

NEWS TO GET YOUNG PEOPLE TALKING

National Literacy Trust

Working with

First News

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BREXIT



EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BRITAIN LEAVING THE EU
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REAL-LIFE HOGWARTS!

Collins

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1 COMMONWEALTH GAMES

The 2022 Commonwealth Games will no longer be held in Durban, South Africa, after the city failed to meet deadlines. The city would have been the first African host of the event. Liverpool in the UK has expressed an interest in taking them over.



2 GOODBYE CHAMP

Former F1 and motorcycling world champion John Surtees has died at the age of 83. He is the only man to have ever won the world championship on both two wheels and four.



3 YOUNG SONGWRITER

Young songwriters aged 8-18 have just two weeks to enter their songs into the Young Songwriter 2017 competition. The closing date is 2 April. Star judges include Tom Odell, Rumer and Conor Maynard. You can find out more at www.songacademy.co.uk/says17.

4 HUMAN HOOVERS

Four in five British people admit to eating food that's fallen on the floor. A fifth said they adopt the 'five-second rule' – where food is fine to eat as long as it hasn't been on the floor for more than five seconds. Scientists from the Big Bang Fair in the UK have revealed this rule is actually safe in most cases!

5 WEATHER WARNING

A huge winter storm hit New York and New Jersey in the US this week, causing schools to close and thousands of flights to be cancelled. Blizzard warnings were issued for much of the northeast of America.

6 VEGAN FOOD

It is now illegal not to offer vegan food in prisons, hospitals and schools in Portugal. Vegan food is free from animal products.

7 FOOTIE QUAKE

Barcelona footie fans managed to create a minor earthquake at the Nou Camp, when Sergi Roberto scored a goal against Paris Saint-Germain (see p28). It's unlikely anyone would have felt the tremors from the celebrations, but they were strong enough to be recorded on the Richter scale, which is used to measure earthquakes.



20

THINGS TO KNOW AND TELL

QUICK NEWS TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS...

8 BIGGEST THREAT

Air pollution is currently more of a threat to plants than climate change. A new report found that the high levels of nitrogen in the air (produced from things like burning fossil fuels) was having a serious impact on some of the planet's rarest plants.

QUOTE

Devon said about T levels:

"I think T levels would be a good, modern new touch to the exams."

9 KINDNESS DAY

The Diana Award is partnering with the stage show Kinky Boots for National Kindness Day, which takes place on 31 March. The partnership aims to remember Princess Diana (Princes William and Harry's mum) and her values of kindness, ahead of the 20th anniversary of her death.

10 FIRST VOYAGE

A yellow submarine called Boaty McBoatface is set for its first voyage to Antarctica this week. The submarine's name was originally chosen by the public for a £200m polar research vessel. The UK Government decided it wasn't appropriate for the vessel, but it was perfect for the sub!

11 AZURE WINDOW

Malta's famous Azure Window landmark has collapsed into the sea. The limestone structure on Gozo island has appeared in several films and TV shows.



12 ETHIOPIA LANDSLIDE

At least 65 people have been killed, after a landslide at a rubbish dump near Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Makeshift homes and buildings were buried.

13 ON DISPLAY

Pupils from 15 schools and art groups in the UK and Africa have been selected to exhibit their art and poetry at the Natural History Museum in London on 23 March. The theme for the work is Our Precious Planet.

14 WRECK-IT RALPH

Wreck-It Ralph 2 is coming! Disney has announced the sequel will hit cinemas in 2018, though its official name has not yet been released.

15 WW2 BOOK

Last year, First News teamed up with Walker Books to release a book called *Voices From The Second World War* – and now it could be up for an award in the School Library Association (SLA) Information Book Awards! We're keeping everything crossed so that we make it onto the shortlist! The book, featuring incredible personal stories and photos from World War Two, is available to buy on Amazon.



16 ON THE LOOSE

A cheetah went on the run after escaping from its cage at Kent's Port Lympne Reserve last weekend. Visitors were taken to 'safe areas' while the cheetah was returned to his home. The zoo said no-one was in danger.

17 BOYS' BALLET

The Royal Academy of Dance will be hosting three boys' ballet masterclasses in London, Edinburgh and Birmingham from 2 April. To find out more, visit www.rad.org.uk.

18 WHITE HOUSE INTRUDER

A man who breached security at the White House was arrested last weekend. The intruder, named as Jonathan Tran, was found in the grounds. President Donald Trump was inside the house at the time.



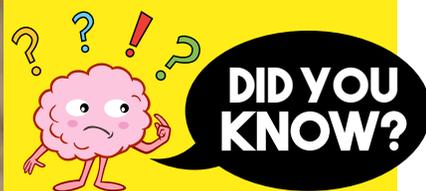
19 CARDIFF FESTIVAL

The Cardiff Children's Festival begins on 25 March. There are over 50 events for children, presented by top authors and illustrators. You may even spy some copies of First News! Find out more at www.cardiff-events.com/events.

20 POLL RESULTS

A whopping 74% of you think T levels will be a good change to school exams, according to last week's poll results.

ARE ZOOS SAFE?



RHINO horns are worth a lot of money on the black (illegal) market, which is why they're so in demand by poachers. A kilo of rhino horn can be worth as much as £49,300.

SECURITY at zoos and wildlife parks in the UK is being stepped up, after a rhino was shot and killed by poachers at a zoo in France.

Police will visit every zoo in the UK that is home to rhinos, after the death of Vince last week (see p12). The boss of the UK's National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU) says that the attack in France is a wake-up call and that security should be improved in order to protect the 111 rhinos living in captivity in the UK.

Several large zoos around the UK responded with sadness to the death of Vince, but offered reassurance that their rhinos are safe.

A spokesperson for ZSL said: "Our security teams at ZSL London Zoo and ZSL Whipsnade Zoo are aware of this tragic incident and will be increasing their on-site patrols."

Dr Mark Pilgrim, the Chief Executive of Chester Zoo, said: "We have comprehensive CCTV across the zoo, including focus on our rhino habitats, monitored 24 hours a day by an expert on-site security team."

Rhinos in the wild are often a target for poachers, who target them for their horns.

Editor's comment



Nicky Cox MBE

SO, Brexit is finally happening.

Well, at least the start of it! It was last June when the people of Britain voted to leave the European Union. But, it is only this month that the process properly will begin.

There was a lot of talking about it in the House of Commons and House of Lords on Monday night. Now Prime Minister Theresa May can get started. Confused by it all? See our Brexit 20 questions and answers on pages 8 and 9.

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A MATE FOR KATE

THE Duchess of Cambridge is looking for a new personal assistant!

Kate's long-time private secretary Rebecca Deacon is leaving her role this summer, after working for the royal family for ten years. As a private secretary, Ms Deacon organises the duchess' diary, attends official functions with her around the world and makes sure the duchess is fully clued-up on the people she meets. It sounds like a very busy job!

No official job role has been posted on the Royal Household jobs page, but we're definitely keeping an eye out!



A HELPING HAND

A SCHOOLBOY who collapsed with a stitch during a cross-country race in Grimsby was carried over the finish line by his friend in a "Brownlee brothers moment".

Riley Watson was just 18m (60ft) from the finish line when he collapsed. His classmate Julian Otu saw that his friend was in trouble and carried him across the finish line.

Julian said: "I'd rather not have won and helped my friend than leave him there."

Alistair Brownlee did the same thing for his brother Jonny at the Triathlon World Series in Mexico, helping him over the finish line instead of winning the race for himself.

Julian carries Riley over the finish line

SWNS.com

GOOD WEEK FOR ED SHEERAN

MR Sheeran takes our Good Week spot for the second week in a row. This week he had nine songs in the UK top ten, after downloads of his new album sent almost all of its tracks to the top of the chart.



Getty

BAD WEEK FOR ROBERT E KELLY

THE South Korea expert became an internet sensation when his children gatecrashed a live broadcast for BBC World News. His wife is seen frantically dragging them out. We thought it was hilarious, but we're not sure Robert felt the same!



Getty



LIGHTS OUT!

COULD you spend an hour without power to show that you care about our planet? If so, then you still have time to sign up for WWF's Earth Hour.

On Saturday 25 March, people around the world will be switching off the lights at 8.30pm to be part of a global movement that shows you want more to be done to support the fight against climate change.

Last year, 178 countries took part, with famous landmarks like the Eiffel Tower, Sydney Opera House and Edinburgh Castle going dark to celebrate Earth Hour. This year, even more

countries look set to join in.

With nearly one in six species under threat of extinction from climate change, and the hottest year on record for the third year in a row, it's more important now than ever to show your support.

You can sign up online at wwf.org.uk, where you can find a whole list of things you can do with your friends and family to celebrate Earth Hour. Tell us how you spent it at newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk.



SYRIA'S YOUNGEST SUFFERING FROM "TOXIC STRESS"

SAVE The Children has been highlighting a mental health crisis affecting children growing up in Syria.

The charity interviewed more than 450 children, teenagers and adults living in Syria, for a new report, and discovered that too many children were living in constant fear.

The war in Syria has been going on for six years and it seems that many children have paid the price for the unrest in the country.

The new report says that half of children say they never, or rarely, feel safe at school and four out of ten say they don't feel safe playing outside – even right outside their homes. The report also revealed that many children are constantly worrying about shelling and airstrikes as they are living in a war zone.

As a result, many children are now suffering from what experts are describing as "toxic stress", which can have a lifelong impact on children's mental and physical health.

Save The Children says that, if the war does not end soon and these children don't receive the psychological support they need, it will be much harder to repair the damage when they become adults.



A Syrian mother carrying her son

WORLD'S BEST TEACHER

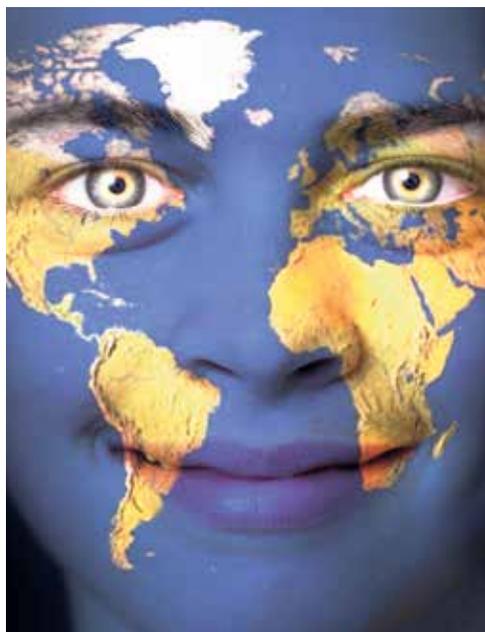
IS your teacher worth \$1 million (£820,000)?

Well, that will be the prize for the winner of the Global Teacher Prize when it is announced this Sunday (19 March) in Dubai.

Now in its third year, the \$1 million award is the largest prize of its kind, and was set up by the Varkey Foundation to recognise one exceptional teacher. It also shines a spotlight on the important role that all teachers play in our lives, bringing to life their amazing work across the world.

Ten finalists have been narrowed down from 20,000 nominations and applications from 179 countries around the world. These top ten teachers are Tracy-Ann Hall (Jamaica), David Calle (Spain), Marie-Christine Ghanbari Jahromi (Germany), Wemerson da Silva (Brazil), Maggie MacDonnell, (Canada) Michael Wamaya (Kenya), Yang Boya (China), Salima Begum (Pakistan), Raymond Chambers (UK) and Ken Silburn (Australia).

You can watch all of their stories on *First News Live!* at live.firstnews.co.uk, and find out who took home the prize in next week's issue.



