



# FirstNews

Issue 701 £1.99 22 – 28 November 2019

TRUSTED  
NEWS TO MAKE  
YOUNG PEOPLE  
THINK

NEWS : SPORTS : ENTERTAINMENT : INTERVIEWS : PUZZLES : COMPETITIONS AND MORE

## CRAWLING OFF!

LIVE BUGS WILL  
NOT BE ON JUNGLE  
MENU FOR THE  
FIRST TIME

### POLL OF THE WEEK

Should the use of all  
creatures be stopped on  
*I'm A Celebrity*?  
[first.news/polls](http://first.news/polls)



***I'M A Celebrity* camp-mates won't eat live critters in eating trials for the first time in the TV show's history, following animal cruelty campaigning.**

ITV will only serve bugs that are already dead in bushtucker trials following campaigning from animal charities and wildlife experts, including TV presenter Chris Packham. Chris said insects being killed for entertainment was like something out of the Middle Ages.

In a letter on Twitter, Chris pleaded with Ant and Dec to stop the use of all animals on *I'm A Celebrity*.

Writing to the TV duo, and the show's producers, he urged: "For our

**by editor in chief Nicky Cox**

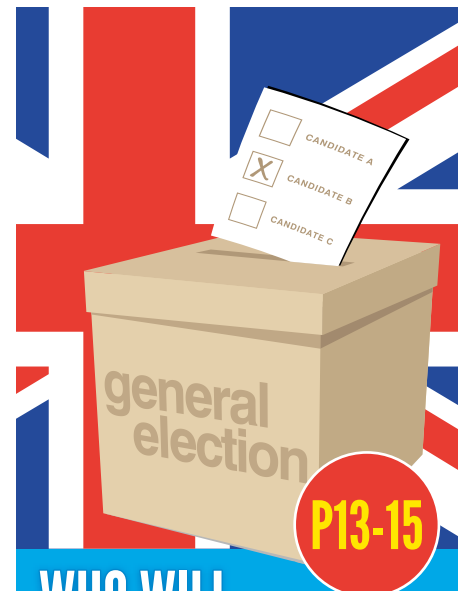
world to survive this needs to be the age of change, so could you please have a read and a think and then get back to me.

"Since around the time you were both born we have lost between 40% and 50% of all the world's wildlife. You would not ask your contestants to eat a live baby monkey but, in ecological terms, a monkey is no more valuable, no more important

than a grub or a spider or cricket."

In previous years, there have been thousands of complaints from viewers about the bushtucker trials. Some are also against live bugs, rats and snakes being used in other tasks, but ITV have no plans to stop that.

You might notice another change on *I'm A Celebrity*. Following the major bush fires blazing across east Australia, gas stoves have replaced the open campfire where the celebrities cook.



WHO WILL  
GET YOUR VOTE IN  
THE *FirstNews*  
GENERAL ELECTION?

NEW  
OBESITY  
CRISIS  
FAT CATS  
AND  
DOGS!



VENICE FLOODS

## 2. QUICK NEWS

FirstNews ● Issue 701 ● 22 – 28 November 2019

### 1. LAST CHANCE!

This week is your last chance to enter our Young Digital Innovator of the Year competition, alongside our friends at TCS! We're asking you to think up a digital product (or concept) that could be used to support elderly people around the world. That might be a robot to help them around the house or a new design for a walking stick. You could win your very own MacBook and a 3D printer for your school! Find out more about the competition and how you can enter at [first.news/innovators](https://www.firstnews/innovators). The closing date is 29 November. Good luck!

### 2. LORD NAMECHANGE

A politician known as Lord Buckethead has changed his name to Count Binface and is planning to challenge Boris Johnson for his Uxbridge seat in the general election.

### 3. IDRIS ELBA WASP

A new wasp has been discovered in Guanajuato, Mexico. The species has been named *Idris elba*, like the famous English actor. Scientists made a tweak to the Latin grammar to make it work!



### 4. SALMON SPILL

A lorry carrying 20 tonnes of salmon overturned in the Scottish Highlands, and locals tried to sell it. Apparently, some people scooped up fish from the road and went on to sell it to other people. Argyll and Bute council warned people "it is potentially unsafe to eat".

### 5. MINE METHANE

Mines are causing serious damage to the environment, shows new research by the International Energy Agency. The world's mines are leaking tonnes of methane and the emissions are so bad they could be worse for the climate than aeroplanes.

## 20 THINGS TO KNOW AND TELL

QUICK NEWS TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS

### 6. POPPINS LANDS!

Mary Poppins is back in the West End! The musical, based on the hit film, has opened at the Prince Edward Theatre in London and will run until May 2020.

### 7. MOBO AWARDS

The MOBO Awards are returning in 2020, after a two-year break. The event, celebrating music of black origin, will take place at the SSE Arena in London on 12 November.

### 8. GOING GREEN

The Eurostar celebrated its 25th birthday by going green! On one service from London to Paris, no single-use plastics were used. That meant those on board were given wooden cutlery, cans of water and paper-based coffee cups. The operator also announced that from 1 January 2020, it will plant a tree for every Eurostar service that runs. That could mean up to 20,000 trees a year!



### 9. POLL RESULTS

Schools should ban packed lunches and give pupils two free vegetarian meals every week, says *Bake Off* judge Prue Leith. We asked you: Should packed lunches be banned in schools? 15% of you said YES, while 85% of you said NO.

### COMMENT

"Definitely not. What happens if someone has lots of serious allergies and can't eat over half the food? Will they be expected to go hungry all afternoon? And what if you're a very fussy eater?" said First News Live! user, abinews.

### 10. ROYAL CHRISTMAS

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex will spend Christmas with Meghan's mother, Doria Ragland, instead of with the Queen this year. It's not been revealed yet if the family will be in the UK or the US.

### 11. TEEN AWARDS

BBC Radio 1's Teen Awards take place on 24 November. A number of young people will be honoured for selfless and heroic acts, alongside awards for celebrity icons.

### 12. ISLANDS TO CLOSE

The Faroe Islands in Denmark will close to the public for three days next year, to help preserve the landscape and ecosystem. The islands have become very popular with tourists in recent years.

### 13. SANTA'S GROTTO

Harrods department store in London has decided to change its rules on who can visit its famous Santa's grotto. The store originally said parents had to have spent more than £2,000 for their children to visit. Following a big outcry, Harrods has now decided to scrap that decision and charge £20 to anyone who wants to come instead.

### 14. CHILDREN IN NEED

This year's Children In Need TV appeal raised a whopping £47.9m. Highlights included a special *Strictly Come Dancing* performance with *EastEnders* stars, a song by Louis Tomlinson and a celebrity edition of *The Hit List*. *Doctor Who* star Jodie Whittaker also surprised an unsuspecting schoolgirl.



### 15. EMERGENCY FOOD PARCELS

The Trussell Trust, which runs food banks across the UK, said it gave out a staggering 823,145 emergency food parcels between April and September of this year. That's a 23% increase on last year, and makes it the charity's busiest ever six-month period.

### 16. GRETA'S RIDE

Greta Thunberg has managed to find a lift to the UN climate conference COP25 in Madrid this December. The 16-year-old Swedish activist has joined Australian YouTube couple Riley Whitelum and Elayna Carausu aboard their 48-foot catamaran, La Vagabonde, alongside English yachtswoman Nikki Henderson. They are travelling across the Atlantic now.

### 17. FAMILY FILMS

The Barbican Family Film Weekender is taking place on 23 and 24 November. You can catch all sorts of family screenings, workshops and events, including a film quiz! For more info, visit [www.barbican.org.uk](https://www.barbican.org.uk).

### 18. TRANSPLANT DISPLAY

The Science Museum in London has put 3D models of a kidney transplant between a dad and his toddler on permanent display. Models of Chris Boucher's kidney and his daughter Lucy's abdomen were made to help surgeons at Guys and St Thomas' Hospital figure out how to accomplish the tricky transplant from an adult to a child. The operation proved a big success and is now being celebrated in the museum's newly opened Medicine Galleries.

### 19. DISNEY+ LAUNCH

Disney+ has officially launched in the US, Canada and the Netherlands. The new streaming service, featuring content from Disney, Pixar, Marvel and Star Wars, is coming to the UK in March 2020.

### 20. THANKSGIVING

Americans will be celebrating Thanksgiving on 28 November. The annual celebration is a public holiday in the US, giving thanks for the harvest. It is marked with big parades, fireworks and turkey!

### 3. BIG NEWS

FirstNews • Issue 701 • 22 – 28 November 2019



**THIS year's Road Safety Week is all about stepping up for safer streets.**

Did you know that every 20 minutes, someone is killed or seriously injured on Britain's roads? Lots of those are children.

The charity Brake says that each of these tragedies could be stopped.

This Road Safety Week, people are being urged to learn about all the different solutions that help us to get around in safe and healthy ways. That includes things like speed limits,

bicycle lanes and safety technology in vehicles.

One group of Year 6 pupils headed down to the filming of a new video by Brake, to see what cars of the future might look like and what hazards they potentially pose. You can check out the pupils' report over on p27 – our Your News page.

What do you think we can do to make our roads safer?

## VENICE FLOODED

**FLOODS have killed two people and caused over €1 billion (£854,000) of damage in Venice.**

The famous Italian city has seen the worst week for high tides since 1872.

Mayor Luigi Brugnaro blamed the floods on the climate crisis and promised that long-delayed flood barriers finally would be finished.

But, just moments after Venice's council voted to reject a plan to combat climate change, the city's council offices were flooded.

The proposals included plans to fund renewable energy sources, replace diesel buses with less polluting vehicles, scrap polluting stoves and reduce plastic use.



Popular tourist spot St Mark's Square had to close

## EDITOR'S COMMENT



**ALTHOUGH only adults can vote in next month's general election, only children can take part in the First News election!**

You may not have a vote, but you definitely have a voice. Over the next few weeks, we'll be paying close attention to what politicians have to say about the issues that matter most to you – such as education, climate change and Brexit.

Turn to page 13 to find out more about the general election – and be sure to have your voice heard in our special poll.

## GOOD WEEK FOR...

### YOUNGEST GRADUATE

A NINE-year-old boy is set to become the youngest ever university graduate!

Laurent Simons from Amsterdam is studying for an electrical engineering degree at the Eindhoven University of Technology. If he completes it next month, Laurent will have set a new world record!



## BAD WEEK FOR...



### WINTER VEGETABLES

POTATOES, cauliflowers and cabbages all could be in trouble this winter, following heavy floods in the UK. Farmers are struggling to look after their crops, as their fields have become sodden. It means the price of some foods could go up.

## NEWSROUND CUTS

**NEWSROUND will stop being shown in the afternoons, under new plans by the BBC.**

The broadcaster wants to cut the amount of news shown on CBBC from 85 hours to 35 hours a year, as it says more children are getting information online. The children's news programme will be shown in the mornings still. TV watchdog Ofcom will decide now if they agree with the plans.

The BBC said: "If our proposals are approved we'll still have at least one daily TV bulletin of Newsround at the same time as doubling our online offer, which is where more and more children are getting their news."



While some people support the move, others are disappointed, arguing there needs to be more news on TV for young people, rather than less.

First News partners with Sky for children's news show FYI where all the reporters are young people. It's shown on Sky News at 10.30am every weekend, on demand on Sky Kids and schools can watch it online all week at [first.news/fyi](http://first.news/fyi).

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## 4. NEWS IN PICTURES

FirstNews ● Issue 701 ● 22 – 28 November 2019

### LONDON, UK



A 19-HOUR non-stop flight from London to Sydney takes off from Heathrow Airport. Qantas trialled the new flight, dubbed Project Sunrise, with 40 people, including crew, on board. The journey took 19 hours and 19 minutes. The Australian airline set the record for the longest ever commercial flight last month when it flew from New York to Sydney.

### FLORIDA, USA



DISCOVERY Cove recently welcomed 192 children with a wide range of illnesses or disabilities for a tropical day in paradise, and to spend time learning about dolphins. The visit was coordinated by Dreamflight, a UK-based charity that organises the annual 10-day trip to Orlando.



### NEW DELHI, INDIA

PRINCE Charles makes chapati bread at a community kitchen while visiting the Gurudwara Bangla Sahib, a prominent Sikh house of worship.

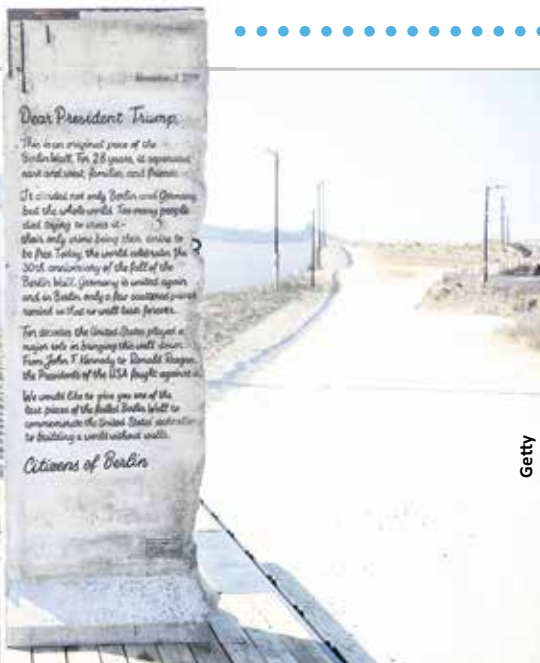


### CHANGCHUN, CHINA

MALE giant panda Mu Yun plays in the snow at the Siberian Tiger Park.

### CALIFORNIA, USA

A PORTION of the Berlin Wall sits in front of the United States-Mexico border wall. The section of wall features a letter to Donald Trump, which was originally sent to the White House. But it was rejected and brought to the US-Mexico border by a group dedicated to promoting ideas for an open society.



MARS has launched a vegan range of its popular Galaxy chocolate bars. Certified by the Vegan Society, the bars are the first plant-based alternative to milk chocolate produced by a large confectionery brand.



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## 5. BIG NEWS

FirstNews • Issue 701 • 22 – 28 November 2019

# OVERWEIGHT NATION

**WARNINGS** have been issued by health officials for some years about rising levels of obesity in humans, but now our podgy pooches and paunchy pussy cats are being targeted too!

