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# First News

Issue 716 £1.99 6 – 12 March 2020

OUR TRUSTED  
NEWS GETS MORE  
THAN 2 MILLION  
READERS!\*

# THE FACTS!

AND WHY  
**NOT** TO  
WORRY

CORONAVIRUS

For the latest advice about  
health and travel linked to  
the coronavirus, see:

- [tinyurl.com/whocv2019](https://tinyurl.com/whocv2019)
- [www.gov.uk/health-and-social-care](https://www.gov.uk/health-and-social-care)

**PRIME Minister Boris Johnson has announced a plan to try to stop coronavirus spreading too widely in the UK.**

by editor in chief Nicky Cox

This is because it's important to stop any illness passing from person to person, because nobody wants to be ill. But it's equally important to remember that coronavirus only leads to a mild illness (known as COVID-19) in most people, particularly in children. Young people rarely get sick and, when they do, it is generally no worse than a cold.

Even knowing that, it's difficult not to worry when everyone is talking about

coronavirus everywhere. While it is true that it is spreading in Britain and around the world, nearly everyone fully recovers within a couple of weeks. It is mainly very old people, or those who already have serious health problems, who don't survive. Even then, the numbers are low. It's worth remembering that around 650 people die of the normal flu each year in the UK, which also isn't deadly in normally healthy people.

There is a lot of hard work happening to protect people from COVID-19, which

is why the prime minister announced the government's plan of action on Tuesday.

It's likely that the number of cases of COVID-19 in the UK will still go up by quite a lot – just like when normal flu takes hold here every winter.

So, it's possible that people will work from home, more schools could close, some events might get cancelled and people may be encouraged not to travel unless they need to. None of that is anything to worry about. It is just to limit the number of people who get sick.

**You can also do a lot to protect yourself and other people by:**

- washing your hands (with hot water and soap when you can) for the length of time it takes to sing *Happy Birthday* twice
- using hand sanitiser if you have it
- coughing and sneezing into a tissue, then throwing it away
- not touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- have fun thinking up some new ways of greeting people without shaking hands!

## 2. QUICK NEWS

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### 1. #BEKIND

Last week, we told you about a boy with dwarfism who was being bullied. Since going viral, nine-year-old Quaden Bayles has received support from around the world. A fundraising appeal was also set up by a stranger to send Quaden to Disneyland. The appeal raised over £371,000 but Quaden's family have said the money will go to charity instead. Quaden's



aunt said: "How many suicides in our society have happened due to bullying? We want the money to go to community organisations that really need it."

### 2. NO MORE DIESEL

National Express has said it will no longer buy diesel buses. It aims to have only zero-emission buses by 2030 and zero-emission coaches by 2035.

### 3. ORGAN LAW DATE SET

The law on organ donations in England is due to change on 20 May. At the moment, if you want to donate your organs when you die, you must give permission. From 20 May, it will be assumed that you agree to donate, unless you say you don't want to. The new law is expected to save lives by getting quicker transplants for sick people who need healthy organs.

### 4. STAFFIE SMILE

Gorgeous Staffordshire bull terrier pup Sybil went viral after charity All Dogs



Matter shared her smiling face online. Sybil has now found her forever home, though the charity stresses there are still lots of other homeless dogs looking for love.

### 5. CHILD LABOUR

A Channel 4 investigation has found farms in Guatemala use child labour to pick coffee beans for Starbucks and Nespresso. Reporters filmed children working long hours. "Many of them were aged 11 or 12 but others looked as young as eight," said Channel 4. Starbucks and Nespresso said they will not buy coffee from the farms while they investigate.

# 20 THINGS TO KNOW AND TELL

QUICK NEWS TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS

### 6. SNEAKY SODIUM

It's Salt Awareness Week from 9-15 March. Action on Salt says it is unfair that the food industry is able to 'hide' salt in our food. In other salt news, scientists have claimed that millions of people die each year due to high levels of salt 'hidden' in processed food.

### 7. SACK THE SACHET

A new campaign to cut plastic waste is hoping to ban single-use plastic sachets. The Sack The Sachet campaign says that about 850 billion sachets are used each year, for everything from ketchup to shampoo. That's enough sachets to cover the whole planet!



