says.

Now, NASA scientists are carrying out further tests to see how well the unit, known as MOXIE, works on a planet where there is not enough oxygen for humans to survive.

If oxygen production could be scaled up, future missions wouldn't need to carry oxygen all the way to Mars.



**PEOPLE in Tumbler Ridge, Canada, were bemused by the excuse for their internet going down at the weekend – beavers! Looking for material for their dams, the furry creatures dug down almost a metre and caused "extensive damage" to a vital cable by biting through it in several places.**

## FLORIDA, USA



Getty

A SPACEX Falcon 9 rocket takes off from Kennedy Space Center, taking four astronauts to the International Space Station on NASA's SpaceX Crew-2 mission.

## SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA



Getty

A PINK supermoon rises over Bondi Beach. The pink supermoon is the first of two supermoons that will be visible in 2021. A supermoon is a name given to a full (or new) moon that occurs when the moon is in perigee – when it is closest to the Earth – making it look brighter and bigger than usual.

## MUMBAI, INDIA



Getty

ARTIST and cricket fan Abhishek Satam creates a mosaic of cricketer Sachin Tendulkar, using 30,012 paper circles.

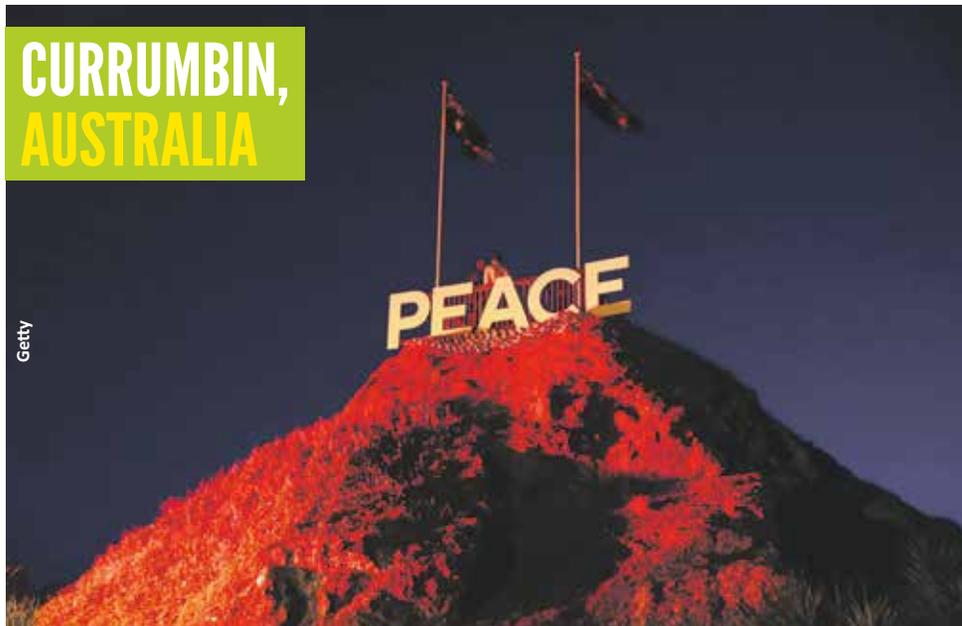
## PARE, INDONESIA



Getty

CAFE worker Rudi Hartono wears a Spider-Man costume while cleaning rubbish from the shore to mark Earth Day.

## CURRUMBIN, AUSTRALIA



Getty

A SIGN on Elephant Rock for Anzac Day (25 April), a national day of remembrance in Australia and New Zealand. Anzac stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, and the day is for all Australian and New Zealanders “who served and died in all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations”.



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# FOOTBALL UNITES AGAINST ONLINE ABUSE



Getty

Marcus Rashford, one of many footballers to have been racially abused, takes a knee against racism before a match

**FOOTBALL** groups across England have united to make a stand against the ongoing abuse that many football players experience online.

A four-day social media boycott will take place from 3pm today (Friday 30 April) until Monday 3 May. Clubs across the Premier League, Women's Super League, English Football League and Women's Championship will switch off their Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts.

The boycott is part of a move to put pressure on social media companies to make more effort to combat online hate. Many players have been racially abused online in recent months, including Manchester United's Marcus Rashford, Chelsea's Reece James,

Arsenal forward Willian and Manchester City's Raheem Sterling.

The move has the support of several organisations, including Kick It Out, a charity tackling racism and discrimination in football.

Sanjay Bhandari, Kick It Out's chairman, said: "This boycott signifies our collective anger. Social media is now sadly a regular vessel for toxic abuse. By removing ourselves from the platforms, we are making a symbolic gesture to those with power. We need you to act. We need you to create change."

## 40 DAYS IN A CAVE!



Getty

**FIFTEEN** people have emerged from a cave in France after spending 40 days cut off from the outside world, with no idea what time or day it was.

The French volunteers took part in the Deep Time experiment, which was set up to see how people cope with being isolated and having no sense of time. The group lived in tents in the Lombrives cave and had no access to phones, clocks or sunlight.

Returning to the outside world, the group had to wear special glasses to protect their eyes, as they hadn't seen the sun for more than a month.

Christian Clot, director of the project,

said that time seemed to pass slowly in the cave. After being told the 40 days were over, he said: "For us, it was a real surprise. In our heads, we had walked into the cave 30 days ago."

Scientists monitored how the group socialised and behaved during their time underground, as well as their sleeping patterns. They say their findings will help them to understand how people can adapt to extreme living conditions.

## EDITOR'S COMMENT



THE study featured on our front page is the latest piece of evidence that suggests kids don't get the chance to play and explore as much as they should.

Although parents and teachers only want the best for children, does a focus on strict lessons and staying safe stop you from learning about the world (and yourselves) by playing?

We'd love to hear what you think, so take part in our poll ([first.news/polls](https://www.first.news/polls)) and be sure to leave a comment.

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## GOOD WEEK FOR



Instagram/Facebook

## MUNCH THE PENGUIN

MUNCH the blind Humboldt penguin has become the first of his kind to have eye surgery to save his sight. The Chester Zoo resident has made a full recovery and is back catching fish and looking after eggs with his penguin partner, Wurly.

## BAD WEEK FOR

### UKIP AND THE RECLAIM PARTY

A RECENT poll has found that two candidates running for London mayor are sharing last place with Count Binface (right), a joke candidate calling himself a "space warrior". The poll by market research company Savanta ComRes found Laurence Fox from the Reclaim Party and Peter Gammons of UKIP were tied with Binface on 1% of the vote.



Getty

## CHINA COMMITTING GENOCIDE, SAY MPs



Protesters outside the Houses of Parliament before the announcement

**MEMBERS** of Parliament in the UK have said that China's treatment of the Uighur people is genocide.

Accusing another country of genocide is a big deal. Genocide means that a group of people are being deliberately targeted and having their human rights taken away in an effort to destroy them. An example

of genocide is the murder of six million Jewish people by the Nazis during World War Two.

In China, Uighurs are mostly Muslim. More than a million are believed to have been taken to camps where they are forced to work against their will. The UK is the latest country to accuse China of genocide, following similar declarations by the US, Canada and the Netherlands.

The Chinese embassy in the UK called the accusations "the most preposterous lie of the century".

Although the vote does not mean the Government has to do anything, Conservative MP Nusrat Ghani said: "We cannot continue business as usual with China while these atrocities continue." China denies the accusations and says that the camps are a way to fight terrorism.

## EDINBURGH



### SSPCA calls for glue trap ban

The Scottish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) has called for a ban on glue traps, after they spent hours rescuing a fox cub from one. Glue traps are sticky trays designed to catch rodents, but the SSPCA says that “they are an ineffective form of pest control”. The SSPCA said the cub, who has since been named Sticky, is doing well, despite damage to his skin and fur. Mike Flynn, from the charity, said: “The SSPCA has long advocated [called for] a total ban on glue traps. Thankfully, our brilliant rescuer and wildlife team have been able to save and care for Sticky, but many other wild animals aren’t so lucky.”

ScottishSPCA/Twitter

## ENGLAND AND WALES

### Book sales boost

Bookshops saw sales jump by a third during their first week of reopening. After book stores resumed business on 12 April, eager readers jumped at the chance to get back to bookshops and search for their new favourite read. Nielsen BookScan, which monitors book sales, reported that 3.7 million books were sold between 12 and 17 April. Kate Skipper from Waterstones said: “Opening our doors again was utterly joyous. Being back amongst the shelves, touching the books and talking about books, is the best!”



Getty

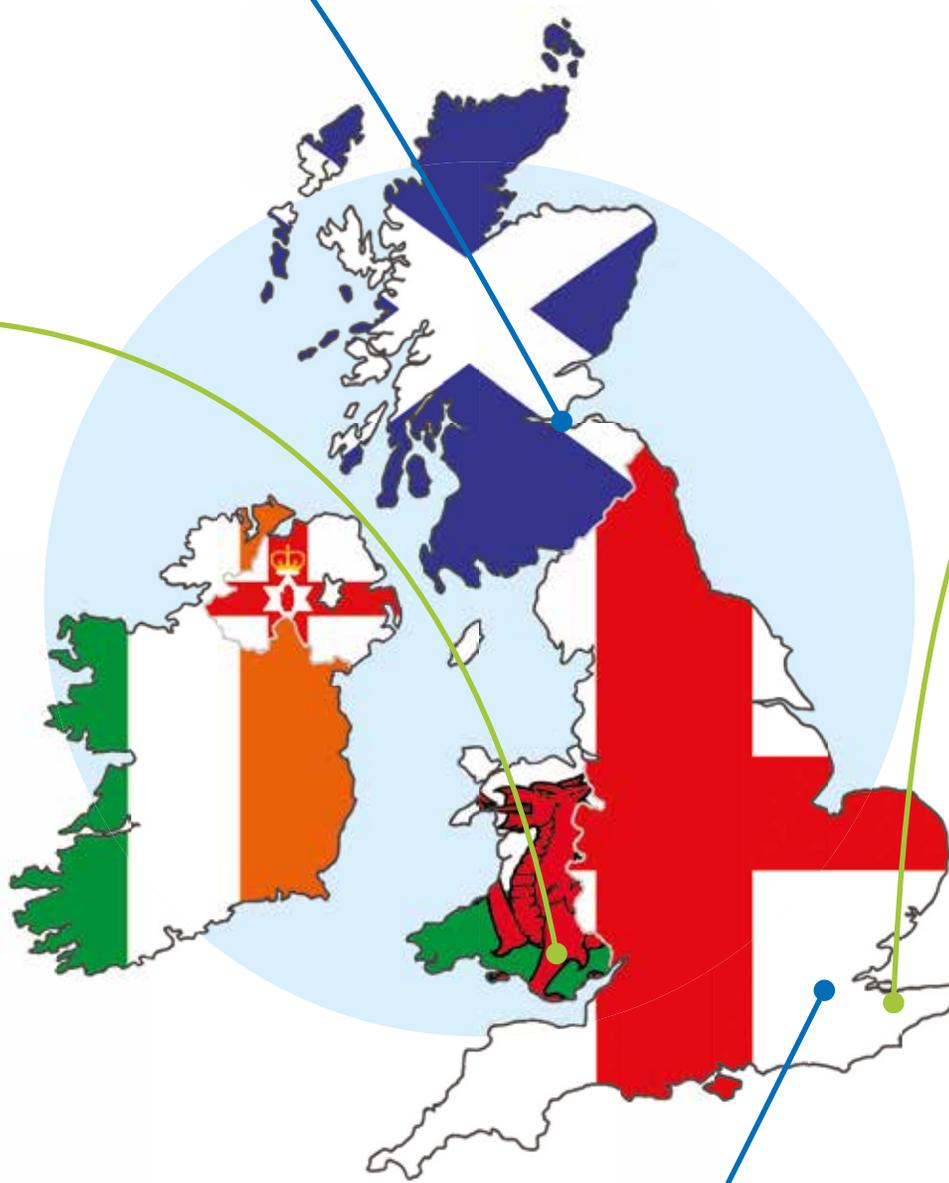
## RHONDDA CYNON TAF



ZipWorld Tower/Facebook

### Tourist attraction opens

Zip World has opened its first South Wales site this week, overlooking the Brecon Beacons mountain range. The tourist attraction boasts the world’s fastest seated zipline, reaching speeds of up to 70mph (the legal speed limit for driving a car)! Zip World Tower has been built where one of the UK’s oldest coal mines used to be. Sean Taylor, founder of Zip World, said of the new site: “It’s hugely, hugely exciting. When you get to the top there and look over to the Brecon Beacons it’s a phenomenal sight.” If you want to find out more, just head to [zipworld.co.uk/location/tower](http://zipworld.co.uk/location/tower).