More than 2.7 million owners have been told by vets that their pets are overweight and in danger of suffering serious health problems. The British Veterinary Association says that obese animals have shorter lives and suffer a range of problems, from joint, heart and breathing difficulties to diabetes – and it is our fault. Spoiling our pets by giving them human food, such as cheese and bacon, is doing them serious harm.

Obesity rates in animals, although rising and causing concern, have not yet reached the levels of their owners. Diabetes UK has just revealed figures that show almost 30% of over-16s are now obese – that's 13 million people. Overweight humans suffer from the same kinds of illnesses as overweight pets, especially as they get older, including an increased risk of cancer, heart attacks and strokes. Health officials say that this is creating a huge strain on the NHS and have called on the Government to take action.

# FIRE SAFETY

**FIRE CHIEFS** have warned that the reported increase in the number of household fires over the last year is set to continue unless cuts to the Fire Service are reversed.

Figures released by the Government show a 14% rise in the number of fires in homes in England up to June 2019. Firefighters responded to more incidents, but there was also a rise in the number of people who died as a result of fire.

There is an increased risk of fire over Christmas and the holiday season. Candles and electric lights are a particular hazard as they are widely used at this time of year. They are the fourth and fifth most common cause of fires, show government numbers. Last year, 26% of fires were caused when textiles (curtains, bedding, etc) caught light from being too close to heat.

## 5 FIRE SAFETY TIPS

1. Don't light matches or candles yourself
2. Make sure decorations are not attached to lights or heaters
3. Don't put too many plugs in one socket
4. Turn off lights at bedtime
5. Take care around open fires



**THE Netherlands** will introduce lower speed limits next year in order to reduce pollution.

The current speed limit is 130 km/h (80mph), but it will be reduced to 100 km/h (62mph) from 6am to 7pm to reduce pollution. This will make it the joint lowest limit in Europe along with Cyprus.

The Dutch government were against the new law, having already raised the speed limit in 2013. They have been forced to adopt the lower limit after losing a court case which proved the government was breaking EU pollution laws.

Prime Minister Mark Rutte described the change as a “rotten measure”, telling reporters that he hoped that, with more electric cars, the limit could be raised again at a later date.

Lowering the speed limit will reduce the amount of emissions given out by vehicles. It should make a big impact on air pollution in the country. Road transport has been shown to be one of the biggest air polluters and is the only industry in Europe where emissions have increased in the last 20 years.

# THE 'INSECT APOCALYPSE'

**A NEW** report from one of Britain's top ecologists says that we are facing an 'unnoticed insect apocalypse' which could be a risk to life on Earth.

The report, which has a focus on the UK's insect population, says that there is overwhelming evidence that shows a rapid decline in insect numbers.

More than 20 bee and wasp species in the UK have become extinct in the last 100 years, and the population of spotted flycatchers (a bird that eats only flying insects) has fallen by 93%. Pesticide use has doubled in the last 25 years.

The report has been written by Professor Dave Goulson, an ecologist who studied the decline in the UK's insect populations for The Wildlife Trusts.

The professor said: “In terms of numbers, we may have lost 50% or more of our insects since 1970... or it could be much more. We just don't know, which is scary.”



**CHILDLINE** HELPS THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN EVERY WEEK. IF YOU EVER FEEL WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING IN THE NEWS OR YOU JUST NEED TO TALK, YOU CAN VISIT [WWW.CHILDLINE.ORG.UK](http://WWW.CHILDLINE.ORG.UK) OR CALL THEM ON 0800 11 11.

## 6. HOME NEWS

FirstNews • Issue 701 • 22 – 28 November 2019

### GLENCOE

#### ● Small earthquakes

Residents in Glencoe in the Scottish Highlands felt two small earthquakes last week, with some people in Ballachulish even saying they heard a rumbling sound. The British Geological Survey says it detected a magnitude 1.9 earthquake first, followed by a magnitude 1.7 quake six minutes later.

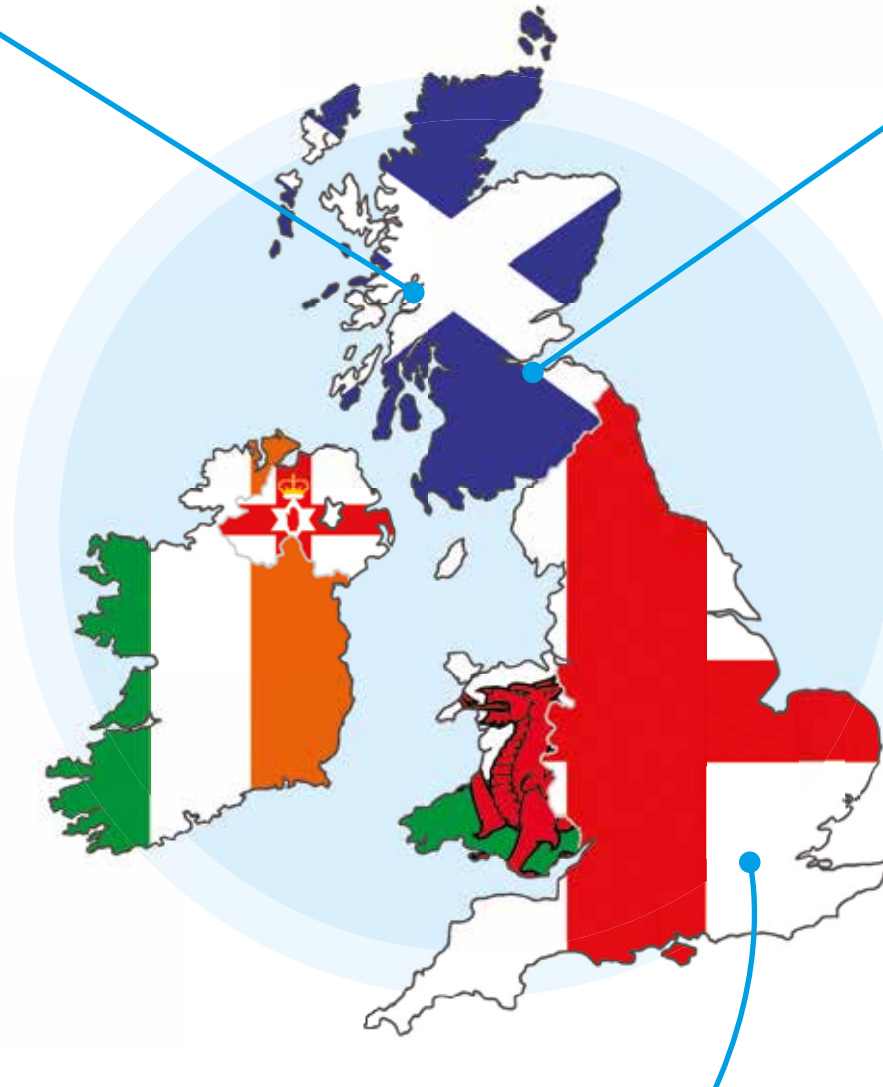


### EDINBURGH



#### ● Lion cubs named

Edinburgh Zoo has announced the names of their three little Asiatic lion cubs. The youngsters have been called Mitaali, Keshari and Kushanu, in tribute to the Gir forest in western India where the species is found. Keepers at the wildlife conservation charity drew up a shortlist of names for the 13-week-old female and two male cubs, and the public got to vote.



### UK

#### ● National Tree Week

From 23 November to 1 December, it's National Tree Week. People will plant trees around the country to help tackle climate change and protect animal habitats. Up to a million trees are planted each year as part of the campaign. Find out how you can get involved at [www.treecouncil.org.uk/Take-Part/National-Tree-Week](http://www.treecouncil.org.uk/Take-Part/National-Tree-Week).



### UK

#### ● Flooding update

Boris Johnson has urged people to "prepare for more floods" this winter, after chairing an emergency meeting about heavy flooding in parts of the UK. The prime minister revealed that money will be given to businesses and communities affected by the flooding in areas such as Yorkshire and the Midlands. Around 100 Army personnel have been called in to help, too.



### WALES



#### ● Let it snow!

It started to look a lot like Christmas last week, when parts of Wales were hit by heavy snow. People were urged not to travel on the roads, as the Met Office issued a yellow weather warning. Some people even had to abandon their vehicles. Parts of England, including Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Bath, also woke up to the white stuff.

### UK

#### ● Black and white

There are still 7,161 people across the UK watching TV in black and white, show new figures from TV Licensing. Around 1,311 homes in London are watching programmes in black and white, followed by 323 homes in Birmingham and 245 in Manchester.

### LONDON

#### ● Barefoot Britain challenge

Girlguiding ambassador and global adventurer Anna McNuff has completed an epic running challenge across the UK. Anna has spent five months running barefoot through Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England, covering more than 2,000 miles! She was welcomed with huge cheers at the finish in Cannizaro Park in Wimbledon. Anna hopes the Barefoot Britain challenge inspires young girls.



## NEWS IN NUMBERS

**3** of the UK's largest bargain retailers – Poundland, B&M, and Home Bargains – are being urged to sell eggs from only cage-free hens. The animal welfare charity, Compassion in World Farming, says around 16 million laying hens in the UK are kept in cages right now.

**7** cities will welcome the UK's only Muslim pantomime this year! From 4 December, The Great Muslim Panto will tour its Super Souls show. It is being performed in aid of the Penny Appeal charity.



**50** years is how long the youth homeless charity, Centrepoin has been open for. To celebrate, The Duke of Cambridge joined music stars at a special anniversary gala and also opened new apprenticeship accommodation.

**13** December is when *Pinocchio on Ice* will be coming to Alexandra Palace's ice rink in north London. The show will be a festive retelling of the popular story, packed with magic and festive treats!

# CURIOUS AIR



**THE oxygen in the Martian atmosphere is changing – and scientists don't know why.**

Experts have been studying data from the Mars Curiosity rover (above). In particular, they've analysed gases in the air directly above the Gale Crater, where the rover is roaming.

They found that the amount of oxygen in the Martian atmosphere rose by 30% in the spring and summer.

The Red Planet's atmosphere is made up mostly of carbon dioxide. Scientists plan to use Curiosity to carry out tests on the Martian surface to find out why the oxygen has spiked.

# FISHY PLASTIC

**THE inventor of a plastic made from fish waste has won a prize.**

Lucy Hughes, aged 24, won the James Dyson award for MarinaTex, an invention that can biodegrade (break down naturally) and be composted.

Hughes' plastic (below) is strong and could be used in wrapping and bags, doing away with traditional single-use plastics that are harmful to the environment.

The James Dyson Award/  
Lucy Hughes



A child on the cracked land of the Namibian desert in Africa

# KIDS' HEALTH AT STAKE

**NEW RESEARCH from across the world shows that children are already suffering from the effects of climate change.**

A range of health problems have been directly linked to environmental changes and are predicted to have a lifelong impact on children unless action is taken to limit global warming.

The research, published in the medical journal *The Lancet*, was a joint project by 120 scientists across 35 countries. Dr Nick Watts, an expert on the effects of climate change, warned that an immediate cut in greenhouse gas emissions was needed to protect children in the future and avoid long-term health problems.

The increased temperatures that result from global warming have many consequences, from extreme weather events such as typhoons, hurricanes and heatwaves to rises in sea levels. Apart from the immediate physical dangers that they can cause, there are huge impacts in other areas. Crops can fail, reducing the amount of food available and increasing the spread of infections and diseases. Children are especially likely to suffer as their bodies are still growing and their immune systems developing. They are less able to cope with malnutrition or illness.

Air pollution is also set to rise if the current levels of emissions are maintained. Young people are more likely to suffer damaged lungs and increased asthma as a result, leading to other health worries in later life.

But there is hope. One of the co-authors of the report, Dr Stella Hartinger, thinks that children themselves can influence the future. She said: "We must listen to the millions of young people who have led the wave of school strikes for urgent action."

# 2020'S TARGETS

**CHANGES intended to improve the environment and prevent dangerous amounts of pollution in the air and water are not hitting their targets.**

Despite various promises from the last three UK governments, research shows that many of the environmental targets set by them are unlikely to be reached, even though some have been set by law.

Air and water pollution, climate, overfishing, tree planting and waste management were all supposed to be improved by the early 2020s, but scientists believe that progress so far is not enough.

There has been some success in the reduction of poisonous gases being released into the air by cars, farming and industry, but some of the most dangerous emissions are still at worrying levels. Offshore wind farms (below) have also helped increase the amount of electricity produced from renewable sources, although the overall target of 15% for all types of energy will not be reached by 2020.

Environmental experts warn that action needs to be stepped up for even the slightest chance of meeting the targets. The rate of tree planting, increased recycling and more protection of animal species are all areas that need serious improvement.



TATA  
CONSULTANCY  
SERVICES

# INNOVATIONS

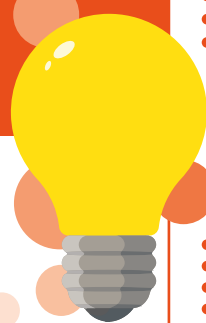
**LAST month, the Government announced plans to invest £34 million to help develop health care robots.**

Although a general election has been called and that policy may change, it is a sign of how innovations are changing the way we treat sick and disabled people.

One in seven people in the UK are now expected to be over 75 by the year 2040. "Care robots" could change how we help the elderly, by delivering medicines and food, and even helping lift people after a fall at home.

Can you come up with a new invention that could help the elderly? If so, we want you to enter our Young Digital Innovator of the Year competition!

Go to [first.news/innovators](https://first.news/innovators) to find out more.



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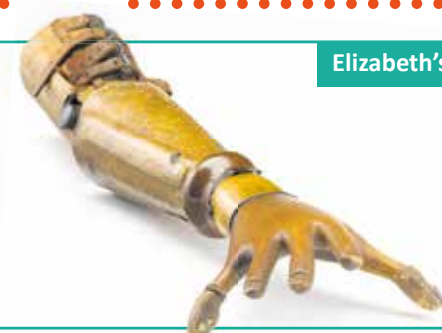
This report is from  
our friends at the  
Science Museum.