### 8. PLASTIC PROMISE

British Airways says it will remove more than 250 million plastic products from flights this year. The airline says it will be replacing its plastic packaging as well as using reusable alternatives to plastic cutlery and cups. Now, about all those emissions from flights...

### 9. ANCIENT ALGAE

The oldest known algae has been found in the form of seaweed fossils more than one billion years old. The earliest known land plants developed 450 million years ago, so this ancient sea algae is over twice as ancient!

### 10. POLL RESULTS

Last week, we reported on a study that found watching a live show is much more thrilling than watching a TV show or film. In our poll, we found that you overwhelmingly agreed too.

#### COMMENT

First News Live! user cloudy23 says "live shows make you feel more involved and engrossed". ocean32 agreed, saying "you can truly feel what they are feeling, rather than just staring at a screen. In my case, it makes me feel more emotions."

### 11. PLANK RECORD

A 62-year-old ex-Marine has achieved the world record for the longest plank. He held the position (below), for more than eight hours. Try doing the plank yourself – we got tired after a minute!



### 12. LOW COCOA PAY

Women working on cocoa farms for the chocolate industry are paid as little as 23p a day. Women are worst hit in Ghana and Ivory Coast, countries in Africa that provide 60% of the world's cocoa. Men get paid three times as much, but that's still only 75p a day.

### 13. ANNI-NURSE-ARY

It's 200 years since the birth of Florence Nightingale, the pioneer of modern nursing. To celebrate, the Florence Nightingale Museum in London has an exhibition featuring 200 items that explore the reasons for her enduring fame and influence. The exhibition is open from 8 March.

### 14. BIRD DECLINE

The State of India's Birds report has revealed that hundreds of birds found in India are in decline. More than 400 species were made a high or moderate conservation concern after recent findings. Types of vulture, eagle and harrier were among the worst affected, but the house sparrow (pictured) was actually doing better than before.



### 15. SNOW KIDDING

A French ski resort is blaming climate change for making €4m less than normal. Le Mont-Dore had to close most of their pistes (paths meant for skiing) during a warm winter, as there was not enough snow to ski on them.

### 16. RAP CONTROVERSY

Authorities in Saudi Arabia want to arrest a female rapper. Her crime? Making a music video in which she raps about the "powerful and beautiful" women from Mecca. Ayasel Slay and her song *Bint Mecca* (Mecca Girl) is seen as disrespectful by some, as Mecca is a holy city. Some of the rapper's supporters say that her harsh treatment is due to her African heritage.

### 17. PORKY POOCHES

Some 51% of dogs are overweight due to extra treats. Food firm Natural Instinct found that 90% of owners feed their dogs scraps several times a week, while a third had no idea what a correct portion size was for their pet.

### 18. COVER REVEAL

Guinness World Records has revealed the cover of its 2021 edition. The detailed cover took artist Rod Hunt more than 300 hours to create and features more than 200 records, including the largest monster truck and fastest sofa. One lucky reader will get themselves drawn into the new cover, jumping onto the largest whoopie cushion. To enter, visit [www.guinnessworldrecords.com](http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com).



### 19. TOP IQ SCORE

An 11-year-old schoolboy has scored the top score of 162 in an IQ test. Aryan Kheterpal scored two points more than Professor Stephen Hawking! Aryan's parents rewarded him with a trip to Barcelona in Spain.

### 20. BATMAN BUNGLE

It was a 'dark knight' when this Batmobile was towed away by police in Moscow. The vehicle appeared to copy the look of the Batmobile from *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice*. Sadly for its owner, the car was too wide for the streets and not roadworthy so it was taken away.





### 3. BIG NEWS

# PAWS FOR THOUGHT



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**A NEW campaign is urging people to be more careful before buying a puppy or kitten, to help stamp out cruel breeders.**

Some puppy and kitten breeders are more concerned with making money than taking care of their animals, so the Government wants to give families all the advice they need when looking for a new four-legged friend.

“The animals reared on puppy farms are often in awful conditions, which can lead to chronic health problems, behavioural issues and, in the most tragic cases, death,” said Lord Goldsmith.