## KENT



thehappyantsranch/  
Facebook

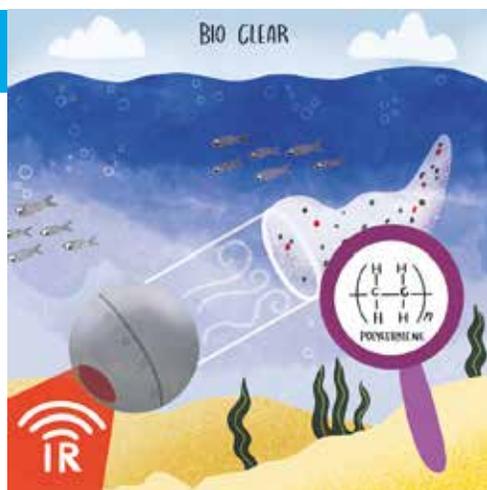
### Anti-social geese?!

An animal charity in Sittingbourne could face a £2,500 fine thanks to some of the noisy geese and cockerels it looks after. The Happy Pants Ranch takes care of 350 animals, many of which have special needs. However, there have been complaints from local residents in recent months, causing Swale council to step in. A letter from the council accused the charity of “behaving in an anti-social manner”. Ranch owner Amey James said the accusation was “unbelievable. We’re trying to do good things here for the animals, and for the local community.”

## UK

### Tech comp finalists announced

The 40 finalists for the Amazon Longitude Explorer Prize have been named. The competition asked young people to come up with ideas for helpful technology. Finalists include a sea-cleaning robot that removes microplastics (right) and a platform that uses AI to teach people sign language.



## GREATER LONDON

### Literature festival to return

The Barnes Children’s Literature Festival returns from Thursday 17 to Sunday 27 June, one of the first festivals due to take place in person since the lockdowns. Top children’s authors like Julia Donaldson, Sir Michael Morpurgo and Dame Jacqueline Wilson will be part of the festival. The fun begins with a Primary Schools Programme – four days of free sessions for London-based pupils. Head to [barneskidslitfest.org](http://barneskidslitfest.org) for more information.



Getty

# SECOND COVID WAVE HITS INDIA



**A SECOND wave of COVID-19 is causing devastation in India, with a record number of cases being reported.**

Hospitals are struggling to cope because thousands of patients are being struck down with the coronavirus every day. Some medical facilities have been running out of oxygen supplies and beds, which means people are being turned away.

India's capital city, New Delhi, is particularly badly hit. It is currently in lockdown to try and control the situation.

Countries across the world are sending emergency aid. The UK Government is transporting 600 pieces of medical equipment, including hundreds of ventilators and oxygen

concentrator devices, to help the effort.

In a statement, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said: "We stand side by side with India as a friend and partner during what is a deeply concerning time in the fight against COVID-19."

The rise in cases has been blamed on more infectious variants of the coronavirus being found in the country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also been criticised for not being prepared, and for allowing large religious gatherings and political rallies to take place.

# SCOTLAND AND WALES EASE LOCKDOWN



**LOCKDOWN restrictions are easing for people in Scotland and Wales this week.**

Shops, restaurants, museums, libraries and swimming pools are allowed to reopen in Scotland, after a four-month lockdown. People can also now visit friends and family in other parts of the UK, and up to six people from two households can socialise indoors in a public space.

Meanwhile in Wales, pubs and restaurants can open once more and six people from six households are allowed to meet outdoors. Things are progressing so well in the country that restrictions have been brought forward, too. From 3 May, instead of 17 May, people will be able to meet another household indoors and enjoy indoor organised activities such as swimming lessons.



# PLAN TO BOOST GLOBAL VACCINATIONS

**MILLIONS of children around the world are not getting the vaccines they need to keep them safe, says the World Health Organization (WHO).**

It's believed up to 20 million children are missing out on vaccinations against deadly diseases such as measles and polio. The coronavirus pandemic has only made things worse.

The WHO says 60 immunisation programmes in 50 countries have been put on hold, meaning huge delays to life-saving campaigns. Help is now needed to let every child catch up on the vaccines they've missed.

To tackle the problem, the WHO has

teamed up with UNICEF, Gavi and other partners to launch the Immunization Agenda 2030. This aims to bring countries together from across the world to make immunisation systems stronger. The goal is to provide vaccines throughout people's lives, from when they are young to when they are adults, and to halve the number of children completely missing out on vaccines. It's hoped that the plan could save the lives of over 50 million people.



# UK MUST CUT AIR POLLUTION

**AIR pollution limits should be lowered in the UK, a coroner has said.**

UK air pollution levels are currently twice as high as those recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO). London coroner (an official who confirms the cause of a person's death) Philip Barlow is calling for the UK limits to be changed in his report, called *Prevention of Future Deaths*.

It comes after a historic case, where Mr Barlow ruled that a nine-year-old schoolgirl died because of air pollution in her local area. He now wants to see the UK set targets based on WHO guidelines to prevent further deaths.

The coroner also says the public should be made more aware of pollution levels where they live, so they can help to make a change.

A Welsh council is already acting on the problem, announcing plans to knock down Wales' most polluted street (above). Caerphilly council wants to knock down 23 properties on the A472 in Hafodyrynys and change the road layout, which is causing the high pollution levels. Levels of nitrogen dioxide on the street are higher than anywhere in the UK outside of London.

## LIBYA

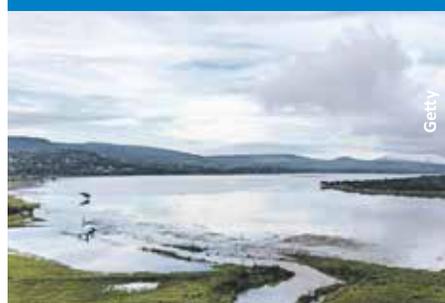


Getty

### Refugees drown

As many as 130 people have drowned off the coast of Libya while trying to cross the Mediterranean to Europe. Although the rubber dinghy they were in was known to be in distress, volunteer rescuers were too late to save any of the people on board. There are many reasons why people attempt the journey, but they are often fleeing wars or harsh treatment.

## MEXICO



Getty

### Water shortage

Mexico has been hit by the worst drought in 30 years, as water levels in lakes and reservoirs fall across the country. The capital, Mexico City, is one of the areas suffering most: the reservoirs that supply its nine million residents are at less than half normal capacity and there is little chance of rain for the next six weeks. The last three years have been drier than average and there is now a real worry that some of the country's biggest lakes will completely dry up.

## ITALY



### King of days off

For 15 years, an Italian man was paid to work at a hospital – despite never turning up to work! Called the “king of absentees” by Italian media, the man received around £465,000 at his job that he never turned up to. The man faces charges of abuse of office and forgery. Six managers are also being investigated for helping him.



Getty

## RUSSIA

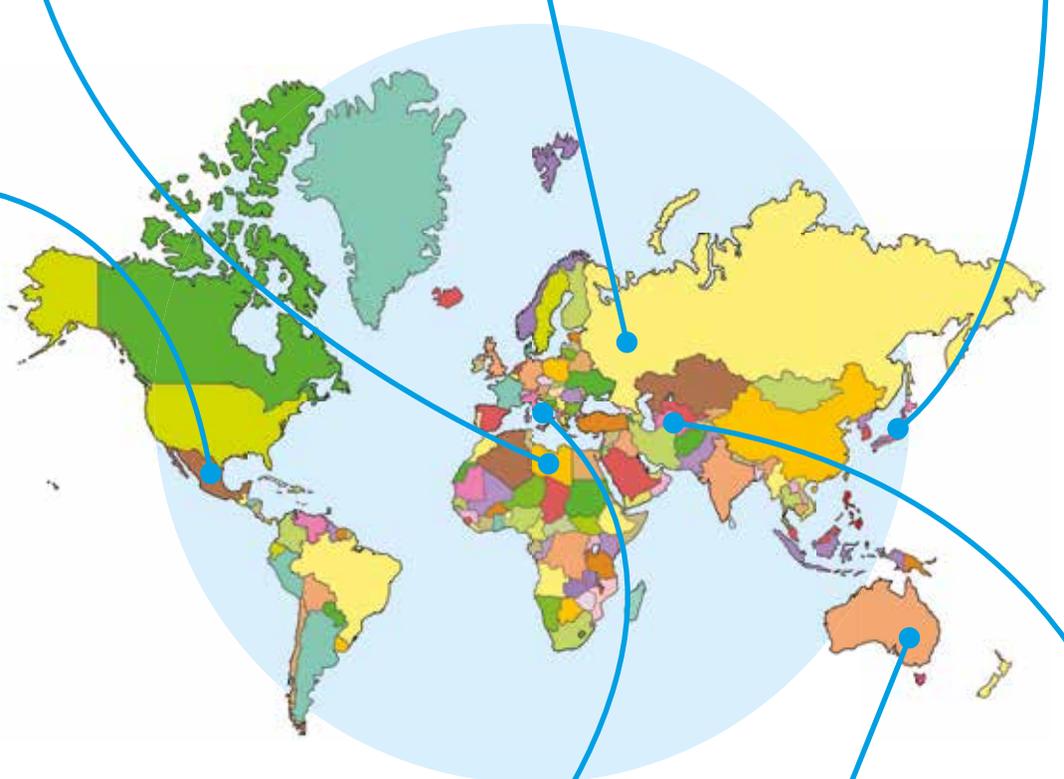


### Clampdown on opposition

The fight between opposition figure Alexei Navalny and the government in Russia continues. He is serving a 2 ½ year prison sentence on what some say are made-up charges. He recently ended a 24-day hunger strike on the advice of doctors, and is said to be very unwell, having already survived being poisoned last year. A Russian court has now ordered the closure of FBK, a group set up by Mr Navalny to tackle illegal behaviour by officials. Last month, authorities in Moscow had asked for FBK to be declared an extremist organisation. Thousands of Navalny's supporters staged a demonstration last week and 1,782 people were arrested. UN human rights experts have said they believe Mr Navalny's life is “in serious danger.”



Getty



## JAPAN



### Emergency measures

With three months to go until the Olympics are due to be held in Tokyo, Japan has announced a new set of emergency coronavirus restrictions for a quarter of the country. Until 11 May, department stores, cinemas and other big commercial areas will need to close. Companies will be asked to let people work from home, but schools will remain open. Over 566,000 people have caught COVID-19 in Japan, with nearly 10,000 deaths.



Getty

## TURKMENISTAN



### New national dog day

Turkmenistan has celebrated its first national holiday for its native dog breed, the alabai. One of the biggest dog breeds in the world, the alabai can weigh up to 80kg. The president had already unveiled a 15m golden statue of the sheepdog in the capital, Ashgabat, and a dog show was judged by the president's son, deputy PM, Serdar Berdymukhamedov.



istock

## AUSTRALIA



### Big Bird returned

Two men who stole a \$160,000 (£88,000) costume of Big Bird from Sesame Street have returned it. The suit was dumped near the circus it was stolen from, along with a note signed by the “Big Bird Bandits” that said “no harm” had come to “Mr Bird”. Two suspects have since been arrested and charged with theft.



South Australia Police

# CHIP PLAN FOR CATS

**PLANS are being drawn up to make it the law for all pet cats to be microchipped.**

Over the last year there has been a big increase in pet thefts in the UK. While everything possible is done to help reunite stolen pets and their owners, without a microchip it can be difficult to trace pet owners.

The microchip plan is supported by vets, charities such as Cats Protection and rescue centres including Battersea Dogs and Cats Home, while surveys have shown the public are also overwhelmingly in favour.