**PROSTHETIC limbs can have a big impact on the lives of people who use them.**

They enable users to perform everyday tasks and are in many cases designed for a person with a specific job or hobby.

Elizabeth Burton was a music and singing teacher born in Daventry, Northamptonshire, in the 1860s. She lost her arm after an infection that spread when she cut her thumb on a fish bone while preparing a meal. As a mother of six, widowed in her 30s, Elizabeth was determined to carry out everyday tasks as well as making a living to support her family.

Using a prosthetic limb made for her in 1903, she was able to continue her career as a pianist and even performed a concert at the Royal Albert Hall. You can see Elizabeth's prosthesis – and others – at the Science Museum's Medicine: The Wellcome Galleries.



Elizabeth's arm

Science Museum Group

## MEET YOUR MEAT

There are just under five million pigs on UK farms, but around 33.5m sheep and lambs

### FOOD FACT

In many countries, pigs are used to hunt for truffles (a fungus that grows underground). A pig's sense of smell is so good that it can sniff truffles out even when they're a metre underground!



WHEN you look at the beefburger or salmon fillet on your plate, do you ever wonder what kind of life it had? Was it well looked after? Did it suffer from disease or poor living conditions? Did it live its life in as natural a way as possible? Does that even matter? And you might not want to think about the details, but was the animal killed in a way that means it didn't suffer?

## A VEAL PROBLEM

When people question the welfare of farm animals, farmers often feel like they're being attacked by people who don't understand farming. Sometimes they're right, but there are other times when a public outcry has rightly forced change.

A good example is the veal crates that were used to trap calves in a tiny space so they could barely move. They were common until they were banned (in 1990 in the UK, but not until 2006 in the rest of the EU). But the ban produced a new problem: since horrific pictures of the crates made the veal market collapse, it meant that farmers now had lots of male calves that they had to put down immediately after birth. Farmers, animal welfare groups and supermarkets have worked together to improve the situation, so now 78% of male calves go into the food chain, which is up from 60% in 2006. However, more than 100,000 calves were killed in 2016.

Dairy farmers are also often criticised for separating calves from their mothers almost as soon as they're born, causing stress for both of them. But this still happens even on most organic farms, as otherwise the calf would drink its mother's milk and it couldn't be sold to humans. Calves are usually kept in hutches (below) for up to eight weeks after they're born, but the RSPCA says this is probably best for them, as calves in large groups can be vulnerable to disease.

"Removing calves immediately after birth is a very effective control method for Johnes's disease," says Phil Elkins from the British Cattle Veterinary Association. "There are clear health benefits to individual or paired hutches from birth in regards to disease control but also in terms of ability to manage and monitor the requirements of very young animals. However, there are social challenges to keeping calves away from other calves, which can cause stress."

## DOES OUTDOOR EQUAL HAPPY?

Elkins disagrees with those who say that cows on organic farms are happier.

"From a cow health and welfare perspective, if housing is right, there is no benefit to cows going outside," he says.

The National Farmers' Union (NFU) says the same: "There is a lot of discussion about different production systems but the NFU has long maintained that health and welfare are the most important factors, not the type of system."

However, animal welfare organisations such as Compassion in World Farming (CIWF) and the RSPCA say that organic farming groups such as the Soil Association have the right idea, and that animals should be outside where possible.

"Chickens have a range of behaviours that can't be expressed indoors," says Rob Percival from the Soil Association. "Some of these indoor systems have something for chickens to interact with, but it's often fairly basic and shared between thousands of chickens.

They should expect to be rooting around outside. Organic not only guarantees that chickens are free-ranging but it has restrictions on stocking densities, which means that they're never too crowded. What we sometimes see with these indoor systems is that chickens peck at those around them and pigs chew each other's tails and bite each other, which are signs of stress."

There are often positives and negatives to weigh up between indoor and outdoor systems. For instance, the NFU backs the use of farrowing crates, which are used when sows are giving birth to piglets. The crates confine a sow's movement, so that she can't roll over and squash her piglets.

Percival says this is possibly more likely on an organic farm that doesn't use farrowing crates.

"It is a risk that any boar in the wild would be living with, and sometimes it's a price you have to pay," he says. "Poultry living outside are also more likely to be snatched by a fox. If you're living in a shed, you're safe from that risk, but there's a trade-off. And if you're in a farrowing crate, then you're not going to crush your young, but there's a significant trade-off in terms of the sow's wellbeing and welfare."

However, a report from the Animal Welfare Committee (which advises the Government) says there are lots of different systems and it's not clear which one is safest for piglets. Some systems also might be good for sows but bad for piglets, and vice versa.



One of the reasons for using farrowing crates is to stop sows crushing their piglets. Critics say crates block a sow's natural nest-building behaviour



Dairy calves are usually separated from their mother within days of being born, but most groups seem to agree that this is the best available method. Some organic farms are experimenting with using 'retired' dairy cows as a kind of foster mother for calves

# 9. FOOD MATTERS

## HEATED DEBATE

In the summer, there was a horrific example of how an indoor system can go wrong, when lots of chickens died at a Lincolnshire farm during a heatwave. We asked how many chickens died, what caused it, what's been done to make sure it doesn't happen again, and whether the climate crisis means it will happen more often, but Moy Park (the farm's owners) and the Government wouldn't tell us.

We asked Connor Creaghan, the journalist who broke the story, how many chickens died. "Certainly in the thousands and maybe the tens of thousands," he said.

"What is concerning is the lack of transparency around this case," says Philip Lymbery, the head of CIWF. "The media don't appear to have been informed of the number of deaths and if other farms have suffered the same horrific outcome. Most chickens reared for meat in the UK are confined in industrial, barren sheds where birds cannot avoid excessive heat. This is likely to become a more frequent event."

The NFU and Government regularly say that Britain's farm animal welfare standards are the highest in the world, although Lymbery is highly critical of most British farms.

"Let's be clear," he says, "in Britain, the vast majority of farm animals are reared in factory farms, in conditions that can only be described as of utter deprivation. They are caged, crammed and confined, and lead the most miserable of lives. Britain, as a nation of animal lovers, should be deeply ashamed."

An NFU spokesperson said: "Farmers are rightly proud of their standards of animal health and welfare and many animal welfare groups officially rank the UK's standards as some of the best in the world. The high-quality, safe, traceable and affordable food that farmers produce follow these high standards, in addition to protecting our environment and ensuring our food is safe."



**Loch Leven salmon farm.**  
There are plans to double the size of the salmon farming industry in Scotland by 2030

For a long time, scientists thought that fish couldn't feel pain, but most reject that idea now. Although some farmed fish are killed more humanely, such as under Soil Association standards, there are a huge number of problems with most fish farms. One is that the mortality [death] rates are huge – around 20% of fish on Scotland's fish farms die before they can be harvested for food, due to disease, viruses, infections with lice, poisoning by algae or other causes. Around nine million fish a year die and never become food. One company, Mowi Scotland, lost more than 1.5m fish in one single incident, which it blamed on "human error" after it was found that someone turned a pump off. The same company lost 89,737 fish in another incident, because of "an accident due to new staff in training".

"Fish farming has a vital role to play in solving world hunger," says Don Staniford from Scottish Salmon Watch, "but the farming of salmon is a welfare nightmare. The fish there have a horrific life. You're cramming a migratory species into a confined area. It's like the king of fish has become the couch potato and it's got infested with diseases and parasites."

CIWF and Staniford both say that welfare problems on Scotland's fish farms are getting worse. "There are increasing problems with disease, parasites, mortality and the use of brutal treatments for sea lice," says CIWF.

"Salmon farms use something called a thermolicer," says Staniford. "To get rid of the lice they put the salmon in effectively a big washing machine, heated up to 34°C. It's like a torture chamber."

Grieg Seafood Shetland reported that 19,131 fish died in one week in a thermolicer. Staniford and CIWF say the devices should be banned.

So what should consumers do?

"I think the best compromise is wild-caught fish," says Lymbery, "but recognise that the fish is likely to have suffered terribly when it was killed."

## A FISHY DILEMMA

In terms of animal welfare, fish are often overlooked.

"Fish in the oceans have a natural life," says Lymbery, "but then they're hauled out of the ocean and just allowed to suffocate to death, which is a huge welfare problem – and one that the industry doesn't seem quick to solve." He says that there is research into methods such as electrical stunning, but that at the moment, fishing is "cruel and inhumane".

**"Most common methods of slaughter expose fish to substantial suffering over a long period of time," the Humane Slaughter Association says. "Many species of farmed fish are typically killed by being taken out of water and left to asphyxiate [suffocate] in air"**



Another issue that people have with fish farms is that they can apply for licences to shoot seals. Although fewer seals are being shot now, the Scottish Government allowed fish farms to shoot 54 grey seals and 19 common seals in 2017. Exporting salmon is big business, but the US government will soon ban salmon from any farms that shoot seals.

"So the industry has to find a way to not shoot them," says Staniford. "It can be done, but a bullet is cheaper than a predator net. It's economics."

## THE RELIGION QUESTION

Animals have to be stunned before they are slaughtered, so that they are unconscious when they are killed and don't suffer. However, there are exemptions for halal and kosher meat, which is produced for Muslim and Jewish communities in a traditional way. There are differences, but both methods involve a cut to the neck with a very sharp knife.

Muslim and Jewish groups believe their methods are humane and that the animals don't suffer. They also point out that criticism of slaughter methods has often been used as a way of stirring up hatred against Muslims and Jews.

Shimon Cohen from Shechita UK told us that the process is "performed by a highly trained 'shochet' and is a swift and efficient procedure" and that "blood supply to the brain ceases immediately" along with "the ability to feel pain".

The Humane Slaughter Association (HSA) disagrees. "Although it has been argued by some supporters of the religious methods that these cause no pain because of the sharpness of the knife used, there is a considerable body of scientific evidence that this is not the case," it says.



**Chickens are the animals most commonly killed without stunning. Many groups want meat labelled with the method of killing, so that shoppers can make an informed choice. The Red Tractor, RSPCA Assured and Soil Association labels mean the animal will have been stunned**

The Halal Monitoring Committee didn't respond to our questions, but their website says that "stunning is inhumane to animals and causes unnecessary suffering and distress".

The religious exemption is also opposed by the Animal Welfare Committee, the RSPCA, British Veterinary Association and the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE), as well as CIWF and the Soil Association.

"Scientific research has clearly demonstrated that slaughter of an animal without stunning can cause unnecessary suffering," the RSPCA says.

"Slaughter without stunning increases the time to loss of consciousness, sometimes up to several minutes," the FVE says. "During this period of consciousness the animal can be exposed to unnecessary pain and suffering."

CIWF says that "while we respect the right to religious freedom, we do not believe this should extend to practices that inflict suffering on animals".

Religious groups point out that there are lots of problems with some types of stunned slaughter too, and that a failed attempt at stunning can lead to great suffering for an animal. Government figures show that this only happens a handful of times per year, but there's some debate over how accurate those figures are.

To see how many animals are killed by religious slaughter, the Food Standards Agency carried out a survey for one week in 2018. It showed that nearly 1.75m chickens were slaughtered in that week without being stunned first, along with 61,000 sheep and smaller numbers of cattle and other animals. The vast majority of non-stunned meat is for the halal market, although due to differences of opinion between Muslim authorities, most halal meat is actually produced by stunning animals first.



**Between 2011-2017, a total of 1,701 seals were legally shot on Scotland's fish farms**

## 10. WORLD NEWS

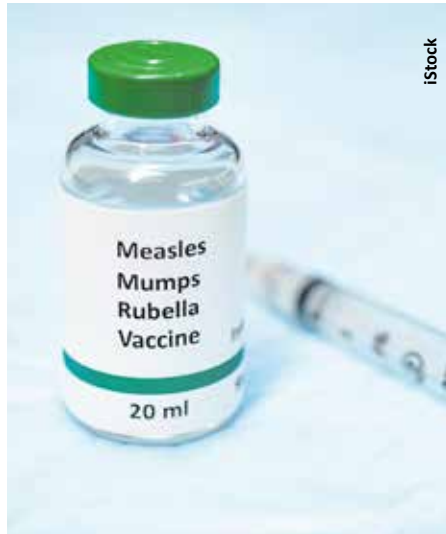
FirstNews • Issue 701 • 22 – 28 November 2019

## GERMANY



## ● New vaccination law

From March next year, all children attending preschool or higher in Germany must have received the MMR vaccine, a new law has said. Parents who do not have their children vaccinated can face fines of up to €2,500 (£2,100). Health officials in Germany have recorded 501 cases of measles this year.



## ITALY



## ● The pet detective

In Shanghai, a man called Sun Jinrong has become famous for being the country's first 'pet detective'. He says he's reunited around 1,000 pets with their owners, using his kit that consists of three thermal-imaging cameras, a hand-held machine to detect life under earthquake rubble and a tranquillising blow dart. "When our case is solved, it's basically a reunion," he said, adding: "It's a happy moment."



## HONG KONG



## ● Police sieges

It has been five months since anti-government protests began in Hong Kong, and now the city's universities have become key battlegrounds between the police and protesters. The conflict grew again this week, after a student who fell during the protests died. As *First News* went to press, protesters trying to leave Hong Kong university campuses were being arrested. Outside of the universities, and across the city, protesters have begun to stack bricks to create roadblocks, in a way that resembles Stonehenge. They say the structures help slow down police vehicles.

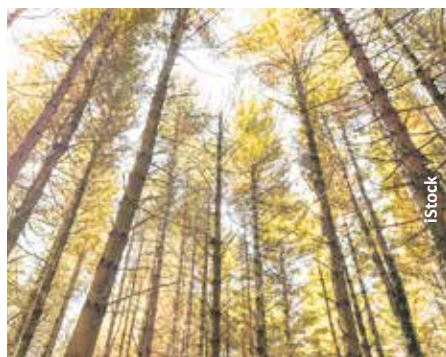


## USA



## ● Tree disease

A mysterious disease is killing American beech trees across the USA's eastern states. This is bad news because the trees are an important source of food for wildlife, and are the most common trees in Washington DC. "We're dealing with something really unusual," said Lynn Carta, a plant disease specialist. Some researchers have blamed a tiny, leaf-eating worm introduced from Asia, but others aren't convinced that's the whole story.