The new advice could help people to avoid possible huge vet bills, as well as behavioural problems with their new pet, such as aggression, which can result from animals being separated from their mothers too early.

If your family is thinking of getting a puppy or kitten, please read about the campaign at [getyourpetsafely.campaign.gov.uk](https://getyourpetsafely.campaign.gov.uk) first.

In April, pets in England will get even more protection when Lucy’s Law comes into force. The new law will mean that only breeders and rehoming centres will be able to sell puppies and kittens. It’s hoped that this will disrupt the network of puppy and kitten farms.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**DOGS’ noses are cold because it helped their wolf ancestors detect heat when they hunted, says a study in Scientific Reports. Dogs can now be added to the short list of creatures that can detect heat at a distance – others include vampire bats, pit vipers and black fire beetles.**

# FIND A FIREBALL

**SCIENTISTS are looking for volunteers to help find space rocks that have crashed to Earth in the UK.**

Researchers from the splendidly-named UK Fireball Network want to set up ten cameras across Britain. That will help them capture multiple images of any meteorites that streak across the sky and survive the intense heat as they enter Earth’s atmosphere. Tracking a meteorite with several cameras allows scientists to work out where in space it came from and where it’s likely to land.

It’s been nearly 30 years since a meteorite was found in England, and more than 100 years in Scotland. However, Australia’s Desert Fireball Network has helped scientists there to recover lots of meteorites from the outback.

If you’re interested in helping out, you can follow @FireballsUK on Twitter (if you’re over 13, or you can get a parent/guardian to follow them).



A meteor shower over Erenhot in Inner Mongolia

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## EDITOR’S COMMENT

**WE’VE been hearing reports of kids being told not to talk about coronavirus (or COVID-19) at school.**

But we think it’s important that you DO talk about it with your parents and teachers, especially if you are worried. That’s because the facts are really not that scary at all, even though some of the headlines might make you think otherwise. COVID-19 is actually a mild virus that rarely affects children. But it is a good reminder to us all to remember to wash our hands and to protect ourselves from catching any illnesses.



## GOOD WEEK FOR...

### BOB WEIGHTON

BRITAIN’S oldest man is expected to be named as the world’s oldest man and could be in the next Guinness World Records book. Bob Weighton was born on 29 March 1908, so he’ll be 112 in a few weeks!



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## BAD WEEK FOR...

### HIKERS

A GERMAN man hiking in Austria managed to start a wildfire when he tried to cover up his poo! The man tried to leave no trace by burning his waste, but ended up starting a fire that took firefighters six hours to put out.



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## NO-PHONE ZONES

**IN an attempt to improve behaviour at schools across England, schools with the best discipline will team up with those where improvement is needed.**

The Government has put together a team of experts to lead a new programme to improve discipline. Some tactics could include banning mobile phones and making pupils line up in silence before entering classrooms, although experts say that what works in one school won’t necessarily work in all.

“Pupils learn best in an environment where there are no excuses for bad behaviour,” said Education Secretary Gavin Williamson.

The Department for Education is looking for around 20 schools that have excellent standards of behaviour. These lead schools will then support another 500 over the three-year programme, by sharing ideas that have worked for their pupils.



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## POLL OF THE WEEK

**Would banning mobiles improve behaviour?**  
[first.news/polls](https://first.news/polls)

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## 4. NEWS IN PICTURES

FirstNews ● Issue 716 ● 6 – 12 March 2020

### SHROPSHIRE, UK



Getty

A HOME that flooded after the River Severn broke its banks. The Met Office said that last month was the wettest February on record, with a UK average of 202.1mm of rain. Storms Ciara, Dennis and Jorge all lashed the country within the space of a few weeks, meaning that February was the UK's fifth wettest month on record (going all the way back to 1862).

### MACEDO DE CAVALEIROS, PORTUGAL



Getty

REVELLERS dressed in traditional costume for Portugal's annual carnival. Known as Caretos, the young men wear brass or wooden masks and dress up in costumes made of dyed wool, with cowbells in their belts.