THIS WEEK

2016 was the worst year for the children of Syria so far, says the charity UNICEF. At least 652 children

were killed last year – a 20% increase from 2015. Shockingly, 255 of these deaths took place in, or near, a school. Right now, after six years of chaos, nearly six million children inside Syria desperately need help.





Getty

NEW YORK, USA: The Josephine Shaw Lowell Memorial Fountain is covered in ice as the temperature continues to drop. The northeastern United States is braced for what meteorologists predict could be the worst winter storm of the season, with knee-high snow feared to hit New York.



Getty

LONDON, UK: The Queen meets Louise Martin (President of the Commonwealth Games Federation) and Anna Meares (the Australian cycling star) at the launch of the Queen's baton relay for the 21st Commonwealth Games, which will be held on Australia's Gold Coast in 2018.



Getty

MIYAGI, JAPAN: Visitors look at paper lanterns as part of a memorial service for victims of the 2011 earthquake. It was the sixth anniversary of the magnitude 9.0 quake and the tsunami it created, which left about 18,500 people dead or missing.



Getty

HERTFORDSHIRE, ENGLAND: Evanna Lynch (Luna Lovegood), Jason Isaacs (Lucius Malfoy), James Phelps (Fred Weasley) and Oliver Phelps (George Weasley) take a look around the Forbidden Forest, a new permanent attraction, opening 31 March at Warner Bros. Studio Tour London – The Making of Harry Potter.



Getty

CHENNAI, INDIA: Revellers play with colours during Holi celebrations. The Hindu festival of Holi, or the Festival of Colours, heralds the arrival of spring and the end of winter.



Getty

CHICAGO, USA: A water taxi navigates the Chicago River shortly after it was dyed green in celebration of St Patrick's Day. Dyeing the river has been a St Patrick's Day tradition in the city since 1962. Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated around the world on 17 March.

FIRST NEWS AND BLIPPAR

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FirstNews TODAY

Our daily TV bulletin, *First News Today*, from our team at Sky News will tell you all you need to know each day in just 60 seconds! Come back every weekday afternoon at 3pm for a new bulletin! Just head to live.firstnews.co.uk.

UK

WE Day UK

Celebrities and world-famous speakers, including the actress Kate Winslet and pop stars The Vamps, will be joining 12,000 students at the SSE Arena, Wembley, to celebrate young people changing the world, at the WE Day UK event on 22 March. The event is being run by WE, an organisation that gives young people the tools and inspiration to make positive changes to their communities.



ROCHDALE

Swearing ban

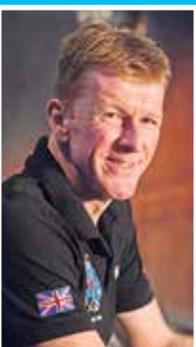
A ban introduced in Rochdale, which means people can't swear, skateboard or beg in the town centre, has been called a "misuse of power" by human rights group Liberty. Kettering and Salford also have similar Public Spaces Protection Orders that include banning swearing.

FORKHILL

Peace forest

One thousand trees are being planted at a former south Armagh army base, as a memorial to those killed in the conflict that took place in Northern Ireland during the late 20th century. The ex-barracks is now being developed as a community garden.

NEWS IN NUMBERS



250,000 pounds is how much astronaut Tim Peake's book about his space adventure has raised for charity. Tim donated all the proceeds from *Hello, Is This Planet Earth?* to The Prince's Trust.

DUMFRIES Toad-ally successful

Rare natterjack toads are thriving at RSPB Scotland's nature reserve at Mersehead in Dumfries and Galloway. It is the only place where natterjacks can be found in Scotland. The number of the rare amphibians has increased by a massive 400% over the time of a three-year project launched to help save them.



MIDDLESBROUGH Smiles not mobiles

Who picks you up from school, and are they always on the phone when they collect you? Well, St Joseph's RC Primary School in Longlands has put up signs encouraging parents, grandparents and guardians to put away their mobile phones and smile at their children when collecting them at the end of the school day. The school said it wants to get families talking at the end of the day.

CHESTER Monkey magic

An extremely rare monkey has been born at Chester Zoo. The new baby Sulawesi crested macaque has been named Amidala by keepers. Sulawesi crested macaques are critically endangered, with an estimated 5,000 remaining in the wild.



LONDON Dragon egg hunt

You can go on an Easter egg hunt with a difference this year – looking for dragon eggs at Shrek's Adventure! London. From 1-23 April, visitors to the attraction can take part in a search for rare dragon eggs during their tour of Far Far Away.



UK No more music class?

Music, as a subject at secondary schools, could "face extinction" because pupils are pressured to focus on subjects included in the EBacc school league table measure instead. That's the warning from researchers at Sussex University. EBacc is a schools performance measure which shows how many pupils get a grade C or above in core academic subjects like maths and English.

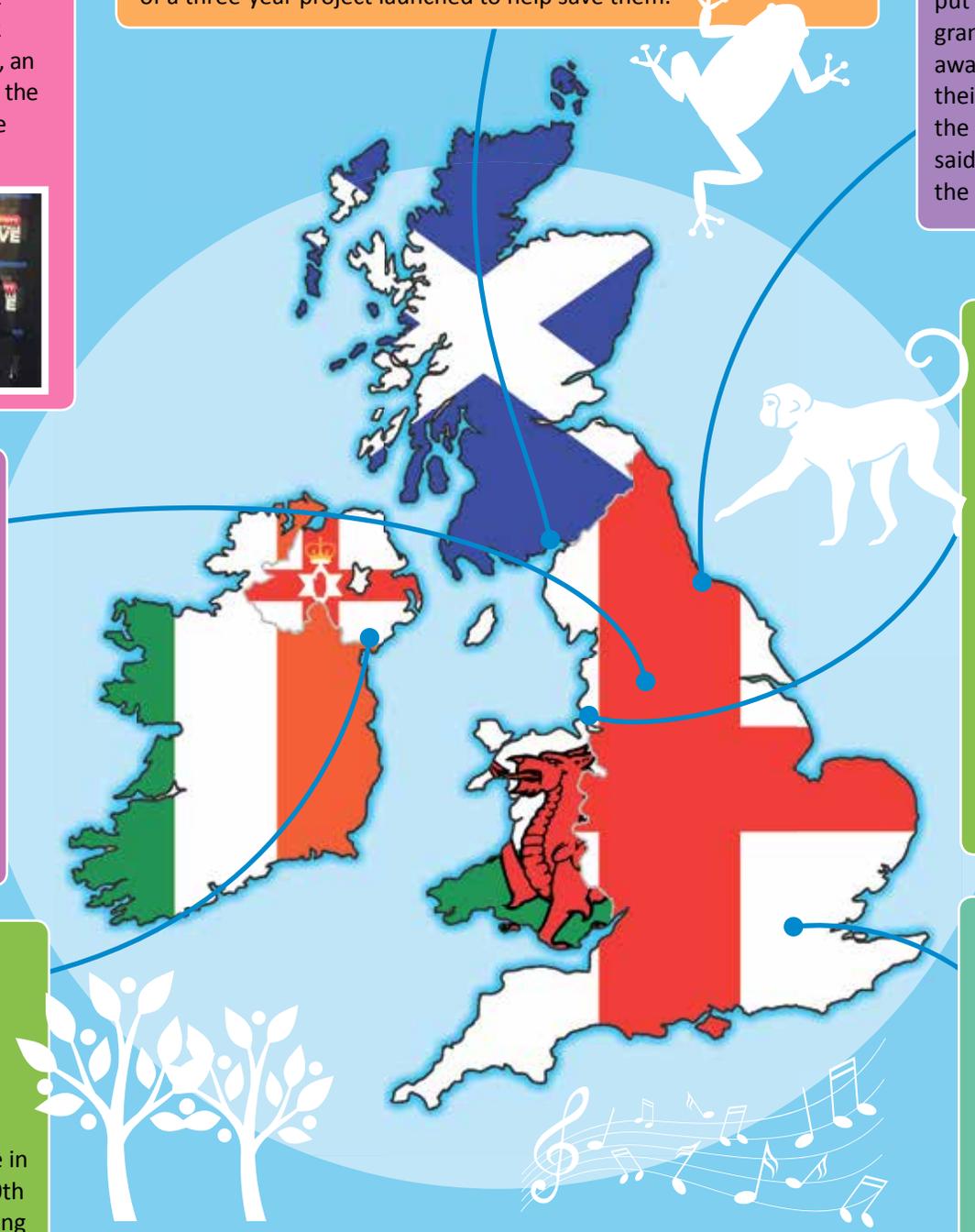


1 pound is how much it cost for a book that secretly contained a letter by famous children's author Enid Blyton. Jacqueline Ralph found the old note, congratulating a competition winner called Mary, tucked inside a book she bought in Hay-on-Wye.

50 swans had to be rescued from the River Kennet in Reading after an oil spill. The spillage affected about 5.5km (3.5 miles) of the river. The source is thought to have come from the industrial areas in south Reading.

5 hours is how long a flight from Gatwick to Barbados was delayed by because there wasn't enough toilet roll! The British Airways flight also didn't have enough headphones. Passengers had to wait for the plane to be restocked before takeoff.

0.92m (3ft) by 1.53m (6ft 7in) is the size of the world's smallest mobile disco. Club 28 in Rotherham has a sound system, two turntables, a dance floor and disco lights.



RED NOSE DAY

RED
NOSE DAY
FRIDAY 24
MARCH

THIS year's Red Noses posed for a photo... handsome bunch, aren't they? You can find all the Red Noses, including the ultra-rare Frankinose, in surprise bags from Sainsbury's, Oxfam and rednoseday.com.



THE UK will be seeing red this time next week (Friday 24 March)... noses, of course, because Red Nose Day is upon us once again. Here's everything you need to nose (the puns won't get any better. Sorry, guys).

So for those of you that don't know about Red Nose Day, it's a fundraising day that takes place every two years. It's all about your power to make the world a better place, simply by having a great time and goofing around with a big red nose on!

People who raise money for Red Nose Day help to change so many lives, as Comic Relief spend the money raised to help the people who really need it most, both here in the UK and in some of the world's poorest communities.

It all finishes with a massive night of comedy and entertainment live on the BBC.



2017 HIGHLIGHTS

- Ed Sheeran recently sang with children on the streets of Liberia, West Africa, to kick off his support for Red Nose Day. Many had been orphaned by the recent Ebola outbreak.
- For the first time ever, the famous Red Noses can be heard, as Professor Stephen Hawking, Warwick Davis, Nick Grimshaw and Joe Sugg (left) are among the celebs providing their voices for a digital comic strip game called the Comic Adventure at rednoseday.com/kids/comic-adventure. Professor Hawking said: "I'm a world-renowned scientist who has shaped our understanding of the universe and I am being asked to make snot jokes. I must really like this charity."
- Red Nose Day will end with a night filled with a whole heap of telly treats on the BBC, as a host of comic favourites including Warwick Davis, Jonathan Ross, and French and Saunders will lead a mammoth night of live mischief and comedy. Who nose what will happen!



Loads of celebs get involved in Red Nose Day every two years. YouTuber Joe Sugg is red-dy to get involved this time around

Red Nose Day is back on
Friday 24 March 2017.
To get involved, go to
WWW.REDNASEDAY.COM
and get your free fundraising kit.

DID YOU NOSE? (HA!)