There are an estimated 2.6 million cats in the UK that aren't microchipped. If the new plans come into force, cat owners could face a fine of £500 for having a cat that isn't microchipped.

Microchipping is when a small chip is injected underneath the skin in an animal's neck. The microchip has a unique number that is registered on a database and includes details like the owner's name, phone number and address. Since 2016 all puppies in the UK must be microchipped and registered by the time they are eight weeks old.

It is just one of the safety measures officials are looking at to try to stop the black market (illegal) trade of puppies and kittens.



iStock

## STOP THE CROP



iStock

**MORE than 100,000 people have signed a petition to stop the rising number of dogs with cropped (surgically altered) ears in the UK.**

The huge response means that the petition may be debated in Parliament. Ear cropping is illegal in England and Wales, but people can still send their dogs abroad to have the procedure, or import dogs that have had their ears cropped. In the last year a number of celebrities have bought "security" dogs with cropped ears, fuelling the demand.

## MEET THE TINY GIANTS!



TSZ

**A NEW exhibit celebrating the tiniest, yet mightiest, creatures in the world is opening this month at ZSL London Zoo.**

The immersive experience will offer a bug's-eye view of the world of tiny wildlife superheroes and help visitors discover everything they need to know about the creatures that we just can't live without!

The new exhibit, *Tiny Giants: From Minibeasts to Coral Reefs*, will open on 17 May, in line with Government coronavirus restrictions.

## HELPING HEDGEHOGS



iStock

**THIS week marks the start of Hedgehog Awareness Week (2-8 May) and the British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS) is asking people to make their gardens hedgehog havens this summer.**

There are lots of simple things you can do to help hedgehogs and attract them to your garden.

A log pile or area of broken twigs and branches will create a safe space for a hedgehog to hide and attract insects, which they eat. A small hole in the bottom of your garden fence (13 x 13cm) is known as a hedgehog highway and will allow hedgehogs to move around freely as they search for food.

BHPS Chief Executive Fay Vass said: "Our gardens take up such a lot of habitat, and by each making our own plot more hedgehog friendly, we can improve a huge amount of habitat for them."

You can find lots more hints and tips on how to make your garden a hedgehog haven at [www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk](http://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk).

# CALLING ALL KIDS FOR THE BIG ASK



Dame Rachel de Souza, Children's Commissioner for England

HEAD TO [WWW.THEBIGASK.UK](http://WWW.THEBIGASK.UK) TO HAVE YOUR SAY

THE last year has been really challenging. Children have done so much to help stop the spread of the coronavirus, like not seeing friends or relatives, learning from home instead of school and missing out on playing out, clubs and activities. Some have even lost family members to COVID-19.

Now that things are starting to get back to normal, it's time for the adults to listen to children about what this year has been like.

As Children's Commissioner for England, it's my job to make sure that the Government and other people who make some of the big decisions about your lives know what you think about it, like what you're taught in lessons, what help you might need with your mental health or how you can feel safer in the place you live. I am independent of Government, so if sometimes I don't agree with the plans they are making for children, I tell them.

One of the most important things I do is to listen to what children tell me about their experiences, to help us to find out the things we think the Government and others could do to make your lives better.

I need your help to do it.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Big Ask takes less time to complete than the average time a child spends watching a single YouTube video.



Rachel de Souza/Twitter

## ALL ABOUT THE BIG ASK

**The Big Ask** is the biggest-ever survey of children in England. I want to hear from as many children as possible about their dreams and ambitions, about what is holding them back and about what life is like at home, school and the area they live in.

**The Big Ask** will be available to every school, as well as other places where children are living, like children's homes. Your teacher might ask you to do it in class or assembly, and there will be an Oak National Academy assembly too. We'll also be speaking to children from every kind of background, like children who home school or children with disabilities.

There are four different versions of **The Big Ask** for different ages and the survey is anonymous. We won't ask for your name, email or phone number, and we won't use anything you say to identify you. Everything you tell us will be kept safe and private and won't be shared with anyone else.

## THE EFFECTS OF COVID-19

- Around 840 million days of in-person schooling were lost in England between March 2020 and March 2021 – around 19 weeks per pupil.
- During the first lockdown, the percentage of children and young people doing at least an hour a day of physical activity fell from 47% to 19%.
- During lockdown, more than a million children in England did not have access to a private garden, including one in three children in London.
- The number of children with mental health problems rose from one in nine children in 2017 to one in six in July 2020.



## DID YOU KNOW?

The Big Ask will be sent to around 8.9 million children in school in England.



Getty

This is a great chance to think big and to share your experiences – and it only takes a few minutes to fill in. All you have to do to make your voice heard is go to [www.thebigask.uk](http://WWW.THEBIGASK.UK)

# “I GOT TO PLAY TABLE TENNIS WITH AN EGG!”



Hannah Fry on the set of *It's A Numbers Game*

**MATHEMATICIAN** Dr Hannah Fry is co-presenter of *It's A Numbers Game*, a new TV show on BT Sport that looks at the role of science and maths in professional sport. *First News* spoke to Dr Fry to find out how it all adds up...

● **What's *It's A Numbers Game* all about?**

BT Sport has got all of these amazing footballers and rugby players and Olympians... and I think that the people at BT thought all of these people might not realise that they're effectively science machines, as it were. So the show is taking all those amazing people, and just trying to uncover some of the science behind what makes them so good at sport.

● **Do you have a personal highlight?**

Yes, but it's particularly nerdy! I just really like aerodynamics; I have always loved aerodynamics. Anything to do with cars, I'm extremely into. So we had a McLaren car racing against a golf ball! We were looking at acceleration. You would think the car should win, right? But off the start line, the golf ball would go so far, so fast. It's like a massive head start. It's like a quarter of a mile race, and the golf ball starts off in the lead. And then the car kind of catches up and takes over. It's amazing!



● **Sports stars try to break world records in the series. Did you have a go yourself?**

Yes, but they gave me an impossible one: I got to play table tennis with an egg. Deeply unfair! You have to keep it up for as long as you can. The record was 23, and I think I managed nine.

● **How important is maths and science to sport, and is this a new development?**

It depends what sport, I think. For the really technical sports like Formula 1 [right], it's always been important. But I think there has been a big change in the last few years – football especially has gone through this gigantic shift, where I don't think people really thought about [maths and science] that much in the '90s or maybe even the early noughties. But now, at matches, there are cameras that are recording every single movement of all of the players, where their



eyeline is, where they are in relation to other players on the pitch. People are continually looking at this just to get that extra edge. So I think it is a relatively new thing, but I definitely think it's not something that's going to go away. I think that science and sport really are totally wedded to one another now. So if anything, it will become more a part of it.

● **Are you sporty?**

Watching sport? Yes. Playing along? I am about as good at sport as you might expect a mathematician to be! But I like all the motor racing sports, a bit of golf, a little bit of cricket and actually the Olympics, especially. It's like this moment where everybody in the world gets to share something. I just think there's something really lovely about that.

● **What advice do you have for *First News* readers who might be struggling with maths at school?**

If someone says you're not good at maths, or maths isn't for you, or maths is too hard, you start believing it, you stop paying attention. Then you find it harder. So I just think that the advice really is, if you find it a bit difficult, I think that's okay. It is difficult sometimes. Just try and pursue it. So you end up staying on the good spiral rather than the bad spiral.

● **Teachers always say maths is important in everyday life. Can you confirm or deny this is true?!**

I can 100% confirm it is true! Maths is more about our way of thinking, like planning ahead and being strategic, rather than necessarily being good with numbers. When I go to the shop, my route around it is so efficient!



While exploring the physics behind archery, this arrow went through bullet-proof glass!

## MALARIA JAB BREAKTHROUGH



**TWO** weeks ago we reported on a major breakthrough in the quest for an HIV vaccine.

Now, there's more good vaccine news – this time, for malaria.

A new jab developed at Oxford University has been found to be 77% effective during early trials in Africa.

The new vaccine was tested on 450 children in Burkina Faso over a period of 12 months. Bigger trials involving 4,800 children are now starting, and scientists hope they will prove the vaccine's effectiveness.

Malaria kills 400,000 people worldwide every year. Most malaria cases and deaths occur in sub-Saharan Africa, and the majority of the disease's victims are children under five. It is caused by parasites that are transmitted to people through the bites of infected mosquitoes (above).

SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

This report is from the Science Museum in London



**DID** you know that many of the spacecraft orbiting Earth are helping us to understand climate change?

The first picture of Earth was taken in 1946. Since then, astronauts and artificial satellites have been monitoring our atmosphere, weather and climate, pollution and many other natural and human events.

Satellites like the one above can conduct surveys of Earth's systems, and they're particularly good at measuring sea surface temperature.

Water covers a whopping 70% of the Earth's surface. The oceans carry heat from the tropics to the polar regions, which strongly affects the climate and weather patterns. Scientists can therefore use changes in sea surface temperature to measure how fast global temperatures are increasing.

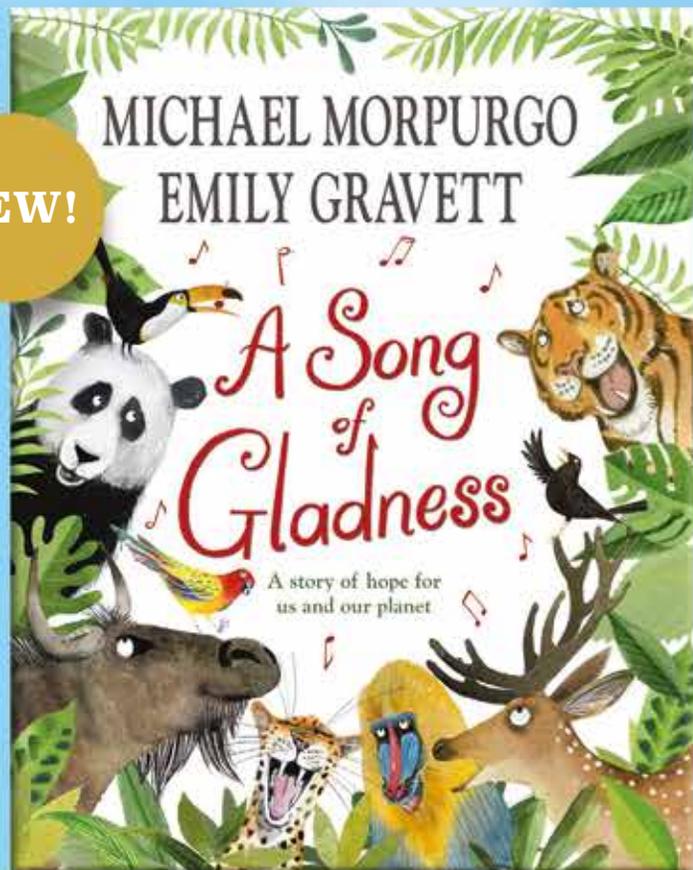
Find out more at [tinyurl.com/SatsClimateChange](https://tinyurl.com/SatsClimateChange).

You can watch *It's A Numbers Game* on BT Sport 1 tomorrow (1 May) at 11am or catch up with the whole series on [youtube.com/BTSport](https://youtube.com/BTSport)



# Celebrate Our Planet

Brilliant books to make a difference



By the nation's favourites  
**MICHAEL MORPURGO**  
and **EMILY GRAVETT**

Imagine that all the animals on our planet could talk to each other, what would they be saying? Michael imagines them joining in a song of gladness, and inviting us to sing along, so that we all join together in caring for our world and every creature in it.



Also by the award-winning  
**EMILY GRAVETT**

Is your bedroom an unruly mess? Have you ever thought that you might have too much stuff? Well then this might be perfect for you! Return to the woodland characters of *Tidy*, in this very funny picture book all about the perils of having too much stuff!

*'Families will find this playful story irresistible'*  
BookTrust



**BESTSELLER!**



TWO HOOTS  
FIVE YEARS

# AMAZING WILDLIFE IN AFRICA

GREG du Toit is an award-winning wildlife photographer who was born in Africa and loves using the power of photography to showcase the beauty of wild animals and the amazing places they live, particularly in his home continent. From a very young age, Greg loved being outside and exploring the African bush, and became a photographer so he could share his passion for what he saw there.