## BOLIVIA



## ● Military takeover

Several people have been killed by Bolivian security forces, following the resignation of the country's president Evo Morales (pictured). Morales, a former coca farmer, was the country's first indigenous leader when he was elected in 2006. In this year's election, it was reported that Morales received 47.1% of the vote, but an independent organisation said that the vote had been 'manipulated'. Morales called for new elections, sparking nationwide protests. Within days, the country's police joined the protests, and a top military general said Morales should step down. Morales then fled the country for his safety and the leader of the opposition, Jeanine Áñez, declared herself president. There have since been violent clashes between security forces and supporters of the former president.



## IRAN



## ● Internet shutdown

Following nationwide protests against the government, Iran's leaders have shut down the country's internet. Despite the shutdown, there were reports that many people had been killed, injured or arrested by Iranian security forces. In the city of Shiraz, videos emerged of protesters handing flowers to police officers, and telling them that they're "not the enemy".



## OUR WORLD

NAME: RAYAN LIVES: JORDAN

TO FIND OUT MORE, GO TO  
WWW.CAREINTERNATIONAL.ORG.UK

## THE WAR in Syria has led to millions of people fleeing to neighbouring countries like Jordan.

Rayan, aged 12, and her family fled Syria, due to the bombings. The dangerous journey from Syria to Azraq refugee camp in Jordan took them one month.

At the camp, children like Rayan can go to school, and they can also learn taekwondo. When Rayan grows up she wants to be a taekwondo coach, so she can teach all girls to protect themselves.



care

# CHRISTMAS JUMPERS SAVE LIVES!

JOIN IN ON  
13 DECEMBER

NOW in its eighth year, Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day is an annual fundraiser encouraging the nation to don their daftest festive knits to help build a better future for children in the UK and around the world.

## WHEN IS CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY?

This year, Christmas Jumper Day takes place on Friday 13 December with more than five million people across the UK expected to take part. Since its launch in 2012, Christmas Jumper Day has raised a whopping £21 million.

## WHY CHRISTMAS JUMPERS?

Christmas Jumpers are a festive and fun way for people to get involved in Save the Children's incredible work. This year Save the Children want to have the most sustainable Christmas Jumper Day ever by encouraging people to get creative and upcycle their festive knits. They have launched recyclable bags that people can request online and use to donate old jumpers. As well as Save the Children charity shops selling second-hand jumpers, ASOS Marketplace have also partnered with the charity to sell a variety of vintage jumpers ahead of the big day.

## HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

You can support the festive fundraiser by remembering to wear your most wonderful woolly jumper on the 13 December, signing up and donating £1 to Save the Children at [christmasjumperday.org](http://christmasjumperday.org).

Save the Children are also encouraging schools to organise

Christmas Jumper 'swap shops', or host crafting sessions to show pupils and parents how to decorate old jumpers, to make sure every child can take part without the need to invest in a new knit each year.

## WHAT ELSE CAN SCHOOLS DO?

Other ways schools can get involved are:

- **Christmas bakes:** Hold a bake sale at school and get all the school involved, by creating some fun jumper-themed cupcakes and biscuits!
- **Tinsel the teacher:** Teachers get sponsored to spend a day in full Christmas fancy dress, promising that, the more donations they receive, the more ridiculous they'll look!
- **Carol-o-ke:** Organise a Christmas jumper sing-along where people battle it out to see if they really have the Christmas carol X-Factor!



## MEET LEOLIDA AND LAWRENCE

Twelve-year-old Leolida and 18-month-old Lawrence are brothers with an incredible bond. "Lawrence is my little brother who I love very much, and I would do anything to help him," says Leolida.

The boys live in Turkana County, Kenya. Life in this arid region can be hard, and they often don't have enough to eat. But Leolida is determined to keep his little brother's spirits up. "He is not hungry when you play with him, he is just happy," says Leolida.

Sometimes Leolida goes to bed hungry because he has given his food to Lawrence. But it's not always enough.

Luckily, when Lawrence got sick, Save the Children's community health volunteer Mark was there to give him the medicine and nutritious food he needed.

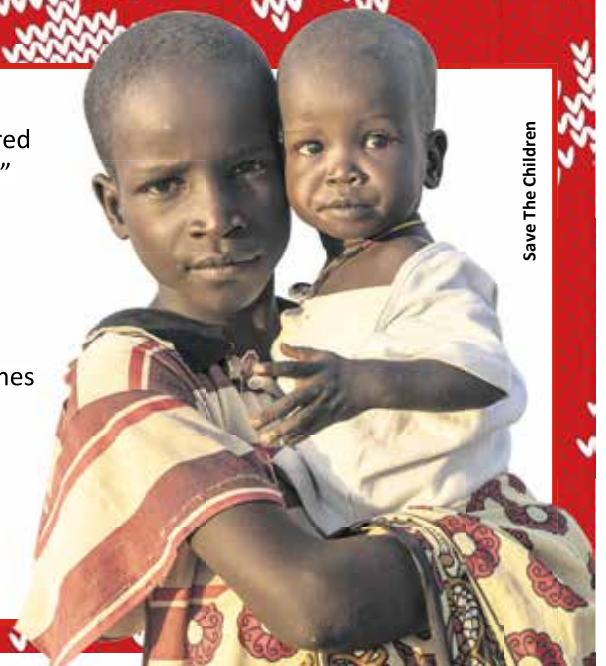
Now, Lawrence gets regular check-ups to make sure

he's staying strong and healthy.

As for Leolida, seeing his brother get better has inspired him to have big ambitions. "I want to become a doctor," he says, "so I can help other young children like my brother Lawrence."

By taking part in Christmas Jumper Day you can help Save the Children to train community volunteer health workers who can:

- go door-to-door, bringing healthcare to people's homes
- diagnose and treat child malnutrition straight away
- carry out regular check-ups to make sure children are getting better
- offer advice to pregnant mothers
- give essential care to newborn babies



Children's TV Presenter Dr Ranj says: "I really embraced the spirit of wearing bright and bold outfits during my time on *Strictly Come Dancing*, so I can't wait to channel my inner glitterball again this Christmas Jumper Day. The work that Save the Children do around the world is completely inspirational and is a cause really close to my heart, so I hope everyone around the UK gets involved again this year."

For lots more information, visit [christmasjumperday.org](http://christmasjumperday.org) and encourage your school to join in on 13 December!

# HELPING WILDLIFE

**THIS winter you could become a wildlife guardian by helping birds and animals in your garden or local area!**

Winter is a tough time for our feathered and furry friends. Food is scarce and the cold and wet weather leaves them struggling to find shelter. The RSPB has listed five top tips to help our native birds make it through to spring. Here's how you can help:

1. Kitchen scraps are perfect food for wild birds. Try mild grated cheese, bruised fruit, cooked rice or dried porridge.
2. Be careful, though – some scraps can make birds very ill. Avoid cooked porridge, fat from your roast dinners and any mouldy food.
3. Make sure there is a source of fresh water in your garden and check that bird baths haven't frozen over on cold nights.
4. Let bushes and shrubs grow over winter, giving birds somewhere to roost and shelter from extreme weather.
5. Nest boxes are used by birds during the winter – they give them a place to hide and stay warm and cosy, so you could consider putting one up in your garden.

There are lots of tips on helping birds and other wildlife this winter at [rspb.org.uk](http://rspb.org.uk). There are even some recipes to make bird-friendly fat balls and treats!



# RARE BABY BORN



**ONE of the rarest antelopes in the world has been born at Marwell Zoo in Hampshire.**

The female scimitar-horned oryx calf has been named Belle by keepers. The scimitar-horned oryx was one of the first species brought to the park when it opened in 1972. They have become one of the most successful for the zoo, with 366 calves born since they opened. This is incredible news for the species, which has been extinct in the wild since 2000.

Since 1985 the conservation teams have been slowly reintroducing the species to the wild and now there around 220 scimitar-horned oryx occurring across five protected areas.



**DEVASTATING floods hit parts of the UK this month, and animals have struggled to cope with the water, too.**

In the last week more than 150 flood alerts have been issued across the UK by the Government. Emergency water service teams from the RSPCA are also on alert to help animals and wildlife who are in trouble or danger. Livestock like sheep and cattle are in danger when flooding hits, as well as domestic pets. In the last week the teams have been

called to more than 70 emergencies, including in Nottinghamshire, where 70 hedgehogs were rescued from a flooded sanctuary. If you are affected by flooding, remember it is important to get yourself to safety before helping your pets. If you spot any animals in danger from floods contact the RSPCA immediately.

# HOW DOES AN ELECTION WORK?

YOU might have heard about the General Election that's happening on Thursday 12 December. But why are people voting? Who for? And who can vote?

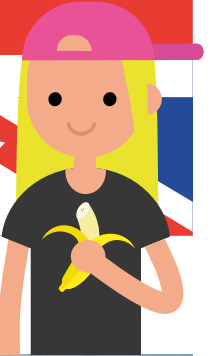
A **GENERAL** election is how we choose a government to run the country. Normally, these national votes are held every five years, but this will be the third general election since 2015.

This election is happening because of Brexit. The UK voted to leave the EU as a result of the 2016 Referendum, but that has still not happened because politicians have not been able to agree on exactly how to do it. Some of them want to leave, some want a new referendum – and some want to cancel Brexit altogether. Prime Minister Boris Johnson hopes this election will give him more MPs who support his Brexit plan. Normally general elections are about issues such as the NHS, the economy and the environment – but this time everyone's talking about Brexit.



## DID YOU KNOW?

This year's election will be the first UK general election to be held in December since 1923!



## THE LEADERS OF THE FOUR BIGGEST PARTIES IN PARLIAMENT RIGHT NOW

AND...



**Conservative:** Boris Johnson



**Labour:** Jeremy Corbyn



**Liberal Democrats:** Jo Swinson



**SNP:** Nicola Sturgeon



**Brexit Party:** Nigel Farage

## WHAT WILL HAPPEN ON 12 DECEMBER?

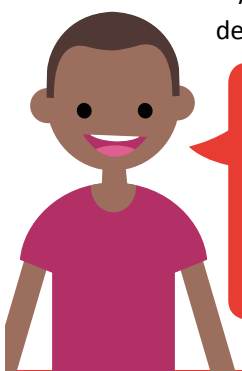
The UK is split up into 650 areas, known as constituencies, each represented by its own Member of Parliament (MP). On 12 December, people will go to a local polling station to vote for the person they want to be their MP in the constituency where they live.

A total of 650 people will be chosen as MPs, to decide laws and vote on policies.

Voters don't get to pick the prime minister, only their local MP. Most of the successful candidates

## DID YOU KNOW?

In 2015, the Electoral Commission said that if a person draws a smiley face next to the name of the person they want to vote for, instead of a cross – it will still count!



## WHO VOTES?

Unfortunately for you, most First News readers will have to wait a while before you can vote, as you're not allowed to vote until you're 18 (although you can register as soon as you're 16). You also need to be a British citizen or an Irish, Commonwealth or European Union citizen who lives in the UK. British people living overseas can still vote, too.



Often, schools are used as polling stations. If yours is, you might get a day off!

are members of political parties, but anyone can stand for election. Each candidate has to pay £500. If they don't manage to win 5% of the votes cast, they lose their £500.

## WHAT IS A POLITICAL PARTY?

A political party is a group of people with similar political ideas who come together to try to win power. All parties make promises to the voters before the election in their manifesto, such as their ideas for the NHS (National Health Service) or the armed forces, or their plans to get more people jobs.

## WHO WINS?

Each election candidate simply needs to get more votes than anyone standing against them. Then they become the MP for their constituency and take a seat in Parliament. The party with the most

MPs is the winner, and the leader of the winning party will usually become prime minister.

If one party wins a majority (at least half, ie, 326 or more) of the seats in Parliament, then they will form a government. Having a majority of MPs makes it easier for the Government to bring in new laws or make other changes to the country, because they have enough MPs to win any vote that takes place in Parliament.

However, this doesn't always work out because, if enough of the Government's MPs disagree with what their party is trying to do, they are still allowed to vote against them. These MPs are known as 'rebels'.

## WHAT HAPPENS IF NO PARTY HAS A MAJORITY?

Things get more complicated if no party gets a majority. This is known as a 'hung Parliament' which can make it difficult to govern, because the other parties can club together to block any laws that the Government tries to pass. This is what happened in 2017 because the party with the most seats – the Conservatives – only won 318 seats. Former prime minister Theresa May then asked the Democratic Unionist Party, a Northern Irish party who had 10 MPs, to help her reach a majority.

It's unlikely this will happen again though, since the DUP have said that they cannot support Boris Johnson's new Brexit deal.

## DICTIONARY

**MANIFESTO:** A public document which sets out what a political party will do if it gets into power.

## THE BREXIT PARTY

The Brexit Party is new and has no MPs yet. Nigel Farage set up the Brexit Party to see through the results of the referendum to leave the EU. But the other main parties are worried he could 'split' the vote, taking votes from them, leaving no party in overall power.

# 14. GENERAL ELECTION 2019

## CONSERVATIVES



- **Leader:** Boris Johnson (Prime Minister and MP for Uxbridge and South Ruislip)
- **Number of MPs before election:** 298 (238 men, 60 women)

The Conservative Party is the main right-wing party in the UK. Being on the right of politics means they believe in a small role for Government, low taxes and stricter rules on benefits (support for people who are out of work, or who are on low incomes).

They believe that an economy is stronger if people can take home more of the money they earn, and give less in taxes to the Government.

Conservatives think that businesses should be less regulated (more free to do what they want) and that the more money they make, the more it benefits the country.

When it comes to crime, Conservatives believe that strict discipline and respect will cut crime rates and that criminals should be treated harshly.

They have traditionally supported grammar schools and stricter laws on immigration, too.

Under Boris Johnson, the Conservatives, who are also known as the Tories, are supporting a Brexit that sees the UK leave the European Union and its trading market completely.