- There have been 39 versions of the Red Nose over the years.
- If all the Red Noses that have ever been sold were laid out end to end, they'd stretch from London to Ankara in Turkey!
- In 2011, after they all sold out, one man drove from Manchester to Comic Relief HQ in London, to pick one up for his daughter.
- The idea for the Red Nose came in an early meeting at Comic Relief HQ when someone idly started drawing on their nose in red pen.
- Over 70 million Red Noses have been sold in the UK so far.
- £78 million was raised last Red Nose Day. Since the very first Red Nose Day, over £1 billion has been raised for charity.

HOW RED NOSE DAY HELPS

The money raised by Red Nose Day goes towards helping so many children, men and women, in the UK and many other communities around the world where aid is needed. Take 12-year-old Hassan (right), for example. Not so long ago, he watched his mother get taken away in an ambulance, as the Ebola virus spread through Sierra Leone. She never came back home. His father died when he was five, so Hassan was left without parents.

To stop the spread of the Ebola virus, yellow tape was used to separate Hassan and his neighbours from the community. They were placed under quarantine, with police and armed guards preventing them from leaving. Food was brought in by Street Child Sierra Leone, which receives money raised through Red Nose Day. People wearing protective suits and goggles came to disinfect Hassan's house. They took away all the family's belongings and sprayed anything that Hassan's

mother had touched or stepped on. He became scared they were going to take him away, too.

Schools in Sierra Leone closed down for eight months during the Ebola outbreak and Hassan stayed home with his older brother. Eventually he went to live a few doors away with his uncle and aunt. Street Child Sierra Leone provided Hassan with supplies so he could attend school again, and gave a small-business loan to his aunt so that she could earn enough money to feed the family and ensure Hassan continues his education. His favourite subject is mathematics, he is a huge Arsenal fan and he dreams of being a doctor one day.

Just by putting on a Red Nose next week, you could be helping another little boy or girl like Hassan turn their life around.





20 QUESTIONS

answered by First News editor in chief Nicky Cox

PRIME Minister Theresa May has the green light to start Britain's exit from the EU. The House of Commons and House of Lords had their say on Monday night. Now Brexit will begin as Theresa May triggers Article 50. But, what is Article 50 and what happens next...?

1 WHAT DOES BREXIT MEAN?

It's a new word that started to be used as a short way of saying the UK leaving the European Union (EU). It's **BR**itain and **EXIT** mixed together.

2 WHY IS BRITAIN LEAVING THE EU?

A referendum was held on 23 June last year when everyone of voting age was able to vote on whether the UK should remain in the EU, or leave. The result was very close, with more than 30 million people voting. Leave won by 51.9% to 48.1%.



3 WHY DID WE GET A NEW PRIME MINISTER?

The Prime Minister at the time of the vote was David Cameron, who wanted to remain in the EU. He resigned on the day he lost the referendum. Theresa May, who was Home Secretary at the time, became the new PM.

4 WHAT EXACTLY IS THE EUROPEAN UNION?



It's kind of like a club of 28 European countries, which each country pays to be a member of, in return for special ways of working together. It began after World War Two with the idea that countries that were working together were unlikely to go to war. Like any club, each member country has to obey its rules.

5 WHAT IS THE SINGLE MARKET?

The EU has grown to become a "single market", which means that people and things we sell to one another can move around freely, as if we were one big country. It is possible to set up a business or take a job anywhere within the EU. The EU has its own parliament, rules and its own currency – the euro – although the UK doesn't use it. We stuck to pounds and pence.

6 SO WHY DID PEOPLE WANT TO LEAVE?

The idea of the EU's single market was to increase trade between the countries, create jobs and lower prices. But there are lots of laws to make sure that things are made to the same standards, and other rules. Critics say it means countries lose control of their own affairs and their own laws. A lot of people migrating from poorer to richer countries has also made people worry about the free movement rule. Leave campaigners also said we don't get much back from the EU in return

for the billions of pounds we have to pay in membership fees.

7 WHY DID SOME WANT TO STAY?

David Cameron said he had agreed a new deal for Britain with the EU, which would help sort out a lot of the things British people didn't like about the EU. But critics said the deal would make little difference. David Cameron said being a member of the EU made it easier for us to sell things to other EU countries, so it was good for business. He argued that immigrants were good for Britain because many were young and keen to work. The Remain side also felt it was better to be part of a 28-nation club, than to go it alone.



8 WHAT IS ARTICLE 50?

Article 50 is a plan for any country that wants to leave the EU. It says that any country that wants to quit the EU must formally tell the European Council and agree how it leaves.



9 SO WHEN WILL BRITAIN LEAVE?

The trigger is pulled on Article 50 this month. Then, the two sides have two years to agree how we will split from the EU. This means we should have left the EU by the summer of 2019. But no-one really knows how long it will take because this is the first time that Article 50 has been used.

10 DO THE OTHER COUNTRIES GET A SAY?

Once we have worked out a deal, all remaining 27 countries' parliaments will have to agree to it. That could take some time!

11 WHO DECIDES HOW WE WILL LEAVE?

Theresa May set up a new government department, headed by an MP called David Davis, to lead the Brexit talks. Boris Johnson, who led the official Leave campaign, became Foreign Secretary, so he is part of the Brexit team, too. So is Liam Fox, the new International Trade Secretary. The UK will still stick to EU laws until we're not a member any more.

12 WILL EU CITIZENS LIVING IN THE UK HAVE TO GO BACK TO THEIR COUNTRIES?

The British government has refused to say, because it says a deal will need to work both ways – if EU citizens can stay here, then British citizens must be allowed to stay in other European countries, too. This will be cleared up once Brexit talks really start, but it's expected that people will be able to stay where they already are.



13 WILL IMMIGRATION GO DOWN?

The PM says that one of the strongest messages she got from the EU vote was that people wanted to see immigration numbers cut. She has said that a focus of the Brexit talks will be getting net immigration numbers down – that means the difference between the numbers entering and leaving the country.

14 HOW WILL THE DEAL BE AGREED?



Theresa May has said the House of Commons and House of Lords will get a vote to approve the deal that the UK and the rest of the EU agree at the end of the two years. The deal also has to be agreed by the European Parliament, with British MEPs (Members of the European Parliament) getting a chance to vote on it.

15 WHAT HAPPENS TO OUR EUROPEAN PASSPORTS?

Your passport is a British document, so it will stay the same. The British government could change the colour of new ones, if it wanted to.



16 WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR SCOTLAND?

Scotland's First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, says it's not fair that her country has to leave the EU with the rest of the UK. People in Scotland largely voted to stay in the EU. Now she wants to hold a second independence referendum in Scotland so that people can have another chance to vote for it to become a separate country.

17 WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR NORTHERN IRELAND?

Northern Ireland is part of the UK, whereas the Republic of Ireland isn't. The Republic uses the euro and will remain part of the EU. So, Theresa May has said the land border between the Republic and Northern Ireland will be a key part of the Brexit talks.

18 WILL THE UK EVER BE ABLE TO JOIN THE EU AGAIN?

We would have to start talks right from the beginning, and every other country would have to agree to us returning.

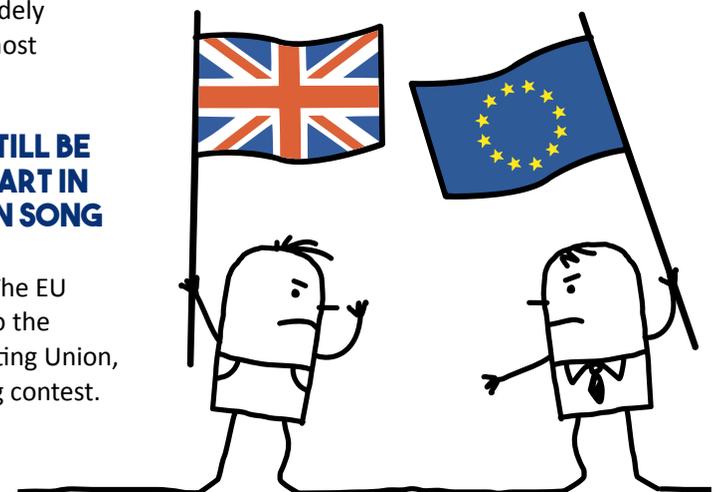


19 WILL THE EU STILL USE ENGLISH AS ITS MAIN LANGUAGE?

Yes, because it is widely spoken and is the most common language.

20 WILL WE STILL BE ABLE TO TAKE PART IN THE EUROVISION SONG CONTEST?

A chorus of "Yes"! The EU is totally separate to the European Broadcasting Union, which runs the song contest.



USA



Mysterious microwaves

One of US President Donald Trump's top advisers, Kellyanne Conway, has suggested that former President Barack Obama could have spied on Donald Trump through a microwave. She made the statement after being asked about Donald Trump's claim that Obama had been spying on Trump's New York home. "There are many ways to surveil [spy on] each other," she explained. "You can surveil someone through their phones, certainly through their television sets – any number of different ways. Microwaves that turn into cameras, this is a fact of modern life."

NETHERLANDS



Tough towards Turkey

The Netherlands, Germany and Austria have all blocked attempts by Turkey's government to hold political rallies in their countries. The Netherlands then blocked Turkey's foreign minister from entering their country, leading to protests from Turkish people living in the Netherlands. Angry at the decision, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said that the Dutch will "pay the price". The rallies are being held by the Turkish government to encourage support from Turkish civilians abroad for their upcoming referendum, which could give President Erdoğan far more power over Turkey. As we went to press, Denmark had joined the Netherlands and Germany in turning Turkish ministers away.

CHINA



Big cats' big win

Chinese officials have approved plans to set up a huge national park in the northeast. The park will span 14,500km² (5,600m²), which is 60% larger than America's Yellowstone National Park. The park will become a sanctuary for two big cats who come from the area, the Amur leopard and the Siberian tiger, which have both come close to extinction.



AUSTRALIA



Pink lake appears

Very high salt levels, high temperatures, sunlight and lack of rainfall have turned this Australian lake a pretty shade of pink! Apparently, an algae that grows in the salt produces a natural red colouring that changes the lake's colour.



OUR WORLD



- Name: SalSabel
- Age: 15
- Lives: Jordan

SALSABEL is from Syria, but lives with her mother and siblings in Jordan. When the conflict in Syria came close to their family home, they drove to the border between Syria and Jordan, and made the final crossing by foot. They had to leave all of their belongings behind.

Now the family are living in a house in Jordan.

SalSabel is dreaming of returning to school. "My biggest dream is to become an eye doctor," she says.

An entire generation of Syrian children are in danger of losing their education. With support from UNICEF and their partners, SalSabel and her siblings should be able to return to school soon.

Learn more at unicef.uk.



BRAZIL



Ghosts in the president's palace

Brazil's acting president, Michel Temer, is said to have moved out of the official president's residence because of ghosts! The politician and his family will be moving into the nearby vice-presidential Jaburu Palace because they say that their official residence has "bad energy" and is a bit too spooky for them!



SOUTH AFRICA



Returning to rhino horn trade

The government is planning to allow more buying and selling of rhino horns, despite having a ban on rhino horn trade since 1977. Most of the world's rhinos live in South Africa. The new rules would allow foreigners with permits to take "up to two horns for personal purposes", although critics say the new system will be open to corruption (dishonest and illegal behaviour).

SOUTH KOREA



President impeached

South Korea's first female president has become the country's first president to be impeached (removed from office), too. She was voted out by the Korean Constitutional Court, because of her close relationship with Choi Soon-sil. Despite having no role in the government, Choi was found to be influencing President Park, changing important speeches and even picking out the president's outfits. Elections for a new president will be held within 60 days.