### ANTARCTICA



Julia Smith Wellner/Twitter

A NEW, previously unknown Antarctic island has been uncovered after glaciers melted due to high temperatures. The island has been named Sif after the Norse goddess and wife of Thor.

### BRISTOL, UK



Getty

THOUSANDS of people, many of them children, skipped school to join a climate strike headed by Greta Thunberg. Greta told the crowd: "We will not be silenced, because we are the change, and change is coming whether you like it or not."

### LONDON, UK



Prince Harry has been back in Britain for one of his last official engagements as a member of the royal family. He posed with rockstar Jon Bon Jovi and friends from Invictus Games on the Abbey Road crossing outside the famous Abbey Road recording studios. It was a copy of a famous Beatles album cover – ask a grown up!



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# POLLUTION PROBLEM

**A REPORT published in the medical journal *Cardiovascular Research* says that air pollution shortens lives worldwide by nearly three years on average – and causes 8.8 million premature deaths annually.**

Professors Jos Lelieveld and Thomas Münzel, who wrote the report, used a new method to find the effects of air pollution on death rates.

They found that air pollution was directly responsible for shortening the lives of those with a number of heart and lung diseases.

They also found that air pollution had a greater effect on shortening lives in older people. The report revealed that, globally, about 75% of air pollution-related deaths were in people aged over 60.

Most surprisingly, air pollution appears to shorten lives more than tobacco smoking and all forms of violence, including war, combined.

The professors believe that by removing fossil fuel emissions, global life expectancy would rise by more

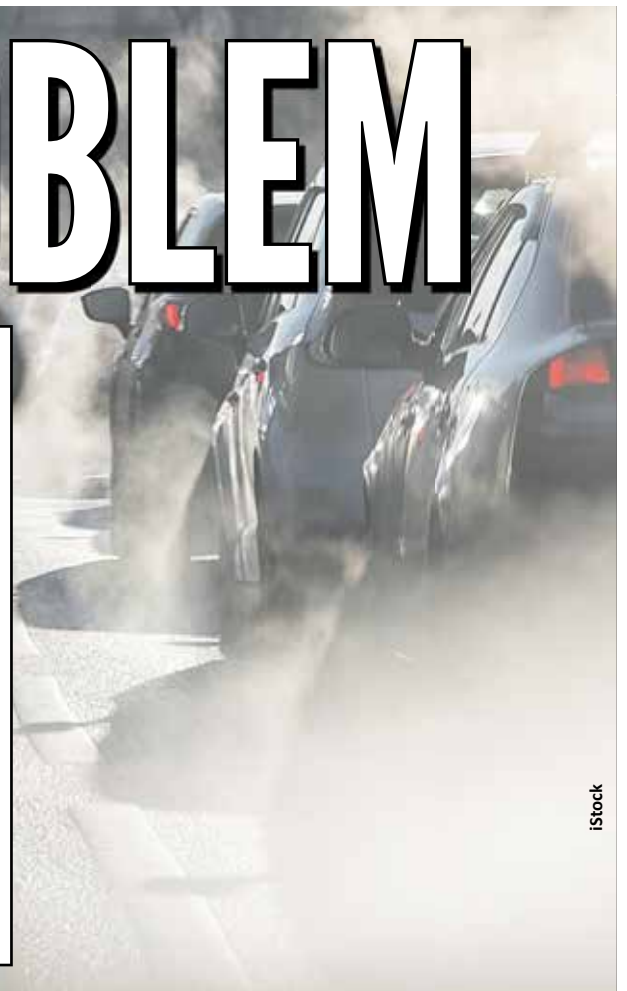
than a year, and by ending all human-made emissions, life expectancy would rise by nearly two years.

Professor Münzel said the report shows that “it is important that policy-makers and the medical community realise that air pollution is an important risk factor for heart and blood vessel disease.”

While efforts have been made to lower air pollution across the UK, in some ways we’re going backwards.

Even though modern cars are supposed to be more efficient, a new study from consumer rights group Which? has found that the newest cars released an average of 10.5g more CO<sub>2</sub> per km than older models.