© Greg du Toit

“This incredible specimen of a black rhino (with three horns!) went by the name of Karanja and sadly passed away of natural causes a few years ago, soon after I took this portrait of him. Black rhinos are normally very shy, hiding in thick bushes, but Karanja was different. He was very relaxed and used to let me get quite close to him. I think this was because he was old and experienced, and maybe he knew I was not a poacher and would not harm him. It’s my hope that all of Africa’s rhinos should only die of natural causes, but sadly this is not currently the case.”



© Greg du Toit

“This lioness and her cubs live on community land in Kenya. It took me 16 months to get this photo, during which time I sat in the waterhole to get a low angle. I contracted bilharzia (an infection caused by a parasitic worm) and malaria twice during that time, so I got pretty sick! I did all this because I wanted to get a photograph of a lion that still lives with the Maasai people, as this is how it always used to be. Nowadays most lions live in parks and reserves to keep them safe but you still do get lions that roam Africa outside of these parks and reserves and I wanted to get a photo of one of these.”

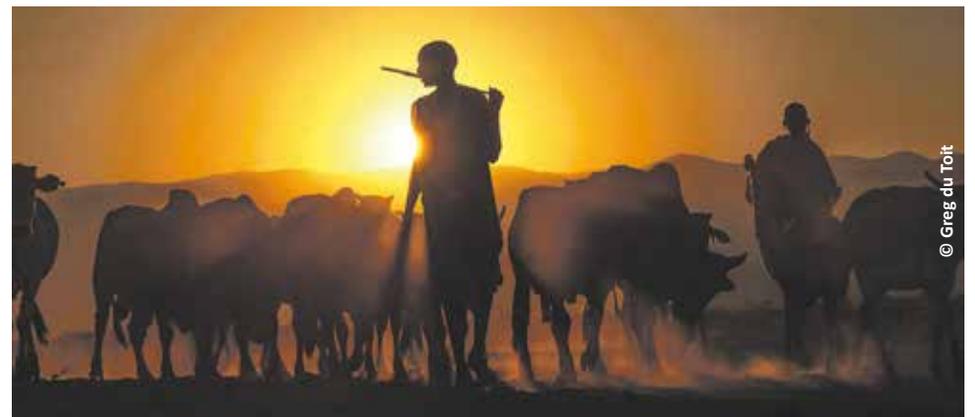
Greg is an ambassador for SORALO, one of WWF’s partners in the Land for Life project. WWF’s Land for Life UK Aid Match appeal, for which First News was a partner, raised £4.76 million, including £2 million from the UK Government. Donations to the Land for Life project will support Maasai communities to develop solutions for people and wildlife to coexist and thrive, aiming to improve the wellbeing of more than 27,000 people. A big thank you to all First News readers who supported this appeal!



“These two sub-adult bull African elephants were so busy playing that they got completely left behind by the rest of the herd. In the background you can just make out the base of Mount Kilimanjaro. Elephants are the biggest land mammals on Earth, so when I photograph them I feel really small. These young elephants were playing and I think they forgot I was there, which made it easier for me to photograph, as I knew they were not bothered by me.”



© Greg du Toit



© Greg du Toit

“The Maasai are pastoralists [livestock owners who move around] and in Kenya’s South Rift Valley each morning the herders take their cattle out to pasture. In the late afternoon they return and are greeted by the children and women. Among the dust and setting sun you can see the Rift Valley in the background. The Maasai are amazing because they have learnt to live with wild animals and have been doing this for hundreds of years. They don’t kill the wildlife for food and they respect wild animals. They take great care to make sure that lions don’t eat their cows by not moving around at night. We all need to learn to love wildlife, no matter how big or small, and to let them live with us, like the Maasai do. This includes insects, birds and everything else.”



© Greg du Toit

“The wildebeest migration takes place in Kenya and Tanzania, and it is one of the last large mammal migrations left in the world. For animals to migrate they need a big area of land and the Serengeti and Maasai Mara reserves in East Africa have enough space. Here you see the wildebeest kicking up dust just before they prepare to cross a river in Kenya’s Maasai Mara Game Reserve. The wildebeest have to cross this river every year to reach the sweet grass. It is very exciting to witness and photograph a real migration. It is also very rare, so we need to make sure that the animals have plenty of room to make their journey.”

# TWO PEAS IN A PODCAST

**MUSIC** and social media stars Max & Harvey have launched a brand-new podcast series where they chat to other celebs about their lives and careers. We caught up with the brothers to find out about the podcast and their plans for new music and a summer tour.

## ● What can you tell us about your new podcast?

**Harvey:** Our new podcast is essentially a place for us to talk to and learn from the best, while also discussing both positive and negative things about their respective fields. We also make the odd stupid joke here and there!

## ● This is your second podcast series, so what is it about podcasting you enjoy so much?

**Max:** First of all, we get to make friends with some amazing guests, which is incredible in itself, but Harvey and I could talk for the country, so it's a great place for us to talk, rant or joke about anything going on in our lives too!

## ● Can you tell us about some of your guests this series?

**Harvey:** We've already had TV star Jamie Laing and TikTok star Issey Moloney, who were both so incredible and shared some stories that no-one has ever heard before. That was great because they clearly trust us with their private stories; it's like they forget they're on a podcast!

**Max:** We've got Ella Henderson this week and we can't wait to meet her and chat about all her amazing songs.

## ● Who would be your dream podcast guests?

**Max:** I would certainly pick someone like Dwayne Johnson, as he's so unbelievably talented and interesting. He would make an incredible podcast episode.

**Harvey:** I would pick Dynamo because he's a childhood hero of mine!

## ● How is it being the interviewers instead of the interviewees?

**Max:** We don't actually see ourselves as interviewers on this podcast, more like hosts of a nice lunch with no food! But yeah, we love hosting the podcast – it gives us a chance to find out about other people, as well as people finding out things about us.

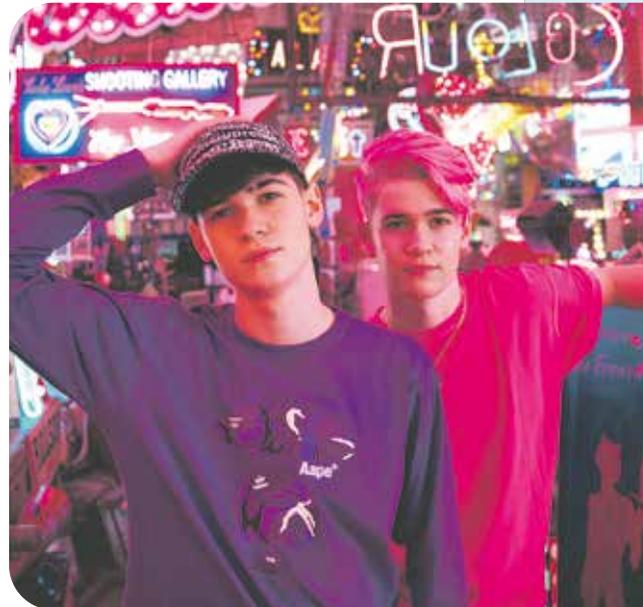
## ● The last year has been tough for the entertainment industry, so what have you been working on to keep you busy?

**Max:** At the start of the lockdown, I built a studio in my room so that we could write and record music from home. We've written a lot of music that we can't wait for people to hear at some point!

**Harvey:** We did a load of other things in lockdown too, like filming a TV show and planning for the podcast.

## ● You've just released some new music too. Can we expect more tunes from you this year?

**Max:** We're so excited that our new song, *In My DNA*, is out now and you can definitely expect more music from us very soon! We've never properly been able to focus on writing music until now because of how busy we've been in the past, but the lockdown did help us with that.



## ● What can Max & Harvey fans expect from the tour you have lined up this summer?

**Harvey:** We've got some very exciting, exclusive news for you – we're having a live band on this tour! We can't wait to perform with other live musicians on stage; it's going to be our best tour yet, by a mile!

## ● Who will need the most rehearsals after a year without gigs?

**Max:** If it's out of me and Harvey, probably Harvey, as I'm always working on music, whereas he's always focused on social media. We're both rehearsing a lot behind the scenes at the moment, but the rehearsals will become more intense closer to the tour.

## ● What's the best thing about being on tour?

**Harvey:** Being able to see our fans and to perform the music we've been making live with our favourite people in the venue. Touring is our favourite thing to do, there's nothing better.

**Max:** We can't wait to perform some of the songs that haven't been released yet!

## ● What three things are on your tour rider?

**Max:** Water! That's the most important thing. A kettle for our steamers and usually towels. Quite basic, I know, but they're essential for a good vocal performance!

The Max & Harvey Podcast is available to listen to exclusively on Spotify. Tickets for their upcoming *This Is Not A Phase* tour are on sale now at [maxandharveyofficial.com](https://maxandharveyofficial.com)

# LET IT SHOW!

**FROZEN, the live-action theatre production, is finally coming to the UK!**

After lots of delays due to the pandemic, Disney's Frozen will open at the newly refurbished Theatre Royal Drury Lane on 8 September, with previews from 27 August.

The first images of the cast in their full Frozen costumes have been released. Samantha Barks stars as Elsa, with Stephanie McKeon as Anna, Obioma Ugoala as Kristoff, Craig Gullivan as Olaf and Oliver Ormson as Prince Hans.

The show was a huge success in America on Broadway and looks set to be just as popular in the UK!

**Tickets for Frozen are on sale now and can be booked up until 3 April 2022.**



# PICS OF THE WEEK

**THIS year marks the 20th anniversary of the Harry Potter films and, to celebrate, LEGO is releasing a whole range of brand-new sets in the LEGO Harry Potter Wizarding Collection!**

From Fawkes the phoenix to recreating the Polyjuice Potion scene from *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, there are eight new sets to collect. You can even test your board game skills with the Wizard's Chess set. Plus there are some special edition gold minifigures to collect!

**The entire LEGO Harry Potter Wizarding Collection can be seen at [www.LEGO.com](http://www.LEGO.com)**



## THIS WEEK



**1** To celebrate Star Wars Day (4 May), Disney is launching a brand-new Star Wars show, *Star Wars: The Bad Batch*. The animated series kicks off on Disney+ with a 70-minute special that follows a unique squad of experimental clones. If you like Star Wars, there's more than 180 hours of Star Wars content available to watch on the streaming site!

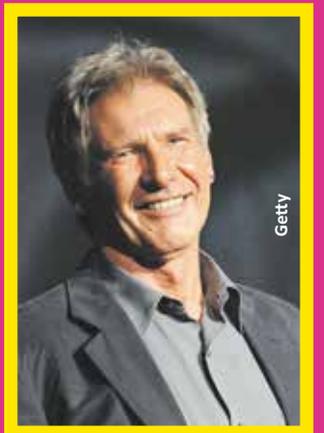
**2** KIDZ Bop have teamed up with Sky Kids to launch a new fitness series. Join Max and Ashton for *KIDZ BOP Presents: MOVE IT!*, a series of five-minute stretch, cardio and strength workouts. There are 20 fun fitness videos to join in with. Kidz Bop have also partnered with Sky for their first ever live



show, *KIDZ BOP Live In Concert*. The show, which was filmed virtually, will premiere exclusively on Sky One on 30 May.

**3** There are lots of places now to watch films and TV, but if you're a fan of nature documentaries and environmental films, check out [www.waterbear.com](http://www.waterbear.com). They have added lots of family-friendly shows to their site in honour of Earth Day. It's a free site, all you have to do is register. Enjoy!

**4** Indiana Jones is off on a new adventure! The legendary hero archaeologist will be back for a fifth film in the series. Harrison Ford will return as Indiana Jones and will be joined by a whole cast of stars, including British actress Phoebe Waller-Bridge. Indy and the gang will swing into cinemas in July 2022.



**5** The first trailer for Marvel's big new action film *Shang-Chi and The Legend of The Ten Rings* has been released. The film follows superhero Shang-Chi, who gets drawn into the mysterious Ten Rings organisation. The film is due to hit cinemas in September.