This report is from our friends at the Science Museum, part of the Science Museum Group.



3D-PRINTED KIDNEY

THIS morning (Friday 17 March), a group of surgeons visited the Science Museum to deliver some very special objects.

When the museum creates new galleries, its curators look for the most interesting historical and modern-day stories to help its visitors understand the impact of science and technology on all of our lives.

In 2016, Chris Boucher donated a kidney to his infant daughter Lucy in a life-saving operation carried out by Dr Pankaj Chandak.

Dr Chandak planned the complicated surgery using 3D-printed models of Chris' kidney and Lucy's abdomen. This innovative technique, the first in the world, helped to ensure that the surgery went smoothly and saved Lucy's life.

The surgeons, from Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, were delivering the 3D-printed models used in the operation, which will go on display in the museum's new Medicine Galleries when they open in 2019.

Find out about the Medicine Galleries at www.sciencemuseum.org.uk.



HOW TO HAVE AN AWESOME MEMORY



by Eddie de Oliveira

SCIENTISTS have worked out a method that is virtually guaranteed to massively improve your memory.

An ancient memory trick that, until now, has been a secret weapon for world memory champions, has been revealed to be a very easy-to-learn skill. With just 40 practice sessions of 30 minutes each, you can double or even treble your memory.

A team of experts examined the brains of 17 "memory athletes" and 51 ordinary people as they tried to memorise lists of 72 words. The next day, the memory experts were able to recall 71 of the words, on average. The others could remember just 26.

The scientists found that connections between different parts of the brain were organised differently in the memory athletes. They then trained the ordinary people in the special memory technique for 40 days. The training boosted the number of words they could recall from 26 to 62! It is thought that storing memories in a mental scene boosts memory because the brain remembers visual information better than it can remember lists of words and numbers. Give it a try!

The technique

1. Picture a familiar scene, such as your school or the walk home.
2. Take each fact or figure you are trying to memorise and visualise it in a particular location in your familiar scene.
3. To recall the fact or figure, just walk around the scene in your mind and collect each fact as you go.

A SPY IN THE TV?

AMERICAN spy agency the CIA is hacking into smartphones, laptops and even smart TVs, according to a leak of thousands of secret documents.

The CIA spies on terrorist suspects and other countries. WikiLeaks, an organisation that publishes government secrets, revealed that the CIA has created software that turns Samsung F8000 smart TVs into microphones to record conversations – even when they appear to be switched off. The CIA codename for the TV-hacking operation is Weeping Angels, after the *Doctor Who* creatures.

Operating systems including iOS and Android have been targeted by CIA agents, who have been able to take control of older models of iPhones. But most of the hacking methods mentioned in the leak no longer work, because manufacturers such as Samsung and Apple have fixed the bugs that allowed their systems to be hacked.

But agents have been able to bypass encryption in messaging apps such as WhatsApp and Signal.

Some American officials think that WikiLeaks is working with the Russian government to embarrass the US. Last year, they released 2,000 emails related to Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign.



DID YOU KNOW?

THE equivalent of half a kilo of carbon dioxide enters the atmosphere for every loaf of bread produced in the UK, according to a new study. Around 40% of this carbon footprint comes from the fertiliser used to grow the wheat required to make the bread.

ECHO WITNESS

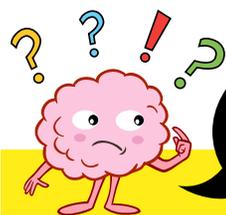
THE Amazon Echo, a voice-activated assistant, may be called as a witness in a murder trial.

The Echo responds whenever a person begins a sentence with the name Alexa. It can answer simple questions such as: "What's the weather like?" as well as perform tasks such as streaming music, turning on lights and reading audiobooks.

Now, for the first time, it may provide vital clues to an alleged murder that took place in Arkansas, USA. Online store Amazon has agreed to provide logs of any inquiries or conversation that an Echo may have recorded in the home of a man named James Bates, who is accused of murdering a friend.

Mr Bates claims that he woke up to discover his pal, Victor Collins, dead. But police found evidence to suggest he may have been killed. Mr Bates denies murder.

The police have asked Amazon to hand over any recordings from the night of the alleged murder. Initially, Amazon was reluctant to invade customers' privacy, but Mr Bates has since allowed his Echo to be examined.



DID YOU KNOW?

BUMBLEBEES at a test lab in London have learned to push a ball into a hole in order to get a reward. They shoved the ball into a hole filled with a sugary mix!

Takara with her third calf, Kamea, at SeaWorld San Antonio. Kamea was born at the park in December 2013. Bottom: Takara has an ultrasound and the new whale calf is shown on the ultrasound

LAST CALF

STAFF at SeaWorld Texas are eagerly awaiting the birth of a killer whale calf, the last that will ever be born at a SeaWorld park.

In March 2015, SeaWorld announced the end of their killer whale breeding programme, confirming that Takara, their pregnant whale, would be the last to give birth at one of their parks. Takara is due to give birth in the next few weeks and staff at SeaWorld have been working around the clock to make sure that Takara and her calf get the best veterinary care possible.

A new video released by SeaWorld shows Takara getting an ultrasound (a scan used to see an unborn baby) as part of her pregnancy care. Not much is known about the reproductive habits of killer whales in the wild so experts are learning as much as they can from Takara and her calf.

You can watch the video and hear from Takara's vets at live.firstnews.co.uk.



RHINO KILLED

A RARE white rhino has been shot and killed by poachers in his zoo enclosure in France.

Vince, the four-year-old rhino, was found shot in the head by his keepers at Thoiry in north-central France on Tuesday morning. His horn had been sawn off and taken. His herd-mates Bruno and Gracie were thankfully left unharmed.

Police are investigating how poachers managed to get into the zoo. It is the first time poachers have killed a rhino living in a European zoo. Extra security measures are now being put in place at other zoos across the continent.



Bruno and Gracie were left unharmed in their enclosure

SNAKES TAKE OVER

ARE brown tree snakes threatening forests? That is the big question from scientists this week as they study the wildlife and ecosystems on the Pacific island of Guam.



The snakes mainly feed on the island's tropical birds and have already wiped out ten of the 12 native species. Researchers studying the island believe that the snakes are also threatening the natural development of the forests. Fewer birds means less bird poo, so fewer tree seeds are distributed. Studies have found that the growth of new trees on the island has fallen by around 92%!

The dull brown snakes aren't native to Guam and are believed to have arrived on a cargo ship during the Second World War. Now there are an estimated two million of the snakes living on the island.

WIN! A FAMILY HOLIDAY OF A LIFETIME TO FLORIDA

POLLUTION is a huge problem for our oceans. Not only is it unsightly, but it can also kill or harm the wildlife that lives there. Birds can mistake floating plastic debris for food, sea turtles swallow plastic bags that look like jellyfish – one of their main sources of food – and nearly all ocean wildlife can get caught up in loose fishing equipment. SeaWorld's rescue team specialises in helping animals in need and has come to the aid of more than 29,000 ill, injured or orphaned animals in the last 50 years.

But you can do your bit to help – by making sure that you recycle, not flushing non-biodegradable items down the toilet and picking up your rubbish, you can keep our oceans healthy.



Take part in our ocean clean-up project and you could win a trip of a lifetime for you and your family to go behind the scenes at SeaWorld and learn about how animals in need are rescued.

To be in with a chance of winning this fantastic prize, we want you to create a sea creature out of rubbish that

you've collected from the beach, field, park or any other outdoor area where you live. Take a photo of your creation and send it to us at **First News, SeaWorld Competition, 58 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 0AS** or email the photo to win@firstnews.co.uk, putting SeaWorld in the subject box. Don't forget to include your name, age, address and your parents' or guardians' contact details.

The prize includes a trip for two adults and two children to Florida, complete with free tickets to SeaWorld, Busch Gardens, Aquatica and Discovery Cove, with exclusive behind-the-scenes access at SeaWorld Orlando and the chance to meet a member of the animal rescue team.



SEAWORLD PARKS & ENTERTAINMENT

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY **SEAWORLD**

firstnews.co.uk/competitions.
The closing date is 31 March 2017.

Entrants must be UK residents and at least eight years old. You must get your parents' or legal guardians' permission before entering this competition. The prize includes return flights to Orlando from London Gatwick (including airport tax) for two adults (over 18) and two children (under 12), 14 nights accommodation in a minimum of a three-star hotel (room-only basis), 15 days car hire (includes collision damage waiver – additional taxes may apply – excludes fuel costs, hire car driver must be aged 25 or over and possess a valid driving licence). Spending money, travel insurance and meals are not included within the prize. Winner must be available to travel before 31 August 2017, note that travel dates are subject to flight and accommodation availability. Complete T&Cs for the competition can be found at firstnews.co.uk/competitions.

COLLINS Advertisement feature

Collins WANT TO ACE YOUR SATS?

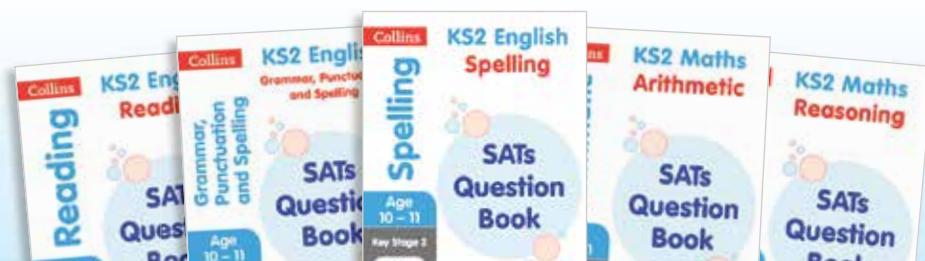
IF you're in Year 6, you may have already started to prepare for your SATs in class. To make sure you're super ready, there's plenty of time to get in some extra practice.

Here's a handy checklist to help you.

- Know your tests! You'll sit papers in Reading; Grammar & Punctuation; Spelling; Arithmetic and Reasoning.
- Find out the dates you will be taking the tests. Ask your teacher for these, or get a parent to look them up online.
- Use a SATs practice book to prepare for each paper.

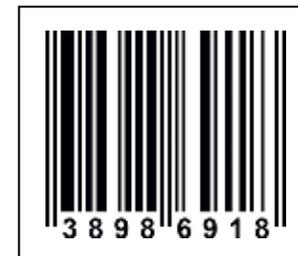
You can get ready for EVERY paper using Collins KS2 SATs Question Books. There's one book for each paper you will sit, covering all the content and skills that you could be tested on. The books include answers too, so that you can check your own progress and see how you'd do in the actual test.

ONLY £2.99 EACH THIS WEEK IN ANY WHSmith HIGH STREET STORE!

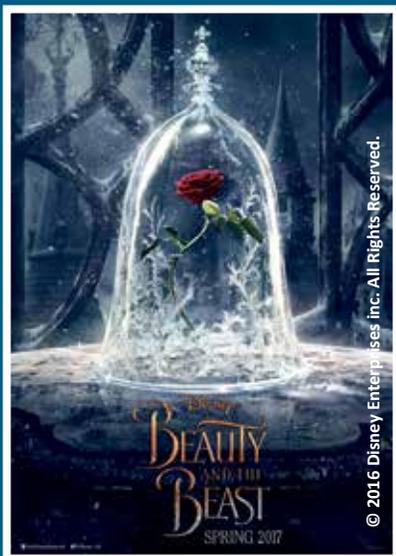


Cut out this voucher and take it to your local WHSmith High Street Store to get your discount across all 5 Collins KS2 SATs Question Books.