Which? suggested that this may be because of how the size and weight of some modern cars has increased over time.



iStock

## NO iPHONES FOR BAD GUYS



iStock

**WARNING! A silver-screen secret has been revealed that could spoil a lot of different movies for you.**

Rian Johnson, director of *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*, has let slip that Apple is particularly protective of how its gadgets appear when used on TV and in films.

In the director’s commentary of his new film, Johnson explains that Apple says “bad guys cannot have iPhones on camera.”

This means that if you’re watching a mystery movie and everyone’s got an iPhone except for one character, you can probably work out who the

villain is.

Johnson then said: “Every single film-maker that has a bad guy in their movie that’s supposed to be a secret wants to murder me right now!”

Putting a real-life product, like an iPhone, in a movie is called ‘product placement’, and last year nearly £9 billion was spent by brands, who wanted to see their wares make an appearance in top TV series and films.

## TALIBAN TREATY

**THE US has officially signed a peace agreement with the Taliban, signalling the end of the 18-year war that has been fought in Afghanistan.**

In 2001, following the 9/11 terror attacks that killed 3,000 people, the US has been at war with the Taliban, the Islamist group who ran Afghanistan and protected the man who organised the attacks.

At the time, the Taliban was removed from power and a US-backed government was brought in. However, over the last 18 years, the Taliban has recaptured large parts of Afghanistan.

On 29 February, the US agreed to work with the



Getty

Taliban to seek an end to the war. However, they did not include the Afghan government, who the Taliban has continued to fight.

The UN has said that it welcomes efforts from the US and the Taliban to work out a peace deal. A former British special forces officer who spent years in Afghanistan disagreed.

“This deal is a complete Trump re-election stunt,” he said. “What a betrayal of the Afghans.”



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## A VERY BIG BANG!

Scientists studying a distant galaxy have just seen the biggest explosion in the universe since the Big Bang! According to a researcher, the explosion took place over “hundreds of millions of years”, and released five times more energy than the previous biggest known space explosion.

## TESCO GOES CASHLESS

**TESCO has opened a new store in London that’s entirely cash-free.**

Keep those pennies in your pocket! Tesco’s new London store will only accept cards or mobile payments.

The supermarket joins a number of market stalls and shops in the UK to go completely cash-free.

Don’t expect to see other Tesco supermarkets go cashless, however, as the company says that the London store is specifically designed to be aimed at speedy shoppers looking for a quick take-out meal.

The store’s opening has led to a bigger discussion about how a cashless society might work, and warnings that without notes or coins, millions of older or more vulnerable people may struggle.



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## VOTE IN OUR POLL

**Would you like the UK to go cash-free?**  
[first.news/polls](https://www.first.news/polls)



# 6. HOME NEWS

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## BIRMINGHAM

### Youth science fair

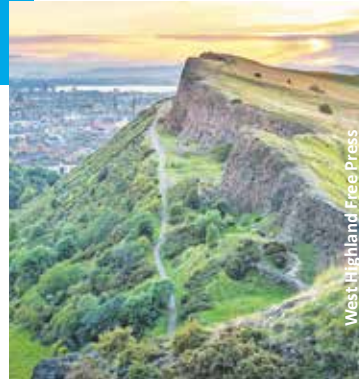
The Big Bang UK Young Scientists & Engineers Fair takes place at the NEC Birmingham from 11-14 March. There will be science shows, robot chefs, a chance to build and race LEGO robots, as well as 'slime sessions' to help you de-stress. Plus, there are loads of people to chat to about what it's like to work in the world of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). The fair is the largest celebration of STEM for young people in the UK and it's completely free! See [www.thebigbangfair.co.uk](http://www.thebigbangfair.co.uk) for more.



## SCOTLAND

### Parks could heat homes

New research suggests that Scotland's parks could heat 15% of the country's homes. Greenspace Scotland looked at 3,500 green spaces and said that capturing the heat in the ground was a low-carbon energy option. The organisation wants to use heat pumps in the ground to send energy to homes that are fuelled by gas boilers right now.



## SCOTLAND

### Free bus travel

Travelling by bus in Scotland will be free to those aged 18 and under by next year. Bus travel has dropped by 10% in Scotland over the past five years. Scotland's finance secretary, Kate Forbes, said the plan aims to support young people and tackle climate change.