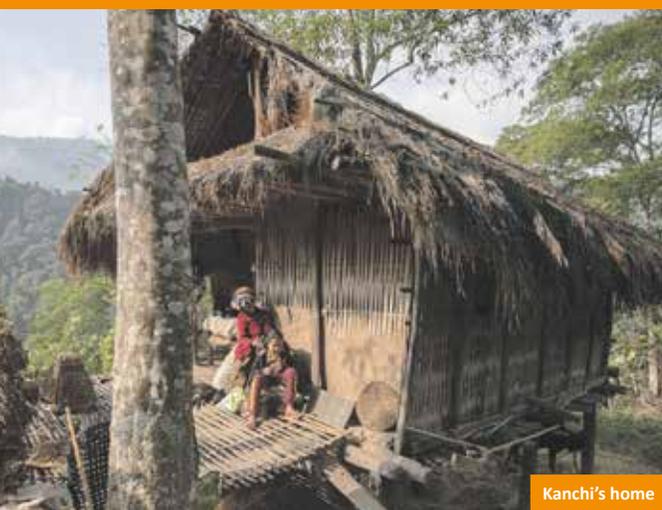
**6** Disney Pixar's *Soul* scooped two big awards at this year's Oscars ceremony. The movie was awarded Best Animated Picture and Best Original Score for its music. It was also a historic night for director Chloé Zhao from China. She became the first woman of colour to win the Best Director award.



# HELP GET THOUSANDS MORE CHILDREN INTO SCHOOL

## IN THE MOST REMOTE PLACES IN THE WORLD!

HAPPILY Ever Smarter is a new campaign from United World Schools (UWS) to make going to school a reality for thousands of children living in some of the world's most remote communities, for the first time in their lives.



Kanchi's home



Photos: Navesh Chitrakar/UWS

The campaign features Kanchi\*, aged ten, who lives high in the Himalaya mountains in Nepal with her grandmother. Until four years ago, there was no school in her village and Kanchi couldn't read, she had no books and no chance to learn and play. She spent her days helping her grandmother in the fields, and school was just a dream.

Now Kanchi is in Class 5 of UWS Helawubesi and her teacher says she's a model student.

"It's a long and difficult route to school – on a path full of uphill and downhill – but I don't like to miss even a single day of school," Kanchi says. "One day I'd like to become a teacher. I want to earn a good living and give my grandmother a comfortable life."

One in six children worldwide don't get a chance to go to school and, in the rural region of Sankhuwasabha, Nepal, where Kanchi lives, less than a third of children complete primary education.

Schools are often so far away that it's dangerous for young children to walk there, and there isn't always an understanding of the importance of education. Children are often needed to work in the fields and at home, keeping them trapped in a cycle of poverty.

\*Kanchi's name has been changed to protect her identity.



Kanchi in the fields

## MEET CHIMINI

Chimini works with her grandparents

Chimini, 11, works alongside her grandmother, cooking and serving noodles to the villagers in their shop. Chimini longs to go to school – she dreams of becoming a nurse so she can treat people in need. She has been promised by her grandparents that this year, when UWS builds a school in Mabir village, she will be able to go.

"My grandmother helps me to learn, but I wish to go to school so I can be better at reading and writing," Chimini says. "I want to understand everything, and I want to learn to write my name."



"Also, if I go to school all day, I will have less work to do at home."

Learning during the pandemic has been difficult for children everywhere, but for those in extremely remote areas with no technology, it's been almost impossible.

For these children, living in the world's most remote and disadvantaged communities, school not only gives them the chance to learn and have a better future, but it's also a safe place where they can be with friends and play.

The Happily Ever Smarter campaign aims to build, resource and equip 70 new UWS schools, train 375 local people as community teachers and reach 10,000 more children with education.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Watch Kanchi's film (see website below) and use the free schools' resources to learn more
- Hold your own school fundraising event
- Join the 180 Challenge in June



Until 29 July, for every £1 raised by schools and the general public, the UK Government will match donations by giving another £1 to help primary-age children get a life-changing education in Nepal. All public donations will help children from marginalised (left out) communities access education across Asia, giving them a chance to transform their future!

Just £10 could provide education for a month for one child. Double it, and we could educate two children!

To see Kanchi's film, download free resources for your school and a fundraising pack, visit [unitedworldschools.org](http://unitedworldschools.org)



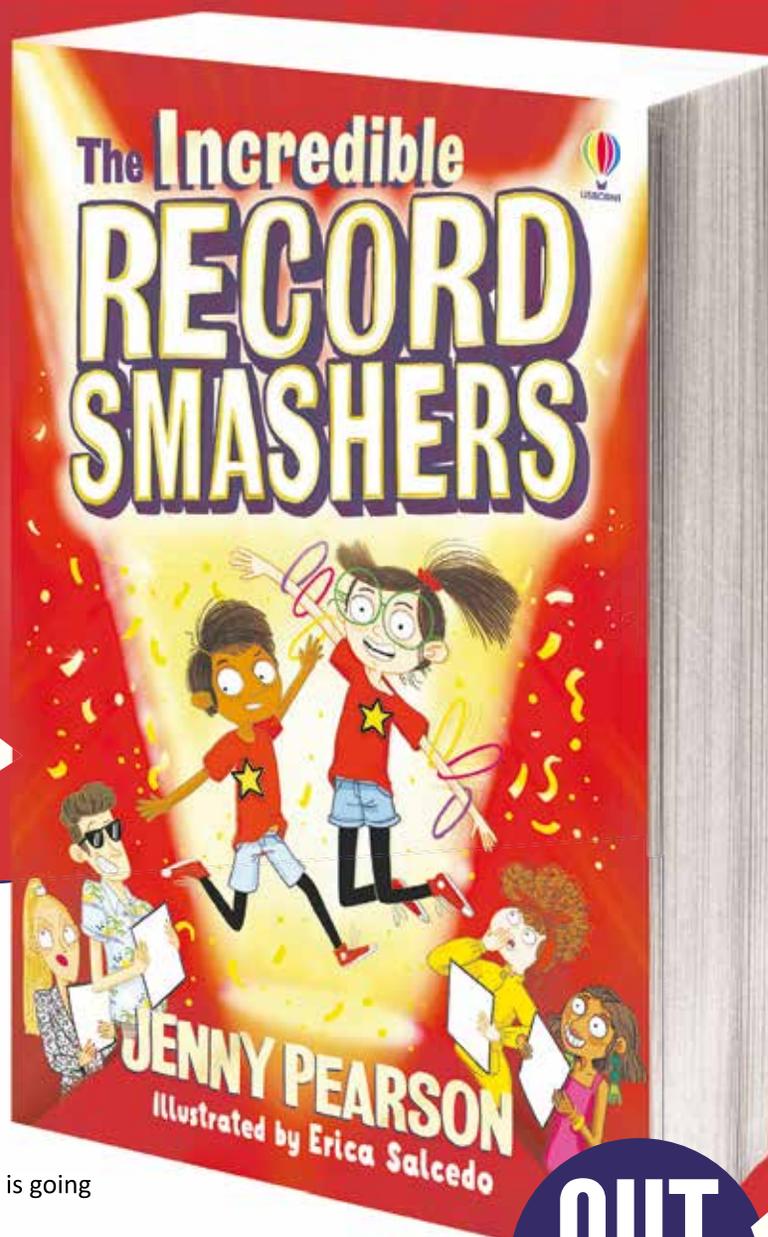
THE  
**BIG**  
PICTURE

**THIS** giant squirrel sculpture has appeared outside a shopping centre in Chongqing, China.

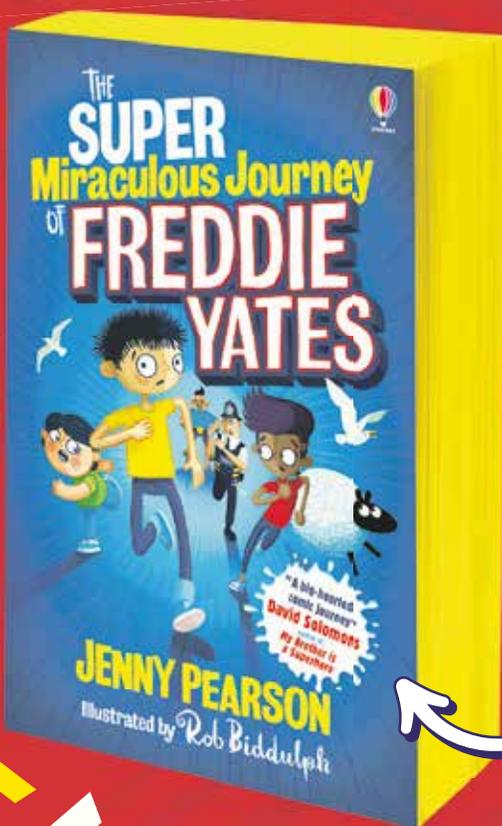
It's the latest colourful work by Dutch artist Florentijn Hofman, who has placed his weird and wonderful animals in cities all over the world.

Hofman has said that he doesn't like the idea of rich people buying art, and is "a supporter of public art in public spaces. Art in public spaces is meant for everyone."

# JOIN THE INCREDIBLE RECORD SMASHERS!



**OUT NOW!**



A **RECORD-SMASHING** adventure story packed with heart, humour and a whole lot of kumquats!

Lucy is a fixer of broken things. But there's one thing she can't fix and that's her unhappy mum. Until she comes up with an **INCREDIBLE** plan. Along with her best friend, Sandesh, Lucy is going to **SMASH** a world record.

Because she's convinced that starry Paul Castellini – Record Smashers TV host and singing legend – is the answer to her mum's problems. But breaking a world record when watermelons, kumquats, two baddies and a 30cm shatter-resistant school ruler are involved isn't quite as easy as Lucy thought. Can she learn that sometimes happiness doesn't come with a plan?

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jenny Pearson's first book, *The Super Miraculous Journey of Freddie Yates*, was shortlisted for the Costa Children's Book Award.

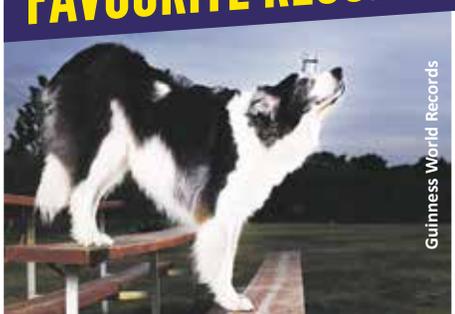
Jenny loves her job as a primary school teacher and admits to 'stealing' from the children she has taught.

She says: "Not their lunch money – that is frowned upon at school – but their characters. What I mostly

**"BREAKS RECORDS FOR FUNNY AND TOUCHING STORYTELLING" – DAVID BADDIEL**

see in the classroom is kids who look out for each other, kids who are understanding and kind. That's what I want to portray in my characters – the truth, and **the truth is that kids are INCREDIBLE!**"

## JENNY PEARSON'S FAVOURITE RECORDS



Guinness World Records

Sweet Pea the Wonder Dog has two records for walking up (and down!) ten steps while balancing a glass of water on her head without spilling a drop

Joel Strasser set the record for most toothpicks in a beard with a whopping 3,500 toothpicks



Guinness World Records



Guinness World Records

To get the record for the largest human mattress dominoes (yes, it's a thing!), 2,019 people strapped themselves to mattresses and toppled into one another in a domino chain



# PRINT YOUR SWITCH SNAPS

YOU can now print out pictures directly from a Nintendo Switch console.



Nintendo has teamed up with photo company Fujifilm to make their Instax Mini Link printer compatible with the Switch, for the launch of the Pokémon photography game, *New Pokémon Snap*, which launches today (30 April).

The device will work with the *Instax Mini Link for Nintendo Switch* app. Simply take a screenshot on your console, send it to your app via a QR code, and then print it out!