Terms and conditions: This voucher entitles the holder to Collins KS2 Reading SATs Test QB (9780008201593) and Collins KS2 Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling SATs QB (9780008201609) and Collins KS2 Spelling SATs QB (9780008201616) and Collins KS2 Arithmetic SATs QB (9780008201623) and Collins KS2 Reasoning SATs QB (9780008201630) for £2.99 each. Subject to availability. Voucher is valid from 17 March 2017 – 3 April 2017 at WHSmith High Street Stores only. Excludes outlet stores, online, Books by WHSmith, at Selfridges, Harrods, Arnotts, Fenwick and all other travel stores including those at airports, railway stations, motorway service stations, hospitals, workplaces and garden centres. Vouchers must be surrendered upon use. Photocopies will not be accepted. No cash alternative. WHSmith reserves the right to reject any voucher it deems, in its sole discretion, to have been forged, defaced or otherwise tampered with.

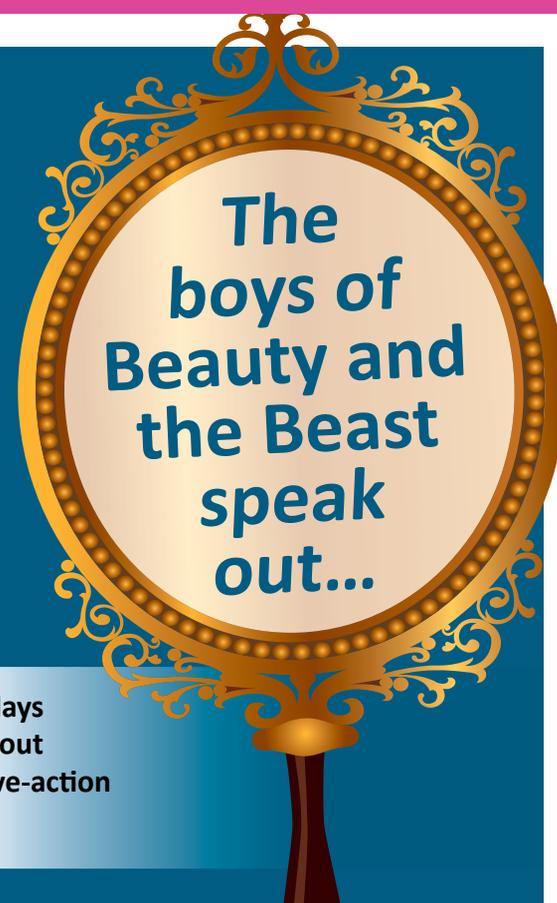


Check out more at collins.co.uk/parents



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BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS



The boys of Beauty and the Beast speak out...

THEY may be fighting to the death on the big screen, but *Beauty and the Beast* stars Dan Stevens (who plays the Beast) and Luke Evans (who plays the villainous Gaston) are pretty good pals in real life. It also turns out that they have pretty similar views on what they want the audience (that's you lot!) to take from their live-action version of this classic tale. The boys spoke to *First News'* Ben...

DAN STEVENS (THE BEAST)

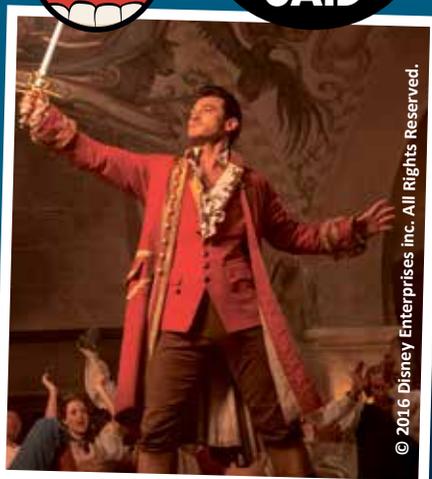


Getty

"I think the greatest responsibility was to my eight-year-old self in making this film – I really loved this kind of film when I was younger. I love *Beauty and the Beast* in particular because of what it says about men as much as about women. It's a real critique of your classic masculinity/femininity ideas. Certainly in our version, that's something we bring out. You know, all that 'There's a certain kind of book you should read if you're a boy and a certain kind of book you should read if you're a girl; there's certain things you can do as a boy, but not if you are a girl. How could a girl be an inventor? How could a boy read a romance novel?' – these are important questions to shut down pretty quickly, I think. So we play with those questions [in the film], very much so."



LUKE EVANS (GASTON)



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"If anything, this story should show you that being yourself, finding your identity in this world, is a hard thing to do. Belle has books, she has an inventor father, and he's a little quirky. They don't have very many friends in the village; people look at them like they're a little odd. But somehow, Belle has a strength inside of her that she gets from reading books and she has a wonderful imagination. She knows she'll find her identity and that's a lovely message. What Belle does is she meets this Beast, who on the outside is very scary looking and very different to anything she's ever seen, but she doesn't shun him, she doesn't turn away from him, she digs a little deeper. In life, being a little different is quite interesting. There's nothing wrong with being a little bit special – nobody wants to be the same as the next person. I was a quirky little kid who struggled to make friends, fit into a gang or be the cool kid at school. I was very uncool actually and always wore the wrong clothes, had big ears and loads of freckles and was really skinny. But eventually, my ears shrunk, I gained some weight and a little bit of confidence – but you have to be happy with yourself inside. That's a hard thing as a kid. But Belle did it and the Beast did it as a hairy monster!"

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST IS IN CINEMAS NOW. WATCH CLIPS AT LIVE.FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK

PECULIAR CHILDREN PICKS UP AWARD



YOU lot have voted *Miss Peregrine's School For Peculiar Children* as this year's

Tim Burton's freaky family film picked up *First News'* Family Film of the Year at this year's Into Film Awards 2017 in London this week – a category voted for exclusively by *First News* readers online.

The runners-up were *Fantastic Beasts And Where To Find Them* and *Finding Dory*.

The annual Into Film Awards are designed to recognise, showcase and celebrate young people's

involvement in film, shining a spotlight on the achievements of 5 to 19-year-olds across the country.

Our award, and lots of others, were presented at a lavish awards ceremony in London this week – look out for more on the award ceremony in this week's issue.

Do you think it was a peculiar choice? What was your favourite film from the year?

FIVE MINUTES WITH THE LODGE CAST

ALLING all wannabe stars! The multi-talented cast of *The Lodge* give us their top tips on singing, dancing and how to be a perfect performer!

Never give up!

ophie Simnett, who plays Skye, says: "If you want to be an actor, my most important tip is to keep it in the forefront of your mind all times, and never give up. When I started acting, I was still in school, so I was balancing acting alongside schoolwork. It was difficult, but I knew this was what I wanted to do. To fulfil your dreams, you've got to constantly inspire yourself. It's so easy to be inspired: watch amazing films, go to the theatre or switch on your TV. If you find yourself doubting anything, just remind yourself why you love it."

Practice makes perfect!

omas Doherty, who plays Sean, says: "Never stop practising and don't restrict yourself to one style of dance; do lots of different styles. That's what I did. The more you do, the more you can take from different aspects of different styles and put together your own unique style. That's what people want to see when you audition; your own way of moving and dancing. People don't want to see a copycat movement of something they've already seen. They want originality."

Warm up!

de Alleyne, who plays Kaylee, says: "It's a good idea to warm up your voice before any singing sessions. If you're a singer, you don't want to strain your voice or damage it in any way, which is why a vocal warm-up is important. Before we hit the stage for *The Lodge Concert Special*, our voice coach came along and helped us all warm up for the show. It was fun to be back together again."

Catch *The Lodge Concert Special*, Disney Channel, 31 March at 5pm.



PICS OF THE WEEK



IT'S slime time!

Demi Lovato and Chris Pratt got slimed at the Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards 2017. Host John Cena also ended up being drenched with the famous goo.

The annual awards show was held in Los Angeles. Little Mix picked up the award for Global Music Star and performed a medley of their hits. Other winners included *Finding Dory* for Best Animated film and Chris Evans (Captain America) for Favourite Butt-Kicker.

Catch the *Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards* on Nickelodeon. Also, check out singer Olly Murs getting slimed on *First News Live!* at live.firstnews.co.uk



THIS WEEK...

1 Production has started on series four of *Star Wars Rebels* from Lucasfilm. The series, which follows the galactic adventures of the Ghost crew, will premiere on Disney XD this autumn.

2 Olly Murs got an honorary sliming in the lead-up to the Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards. The singer revealed afterwards: "The slime gets everywhere! I was a bit worried that the green tinge might not come out of my skin!"

3 *Doctor Who* is back on 15 April, and the BBC have revealed that some of the Doctor's oldest enemies are making a comeback – the original Mondasian Cybermen. The baddies haven't been in the show for 50 years.

4 The music of DreamWorks Animation is being brought to life in a new show. *DreamWorks Animation In Concert With The Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra* is coming to the UK in November. The show features classic moments from films including *Shrek*, *Madagascar* and *How To Train Your Dragon* projected onto a big screen as the music is played live by an orchestra.

5 Ed Sheeran has revealed he wants to start a boy band. The singer told *Rolling Stone* magazine that he has started auditioning for members and wants three or four boys to make up the band, which he hopes to take on tour with him. Apparently he's already written some songs for the group.

NEW RIDE OPENS



REMEMBER we told you that Chessington World of Adventures were closing their famous Bubbleworks ride? Well, this weekend, its replacement opens!

Based on the characters from the famous Julia Donaldson book, *The Gruffalo*, the new water ride *The Gruffalo River Ride* takes you on an adventure through a deep dark wood. We love rides and we can't wait to try this one out!

er's top family film.

spotlight on the olds from all over

s, were given out London this week ards in next

r (ha ha!) choice? rom last year?



AS she's won two Olympic gold medals in the team pursuit, you can bet that Joanna Rowsell Shand knows a thing or two about cycling. So who better to represent The Big Pedal, the UK's largest inter-school cycling and scooting challenge? We found out how she's inspiring pupils, staff and parents to choose two wheels for their journey to school.



■ **First off, can you tell us a bit about The Big Pedal?**

The Big Pedal is a national campaign all about getting more young people of school age into cycling. The idea is that you'll cycle or scoot to school for the two weeks following the 20 March and record your journey each day. Then that journey goes up online, and you see how far your school has travelled! There's a bit of a competition between schools too, to see who can get the furthest distance via bike or scooter journey. This year, you'll see how far you cycled on a scale going round the globe, so there's a bit of learning about geography in there, too!

■ **What got you involved in the campaign?**

This is the second year I'll be involved. I was working with a children's bike company, and they asked me to back this campaign. It's something I really believe in, because people always say it's easier just to get in the car, but that's the easy option. So why not make the effort to try and encourage children to be more active – and to encourage independence? So when they asked me to support them again this year, I said yes!

■ **Do you have any advice for schools who are competing?**

Get stuck in! Even if you can't do it every day, just pick one or two that you can commit to. If the weather is bad, get your waterproofs out and get them ready. And check out routes on Sustrans in advance. There are loads of off-road and traffic-free bike paths on there that most people won't even know about.



Livia Lazar, Sustrans

Joanna is an ambassador for Sustrans, the walking and cycling charity, which works with schools across the UK to encourage children and young people to cycle or walk for shorter journeys, to stay active. For more information, visit www.sustrans.org.uk.

"I FELL OFF IN MY FIRST RACE!"

■ **It's been a little while since the Olympics now, but how was Rio?!**

It was fantastic! We went with a lot of pressure as defending champions, and of course there was a lot of negativity in the build-up to the event, about venues not being finished. But it really was a fantastic experience; the crowds were awesome!