## LABOUR



- **Leader:** Jeremy Corbyn (Leader of the Opposition and MP for Islington North)
- **Number of MPs before election:** 243 (128 men, 115 women)

The Labour Party describes itself as 'centre-left'. Left-wing ideas include higher taxes for the wealthy and Government playing a bigger role in the lives of citizens. Labour wants to invest more than the Conservatives into the National Health Service, which was created by a Labour government in the 1940s.

Labour also wants to scrap university tuition fees, increase the legal minimum wage and boost the amount of money spent on education. They have pledged to give everybody in the UK free fibre broadband by 2030.

Labour believes that to fund these things, individuals and companies who earn more money should pay higher taxes. The more money they earn, the bigger proportion they would pay as tax, which can then be spent on public services.

Under Jeremy Corbyn, Labour has pledged to take the railway network and water supply back under public ownership. At the moment these are private industries.

Labour has also proposed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by investing heavily in green industries, which they say will create many jobs.

Labour has pledged a new Brexit referendum, giving voters a choice between remaining in the EU and exiting with a new deal.

## SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY



- **Leader:** Nicola Sturgeon (First Minister of Scotland and Member of the Scottish Parliament for Glasgow Southside)
- **Number of MPs before election:** 35 (23 men, 12 women)

Since SNP candidates only run in the 59 Scottish constituencies, only voters living in Scotland are able to vote for the SNP. They are the biggest party in Scotland.

The party's ultimate aim is for Scotland to become an independent country, separate from the rest of the UK. Their two main policies this year are to push for a referendum on Brexit, and a new referendum for Scottish voters on the question of independence. The SNP are strongly against Brexit.

They are also against the UK's Trident nuclear weapons system, which is based in Scotland, and would like to see all the country's nuclear weapons scrapped.

The SNP is on the left of politics, so has more in common with Labour than the Tories. Like Labour, they want to nationalise some public services. That means taking things like the railways out of private control and under the Government's authority.

They oppose the Government's tough benefits policies and are against increasing the pension age above 66.

**ONLY  
RUNNING IN  
SCOTLAND**

## LIBERAL DEMOCRATS



- **Leader:** Jo Swinson (MP for East Dunbartonshire)
- **Number of MPs before election:** 21 (11 men, 10 women)

The Liberal Democrats – or Lib Dems – are known as 'centrists', which means that unlike the Conservatives or Labour, the party doesn't have mainly left-wing or right-wing policies. Instead, they mix ideas from across the political spectrum. But their main policy this year is to stop Brexit.

They say that if they win a majority in the election, they will cancel Brexit altogether, without another referendum. Realistically, though, they won't win a majority, but could form part of a coalition government and argue for a new referendum.

When it comes to the economy, the Lib Dems believe strongly in free trade and less regulation for business. Unlike the Conservatives, however, the Lib Dems believe that a stronger economy is created by working towards a more global society.

Eight of the last Lib Dem MPs were elected for another party, and switched to the Lib Dems during the last Parliament.

# VOTE IN First GENERAL

**FIRST NEWS** is holding its own election to ensure your voice is heard by the next PM.

To help decide which political party to vote for, we've put together a guide to the main political parties standing on 12 December.

Normally, people vote on issues such as the NHS, the environment and education, but this election is a little different. This election was called

## THE NEXT PM

Unlike countries like the USA and France, we don't have a president who people can vote for. Our parliamentary system means that citizens vote for a local MP. The party that wins the most MPs usually forms the Government. Whoever is that party's leader becomes the prime minister.

Realistically, only two people can become the next PM of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: the Conservative Boris Johnson (right, top), and the Labour Jeremy Corbyn (right, bottom).

That's because those two parties have the biggest in the House of Commons since 1997. It's highly unlikely any other party will win more seats than the Conservatives and Labour together. Though never say never...

The next PM will live and work in Downing Street, in a house they will share with Larry the cat. As well as being a minor celebrity, Larry the Chief Mouser to the Cabinet, which means job to catch mice!

**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE IN THE FIRST NEWS GENERAL ELECTION**

# IN THE News ELECTION

own general election, to make  
ose in power at Westminster.

because of disagreement about Brexit  
– how the UK should leave the EU – so  
you can bet that it will be a big issue  
for voters.

To cast your vote and to find out  
more, go to [first.news/election2019](https://first.news/election2019).

There's also a short video guide at  
[first.news/election2019](https://first.news/election2019).

## GREEN PARTY

- **Leaders:** Jonathan Bartley and Sian Berry
- **Number of MPs before election:** 1 (woman)

The Green Party is an environmentalist, left-wing party whose focus is on green issues, such as tackling climate change.

They want to invest £100 billion a year for a decade to tackle climate change, and create more than a million new “green jobs” in the UK. They also want to scrap university tuition fees and write off existing student debt.

The Greens don't want Brexit to happen, and want another referendum to be held. They will campaign to Remain in that vote.

Although they won't win this year's general election, they have had a boost in popularity: the Greens had their most successful European election ever earlier this year, when they increased their number of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) from three to seven.



## PLAID CYMRU

- **Leader:** Adam Price (Member of the Welsh Assembly for Carmarthen East and Dinefwr)
- **Number of MPs before election:** 1 (woman)

A centre-left party, Plaid Cymru candidates only stand in the 40 Welsh constituencies. They want independence for Wales, just as the SNP want it for Scotland. They think it can be achieved within the next ten years.

Plaid Cymru also want to stop Brexit by supporting a new referendum.

They want to introduce “green jobs” in Wales, with major investment in renewable energy, transport infrastructure and digital services. The party wants the Welsh Assembly to have full control of policing and the justice system, which it doesn't right now.

They have also proposed new benefits for children in low-income families, and a £300 million investment in Welsh education.



ONLY  
RUNNING  
IN WALES

## BREXIT PARTY

- **Leader:** Nigel Farage
- **Number of MPs before election:** 0

The Brexit Party was formed for one reason: to make sure the UK leaves the European Union.

They won the recent European elections, delivering them 29 MEPs, even though they are campaigning for Britain to leave the EU and, obviously, its Parliament! As First News went to press, they had not revealed many policies other than to have a hard Brexit. But they have proposed a £200 billion spending programme on infrastructure and services for young people.



## NORTHERN IRELAND PARTIES

The largest Northern Irish party in the House of Commons before the election was called was the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), which had 10 MPs. They signed a deal to support the Government of the previous Prime Minister, Theresa May, but fell out with current PM Boris Johnson over his Brexit deal.

The DUP is right-wing in its policies. The party is ‘unionist’, which means it thinks that Northern Ireland should continue to be a part of the United Kingdom. They are strongly in favour of Brexit. The DUP have also proposed increasing spending on health in Northern Ireland by at least £1 billion.

The other main unionists are the Ulster Unionist Party, though they had no MPs before the election.

The second biggest party representing Northern Ireland is the left-wing Sinn Féin, who returned seven MPs at the 2017 election, but they never take their seats in Westminster. That's because Sinn Féin does not recognise Northern Ireland as being part of the UK. They believe it should be part of a united Republic of Ireland, joining the southern part of the country that is independent and therefore not governed by UK Government.

Also running at this year's general election are the Social Democratic and Labour Party, the Alliance Party and the Green Party. None currently has any MPs in the House of Commons.



## TEACHER ALERT: RUN A PARALLEL GENERAL ELECTION IN YOUR SCHOOL

Run a parallel general election in your school to find out if young people in your school agree with the UK electorate who will be voting on 12 December. Help is at hand. **Educate GE** is a collaboration between 24 democratic education organisations who have come together to support schools and educators to engage young people in the 2019 general election. Tell your teacher to visit [thepoliticsproject.org.uk/educatege](https://thepoliticsproject.org.uk/educatege) to download resources to prepare for a parallel election in your school. Everything on the site is free and non-partisan.

After your election, First News wants to know your results. We will aggregate all your votes, to get a wider picture of the opinions of young people in the UK. Teachers can find out more at [firstnews.co.uk/schoolsGE2019](https://firstnews.co.uk/schoolsGE2019)



# 16. FNQ – THE WEEKLY FN QUIZ

FirstNews • Issue 701 • 22 – 28 November 2019

## FNQ

LIVE ON SUNDAY  
AND WEDNESDAY!

**FNQ, the weekly news quiz, is live on Sunday and Wednesday this week!**

- Play at **5pm on Sunday** and at **4:30pm on Wednesday!**
- Play with family and friends! You will earn an extra life and bonus points when you refer a friend who plays.
- Get more friends to register and you can all play our after-school live game on Wednesdays. Each game will consist of five questions and a **£50 prize pot!**
- This week, three **GraviTrax Starter Sets** can be won in both games (that's six up for grabs)!

## THIS WEEK'S BONUS PRIZE: A GRAVITRAX STARTER SET

**WIN AMAZON VOUCHERS**

**FREE TO PLAY**

**THREE TO BE WON IN EACH GAME!**

**TWO GAMES EVERY WEEK!**

**EXPERIENCE the power of gravity with GraviTrax the awesome track system from Ravensburger!**

Use your imagination to build superb tracks and set the gravity spheres rolling. Discover gravity, magnetism, kinetic energy and fun, as you design your tracks.

The possibilities are endless so enjoy the GraviTrax fun!

For more information, visit [www.ravensburger.co.uk](http://www.ravensburger.co.uk)

**DOWNLOAD THE APP NOW!**

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

**CHECK OUT [WWW.FNQAPP.CO.UK](http://WWW.FNQAPP.CO.UK)**

## FIRST WONDER BOX



### FEED YOUR CHILD'S IMAGINATION THIS CHRISTMAS

**Help your child explore the world around them and feed their passion with a First Wonder Box gift card.**

Jam-packed with things to make, do and learn, they ensure hours of family fun, delivered straight to the door. Every box is designed to spark your child's imagination, and covers a different theme with every delivery.



For a young **palaeontologist**



For a future **astronaut**

[WWW.FIRSTWONDERBOX.CO.UK/CHRISTMAS](http://WWW.FIRSTWONDERBOX.CO.UK/CHRISTMAS)

## WIN! SEE THE WORLD THROUGH OTHERS' EYES GLASSES

**HAVE you ever wondered how a shark sees the world?**

Do you want to see like a T rex? Pop on the unique See the World Through Others' Eyes glasses to see the world in 17 different ways!

The optical science set features 22 interchangeable lenses that allow you to see the world like you've never seen it before!

We have ten See the World Through Others' Eyes glasses up for grabs. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:



What is the coloured part of the eye called?  
a) Pupil b) Iris  
c) Lens

Available from Smyths Toys

## ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY GLASSES

[firstnews.co.uk/competitions](http://firstnews.co.uk/competitions) or see page 21. The closing date is 5 December 2019.



# KRISTEN BELL

“ I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO TROUBLE ”

Kristen Bell returns to Arendelle as the voice of Princess Anna in the stunning sequel, *Frozen 2*. Adam Tanswell catches up with the actress in Hollywood to find out more on the magical new movie.

## ● HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE STORY OF FROZEN 2?

It's tough to talk about the story of *Frozen 2* because the people from Disney are always listening. I don't want to get into trouble! What can I say? Well, the story starts a few years after the end of the first *Frozen* movie. At this point, everyone in the kingdom is happy and healthy – or seemingly so.

## ● TELL US MORE...

Within the first few minutes of the story, you hear some history about the two sisters, Anna and Elsa. You see parents and you learn a little bit more about how the girls grew up – and then it cuts back to present day, which is the year 1884. Did you know that? I don't know if people are aware of this, but I was told the story takes place in the year 1884. That's incredible, right?

## ● WHERE IS OLAF AT THE START OF FROZEN 2?

Olaf was a very child-like character in the first movie, but he's growing up in *Frozen 2*. He's having a bit of a crisis, which provides a lot of comedy. He's learning how to question things, because he's no longer a four-year-old. Now he's a 10-year-old and he's got a lot of questions to ask. He's asking questions like, "Oh, life... what does this all mean?" He's very, very funny.

## ● WHAT ELSE CAN YOU TEASE ABOUT THE STORY?

Elsa starts to hear a voice calling to her from outside, but she feels very uncomfortable about it. She doesn't know whether she should follow the voice or not. She doesn't know if she should tell anyone that she's hearing a voice because she feels a little crazy.

## ● WHAT DOES SHE DO?

Eventually, she confides in Anna. She says: "I think I need to find what this voice is. I don't know what it is that's calling me, but something in my body is tingling. Something in my body is telling me that I need to be drawn out there." Anna says to Elsa: "Okay, great. We'll go on this adventure together." So almost the entire movie takes place outside of the walls of Arendelle in territory you've never seen before – and that's why the colours in the movie have changed.

## ● ANNA IS A GREAT SISTER AND FRIEND. ARE YOU SIMILAR?

I believe strongly that the goodness you put into the world comes back to you! You reap what you sow!

## ● DO YOU TRY TO DO GOOD DEEDS WHENEVER YOU CAN?

Sure! If I'm being brutally honest, I also know that good deeds are just as much selfish as they are selfless because I know I feel good about myself when I do them. When I'm doing something good or when I volunteer – or if I donate money somewhere – I sleep really well at night. Truly,

I sleep so soundly. I like that feeling. I like the feeling of the joy of looking at someone else's face if you can lend a hand or be of service.

## ● DO YOU HAVE TONS OF FROZEN MERCHANDISE AT HOME FOR YOUR CHILDREN?

We do not. We have two or three little dolls. And we have one doll that I was given at the beginning, before the first movie came out. It's one of those dolls in a box that looks very fancy. I've never taken it out of the box, and I've been very clear with them that they can't touch it. We have a couple of *Frozen* things around, but it's not overwhelming in our house. We do have the dresses and they wear them, but they also wear the Rapunzel dress and the Moana dress. I love Moana!



## CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY FIRST NEWS



*Frozen 2* is in cinemas today!

# JUNGLE ANTICS

**I'M A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here!** has roared back on to screens for another year of creepy critter fun! As the camp-mates settle into their new home, we take a closer look at the gang and just who could be king or queen of the jungle!



All images: ITV



**IAN WRIGHT**

**Best known as:** Arsenal and England football legend, turned broadcaster

**Fun fact:** Ian reckons Spurs fans are going to vote for him to do lots of the bushtucker trials – they're his former club's arch rival!