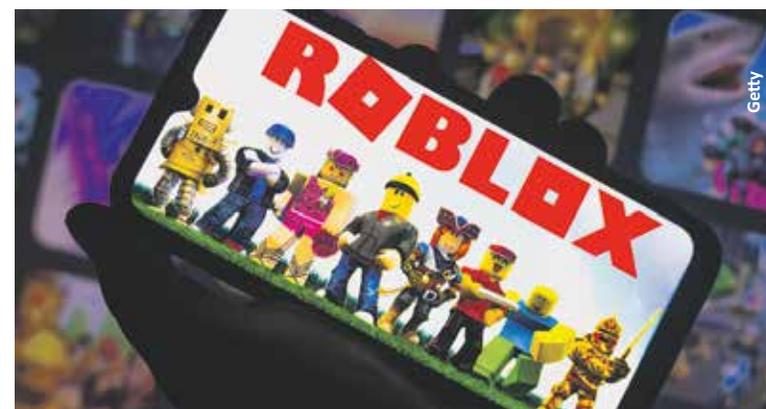
The printer will work with all Switch titles, which means you can print all those adorable *Animal Crossing* moments and hang them on your wall.

A cute Pikachu sleeve for the printer has been revealed, but a UK launch date has yet to be confirmed.



Nintendo/Fujifilm

# AGE RATINGS FOR ROBLOX



Getty

ROBLOX has announced plans to bring an age rating system to games on the online platform.

Online multiplayer platform Roblox is home to thousands of different games, all of them made by the community.

More than half of Roblox's daily users are under 13 years old, and the company wants to make sure that those players don't end up playing a game that's unsuitable.

The system will be looked after by humans, with the help of artificial intelligence.

The new system is part of a larger plan to help parents have more control over the platform.

## FIRST NEWS HOME iHUB

# FIRST NEWS HOME iHUB



PERFECT FOR YEAR 2 TO YEAR 8

Try our award-winning, interactive, educational support and news platform

HEAD TO [FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK/HOMEIHUB](https://www.firstnews.co.uk/homeihub) TO FIND OUT MORE

# WIN! MAGNETCUBES ROLLERCOASTER

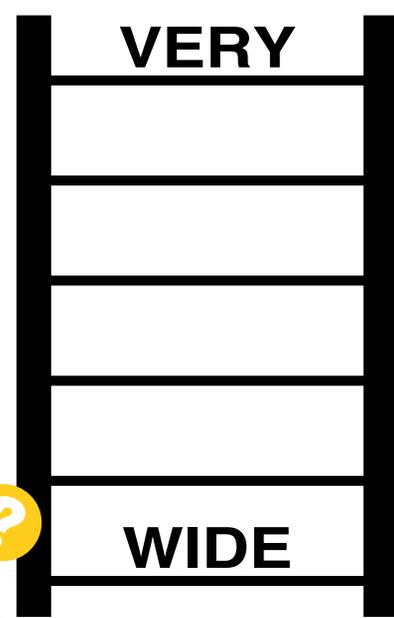
CAN you complete our sudoku puzzle, filling in the numbers one to nine?

Send in your answers and one lucky winner will win a DesignNest MagnetCubes Rollercoaster Marble Run. With no glue or connectors needed, MagnetCubes is ready to play right out of the box. Each cube is fully magnetic, so it can be easily attached to other cubes. Simply unpack and build! With 64 cubes and various action pieces, MagnetCubes gives you far more freedom to build a near infinite variety of miniature rollercoasters and structures instantly. [www.2tech.co.uk](http://www.2tech.co.uk)



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# 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.

# CROSSWORD

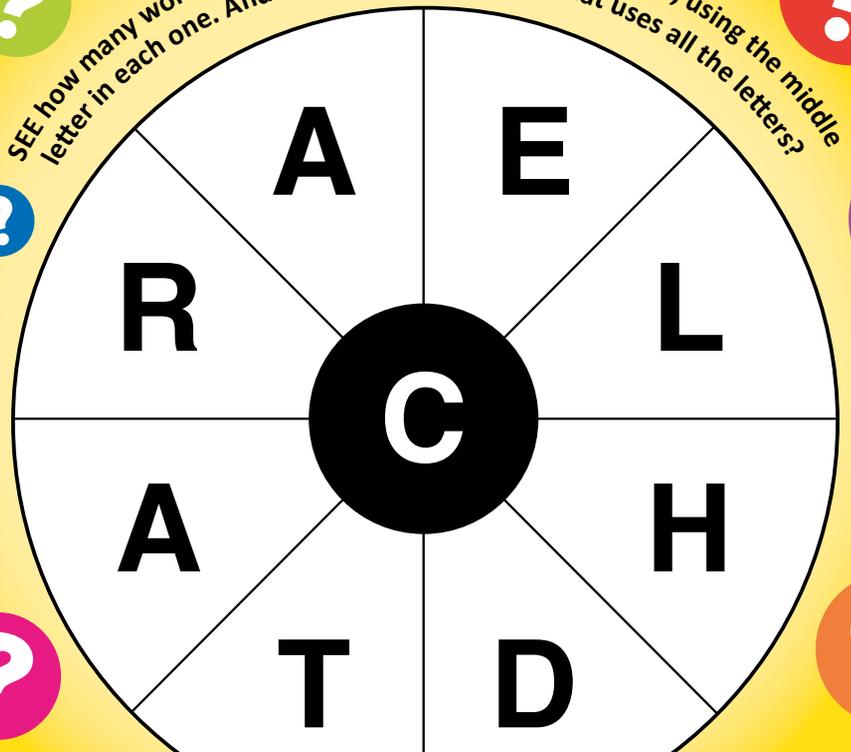
CAN you complete our crossword puzzle using the clues below?

1		2		3		4		5	
6				7					8
9			10		11				
12					13		14		
				15					
16	17						18		
			19						

- ACROSS**
- 1 Passageway (8)
  - 6 \_\_\_ Murray: British tennis star (4)
  - 7 Something built over a river to cross it (6)
  - 9 Group of fish (5)
  - 11 Opposite of below (5)
  - 12 Fertile spot in a desert (5)
  - 13 Move from side to side (5)
  - 16 Cope (6)
  - 18 Primary colour (4)
  - 19 Pig-headed (8)
- DOWN**
- 1 Place in a school where lessons are taught (9)
  - 2 Device you can use to listen to your favourite DJ (5)
  - 3 Money owed (4)
  - 4 An arch of colours in the sky (7)
  - 5 Food item you could eat scrambled or boiled (3)
  - 8 Type of tree that has foliage all year (9)
  - 10 Living creatures (7)
  - 14 Ice home (5)
  - 15 List of food items at a restaurant (4)
  - 17 How old you are (3)

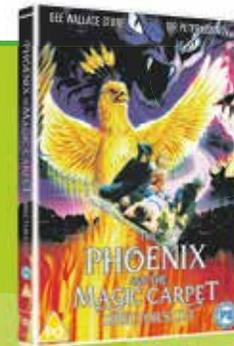
# WORD WHEEL

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?



# WIN! THE PHOENIX AND THE MAGIC CARPET DVDs

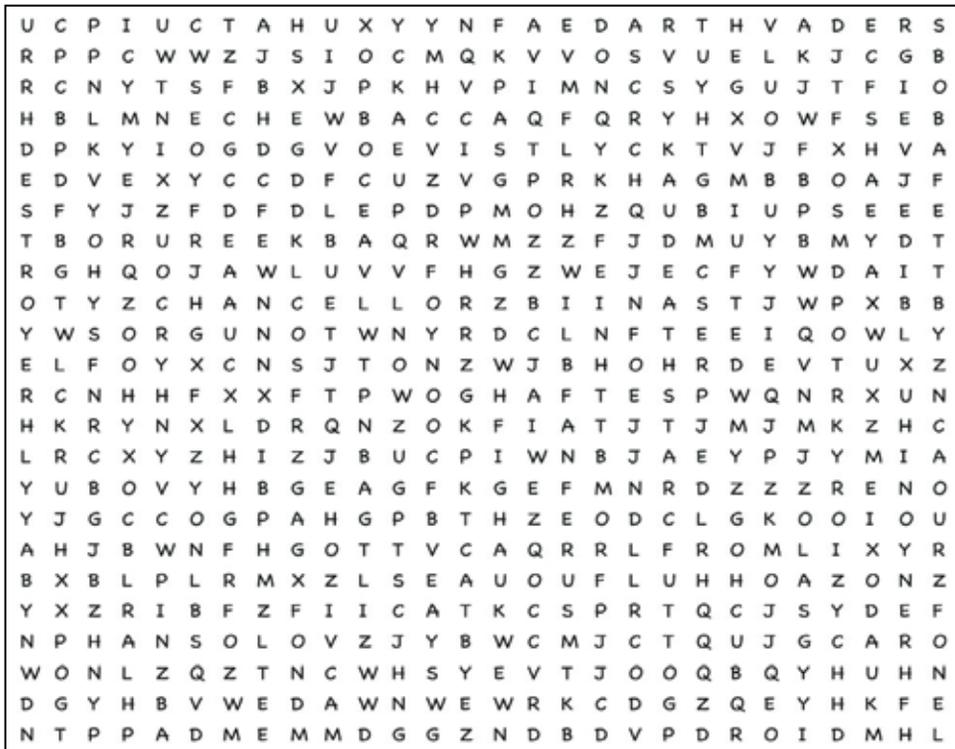
CAN you spot the five changes we've made to this picture from *The Phoenix and the Magic Carpet*? Send in your answers and four lucky winners will win a copy of *The Phoenix and the Magic Carpet Director's Cut* on DVD. Based on the classic children's book by E Nesbit, *The Phoenix and the Magic Carpet Director's Cut* is now available for the first time ever on DVD. Three children discover a golden egg among old junk in their grandfather's cottage in England. When the egg accidentally falls into the bonfire, a golden bird rises out of the flames and the Phoenix is reborn.



*The Phoenix and the Magic Carpet Director's Cut* is available on DVD from 3 May

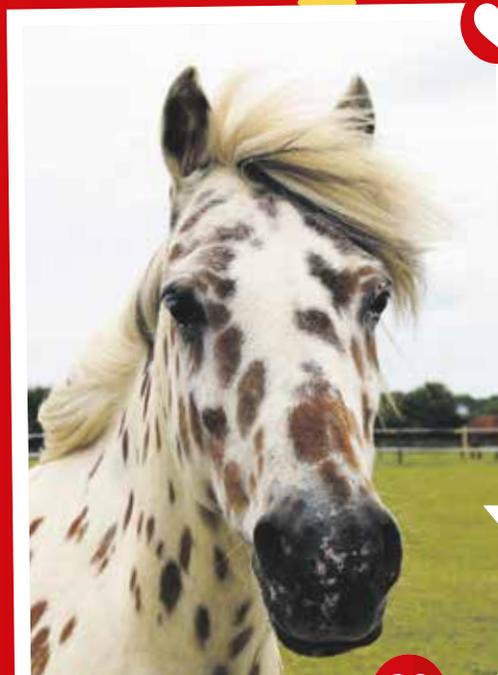
# WORDSEARCH

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



- Jedi
- Death Star
- Han Solo
- Chewbacca
- Darth Vader
- Droid
- Chancellor
- Destroyer
- Lightsaber
- Padme
- Wookiee
- Boba Fett

## Sponsor a Redwings rescued horse



Sponsor a rescued horse or donkey from as little as £15 a year and you'll receive an adoption pack including your new friend's story and a stunning photo, plus access to their online diary.

Do your little ones like horsing around? Trot over to our website and check out the Young Reds At Home Academy!

[www.redwings.org.uk/adopt](http://www.redwings.org.uk/adopt)  
01508 481000



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

**LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS:**

**Spot the difference:** T-shirt is pink, robot's face missing, glasses are green, man has extra hair, black neck on robot is missing. **Word ladder:** tidy, tide, wide, wire, wore, work. **What on Earth?:** raspberry, blueberry, blackberry, cranberry, strawberry, elderberry.

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

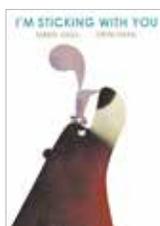
# AWARDS SHORTLIST

THIS year's British Book Awards 2021 will take place on 13 May, and First News is sponsoring the Children's Illustrated and Non-fiction Book of the Year award!



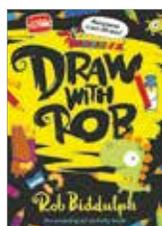
The British Book Awards – also known as the Nibbies (due to its pen nib logo) – is one of the biggest events for books, and will take place online this year.