■ **You're obviously used to it now, but what does it feel like to be on your bike at the start line before an Olympic race?**

People assume it's nerve-racking, but if you've done all the preparation, physical and mental, it's actually quite exciting! When it comes to the Olympics, you're just doing the same thing you've done hundreds of times before in training. You can't think about the result! You just focus on your performance, and the result will take care of itself. We can't affect how fast the other team go, so it's all down to how fast we go – the best time we can get.

■ **Do you have any advice for our readers who might find themselves on the start line for the first time this year?**

Mainly, enjoy it! That's the most important thing. Try and get as much experience as you can before your race, by trying things like riding with your local cycling club. Try all the cycling disciplines, too – from road biking to BMX, as you might find you get on with one a lot better than another. But really, the most important thing is to enjoy it!

■ **Do you remember your first major competition?**

I started cycling when I was 15, which is relatively late. It was a BMX race, and I fell off! So it didn't go well at all. It was at a cycling training camp, and I'd made it into the final, since there were only seven girls there and you can have eight in a race. So there was this big crash in the race, where everybody fell off, but not me, since I was so far behind everyone! I managed to catch up to some of those who had crashed, and passed a few of them – but they managed to get back up, get back on their bikes and still finish before me! It's a good thing that didn't put me off racing!

CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY FIRST NEWS



NONNAS' CAFE

THE employees at Enoteca Maria restaurant in New York all have something in common – they're all grandmothers!

The restaurant hires nonnas (the Italian word for grandmothers) from all over the world, to help serve up their delicious family recipes.

There are nonnas from places like Sri Lanka, Japan, Russia and the Philippines.

The owner of the restaurant, Joe Scaravella, said the unusual staff requirement gets lots of diners talking about their own mothers and grandmothers.



Nonna Carmen from Argentina

Wacky water



Facebook/Erin Lacey

IT'S not every day you wake up to find bright pink water running from your home's taps!

Residents in the town of Onoway in Alberta, Canada, got rather a surprise when exactly that happened last week!

The super-pink water was caused by a chemical called potassium permanganate, which was accidentally released into a reservoir.

The mayor of the town, Dale Krasnow, had to apologise for the baffling discovery. He explained: "While it is alarming to see pink water coming from your taps, potassium permanganate is used in normal treatment processes to help remove iron and manganese [from the water], and residents were never at risk."



MAGIC!

EVER dreamed of attending a magical school like Harry Potter?

Well, this summer, Herstmonceux Castle in East Sussex is being transformed into a real-life wizarding school!

Over three days, muggle guests will get to experience what life was like for Harry, Ron and Hermione as they are sorted into houses, take lessons on witchcraft and have a school banquet.

There'll be wands, robes, magical creatures and house competitions. Guests will even be able to sleep over.

The only downside to all this magical fun? You have to be 18 to take part – boo! But, organisers say they are hoping to create similar events for young people in the future!



A REAL-LIFE Forbidden Forest from the Harry Potter books is opening at the Warner Bros. Studio Tour London on 31 March.

QUICK CHUCKLES



Q: What do you call a sleeping bull?

A: A bulldozer!

Q: Why is England the wettest country?

A: Because the Queen has reigned there for years!

HA!

HA!

Share your jokes with us at newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk

RECORD OF THE WEEK

LARGEST AFRO (MALE)

THE largest male afro is 25.4cm (10in) in height, 22.9cm (9in) in width and 177.8cm (5ft 10in) in circumference and belongs to Tyler Wright (USA). It was measured in St Louis, Missouri, USA, on 19 June 2015.



OFFICIALLY AMAZING



For info on this record and hundreds more, go to guinnessworldrecords.com



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer





CELEBRATING SHAKESPEARE

SHAKESPEARE WEEK 20 – 26 MARCH

WILLIAM Shakespeare is the most famous writer of all time, widely considered to be the greatest playwright the world has ever seen and a fine poet, too. His plays have been performed, read and studied all over the world for the past 400 years and his work translated into almost every language on Earth, which is why we celebrate his life and his work during Shakespeare Week.

WHAT IS SHAKESPEARE WEEK?

Shakespeare Week was launched by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust in 2014 as a way to share and celebrate Shakespeare's work, life and times with every primary schoolchild in the country. It is now in its fourth year. This year, two million children from 12,000 primary schools across the country are expected to celebrate all things Shakespeare. This year's Shakespeare Week will have a musical theme, with a song, *Shakespeare Rocks!*, written especially for the occasion.

OUT AND ABOUT

Schools aren't the only ones celebrating Shakespeare Week 2017, there are lots of fun events and activities happening around the country. Visit Shakespeare's home in Stratford-Upon-Avon to join in quill-writing, Tudor music workshops and much, much more. For a full list of events, visit www.shakespeareweek.org.uk.

JOIN IN!

On 20 March, schools around the country will kick-start the week by singing *Shakespeare Rocks!*, the special song written for the Big Shakespeare Assembly. Any school can register at www.shakespeareweek.org.uk to get free access to the musical score and lyrics for the song. Plus, for the first time this year, Shakespeare Week has gone digital, with special online interactive challenges as part of Mission Shakespeare. There's also a composition competition, an online reading of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* (read by author Marcia Williams) and lots of exciting resources available for schools.

Taylor Swift's song *Love Story* was inspired by Shakespeare's *Romeo And Juliet*



A SONG FOR SHAKESPEARE

SHAKESPEARE Rocks! is a special song written for Shakespeare Week 2017. Here's the first chorus and verse for you to join in with:

Shakespeare rocks and the world would know it
Shakespeare rocks
History would show it
Shakespeare was a pro
Shakespeare got the flow

Livin' in the 16th century
With a yearning for variety
Sittin' on the Stratford village green
Little Will composed another scene.

You can download the full lyrics for *Shakespeare Rocks!* at www.shakespeareweek.org.uk (registration required).

MUSICAL MOMENTS

DID you know that a host of modern musicians have been inspired by the works of Shakespeare? Check out these songs which have all been inspired by the playwright and poet.

- Love Story by Taylor Swift
- Romeo And Juliet by Dire Straits
- Lovefool by The Cardigans (from Baz Luhrmann's 1996 film *Romeo + Juliet*)
- Kissing You by Des'ree (also from Baz Luhrmann's *Romeo + Juliet*)
- Poet by Bastille
- The King Must Die by Elton John
- Double Trouble (from the *Harry Potter And The Prisoner Of Azkaban* soundtrack)
- I Bet You Look Good On The Dancefloor by The Arctic Monkeys
- Sigh No More by Mumford & Sons

How will you be celebrating Shakespeare Week 2017? Send us your pictures, videos and stories at newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk

SHAKESPEARE WEEK 20 – 26 MARCH

SHAKESPEARE WEEK IS COMING SOON!

TAKE a step back in time and relive the life of the famous playwright in our *In Focus: Shakespeare*. Beautifully presented with **photographs, stories, timelines and fascinating facts**, this glossy collector's edition takes you on an incredible journey of discovery.

In Focus: Shakespeare explores what we know about Shakespeare (his birth, death, marriage and creative writing), while putting his life into context by looking at Tudor society and big news stories that broke throughout his lifetime – from the plague to the Gunpowder Plot and everything in between.

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plus £500 worth of books for your school



NATIONAL YOUNG
WRITERS' AWARDS

2017

THE **FUTURE**

For ages 4-14

You have been transported to the year 3017 and a lot of things have changed.

We are looking for the best story of 500 words or fewer which is set one thousand years into the future.

Name:.....

Age:.....

Address:.....

.....

.....

Postcode:

Parent Name:

Phone Number:

Email:

ENTER TODAY!*

Closing date: Friday 5th May

Fill in your details above, and post the slip with your written entry to **NYWA, Explore Learning, 74 North Street, Guildford, GU1 4AW**

OR enter online at explorelearning.co.uk/youngwriters

#YoungWriters

@exploretutors

/explorelearning

*Terms & conditions apply.
Please be aware of age restrictions when using social media.

SHARE A PENCIL DAY

17 MAY

YOU may not think much of a simple pencil, but for millions of children living around the world who don't have access to education, a pencil is a luxury. This May is the first ever Share A Pencil Day and schools around the UK are invited to join in to help children around the world get a better education.



SHARING A PENCIL

Imagine not having an exercise book to write your school work in. Or having to share a pencil with the person who sits next to you. And the person who sits next to them. For millions of children around the world, this is the reality.

Children living in war zones, areas devastated by natural disasters, or areas of extreme poverty face the biggest challenge when it comes to education. In some places, a lack of teachers or basic equipment means that entire groups of children are forced to share one exercise book or one pencil between them. Share A Pencil Day aims to raise awareness of global education and ways in which we can all help.



Schoolchildren with Hope founder Evan Lewis

WHY SHOULD WE HELP?

Because everyone deserves to have an education and the chance to achieve their dreams.

Evan Lewis, the founder of Hope (the organisation behind Share A Pencil Day), said: "Education is the single most important thing a child can have to lift themselves and their families out of poverty and lead a better life. Share A Pencil Day is a fun, interactive way for schools and children in the UK to get involved. Not only does this make children aware of the difficulties faced by others, but teachers also have to work around the constraints [limits] this creates."

This year, the aim is to raise £10,000 for global education projects.

HOW CAN YOU JOIN IN?

It's easy to take part. The first ever Share A Pencil Day takes place on 17 May 2017. Teachers can sign up online, and for a morning, an afternoon or even just a single lesson, pupils will be asked to share a pencil to experience what learning is really like for many children across the globe. You can use your own pencils and just help to raise awareness by sharing your experience on Twitter, using the hashtag #shareapencilday or #pencilselfie, or you can buy the official Share A Pencil Day Pencil, proceeds from which will go towards global education projects.

There are free lesson plans, films and posters to support the day, and proceeds from the special Share A Pencil Day pencils (available to buy online) will go towards Hope's Bright Futures mission in partnership with Plan International UK, supporting the charity's education projects worldwide. So why not encourage your school to sign up and join in?



WHERE WILL THE FUNDS RAISED GO?

Hope's Bright Futures mission in partnership with Plan International UK is supporting the charity's education projects worldwide. Projects which will be supported could include transforming the lives of girls in Kamuli, Uganda; helping children in Pakistan get an education; and the training of 275 female teachers in Sierra Leone.

Adam Heuman, Head of Major Partnerships at Plan International UK, said: "Plan International UK is delighted to be partnering with Hope. By contributing to education projects where the need is greatest, together we will ensure children around the world are able to move themselves from a life of poverty to a future with opportunity."



A CARD-BASED MUSIC-MIXING BEATMAKING BATTLE GAME!?

DROP MIX

THE team at Harmonix, the developers behind *Rock Band* and *Dance Central*, have announced their next game: *DropMix*.

Described as a “fast-paced music mixing game where players create mixes by playing cards featuring songs”, *DropMix* looks unlike anything we’ve ever seen before! Harmonix has teamed up with toy makers Hasbro for the game, which will come with a base, plus a number of cards – although there’ll be 300 overall to collect.

In it, you’ll have a number of cards that make up different parts of a tune. For example, you might have the singing part of *The Jackson 5’s I Want You Back* on one card and your opponent will have the drum beats from Ed Sheeran’s *Sing* on another. You’ll place your card on the base (pictured above)



and it’ll add that part to the song, then your opponent will play theirs – creating a brand-new tune.

The whole thing connects to your phone, which will play the tunes and

keep track of the cards played, and as you make your mix you’ll collect points with each card. The first player to 21 points wins.