## OXFORD



### Meeting of minds

Greta Thunberg and Malala Yousafzai met during Greta's trip to Oxford. The climate campaigner, 17, and human rights activist, 22, were described as "the two most influential young women of my lifetime" by TV host Piers Morgan. Greta spoke to students at Oxford University, where Malala is studying politics, philosophy, and economics.

## LONDON

### Illegal airport runway

Plans for a third runway to be built at London's Heathrow Airport have been ruled out due to climate change risks. There have been arguments about the project for many years. Now, a court has ruled the expansion would be illegal, as it goes against the Government's promise to tackle the climate crisis.

## SOMERSET

### Navy hero gets medal

A Royal Navy sailor has received a medal for saving 27 men at sea. When his ship answered a distress signal, he found a ship in flames and its crew struggling to control a lifeboat in stormy waters. Leading Seaman David Groves from Somerset used a small sea boat to nudge the lifeboat to the safety of his own ship. Receiving the medal from the Duke of Cambridge, he said he was "obviously proud".



## LAND'S END

### 'Speedo Mick' finishes walk

Fundraiser Mick Cullen has finished his UK trek, raising more than £300,000 for disadvantaged people. The 55-year-old walked from John o' Groats in northeast Scotland to Land's End in southwest Cornwall wearing swimming trunks. He braved winter weather and storms Ciara and Dennis on his journey. Explaining his inspiration for helping those in need, he said: "I have been the homeless person you see in the shop doorway, the addict, the alcoholic, the hopeless case."



# NEWS IN NUMBERS

**22%** of new houses built in the city of York since 2015 have been built on land that is at a high risk of flooding. York is one of the areas to be hit the worst by recent storms and flooding.

**800** is the number of years Salisbury Cathedral has been standing proud in the medieval city. Anniversary celebrations included a light show by Luxmuralis, who projected coloured patterns on the inside and outside of the cathedral.



**100,000** items that were confiscated by staff at Luton Airport have been given to food banks and charities. The most common items were bottles of water, spreads, jams and pastes that went over the 100ml limit.

**28,000** people in the UK were recorded sleeping rough in 2019. The figure is five times higher than the Government's official 2018 figure of 4,677, which was a snapshot recorded over a single night.





## 7. BIG NEWS

## SEED SURVIVAL



Getty

Looking like something out of a sci-fi film, this is the entrance to the Svalbard Global Seed Vault

**PRINCE Charles has donated seeds from his garden to a special underground bunker in the Arctic Circle.**

The Svalbard Global Seed Vault is buried deep inside a mountain on a remote island. It was established in 2008 by the Norwegian government and holds one million species of seeds.

The idea is that if there is ever an environmental crisis where certain types of crops die out, we have spare seeds ready to bring them back.

Prince Charles, who says having a variety of plants is really important, donated seeds from his Highgrove estate. These included cowslips, orchids and wild carrots.

He said: "It has proved to be an exhausting and demoralising task to persuade people of the essential role played by diversity in maintaining vibrant, healthy ecosystems that sustain our planet."



Getty

## SYRIA WAR CHAOS



Getty

Locals tell migrants arriving by boat to go home after they arrive at the Greek island of Lesbos

by Dan Morgan

**MILLIONS of people are being displaced (forced to leave their homes) due to the continuing war in Syria.**

The civil war (fighting between people in the same country) in Syria has been going on for nine years. Things have become worse recently with a lot of fighting in a Syrian city called Idlib, which is near the Turkish border.

Many people fighting on both sides have died, as well as innocent civilians. People are being pushed far away from their homes as they try to avoid the fighting.

Now Turkey says it cannot handle the number of people fleeing the war. Turkey has 3.7 million refugees (people moving to escape the war). Turkish officials said they would not let the

refugees cross into European countries, but now they have changed their minds.

As a result, thousands of people are trying to get out of Turkey into Greece. Many are also making dangerous trips in boats to the Greek island of Lesbos or across the Aegean Sea to the Greek mainland.