**NADINE COYLE**

**Best known as:** Pop star

**Fun fact:** Nadine was in girl band Girls Aloud and then went on to run her own restaurant. She's hoping her cooking skills will come in handy in the camp.



**MYLES STEPHENSON**

**Best known as:** Rak-Su singer

**Fun fact:** You might recognise Myles from another popular ITV reality show! He won X Factor with his band back in 2017.



**ADELE ROBERTS**

**Best known as:** BBC Radio 1 DJ

**Fun fact:** Adele is looking forward to a good lie-in in the jungle! For the last four years, she has had to get up at 2am to host her early morning radio show.



**ANDREW MAXWELL**

**Best known as:** Comedian  
**Fun fact:** Andrew hopes to entertain his camp-mates with some funny stand-up routines.



**JACQUELINE JOSSA**

**Best known as:** TV actress

**Fun fact:** Jacqueline says she's happy to be having a phone detox in the jungle, and thinks her former colleagues at EastEnders will be very surprised to see her in there.



**KATE GARRAWAY**

**Best known as:** TV and radio presenter

**Fun fact:** The Good Morning Britain presenter calls herself a news junkie, but is looking forward to a break from Brexit!



**ROMAN KEMP**

**Best known as:** Capital Radio DJ

**Fun fact:** Roman has very famous parents. His dad, Martin Kemp, was in the band Spandau Ballet and his mum, Shirlie, performed with Wham. He also has a weird fear of cotton wool!



**CAITLYN JENNER**

**Best known as:** Olympian and TV personality

**Fun fact:** Caitlyn has ten children, including Kylie and Kendall Jenner. She is also related to Kim Kardashian.



**JAMES HASKELL**

**Best known as:** Ex-England rugby player

**Fun fact:** James enjoyed a 17-year career that saw him play for England, Wasps and Northampton, so he's very fit. He may even train in the jungle!

## THIS WEEK

**1** A special edition of the world famous Beano comic has been created to celebrate the new activities families can enjoy on a cruise ship. In the one-off issue, Dennis the Menace and his family enjoy a VIP trip on Royal Caribbean's Allure of the Seas, and get to try out all the new family features. The ship has had a huge makeover and will set sail again in May 2020.



**2** Hamleys toy shop in London has unveiled a spectacular castle installation inspired by Disney's Frozen 2, which hits cinemas today (Friday)! The castle aims to transport visitors into a magical kingdom, and features a courtyard with lots of fun, free experiences for visitors.



**3** Robbie Williams will host his very own Christmas special on ITV this festive season. It's Not The Robbie Williams Christmas Show will be on our screens early in December to get everyone in the mood for Christmas. It will feature live performances of some of Robbie's biggest hits plus some Christmas tunes that feature on his new album The Christmas Present. One or two celebrity guests may pop up too!



## PICS OF THE WEEK

**AN out-of-this-world set of stamps has been released to celebrate the final film in the Star Wars Skywalker Saga.**

Royal Mail issued the third and final stamp set in their Star Wars-themed collection this week.

The new set includes ten characters from the film franchise, including three characters from the new film, Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker, which is out this December.



**CHIWETEL EJIOFOR**



**■ How does it feel to play the baddie?**

It feels great! It is always fun to play the villain, and such an iconic villain too, it's an amazing part to play. It has an extraordinary history in the original film with Jeremy Irons, so it is wonderful to step into that space and see if there was anything that I could bring to make it my own.

**■ Do you think Scar is all bad?**

I think he is all bad now. I think maybe once upon a time he was alright, but the description in Macbeth of Macbeth is that his mind is full of scorpions and I think Scar is in that kind of space. He is just completely possessed with the need to be in charge.

**■ This movie is all about the songs. What's your favourite?**

Assuming I can't say Be Prepared because that is my song and I do love that song, it is so hard to choose. Hakuna Matata is one of the great ones, along with the Circle of Life.

**■ How did you find the singing?**

I'm alright. I rocked down to Abbey Road. It was really fun. It is great to be on the same soundtrack as Beyoncé! Seeing that in the credits was cool. If you'd told me that a couple of years ago, I don't think I'd have believed it.



**■ Were you a big fan of the original film?**

Yes, a huge fan. I remember seeing it for the first time and then I would always inevitably dip back into it over a period of time. When I think of myself as seeing the original, I think of myself as a five-year-old with wide eyes, but actually I was 17 so it was a slightly different experience. But it made me feel as if I was five – the storytelling, music and the setting was so strong. It was one of the very few films that was set in Africa, which gave it a platform for a wider audience. It was very exciting for me, my family and the community to go and see The Lion King to hear the music and the African sounds.



CHIWETEL Ejiofor plays Scar, the traitorous lion in Disney's live-action version of The Lion King. We chat to him about playing a baddie!

The Lion King is available on DVD, Blu-Ray and Digital Download now

## 20. PUZZLES

FirstNews • Issue 701 • 22 – 28 November 2019

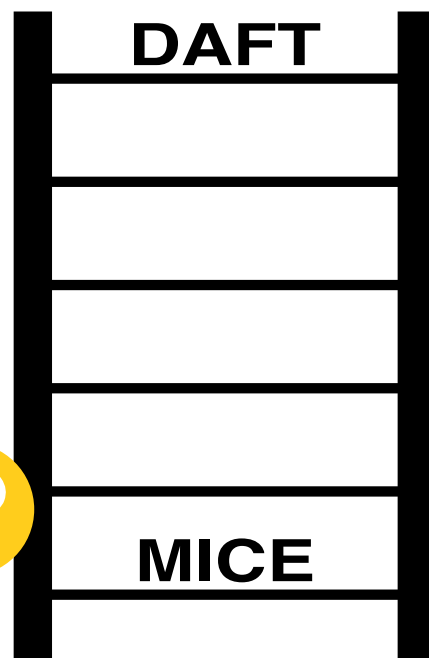
## WIN! A DOUGH NAB GAME

CAN you complete our sudoku and fill in the numbers one to nine? Send in your answers and two lucky winners will each win a Dough Nab game. This berserk bakery-themed blitz is a game where you'll need to keep a keen eye on the cards and race to grab the corresponding doughnut if you see a match. With action cards to shake up play and a stylish head baker's hat for the winner, this freshly-baked family game comes in tempting doughnut box-style packaging. Simply see it, match it, nab it! **Dough Nab is available from Amazon**

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

## WORD LADDER

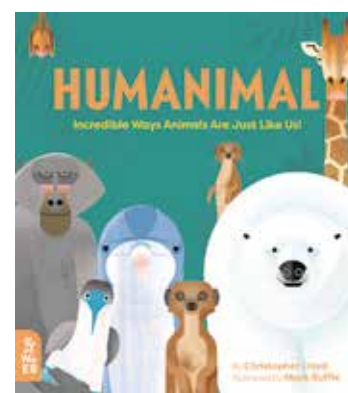
SEE if you can get from the top of the ladder to the bottom by changing one letter at a time to make a new word.



## WIN! HUMANIMAL BOOKS

CAN you complete our crossword by using the clues below?

Send in your answers and three lucky winners will each win a copy of *Humanimal: Incredible Ways Animals Are Just Like Us*. If you thought humans are completely different to animals, then take a look inside this brilliant book and prepare to be amazed.



## WIN! A KURIO CONNECT &amp; SMARTWATCH BUNDLE

THE awesome Kurio Connect Android tablet is designed especially for kids. It comes packed with loads of apps and games, you can surf the web, take photos and videos, watch YouTube, plus access more than a million apps!

The Kurio Smartwatch 2.0 is an awesome gadget that you can personalise with interchangeable coloured watch straps to match your style. The straps even have colour-changing thermal technology! Pre-loaded with 20 apps, a multi-function screen, two-player games, camera/video, photo filters, messaging, media player, activity tracker and phrase translator, it can also operate as a hands-free kit for a smartphone when connected via Bluetooth.

Three winners will each win a Kurio Connect and a Kurio Smartwatch.

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

How many hours are there in a day?  
a) 12 b) 24  
c) 36

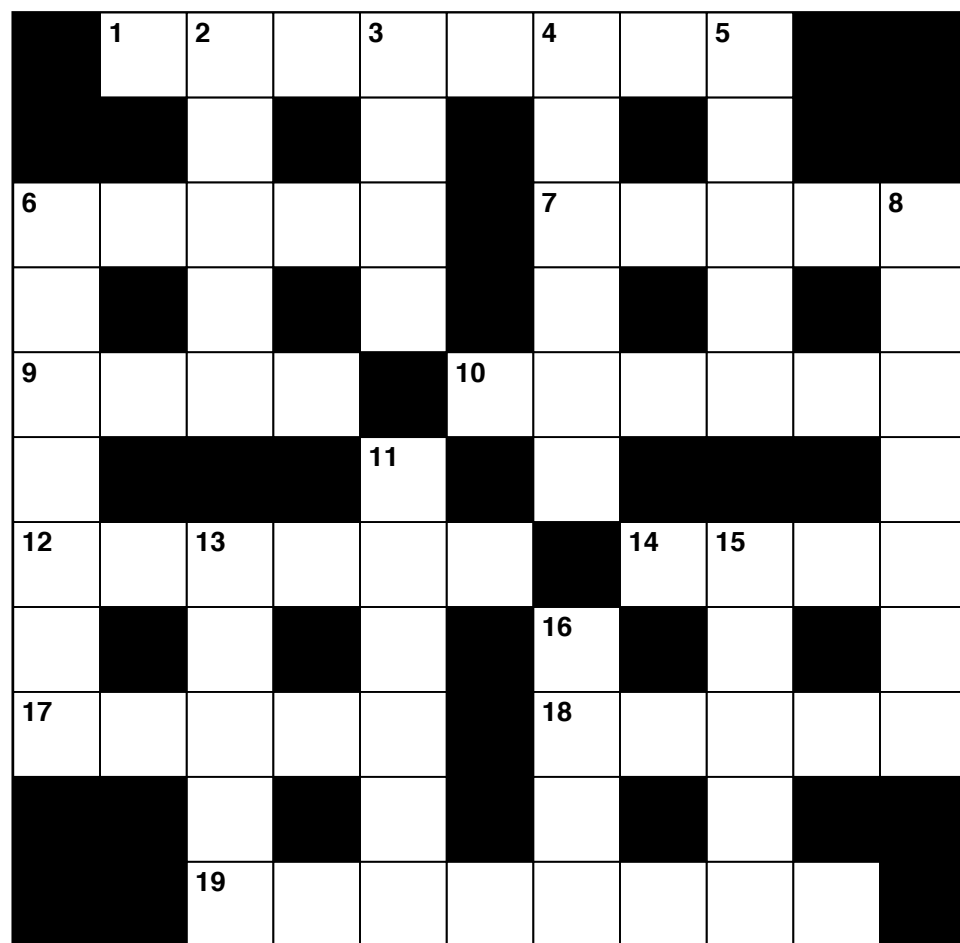


Kurio TAB Connect

Available at Smyths Toys. For more information, visit [www.kurioworld.com](http://www.kurioworld.com)  
[www.kuriowatch.com/uk](http://www.kuriowatch.com/uk)

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY KURIO

[firstnews.co.uk/competitions](http://firstnews.co.uk/competitions) or see page 21. The closing date is 5 December 2019.



## ACROSS

- 1 Likely to happen (8)
- 6 Cairo is the capital of this country (5)
- 7 Less common than something else (5)
- 9 People who work on a boat (4)
- 10 Opposite of days (6)
- 12 Sculpture (6)
- 14 \_\_\_ Daly: TV presenter (4)
- 17 Game such as cricket or tennis (5)
- 18 Chase (anagram) (5)
- 19 Ability to count and use numbers (8)

## DOWN

- 2 A type of short poem (5)
- 3 Two things together (4)
- 4 The capital of Germany (6)
- 5 Planet we live on (5)
- 6 Reasons not to do something (7)
- 8 Refuses to comply with an order (7)
- 11 Traditional way of doing something (6)
- 13 This grows into an oak tree (5)
- 15 A moral principle (5)
- 16 Two of a kind (4)



# 21. PUZZLES

**HOW TO ENTER:** Send your finished puzzles to Puzzles 701, First News, 7 Playhouse Court, 62 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 0AT. Or by email to [win@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:win@firstnews.co.uk). The closing date for puzzle entries is Thursday 28 November 2019.

## WIN! ANGRY BIRDS 2 MOVIE DVDs

CAN you spot the five changes we've made to this picture from *The Angry Birds 2 Movie*? Send in your answers and four lucky winners will win a copy of the DVD. Frenemies unite in the hilarious *The Angry Birds 2 Movie*, when Red and the gang team up with their rival pigs to form an unlikely truce, but can the teams keep it together long enough to save the day?

*The Angry Birds 2 Movie* is available on Digital Download on 25 November and on Blu-ray and DVD on 2 December.



Angry Birds™ & ©2019 ROVIO. ©2019 CTMG. All Rights Reserved.

## WIN! A FAMILY GAMES BUNDLE FOR CHRISTMAS

**WE'RE giving five winners the chance to win a fun-filled family games bundle.**

The bundle includes *Frozen II* Charades, a Frozen twist on the classic game Charades as played in the movie. Be the first to make your way through the enchanted forest to win. Choose your favourite character and race around the board, winning steps as you perform and guess the charade before the timer runs out!

The second game we are giving away is *Color Addict*, the colourful and addictive card game that is perfect for family game nights. Match up the colours on the cards and be the first to get rid of all your cards to win.

Finally, a must for Harry Potter fans, is our luxury limited edition Harry Potter collector set of eight exclusive playing cards deck. The set comes with an official certificate of authenticity and each deck contains stills from different Harry Potter movies.

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

Which of these is not a suit in a deck of cards?  
a) Diamonds b) Rakes  
c) Clubs



## ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY GAMES

[firstnews.co.uk/competitions](http://firstnews.co.uk/competitions) or see below. The closing date is 5 December 2019.

## WIN! A SET OF FESTIVE SQUISHMALLOWS

GET cosy and squishy with the gorgeous festive Squishmallows range.

These cool Christmas characters are a great addition to your ever-growing Squishmallows collection and are going to be the softest, most squishiest Christmas soft toy you own.