The shortlist of books up for the prize is impressive, and we can't find to wait out who the winner will be. Which book are you rooting for?



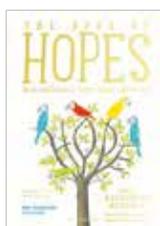
## I'M STICKING WITH YOU

Smriti Halls, illustrated by Steve Small (Simon & Schuster Children's Books)



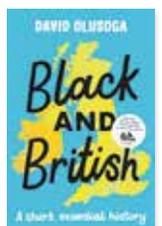
## DRAW WITH ROB

Rob Biddulph (HarperCollins Children's Books)



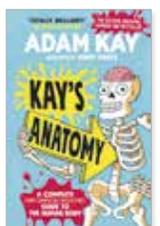
## THE BOOK OF HOPES

Katherine Rundell (Bloomsbury Children's Books)



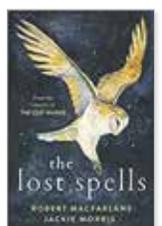
## BLACK AND BRITISH: A SHORT, ESSENTIAL HISTORY

David Olusoga (Macmillan Children's Books)



## KAY'S ANATOMY

Adam Kay, illustrated by Henry Paker (Puffin, Penguin Random House)



## THE LOST SPELLS

Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris (Hamish Hamilton, Penguin Random House)

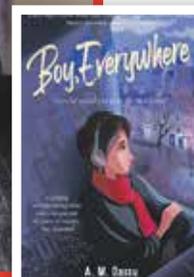
# National Literacy Trust's Virtual School Library



## HOW would you like to take a journey of survival?

Our Virtual School Library author of the week is AM Dassu.

Visit the Virtual School Library from the National Literacy Trust and the Oak National Academy to read *Boy, Everywhere* for free! AM Dassu recommends these books:



- *Pie in the Sky* by Remy Lai
- *The Boy Who Met A Whale* by Nizrana Farook
- *Otherland* by Louie Stowell

Step inside the library to watch an exclusive video with AM Dassu and read a Q&A!



FOR MORE TIPS AND ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE YOUR READING, WRITING, SPEAKING AND LISTENING AT HOME, VISIT [WORDSFORLIFE.ORG.UK](http://WORDSFORLIFE.ORG.UK)

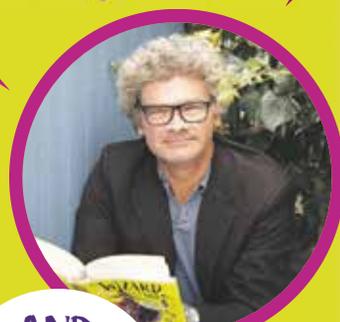
## HACHETTE Advertisement feature

# THE WIZARD IN MY SHED

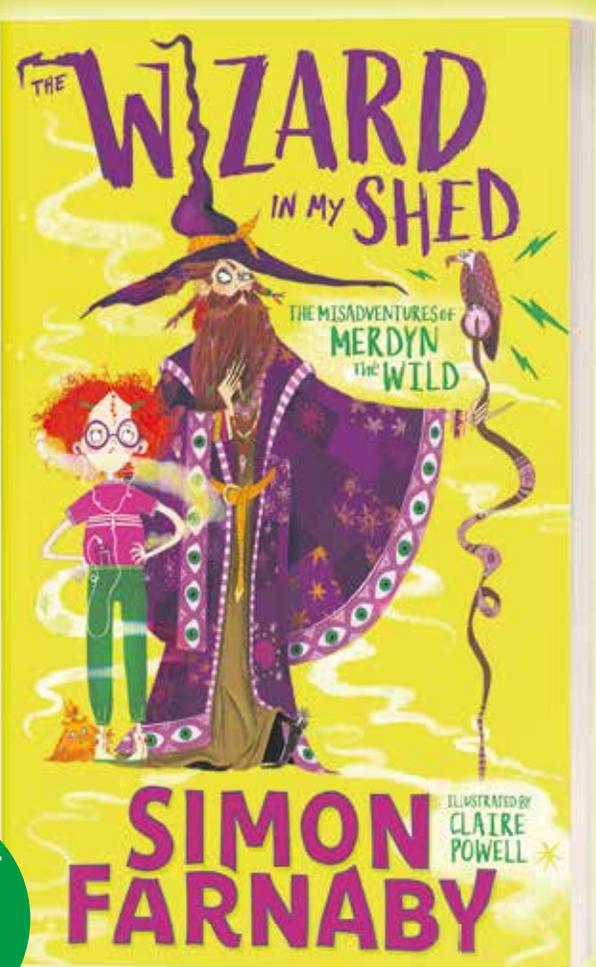
MEET...  
**MERDYN THE WILD!**  
The greatest warlock of all time, he's been banished to the 21st century from the Dark Ages!

**ROSE**  
The world's most ordinary girl

**BUBBLES**  
Rose's guinea pig. He just poos A LOT!



**AND SIMON FARNABY**  
(the author!)



**SIMON FARNABY**  
ILLUSTRATED BY CLAIRE POWELL



Join them for an EXTRAORDINARY ADVENTURE... it might just end in an EPIC WIZARD BATTLE – if you're lucky! The hilarious and heartfelt novel, with a historical twist, from Simon Farnaby, writer of *Paddington 2*.

# WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?

## LEGO VIDIYO SMYTHSTOYS.COM £11.99

Direct, produce and star in your very own music video with LEGO VIDIYO. You can have hours of fun setting the stage, picking your songs and choosing band members. Plus you'll get to design your album covers and bring minifigures to life for the first time. Includes free augmented reality app. Choose from Candy Mermaid, Hip-Hop Robot, Unicorn DJ, Party Llama, Punk Pirate and Alien DJ.



\*All prices correct at time of printing

## STUDIO CREATOR VIDEO MAKER ARGOS £25.00

Record your own professional-looking videos with the Studio Creator Kit. It contains everything you need, including a dimmable three colour mode light ring with adjustable phone holder, desktop tripod and a green screen to get creative backgrounds with all your favourite apps! There's also a handy guide, with lots of advice and tips on how to get the best out of your video.



## VIDEO MAKING



## STIKBOT ZANIMATION STUDIO PETS AMAZON.CO.UK £19.99

StikBots are unique, poseable figurines, which have suction-cup hands and feet. This makes StikBot perfect for making your own stop-frame animation movies using the StikBot Studio app, which is free to download. This pack includes a red StikBot and a yellow bulldog exclusive to this set. There's also a tripod, a stage and two prop boxes.

First News team details available at [www.firstnews.co.uk/team](http://www.firstnews.co.uk/team). For editorial enquiries, contact [newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk) or (020) 3195 2000. For home subscription enquiries, email [subscriptions@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:subscriptions@firstnews.co.uk) or call 0330 333 0186. For school subscription enquiries, email [FirstNews@escosubs.co.uk](mailto:FirstNews@escosubs.co.uk) or call (01371) 851 898. Web: [www.firstnews.co.uk](http://www.firstnews.co.uk). All material in this newspaper is © 2021 First Group Enterprises Ltd and cannot be used without written permission. First News is published by First Group Enterprises Ltd, 58 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 0AS. Printed by Reach Printing Services, St Albans Rd, Watford WD24 7RG. Distributed by Marketforce (UK) Ltd, 3rd floor, 161 Marsh Wall, London, E14 9AP. Tel: 0330 390 6555.

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

## WIN! A BABY ANNABELL AND BABY BORN

ONE FOR YOU AND YOUR YOUNGER SIBLINGS

BABY Annabell and BABY born are going green! The UK's favourite doll brands are doing their bit for the future of the planet by making all of their packaging plastic-free.



Single-use plastic is a big no-no, so from now on, Baby Annabell and BABY born boxes will be made purely from paper materials – a change that's better for the environment and more fun to open too! By 2022 their aim is to have all products in plastic-free packaging – helping to reduce the tonnes of single-use plastic filling up landfills and oceans. Keep an eye out for the sunflower that shows the packaging is totally plastic-free and safe for our planet!



One lucky winner will win both a Baby Annabell Leah doll and BABY born Magic Girl doll, plus accessories. To be in with a chance, just answer this question:

What year will BABY born and Baby Annabell have completely plastic-free packaging?  
a) 2022 b) 2025 c) 2030



## ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY DOLL

[firstnews.co.uk/competitions](http://firstnews.co.uk/competitions) or see page 21. The closing date is 13 May 2021.

TELL YOUR FRIENDS

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Follow-on price:  
13 issues for £22.99

# HIDDEN TREASURE DISCOVERED IN FAMILY'S ATTIC!



The discovery was caught on camera!



## IN FAMILY'S ATTIC!



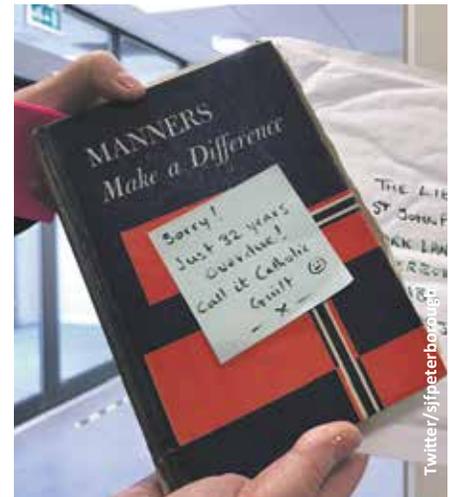
**A TREASURE hunter has helped a family in Massachusetts, USA, to discover thousands of dollars under their floorboards.**

Keith Wille was hired by the family to find a money box that their grandfather was rumoured to have hidden somewhere in the house. The family had been looking for the treasure for years, but never had any luck. They didn't even know if the story was true!

Expert Keith used a metal detector to search for the mystery money and ended up in a corner of the attic. On closer inspection, he came across a box under the floorboards with numbers and letters on it. After removing the box and cracking the lock open, to his shock he uncovered huge bundles of banknotes! It's believed the money had been stashed away in its hiding place for 63 years. The dollar bills added up to \$46,000 (£33,155). In 1958, that would have been worth more like \$421,603 (£303,880)!

Keith filmed his amazing treasure hunt and put the video on YouTube. He said: "This was the most incredible treasure I've ever seen!"

# SUPER LATE LIBRARY BOOK



**A SCHOOL library book about manners has been returned after 32 years.**

The book, called *Manners Make A Difference*, was first borrowed in 1989! It was sent back to St John Fisher Catholic High School in Peterborough this April.

Luckily the school saw the funny side and said the mystery ex-pupil won't have to pay a fine. It tweeted: "We've done a quick calculation... it would be approximately £832. All is forgiven though."

The book is outdated now, so won't go back on loan. Instead the school is going to put it on display.

# ILLEGAL ICE CREAM?!



**BAD ice cream could be made illegal in Italy.**

Italy is looking at introducing a new law to ban poor-quality ice cream. The law would mean producers have to stick to strict rules, such as how much air is added to the mixture and making sure no artificial flavouring is used.

Did you know extra air is added to some types of ice cream to make it fluffier?

Anyone found guilty of breaking the rules could have to pay a hefty fine of up to €10,000 (£8,660).

Italy is very famous for its gelato (ice cream) and some people want to see it protected.