While it’s a bit of a change from *Rock Band* and *Dance Central*, we’re intrigued and can’t wait to see what *DropMix* is like when it drops in September.

'VIDEO' GAMES



EVER been watching TV and wished that one of the characters had done something differently?

Pretty soon, you might be able to make sure they do exactly what you want!

Online TV company Netflix has revealed that they are “experimenting” with interactive television shows that let you influence the decisions the characters make.

Sort of like when faced with a choice in a video game, what you decide could influence what happens next in the show.

What do you think about this idea? Would you like to decide how your favourite TV shows will end? Or do you prefer the surprise?

STABILO Advertisement feature

STABILO HELPS YOU GET REVISION READY

WE'RE sure you've heard it before but: fail to prepare, prepare to fail. Planning revision time is so important, whether it's by subject, topic or minutes, just make sure you take time out for breaks! Experiment and try different styles of revision; make lists, draw mind maps, write notes, get mum or dad to quiz you frequently. Mix it up to keep it interesting and keep boredom at bay.



■ Add a splash of colour! Highlighting is key when it comes to remembering important points.

Not only does it make revision more enjoyable, but it makes your notes more attention-grabbing. The STABILO NEON highlighters are perfect for adding bright colours to a dull white page. Or why not try the new STABILO Point Max pens in a range of bold colours; perfect for those who do a lot of writing and value rich colour. Enable creativity, peacefulness, and mental activity with the primary colours of red, yellow, blue and green. Everyone has their favourite colour, so choose yours to make your revision more appealing!

■ You could also accessorise your stationery and show off your personality with STABILO's beYou! range, consisting of beFab! fountain, ballpoint and calligraphy pens and beCrazy! fountain and ballpoint pens. Themed stationery for every unique individual – write comfortably and express yourself at the same time! Everyone will want one when you take it into the exam room.

■ And finally, most importantly, get a good night's sleep and eat well; a hearty bowl of porridge or egg and soldiers and lots of water will help to keep your brain alert!



VISIT WWW.STABILOFIRSTNEWS.CO.UK





ANNE OF GREEN GABLES DVD



CAN you spot the five changes we've made to this picture from *Anne Of Green Gables*? Send in your answers and five lucky winners will each win a copy of *Anne Of Green Gables* on DVD. Adapted from Lucy Maud Montgomery's all-time classic novel, *Anne Of Green Gables* is out on DVD, Digital and On Demand now. When an ageing couple offer to take in an orphan boy to help on their farm, they are mistakenly sent chatty, bookish redhead Anne Shirley. They reluctantly agree that she can stay and soon the loveable, feisty Anne turns their lives upside down with her mischievous ways, daydreaming and fearlessness – and her knack for charming everyone she meets.



WORDSEARCH

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

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

- Angelfish
- Elephant seal
- Flounder
- Lobster
- Velvet crab
- Cuttlefish
- Giant squid
- Narwhal
- Octopus
- Tiger shark
- Dolphin
- Manta ray
- Yellow tang
- Sea turtle
- Prawn

WHERE ON EARTH?

ALL of these are associated with a country. Can you guess which one?



COMPETITIONS:

You can enter First News competitions in one of two ways. 1. Go to firstnews.co.uk/competitions and follow the instructions. 2. Write to us at 'competition name' (e.g. Holiday), First News, First floor, 58 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 0AS. **Please note:** First News will not share your personal details with third parties. First News will only use your details to contact the competition winners. First News competitions are open to those aged 17-and-under and residents of the UK & Republic of Ireland, except employees of First News, First News (UK) Ltd, Trinity Mirror and any associated companies and their families. Winners will be the first correct entries drawn after the closing dates. No purchase necessary. No responsibility can be accepted for entries that have been lost or damaged in transit. First News will not enter into any correspondence. All winners will be notified accordingly and their names and addresses will be available on request. No cash alternative for any prizes will be offered. The winner may be required to partake in media activity relating to the competition.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS:

Spot the Difference: ring is missing, pattern on blanket is different, fringe is bigger, tooth is missing, blanket is a different colour. **Word Ladder:** nice, nine, none, bone, pony. **Word Wheel:** confusion.

C	L	A	S	S	M	A	T	E	S	
A	T	H	R	E	E	G	A	G	E	R
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H	U	M	P	T	Y	S	N	O	W	
R	A	I	N	B	R	E	E	Z	E	
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P	R	O	T	E	S	T	E	R	S	

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

WHAT IS FEMINISM?

WE'VE probably all heard the word. But what is it? What does it mean? And who can be a feminist? Well, anyone of any age, race, religion or gender, from any culture or background can! Simply put, feminism is the belief that men and women should be equal in all ways, both in law and in everyday life.

Feminism primarily focuses on women, but it isn't just for women and girls: it fights for fair representation of every gender.

You may assume that feminism is a modern thing or a new way of thinking, but the truth is feminism has been around for longer than most of us can remember. The most famous example would be the Suffragettes. This group began to form in the 19th century but came into force in 1903. They fought through protest to win the right to vote (and for many other women's rights) in the UK. They eventually won this fight in 1928, meaning that women as well as men could vote in the country's parliamentary elections.

Today, a big focus of feminism is on girls' rights to education, and the prevention of street harassment and discrimination in the workplace. For example, Malala Yousafzai campaigns for girls' education in Middle Eastern countries. Actress Emma Watson has also spoken about feminism numerous times at the United Nations and is one of today's most prominent feminists. However, you don't have to be famous to be a feminist – and there is no particular 'right' way of being feminist: there are plenty of things you can do, even in your local community, to help in the fight for gender equality.

This was written by NSPCC ambassador, Ruby.



I'm **Esther Rantzen**, President of Childline, which helps 2,500 children every week. If you ever need to talk, you can visit www.childline.org.uk or call them on **0800 11 11**.

JUST THE JOB

IN First News' Just The Job, you will meet lots of different people with lots of different jobs!

DAVE SEXTON – RSPB MULL OFFICER

What I do

I am the Mull Officer for the RSPB on the beautiful Isle of Mull on Scotland's wild west coast. I monitor scarce and threatened birds like white-tailed (sea) and golden eagles and corncrakes. I also help visitors to watch the eagles and other Mull wildlife responsibly.

Did you know the white-tailed eagle is the largest UK bird of prey? It has a wingspan of up to 2.45m (8ft) which is the largest wingspan of any eagle – that's about as tall as the tallest man who has ever lived. These birds can live for over 20 years.

How I got my job

I went to university and got a degree. In the summer breaks I worked for the RSPB on species protection contracts, such as guarding a little tern (seabird) colony in North Wales. Then I got lots of experience at various sites and jobs around the UK before applying for my current job.



What I love about my job

Seeing eagles on a daily basis is a real privilege and helping them to nest successfully, safe from egg collectors and disturbance is just the best feeling. Watching the young eagles take their first flights makes it all worthwhile. Also, working on TV projects and meeting the crews and presenters is always good fun.

What is difficult about my job

Not everyone loves eagles and they can sometimes impact on local farming businesses, so there can be an occasional conflict. But through discussions and compromise we usually find a solution.

What skills I need

You have to be OK with your own company as you work alone a lot (though my friendly black Labrador Cally helps me from getting too lonely!). You have to be resourceful (be able to think of ideas to problems) and well organised. Often you're a long way from any RSPB office, so everything is pretty much down to you to sort out.



The First News Team Editor In Chief: Nicky Cox MBE Managing Editor: Keilly Swift Acting Managing Editor: Serena Lacey International Editor: Ian Eddy Sport / Science Editor: Eddie de Oliveira Acting Entertainment Editor: Shelley Moulden News Reporter / Sub Editor: Ben Pulsford Reporter / Production Co-ordinator: Hannah Greenfield Competitions & Promotions Manager: Kirsty Macdonald Writer / Sub Editor: Nick Cook Editorial Assistant: Aaron Henderson Creative Director: Richard Robson Designers: Courtney Vizard, Dan Jordan Office Manager: Matthew Hutton Digital Manager: Simon Ward HR Manager: Kelane Henderson Financial Controller: Nii Hammond Finance Assistant: James Cooney Education Consultant: Nicolette Smallshaw iHub Co-ordinator: James Wells Advertising Manager: Duncan Carr Advertising Executives: Nina Chaudhry, Tom McGee CRM Manager: Matt Nash Senior Marketing Executive: Charlie Ewell Marketing Executive: Charlie North Circulation and Production Manager: Rachel Evenden Head of Subscriptions: Natasha Littleton Head of Development for schools: Sarah Atkinson Joint Publishers: Emma Robson, Kelly Matcham Commercial Director: Julia Clement Managing Director: Charlotte le Butt Chief Executive: Amanda Hills Founders: Nicky Cox MBE, Sarah and Steve Thomson Email: firstname.surname@firstnews.co.uk Tel: (020) 3195 2000 Subscriptions: (01795) 592 946 Web: www.firstnews.co.uk All material in this newspaper is © 2017 First News (UK) Ltd and cannot be used without written permission. First News is published by First News (UK) Ltd, First Floor, 58 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 0AS. Printed by Trinity Mirror Printing, St Albans Road, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD24 7RG. Distributed by Seymour Distribution Ltd, 2 East Poultry Ave, London, EC1A 9PT. Tel: (020) 7429 4000.



WORLD BOOK DAY



by Ohemaa Bonsu, Martha Clifton and Niamh Willden, Y6 Librarians, The Manor Preparatory School

ON Thursday 2 March, BBC Radio Oxford came to our school to interview a few of us about our costumes and characters for World Book Day.

BBC Radio came to our assembly, where the librarians told the school about the special £1 books on offer for World Book Day.

Martha recommended *Butterfly Beach* by Jacqueline Wilson because she liked the way the bully from the author's previous book became the narrator in this book.

Niamh read and recommended *Where's Wally?* because she thought it was like a massive hide-and-seek hunt. Quite a few of our teachers also dressed up as Wally, which was very confusing!

Ohemaa enjoyed *Horrid Henry Funny Fact Files* because it included exclusive details about Henry and his family, as well as their deepest, darkest secrets. There were four prizes for the dressing-up competition: the most spectacular being the wardrobe from *The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe* by CS Lewis!

There were several competitions running throughout the day such as #staffshelfies and the mystery book competition.

We all had great fun.



Celebrating World Book Day

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



ARE you doing something sponsored for charity? Starting your own school newspaper? Putting on a show? Are you off on an amazing holiday or did you have a great day out? Why not share your experiences with *First News* readers?

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

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

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THE CATCH

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

by The Catch Team

WE three all fell in love with American football not that long ago. When we started to get really into it, we ran into a problem: this sport seemed complicated.

Eventually we built up a fair amount of knowledge, but we want to make this knowledge more accessible for everyone else, so we have decided to create our show, *The Catch* on YouTube.

So, why bother? The answer is simple: American football is an awesome sport. We love everything from the flashy players to the amazing catches.

In the UK, the NFL is looked at as an all-American circus, with too many ads and sponsors.

We want to show people what the NFL is really about: the drama, the athleticism and, quite simply, the fun.

On *The Catch*, we will cover a large variety of topics, from great plays to the draft to the cool haircuts.



Practising a throw

SINGING FOR THE POPE

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

by Fergus McKie

IN October I was part of the Canterbury Cathedral Choir that had the honour to go on a tour to Rome and sing in front of the Pope. We were accompanying the Archbishop of Canterbury, leader of the Anglican Church.