We have three sets of festive Squishmallows up for grabs.

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



What is traditionally used for a snowman's eyes?  
a) buttons b) coal c) pebbles



Visit [www.squishmallows.co.uk](http://www.squishmallows.co.uk) to see all the squads available and start your collection.

## ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY SANTA

[firstnews.co.uk/competitions](http://firstnews.co.uk/competitions) or see below. The closing date is 5 December 2019.

**COMPETITIONS:** You can enter First News competitions in one of two ways. 1. Go to [firstnews.co.uk/competitions](http://firstnews.co.uk/competitions) and follow the instructions. 2. Write to us at 'competition name' (eg, Holiday), First News, 7 Playhouse Court, 62 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 0AT. **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 Group Enterprises Ltd, Trinity Mirror and any associated companies and their families. Winners will be the first correct entries drawn after the closing dates. No purchase necessary. No responsibility can be accepted for entries that have been lost or damaged in transit. First News will not enter into any correspondence. All winners will be notified accordingly and their names and addresses will be available on request. No cash alternative for any prizes will be offered. The winner may be required to partake in media activity relating to the competition.

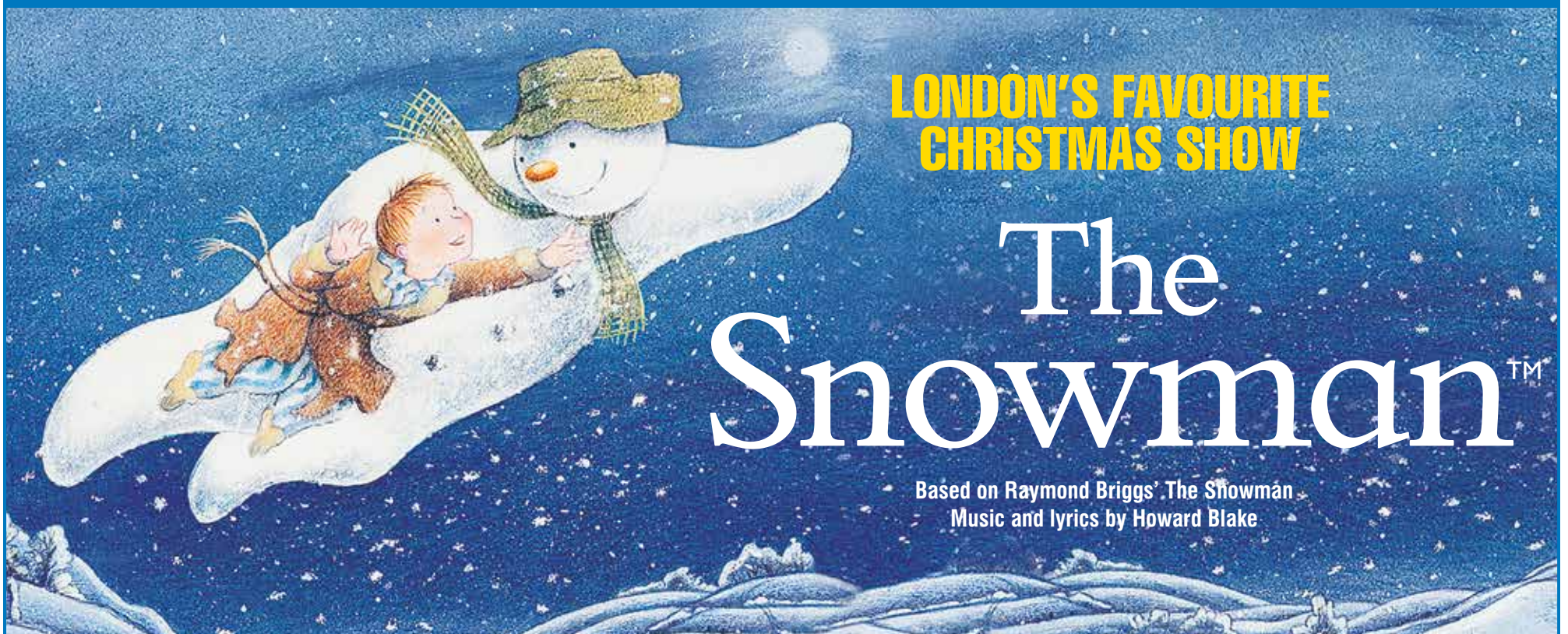
### LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS:

**Spot the difference:** bowl on shelf is missing, eye patch has been added, cap has been added, mug on table is larger, buttons on blouse are missing.

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

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

**"Sheer theatrical magic. Go see The Snowman and melt"** The Times



**LONDON'S FAVOURITE  
CHRISTMAS SHOW**

# The Snowman™

Based on Raymond Briggs' *The Snowman*  
Music and lyrics by Howard Blake

**FAMILY TICKET FROM ONLY £120**

4 tickets, must include at least 1 child Transaction fee applies. Max £3

THE PEACOCK [peacocktheatre.com](http://peacocktheatre.com) 21 Nov - 5 Jan

## WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?

### DECORATE YOUR OWN FELT CHRISTMAS TREE KIT HOBBYCRAFT £6.00

Take over the tree decorating in your house with this Decorate Your Own Felt Christmas Tree Kit. Let your imagination run wild and change the decorations every day. Included is the felt Christmas tree that's ready to hang up, along with an assortment of shapes that are ready to be attached. Each of the pieces has a hook-and-loop backing to ensure it's easy to fix in place.



### PENGUIN BAUBLE KITS BAKER ROSS £4.95 (PACK OF SIX)

Give your festive decorations a real boost of inspiration with this great kit. Transform a bauble into a cheerful penguin, complete with woolly hat! Choose your favourite bauble colour, then use the pre-cut felt pieces to bring your character to life! Peel, stick, arrange and design, then once complete, hang them on your Christmas tree.



### SEW YOUR OWN SNOWMAN KIT THE BOOK PEOPLE £3.99

Sew together your very own smiling snowman with this cute Make Your Own Festive Snowman kit. The kit includes easy to follow instructions, plush, yarn, ribbon, stuffing, buttons, plastic eyes and a needle. He'll make the perfect addition to your decorations this year.



All prices correct at time of printing.

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We are extremely passionate about the environment and we are always looking at ways to reduce waste throughout the company and across all of our products. Our paper comes from sustainable sources. The new material we use to wrap mailed copies is made from potato starch, so it is now fully home compostable and completely biodegradable, and you can put it in with your food waste, in your green garden waste recycling bins, or on your own compost heap.

## 23. CRAZY BUT TRUE

FirstNews • Issue 701 • 22 – 28 November 2019

# GINGERBREAD GREATNESS



**A GIANT gingerbread replica of Covent Garden Market has popped up in London for Christmas.**

The four-foot-wide gingerbread house weighs over 10kg, features 5kg of icing and took over 100 hours for bakers to make. It was created by the luxury biscuit boutique Biscuiteers and decorated entirely by hand!

Visitors to Covent Garden can check out the house for themselves and even spot some of the famous places from the real-life location. There's the popular Shake Shack restaurant and the pub Punch & Judy, to name but a couple. You can even spy a rather tasty gingerbread Christmas tree and festive decorations.

The amazing creation will be on display from now until 24 December.



## CANDY MURRAY

**FROM gingerbread to sweetsies... check out this amazing candy statue of tennis star Andy Murray!**

The incredible piece was made by record-breaking food artist and cakemaker to the Queen, Jacqui Kelly.

It took four days to make and uses 672 murray mints, along with traditional Victoria sponge – yummy!

Candy Murray, as he's been dubbed, was unveiled at this year's Wimbledon Art Fair which takes place every May and November.

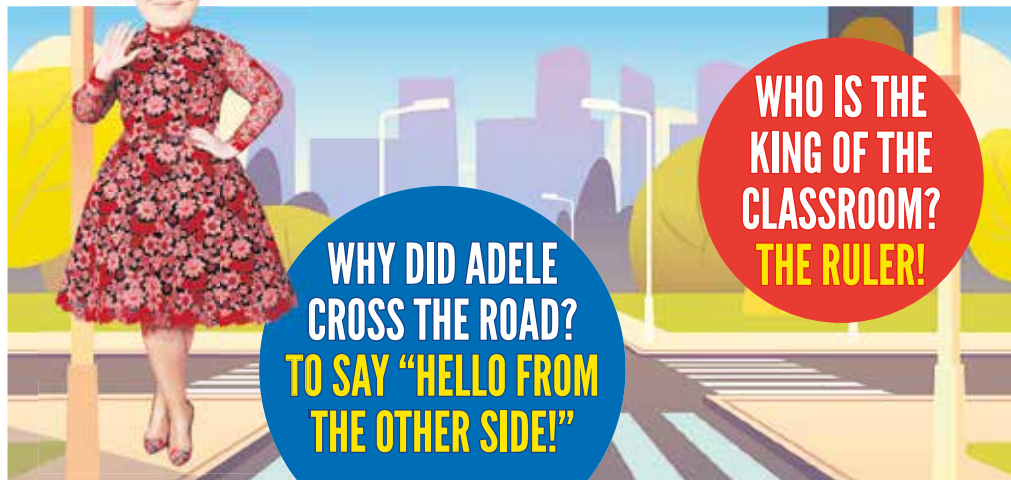
Check out [www.wimbledonartfair.com](http://www.wimbledonartfair.com).

## A RECORD-BREAKING DAY!



**HUNDREDS of totally wacky and wonderful records were celebrated on this year's Guinness World Records Day. The theme was 'Spirit of Adventure'. Here are some of our favourites.**

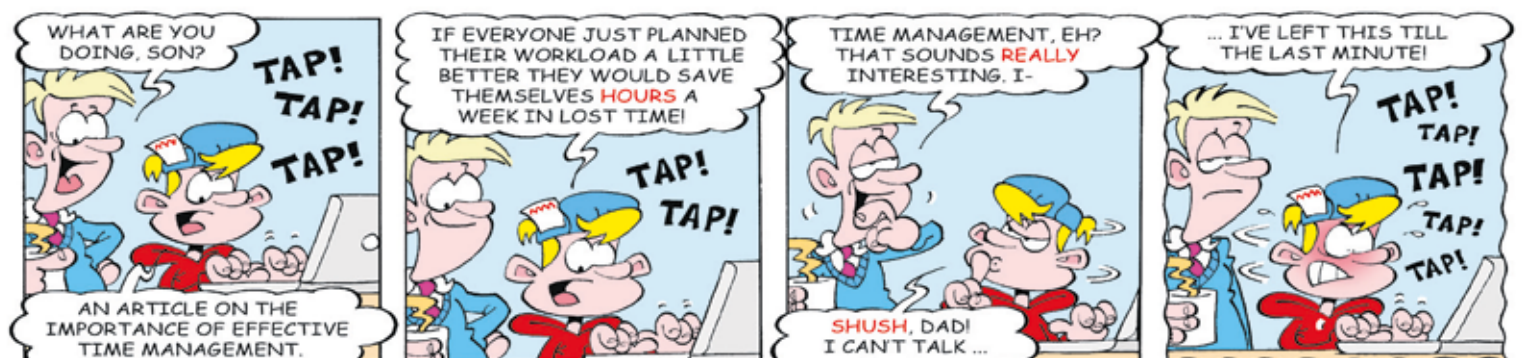
- British inventor Richard Browning, founder of Gravity Industries, achieved the fastest speed in a body-controlled jet engine powered suit at 85.06mph! Check him out soaring alongside Brighton Pier (above).
- Matthieu Tordeur became the youngest person to reach the South Pole solo, unsupported and unassisted – aged just 27 years and 40 days!
- Rickly and Richard Wong from Hong Kong travelled the greatest distance by train in 24 hours. They travelled a staggering 4,967.8km (3,086.6 miles) from Changsha to Hezhou in China.



**THANKS TO FIRST NEWS READER, JOSH  
SHARE YOUR JOKES WITH US AT [NEWSDESK@FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK](mailto:NEWSDESK@FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK)**



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer





# TOP TEN TOYS AS VOTED FOR BY YOU!



FOR the last three weeks, visitors to the First News website have been voting for their favourite toys.  
The results are in, so see if you agree with their choices!

## 1 WIZARDING WORLD GOLD WIZARDINGWORLD.COM £59.99



This spellbinding new subscription will offer fans the opportunity to enhance their free Official Harry Potter Fan Club experience. This beautiful and intricate journal will arrive personalised with your name, Hogwarts house and more – meaning no two journals will be the same. Inside, you'll discover interactive secrets and surprises, as you explore the new WIZARDING World app.

## 2 SQUISHMALLOWS SQUISHMALLOWS.CO.UK £6.99 EACH



These super soft, cuddly plush toys come in a variety of sizes, animals, and colours. Each one has a unique character. They're great to cuddle, collect and even to use as a pillow.

## 3 GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS 2020 WHSMITH £10.00



The Guinness World Records is back for 2020, presenting you with

all of the most ground-breaking achievements in our world to date. This book is filled with record-breaking reading material with never before seen pictures, facts, figures and trivia that is so astonishing you will find it hard to believe.

## 4 MONOPOLY: VOICE BANKING ARGOS £30.00



The iconic Monopoly top hat is voice-activated and the personality of Mr Monopoly really shines as he handles all of the transactions. He keeps tabs on players' money and properties so there's no cash or cards to think about.

## 5 LEGO CREATOR: NASA APOLLO 11 LUNAR LANDER LEGOSHOP.COM £84.99

Celebrate man's first moon landing with this LEGO® Creator Expert 10266 NASA Apollo 11 Lunar Lander building set. It's developed in co-operation with NASA to mark the 50th anniversary of an event that captivated the world.

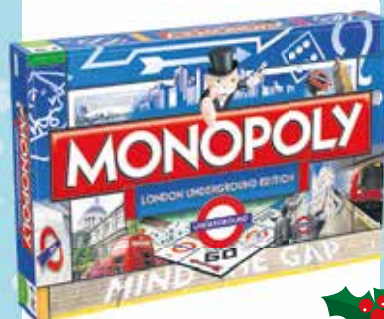


## 6 RAVENSBURGER EIFFEL TOWER – NIGHT EDITION 3D JIGSAW PUZZLE ARGOS £19.00



Utilising the latest 3D puzzle technology, you can create this stunning 3D model of Paris's Eiffel Tower. This "Night Edition" Eiffel Tower 3D puzzle uses LED technology to create two different lighting effects.