# TEDDY TREK

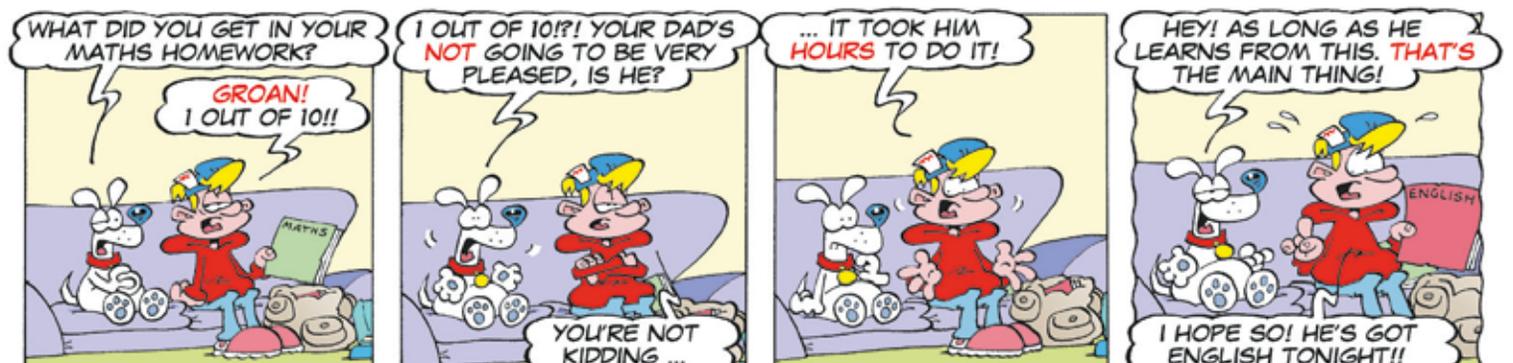
**A MAN dressed as a giant teddy bear has trekked 400 miles (644km) across America, from Los Angeles to San Francisco.**

Jessy Larios has captured the heart of America with his epic walk. His creation is affectionately known as Bearsun. Jessy's aim was to raise \$10,000 (£7,228) for charity, but he's got well over \$16,000 (£11,500).

Fans have been following the bear's cute travels on social media.



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer



# WIN! A PADI® eLEARNING COURSE

IF you've ever wanted to find out more about the ocean and the wonderful marine life that exists below the surface, then you'll want to dive into this awesome competition!

Learning to scuba dive requires you to have knowledge and practical dive skills. PADI®, the world's largest ocean exploration and diver organisation, is offering three lucky readers the chance to win an eLearning course so you can get started on the knowledge development portion of your diving adventures and work at your own pace from home.

This easy-to-use, interactive study option means you can learn anytime and anywhere. You'll have a year to complete the online portion and when you've finished, if you're aged ten or over you can contact a PADI Dive Centre to complete your in-water training.

Holidays will never be the same again when you experience the incredible underwater world. Swim with turtles and manta rays, discover beautiful corals and sea urchins, and if you're really lucky you may even spot sharks and dolphins! To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

Which of these animals is a reptile?  
a) Ant b) Turtle c) Mongoose

For more information about PADI eLearning, visit [www.padi.com/padi-elearning](http://www.padi.com/padi-elearning)



**ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY PADI**

[firstnews.co.uk/competitions](http://firstnews.co.uk/competitions) or see page 21. The closing date is 13 May 2021.

# WIN! A BUNDLE OF BOOKS FROM WHAT ON EARTH BOOKS

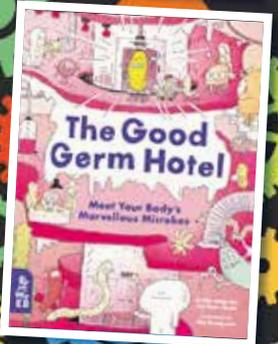
TAKE a tour around the globe in *Amazing Treasures* and discover sunken wrecks loaded with pirate gold, the abandoned tombs of the world's most powerful rulers and even meteorites – treasures from outer space!

Reveal the inner workings of incredible machines in *Marvellous Machines* by using the 'magic lens' that's included with the book to explore the hidden mechanisms of everything from toasters to pill-sized medical robots.

Then meet the marvellous microbes in your body in *The Good Germ Hotel*. Our bodies are absolutely full of bacteria and germs... but that's not always such a bad thing!

Eight lucky winners will each win a What on Earth bundle. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

What is the famous pirate flag called?  
a) Jolly Ray b) Jolly Roger c) Jolly Reggie



The real world is more amazing than anything you can make up! Find out more at [whatonearthbooks.com](http://whatonearthbooks.com)

**ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY EARTH**

[firstnews.co.uk/competitions](http://firstnews.co.uk/competitions) or see page 21. The closing date is 13 May 2021.

Venture into a world of magic, myth and endless adventure!

Praise for the series:

**'Enchanting'**

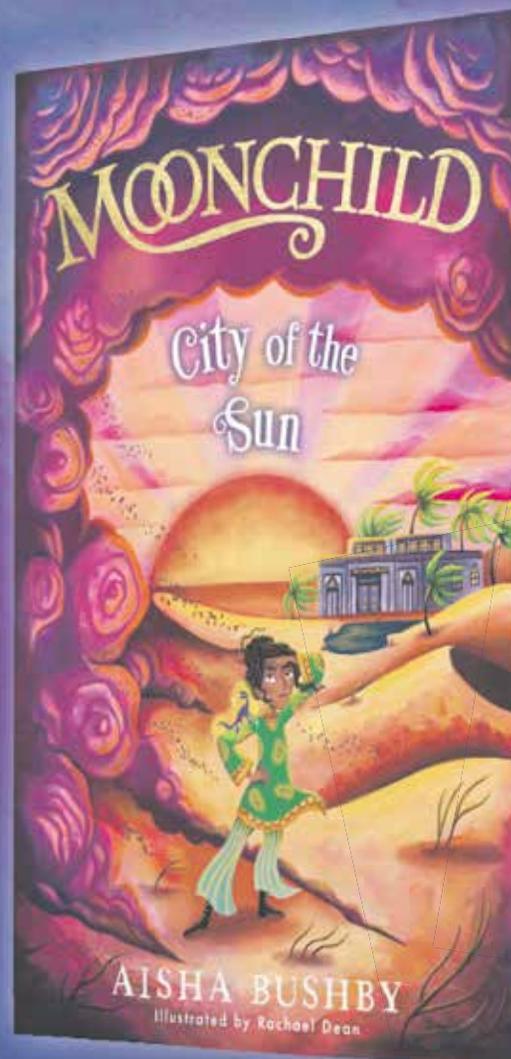
*The Week Junior*

**'Irresistible'**

*Books for Keeps*

**'Magical'**

*Get Kids into Books*



**OUT NOW!**

**Farshore**

Illustrations copyright © 2021 Rachael Dean

# WALKING CHALLENGE

by pupils from Avon House Preparatory School

**WE did not let lockdown stop us from marching ahead with our termly fundraiser. We decided to take on the epic challenge of travelling the 874-mile journey from Land's End to John o' Groats.**

A classic challenge travelling from the furthest possible distance from one side of the UK to the other. Due to current restrictions this was done virtually, of course!

The fundraiser was started by Scarlett from Year 6 and took place over the half-term.

We had to send over our daily distance walked, which was then updated onto our very own Google map.

As a school we take part in

several fundraisers throughout the year, supporting local and national charities. This term we decided to take ourselves onto an adventure during lockdown to raise money for the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA).

In total, pupils, parents and staff covered more than 1,000 virtual miles, passing through some of the most stunning and remote countryside in the British Isles.

So far we have raised over £2,929 and it keeps going up!



A virtual trip to Land's End

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



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

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

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

# MALARIA CHAMPIONS

by Sara, Rushma, Sanjiv and Abdullah, Shireland Collegiate Academy

**LAST week we took part in a special debating competition with 130 schools from around the country for World Malaria Day.**

The competition was run by Comic Relief, GSK and Debate Mate, for young people to learn more about the disease and the impact it has, and inspire us to do our bit to take action.

Debating in this prestigious competition allowed us to learn about malaria, spread awareness and educate others, as well as widen our knowledge on the destructive effects of this silent assassin.

Hearing first-hand examples of heart-breaking stories about people directly affected by malaria, and who continue to be impacted by malaria, was inspiring. It made us all want to help the vulnerable. During the debating contest, we opposed the motion 'This house believes that education is the best way to cure malaria'.

Learning the harrowing statistic that every two minutes a child dies of malaria, and knowing that it can easily be prevented and treated, led us to question the integrity of those in power, wondering if they really are doing enough? If we as children have to take the responsibility of eradicating this disease, we must do what previous generations could not, be empathetic and recognise that malaria is a global issue and affects us all.

Winning the competition gave us a sense of gratification and achievement. Fighting for such a worthy cause made the victory even sweeter. Using our voices in the absence of those who cannot has made it all hit closer to home. We were all ecstatic with our win and felt fortunate to have contributed to the vital discussion about ending malaria.



The debating team



# SNAPPED!



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



Here's Magdalena enjoying her weekly copy of First News



Robbie made this Easter bark cake using Junior Bake Off champion Reece's recipe, which featured in First News. Robbie said: "This is chocolate heaven! I enjoyed baking this."

**SUBSCRIBE FOR SCHOOL – FIND OUT MORE AT [SCHOOLS.FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK](http://SCHOOLS.FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK)**

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

# SPORT PIC OF THE WEEK



Manchester City players celebrate with the League Cup trophy after beating Tottenham Hotspur 1-0 in the final. French defender Aymeric Laporte scored the only goal of the game. It was the fourth time in a row City have won the cup, and some 8,000 spectators were at Wembley to watch their triumph

Getty

## ACTIVE SCHOOL HERO

WE ARE LOOKING FOR THE  
NEXT ACTIVE SCHOOL HERO

Do you know someone working at a primary school in England that goes the extra mile to get kids moving?

Nominate them today for free at  
[www.activeschoolhero.com/nominate](http://www.activeschoolhero.com/nominate)

Nominations close on 11th June 2021

# GADIROVA IS GLAD ALL OVER!



Getty

Teenager Jessica Gadirova has made a huge impact

**SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD Brit Jessica Gadirova has won gold, silver and bronze at the European Gymnastics Championships in Basel, Switzerland.**

The teenager took gold in the floor event after previously scooping a silver in the vault and all-around bronze.

She won top prize on the floor with a score of 13.966, ahead of Russia's Angelina Melnikova and Italy's Vanessa Ferrari. The Italian, aged 30, won her first senior European medal in 2006, 18 months after Gadirova was born!

Gadirova said: "To be on the top of the podium was just overwhelming. Just to even get selected for the European Championships, I was so happy and I was so proud to be here. Then to make the

finals and win the medals, I can't believe it. As this week has gone along I've got more and more comfortable and confident."

Fellow Brits Joe Fraser, Amelie Morgan and Giarnni Regini-Moran all won bronze medals on the pommel, uneven bars and vault respectively.

Russia finished at the top of the overall medal table with 13, including five golds, ahead of Britain in second place, with a total of six medals. Russia's Nikita Nagornyy won all-around and floor gold, plus silver on pommel horse and rings, to help Russia come top of the men's table.



Getty



Getty

Nikita Nagornyy in action on the pommel horse

12

Barcelona Open titles have been won by tennis ace Rafael Nadal. The Spaniard made it a dozen

triumphs last week with a 6-4, 6-7, 7-5 victory in the final against Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas. It's Nadal's 61st clay court title. Meanwhile, Australia's Ashleigh Barty won both the singles and doubles at the Stuttgart Open.



Getty

2-1

was the final score as Bayern Munich beat Chelsea in the first leg of the Women's Champions League

semi-final. Sydney Lohmann's header opened the scoring for Bayern, after Blues keeper Ann-Katrin Berger missed a cross. Melanie Leupolz equalised before Hanna Glas (below right) struck the winner.



Getty

37

runs were scored by Ravindra Jadeja in a single over, equalling the Indian Premier League (IPL) record.

The Chennai Super Kings batsman (pictured here playing for India) helped his side beat Royal Challengers Bangalore to go top of the IPL. Several players have ended their seasons early due to the COVID-19 situation in India.



Getty

# THREE IN A ROW



Getty

ENGLAND

England celebrate yet another Six Nations win

**RUGBY union's Women's Six Nations Championship has been won by England for the third time in a row.**

The Red Roses beat France 10-6 in a close final at Twickenham Stoop. England's Poppy Cleall scored the only try of the match, with Emily Scarratt's conversion and penalty providing the rest of the points, but captain Scarratt missed two penalties in the first half. France's penalty taker Caroline Drouin scored twice for her side's only points of the match. Earlier in the day, Ireland beat Italy 25-5 in Dublin to finish

third in the competition, while Scotland defeated Wales 27-20 in Glasgow to finish fifth.

This is the first time the competition has had a final, after changes were brought in due to COVID-19. Instead of the usual round-robin format, there were two pools of three teams.

The winners of each pool, England and France, qualified for the final. Fans were not allowed to attend any matches.