When we arrived in Rome, we set off to the Sistine Chapel Choir School, where we rehearsed with them. We would be singing together at a service of choral vespers with the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Pope. That same day we got a special tour of St Peter's Basilica. It's one of the largest churches in the world and full of famous art and sculptures. We got to go in the parts the public don't get to go to and we were also the first ever Anglican choir ever to sing in the choir stalls there.

That evening came the big event – choral vespers in front of the Pope and the Archbishop. There were lots of important people there and we even had a police escort! It was really exciting to perform with another world-famous choir at such a historic occasion.

The next day we got up and headed straight off to the British Embassy in Rome, where we sang a mini concert in front of 14 other Archbishops from across the world. We also gave a concert in a huge, beautiful old church.

The attendance there was fantastic. We eventually got back to the hotel at just after midnight.

I loved taking part and I feel very privileged to have been given the chance to do this.



You can watch a film about the choir's trip to Rome at live.firstnews.co.uk

WIN! A REVELL CONTROL QUADCOPTER

WE have teamed up with Revell Control to offer eight lucky readers the chance to win either a Quadcopter GO! or the Quadcopter Funtic 2.0.

GO! is the new Quadcopter from Revell Control. It offers everything you would expect from a modern quadcopter, including multiple speed levels from convenient to fast, flip function and headless mode, and the precise 4CH remote control ensures full control. Simply take off and have fun.

Just like the Quadcopter GO!, the mid-size Quadcopter Funtic 2.0 includes multiple speed levels from comfortable to fast, flip function and headless mode. The successor to the Funtic drone offers easy flying and auto height control. Both quadcopters come with a large LiPo battery that is charged easily and conveniently via the included USB cord.



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

How many blades does a quadcopter have?
 a) Three b) Four c) Five

Available from Amazon and all good toy stores. For details, visit www.revell.de/en.

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY REVELL

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 23. The closing date is 30 March 2017.

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EFTELING Advertisement feature

Symbolica, Palace of Fantasy

FANCY an audience with the King? Well, this summer could be your chance, as Efteling's newest dark ride, **Symbolica: Palace of Fantasy**, has arrived!

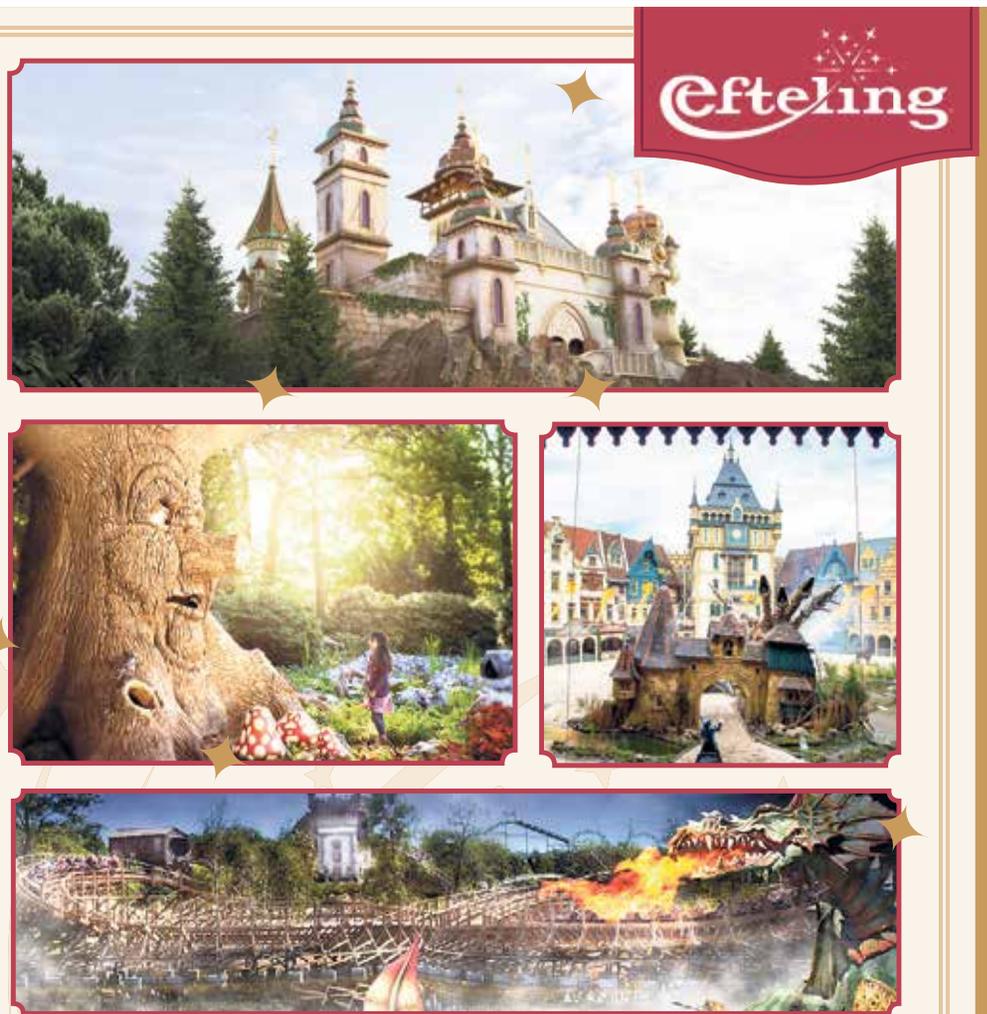
Nothing is what it seems in this exciting new family attraction at Efteling Theme Park in the Netherlands.

Pardoes, the court jester, will make sure that your visit is full of surprises and enchantment, as he takes you through secret corridors and magical rooms. You'll be amazed time after time, so come and let the power of fantasy astonish you!

Endless fun

As well as Symbolica, there is loads to discover all year round at Efteling. From thrilling rollercoasters to relaxing boat rides, bewitching attractions to incredible live shows (one with a five-headed, fire-breathing dragon!), there's something for everyone! That's not forgetting the incredible Fairytale Forest with the unique talking tree!

Make sure you don't miss a thing and stay in one of the Efteling hotels or holiday villages. The Loonsche Land Hotel and Holiday Village opens this summer, offering you the chance to stay in a tree house, a house in water or underground.



For more information or to book, visit www.efteling.com

FirstNews QUIZ

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED THIS WEEK?

HAVE a go at our First News Challenge! Why not set yourself and your friends or family a time challenge and see who can get the highest score in the quickest time? Good luck! See how well you did by using the answers at the bottom.

1 Why did 50 swans need rescuing from the River Kennet?

.....

2 Who was the first Briton to win a speed skating world title?

.....

3 What is Article 50?

.....

4 When is Share A Pencil Day?

.....

5 How many countries took part in last year's Earth Hour?

.....

6 Who picked up the Global Music Star Award at the recent Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards?

.....

7 Taylor Swift's song Love Story was inspired by which of Shakespeare's plays?

.....

8 How many different versions of the Comic Relief nose have there been?

.....

1 oil spillage 2 Wiff O'Reilly 3 a plan for any country that wants to leave the EU 4 17 May 5 178 6 Little Mix 7 Romeo And Juliet 8 39

WORDS FOR LIFE



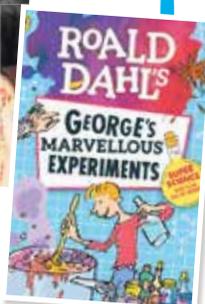
GEORGIA Byng is a children's writer, illustrator, actress and film producer. Her book, *The Girl With No Nose*, is out now. Here Georgia tells us what storybook character she would be:

"The girl in Roald Dahl's The Magic Finger. She has a powerful, magic finger that, when pointed at a person, can turn them into animals."

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

Book Review

Roald Dahl's George's Marvellous Experiments, reviewed by Eloise Pickavance, aged 11.



This book is another brilliant addition to the collection of books by Roald Dahl! It's written in the form of a recipe book, giving instructions for each experiment – from gooey gloop to volcanic eruptions. All the experiments can be done at home very easily.

The book not only tells you how to conduct the experiment, but it also tells you how the chemical reactions form the end result, as well as the scientific background to all the experiments. It is a short read, yet a really good one. I would give it four and a half stars out of five.

WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS? Mother's Day!



DESIGN YOUR OWN PERFUME SET
IWANTONEOFTHOSE.COM £9.99

Create your very own bespoke perfume for your mum this Mother's Day with this exclusive perfume kit. The kit contains nine fragrance oils, selected by master perfumers, so that yours is a totally original fragrance blend just for your mum.

DRINKING ANIMAL PLANTER
FIREBOX.COM £9.99 EACH

Choose from four different animal planters, each with their own type of plant. These cute pets are ready to brighten up any windowsill. Just pour a little water into the bowl, then all it takes is a dip of their tongue and the plants on their backs fill with water, keeping them nice and healthy.



BATH TEA BAG BOX
PREZZYBOX.COM £9.95

These bath tea bags are the perfect way to spoil your mum this Mother's Day. Simply choose the fragrance you want, pop it into the bath, and your mum can enjoy a bath in peace and quiet as the salts gently infuse into the water. There are five fragrances to choose from.

SPORT IN NUMBERS

7 tries were scored by England winger Kay Wilson (below) as England beat Scotland 64-0. No player had ever scored more than five in a Women's Six Nations match before. England and Ireland meet tomorrow (Saturday) to decide who wins the title.



217 minutes and 14 seconds is how long the epic ice hockey match between Norway's Storhamar Dragons and Sparta Warriors lasted. It is thought to be the longest game in the sport's history, but the final score was just 2-1 to the Dragons!



3 goals in seven minutes were scored by Barcelona at the end of their extraordinary Champions League tie against Paris Saint Germain. Barca pulled off one of the greatest comebacks in the competition, overturning a 4-0 first-leg loss to win 6-1 on the night and 6-5 on aggregate. Sergi Roberto (below) scored the winner.



10 gold medals out of ten went to Chinese athletes at the Diving World Series event in Guangzhou, China. In the first leg of the series earlier this month, China won nine out of the ten medals on offer.



ELATED ELISE!



Elise (centre) and her fellow medal winners gurn on the podium after the 1,000m final

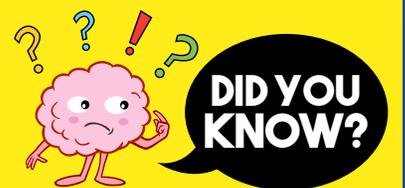
ELISE Christie has become the first British woman to win a speed skating world title.

In the same weekend, she went on to win two more world titles! Christie's first gold came in the 1,500m, before she won another gold in the 1,000m and bronze in the 3,000m. The results meant that she also won overall gold.

The Scottish star had already won plenty of medals at the World Short

Track Speed Skating Championships, but none of them had been gold. She also broke hearts across Britain during the 2014 Winter Olympics, when she had a run of bad luck and was disqualified from all of her events.

"I am ecstatic!" she told reporters. Well done, Elise!



THE first Briton to win a speed skating world title was Wilf O'Reilly, who won the World Championship in 1991.

Jonathan Joseph on the way to one of his three tries



ENGLAND have kept their Six Nations title and equalled a world record, thanks to a huge 61-21 victory over Scotland at Twickenham.

England had never scored more than 44 points against Scotland, and the win also equals the biggest winning margin in matches between the two teams.

The victory means that England are eight points ahead of Ireland and France, with one match to play. It might be tempting for England to slack off but, if they beat Ireland tomorrow (Saturday), it will give them their second Grand Slam in a row. It would also be their 19th Test victory in a row, which would beat the record set last year by the All Blacks.

ENGLAND SET SIGHTS ON RECORD