## 7 MONOPOLY: LONDON UNDERGROUND LTMUSEUMSHOP.CO.UK £29.99



Underground Monopoly cleverly matches the classic coloured property squares to the stations and line colours of the world famous Tube map, offering you a great opportunity to navigate your way around London, building your property empire as you collect Underground stations.

## 8 OWLEEZ SMYTHSTOYS.CO.UK £39.99

Owleez need your help to learn how to fly. Practice flying together by swinging Owleez through the air – they love it and make triumphant and happy noises! With enough practice, Owleez will soon be ready to fly! When they are ready, they will let you know and will really take off from their nest! Just like a real baby bird.



## 9 RUBIK'S CAGE GAME AMAZON.CO.UK £16.99



It may sound easy to get 3 in a row, but Rubik's Cage is a brain-bending, mind-twisting strategy game, that's not as simple as it may seem. This is a great activity for a fun family game night. Drop It. Twist It. Flip It. Win It. Take turns to place a Cubie into the Cage.

## 10 PLAYMABIL TINY PAWS PET HOTEL PLAYMABIL.CO.UK £59.99



The Tiny Paws Pet Hotel is the perfect paradise for all animals, both big and small. Call your pooches in for mealtime or take your parrots out for some playtime in the large outdoor area where all animals can get some exercise and fresh air, before settling indoors for bedtime. The set includes a host of features and accessories including food, toys and even a doggy seesaw.



## 25. FOOD FOR THE FAMILY Sponsored by Birds Eye

**FirstNews** • Issue 701 • 22 – 28 November 2019

# CLASSIC FISH FINGER SANDWICH

EVERY week as part of our new Food Matters series, we're going to be bringing you a delicious recipe to try at home! Here's the 11th one for you to enjoy.

Sandwiches come in all shapes and sizes, and everyone has their own take on what a 'classic' sandwich means. Enjoy this tea time favourite a different way and watch out for more exciting news on fish finger sandwiches coming in 2020!

■ **Cooking time:** 15 minutes ■ **Number of servings:** 1 ■ **Ingredients:**



- 3 Birds Eye Cod Fish Fingers
- Lettuce
- Tomato
- Tomato ketchup
- 2 slices of bread

### Method:

1. Pre-heat the oven to 230°C, Fan 210°C, Gas Mark 8.
2. Pop 3 fish fingers on to a baking tray in the top part of the oven. After around 6 minutes, turn the fish fingers over. Cook them for 12-15 minutes until crisp and golden.
3. Take your bread and add a little butter if you want. Add some chopped lettuce, 3 slices of tomato and your fish fingers. Drizzle with some tomato ketchup and pat the other piece of bread on top.



**TOP TIP!** Get experimental with a baguette or ciabatta, or different fillings in your fish finger sandwich! How about a poached egg? Mayo? Bacon? Spinach?

Remember to always have an adult with you **when you cook with heat or use electrical appliances**

## FN CHRISTMAS GIFTS!

# TWO GREAT GIFT IDEAS!

**1** Buy First News as a gift subscription!

**FROM £10!**

**2** Buy FNQ Trivia for yourself or a friend!

From First News, our FNQ Trivia game is a fun family quiz to test your knowledge of the world around you. With fun facts, tie-breaker challenges and Guess Who?, you can all learn fascinating facts while you play!

**£5**  
(Plus 99p postage)

ORDER ONLINE: [www.firstnews.co.uk/christmas](http://www.firstnews.co.uk/christmas)

## GAME ZONE

# MARIO AND SONIC AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES: TOKYO 2020



**AHEAD** of next year's massive multi-sport event, classic rivals Mario and Sonic are going head to head in their own Olympic events! Featuring a classic 2D mode, along with some supercharged special events, First News games reviewer George gave us his verdict.

"In Mario and Sonic at the Olympic Games: Tokyo 2020 you play different mini games that you will see at the Olympics including swimming, boxing, canoeing, 100m sprint and karate.

You can play as Mario, Sonic or as one of the characters from their games.

You can play by yourself or against your friends. Some of the mini games are really hard, like climbing and the running races, but boxing was my favourite.

I think people who like Mario or Sonic will like this game a lot."



# 26. BOOKS

FirstNews • Issue 701 • 22 – 28 November 2019

## WE LOVE LIBRARIES!

**LIBRARIES** are brilliant! Not only are they filled with fantastic books and friendly faces, but they can also be a great place to discover something new. This week, Imogen Walker from Blackheath Preparatory School in London told us about when her class were asked to take a look at some library books that they might not usually read...

Our Y6 class library is packed with novels and fact books – from daring spies to football fun.

One morning, however, we walked into class and found piles of picture books on our tables. Posted on the board was the question: “Are picture books just for babies and little children?”

We sat down and read the books. After we had read a few, our English teacher Miss Phillips asked if we agreed with the question she had posed and to write our explanations on Post-it notes.

Surprisingly maybe for a Y6 class, all but one person thought picture books were not just for little children.

Miss Phillips told me why she had set this challenge. She said: “I think there are a lot of people who think picture books are for babies and little children, but I disagree. I wanted to challenge perceptions.”

She added: “I love illustrations as well as words and pictures. I think you can learn a lot by reading picture books. It was lovely to see Y6 children enjoying picture books.”

After this, I felt inspired so I brought in some of my own picture books. These included *Snow Bear* by Michael Morpugo, which has amazing illustrations, and *The Tigon and the Liger* by Keilly Swift (First News’ Managing Editor!), which is about celebrating individuality.

My friend Beth helped me write explanations of the books so people could give them a go. Beth said: “Picture books are an easy way to get important messages across. And they are very soothing and calming.”



### TELL US WHY YOU LOVE YOUR LIBRARY!

We want to hear why you love your library! Send us an email, telling us why your local or school library is great, with the subject ‘MY LIBRARY’, to [bookreviews@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:bookreviews@firstnews.co.uk)

## WORDS FOR LIFE



**BEN Brooks** is the author of the international bestsellers *Stories for Boys Who Dare to Be Different* and *Stories for Kids Who Dare to Be Different*. His new book, *The Impossible Boy*, features an unimaginary friend, talking snowwomen, and hot ice cream. Ben told us what storybook character he would be.

“Lyra, or anyone on the side of good from *His Dark Materials* because they get to have daemons around. I’m quite scared of people but I can get lonely quickly, so having a perpetual companion that always made sense to you would be nice.”



TO READ THE FULL INTERVIEW, VISIT [WORDSFORLIFE.ORG.UK/AUTHOR-INTERVIEWS](http://WORDSFORLIFE.ORG.UK/AUTHOR-INTERVIEWS). FOR BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS, ACTIVITIES AND GAMES, GO TO [WORDSFORLIFE.ORG.UK](http://WORDSFORLIFE.ORG.UK).

# YOUR READS!

## FOOTBALL ACADEMY: CAPTAIN FANTASTIC

**TOM PALMER**

Reviewed by Jehremi Ideh, aged 13.

*Captain Fantastic* is a novel based around 11-year-old Ryan Flynn, captain of United’s under-12s football team.

However, Ryan’s life is complicated! After getting into trouble for bullying, Ryan has his mum to deal with. But she is engrossed in football for all the wrong reasons.

Always arguing with referees and coaches, Ryan’s mum has created a negative atmosphere at United.

Moreover, teammate Craig is stirring trouble and personal issues have affected United. The senior squad struggle and the manager’s job is at stake.

Can Ryan step up as the leader of United?



### BECOME A FIRST NEWS BOOK REVIEWER!

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

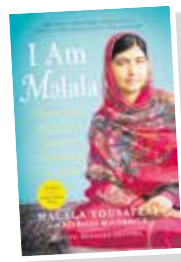
## THE BEST BOOKS ABOUT... BEING A LEADER



UP and down the country, political leaders are telling voters why they’d be best to run our country. Ahead of the big election, we’ve taken a look at our favourite books all about strong leadership skills.

### PEARL MOSCOWITZ’S LAST STAND ARTHUR LEVINE

This charming book follows a woman called Pearl Moscowitz, who is fond of a tree on her street. When the city government decides they want to chop it down, Pearl makes a stand to protect it. A perfect environmental story about community action.



### I AM MALALA MALALA YOUSAFZAI

The young reader’s edition of *I Am Malala* is a story about the difference one person can make. Malala was ten when the Taliban took control of her hometown in Pakistan, banning girls from going to school. Her fight for the right to be educated is inspiring.

### THE BOY WHO HARNESSSED THE WIND

**WILLIAM KAMKWAMBA**

This uplifting story follows a teenage boy who educates himself and learns to build windmills to power his village.



# NEW SCHOOL PET

by Sophie Flax, St Christopher's School, London

**OUR school got a new pet, an axolotl, in the Year 6 science lab.**

We had a box to guess what it was and whoever guessed correctly got to name it!

The clues were that it lives in Mexico, it lives in water, and it's not a mammal or reptile. Based on the clues, I correctly guessed axolotl!

When the creature arrived at school, we were all very excited. It was brought in a container filled with water. This axolotl was just the first; if the water proved safe for her, then we could bring in a second!

At first, the axolotl was very stressed and only hid in a flower pot we had put in the tank, but she soon got used to her new home and came out of the flower pot a bit more.

A couple of days later, my friends and I discovered we could name her. Since she

is an albino, she is very pale so we named her Mochi, like the Japanese rice cake ice cream.

We received the second axolotl several weeks later. As before, he was rather stressed, but soon relaxed. This axolotl is not an albino and was named Demon because of his red gills.

Axolotls are amphibians that eat bloodworms and earthworms and can go for around three weeks without food. They are an endangered species in the wild, but many are bred and kept in captivity. Axolotls are amphibians that never develop lungs and instead live in the water and have gills. An axolotl has three external gills sticking out on either side of its head, which gives it a spooky look!



Mochi

SCHOOL NEWS

**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](mailto:yournews@firstnews.co.uk)

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

## ROAD SAFETY

by Sofia and Zoë, Hotham Primary School

**WE were invited by Brake to take part in their filming event for UK Road Safety Week 2019.**

We were joined by presenter Greg Foot and the film crew. The first part of the filming was looking at potential future cars and discussing if we thought they would be safe on the roads.

Many were self-driving, and at first we weren't really sure about that. We were particularly impressed that one of the self-driving cars had a bed in it – however, we worried that if a person was asleep they would have no emergency control over the vehicle. This car was designed by artist Dominic Wilcox and was called the Stained Glass Driverless Sleeper Car of the Future.

Next, we focused on general road safety. We found the rules of road safety can be pretty straightforward when you follow them well. We looked at cars outside on the roads whilst being interviewed. We were asked how safe we thought the vehicles we saw on the roads were. We looked for hazards and thought about the risks.

Working with Greg was great. He was very inspirational, cheering us on and helping whilst he was

interviewing us – which we needed because it was very nerve-racking. He also made jokes, making filming fun as it was a hard day's work!

This was a great opportunity to have fun learning about road safety and tips on how to survive filming. We hope everyone enjoys the video!



Greg Foot with Yr 6 pupils

SCHOOL NEWS

## WINNING PHOTO

by Grace Hutchinson

**WHILE I was on my summer break, and was on holiday in the Galapagos, we were taking a walk on one of the islands.**



Grace Hutchinson

Grace's winning photo

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

Just as we were getting ready to leave, we saw some swallow-tailed gulls, possibly mating.

As I had been taking pictures of the animals and birds of that island already, I really wanted a picture of this pair.

I had to be careful to not scrape the camera I was using, as the pair of birds were in a place surrounded by rocks.

After we got back home, my mum told me about Stubborn Mule's summer photography competition. Since I had never seen a similar photo to mine before, I wanted to use the picture of the swallow-tailed gulls.

When I got the news that I had won, I was incredibly surprised. It was actually the first time I had entered a photography competition, so it was a really brilliant moment.

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SPORT IN  
NUMBERS

7

major snooker titles have been won in 12 months by Judd Trump. His latest is the Northern Ireland

Open, which he won after beating five-time world champion Ronnie O'Sullivan 9-7. Trump, the world number one, was playing in his third final in a row.



44

minutes and 20 seconds was Letesenbet Gidey of Ethiopia's finishing time at

the Seven Hills race in Nijmegen, the Netherlands. Her result set a new world record for the women's 15km, beating the previous record by more than a minute! The men's world record is 41.05, and was set by Uganda's Joshua Cheptegei last year. The 15km race does not feature at the Olympics or World Championships.



2-0

was the winning scoreline for Arsenal over north London rivals Spurs, a match played in front of a

record crowd for a women's league match in England. Some 38,262 fans watched at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium as Vivianne Miedema (below) scored the Gunners' second.

SUPER  
STEF

Stefanos Tsitsipas poses with the trophy and the Greek flag

**GREECE'S Stefanos Tsitsipas has won the ATP Finals in London, after beating Dominic Thiem 6-7, 6-2, 7-6 in the final.**

It was the first time 21-year-old Tsitsipas had appeared at the end-of-season tournament, and he made it a memorable one.

The rising star sealed a convincing win over tennis legend Roger Federer in the semi-final, before fighting back to defeat Austria's Thiem in a dramatic final.

Tsitsipas becomes the youngest winner of the ATP Finals in 18 years, since a 20-year-old Lleyton Hewitt took the title in 2001.

The ATP Finals brings together the top eight singles players

and doubles teams in men's tennis.

After his victory, Tsitsipas said: "It's been a roller coaster. Holding this trophy is amazing. It is a dream come true." The victory confirms Tsitsipas as one of the big breakout stars of men's tennis in 2019.

In the doubles competition, Frenchmen Pierre-Hugues Herbert and Nicolas Mahut (above right) won the title with a 6-3, 6-4 victory in the final against Raven Klaasen and Michael Venus.



England's Harry Kane scores his side's second goal in a 4-0 win over Kosovo. The team captain became the first player from any country to score in every game of a European Championship qualification campaign. Kane has netted 12 goals in eight qualifiers