Greece does not want the refugees to come, but the UN reminded the country that it cannot legally stop people from claiming asylum (a safe place to stay).

It is a big problem with no simple solution. For now, many people are stuck on the border between the two countries with no home.



**WHERE IS THIS HAPPENING?**

GREECE  
LESBOS  
Aegean Sea

TURKEY

SYRIA

IDLIB

Idlib is in northwestern Syria. It is close to Turkey. Turkey shares borders with Syria and Greece

## ANCIENT AXE FIND



Getty

The axe looks like this one

**MOMENTS after her first metal detector hunt, an eight-year-old discovered a 3,000-year-old axe.**

Ava Bray was trying out her grandad's metal detector for the first time when she made the amazing discovery.

Ava and grandad Tony were on Southbourne beach when the detector began bleeping. Moments later, they had unearthed an axe from the Bronze Age.

Grandad Tony, who is a member of the National Council for Metal Detecting, said: "Ava had been using the metal detector for only about a minute when she heard a bleep.

"She shouted: 'It's an axe' and came over to show me. We were very lucky. Some people with metal detectors can spend a lifetime searching and never find anything like that."

Ava, from Southampton, is now waiting to find out if she can keep the ancient axe.

## GREEN HEART HERO AWARDS

**YOUNG people from across the UK will travel to Westminster next week for an awards ceremony celebrating those fighting for a greener future.**

The Climate Coalition's Green Heart Hero Awards celebrate the "thousands of young people creating change in their communities and schools".

The Greenest School Award recognises the work of students who have made real and sustainable changes. Three schools are in the running: St Charles RC Primary School in Manchester, St Thomas Aquinas in Milton Keynes and Sunnyside Primary School in Glasgow.

Four kids have been nominated for

the Future Leader Award: Thea Caine, a wildlife film-maker, Hattie Phillips, a WWF youth ambassador, and Ella and Caitlin McEwan, who got half a million signatures for their petition to reduce the number of plastic toys in kids' meals.

Clara Goldsmith, Campaign Director for The Climate Coalition, said: "Young people have been instrumental in changing the world view of climate change."

The awards take place on 9 March.



Liam Finn

**WOW!**

Astronomy student Michelle Kunimoto has found 17 new planets. One of them could be suitable for humans to live on, but as it's 1,000 light years away, we won't be getting there anytime soon!



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## 8. WORLD NEWS

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## USA



## ● Super Tuesday

As First News went to press, 14 of America's 50 states were voting to decide who they want to see face Donald Trump in the upcoming general election. Early polls showed that the current front-runner, Senator Bernie Sanders, had the lead on his opponents – but after two other candidates dropped out, former vice president Joe Biden received a boost in support. To keep up with the results, check out the daily First News Today bulletin at [live.firstnews.co.uk](https://www.firstnews.co.uk).



## ZIMBABWE



## ● In need of food

More than half the 15 million people who live in Zimbabwe are in need of food assistance, a report from the United Nations' World Food Programme has found. The report says that climate change has worsened an already severe drought in the country, making it very difficult for farmers to grow food. Zimbabwe has also faced a tough economic crisis, leaving millions in a desperate situation.



## GERMANY



## ● Renewable record

Renewable energy made up 61.2% of Germany's electricity generation in February, smashing the previous record of 54%. Germany's Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems said that wind energy provided nearly half of the country's electricity during the month.



## RUSSIA



## ● Freediving record

A Russian freediver has broken the world record for swimming under ice. Equipped with nothing but a thick wetsuit and monofin (one big flipper), Alexey Molchanov managed to swim 181 metres under a thick sheet of ice, breaking the previous world record of 175 metres. It took him two minutes and 40 seconds to complete the dive. Molchanov dedicated the record to his late mother, also a record-breaking freediver, who disappeared during a freedive in 2015.



## PAKISTAN



## ● Duck army doubted

Swarms of locusts that have destroyed farmland across East Africa are now headed north, where they threaten farms in Pakistan, India, Myanmar and Kazakhstan. The Chinese government, worried that the locust swarm will reach China, has gone to Pakistan to discuss a plan to unleash a 100,000-strong army of ducks, which could eat their way through the locusts. Experts from China and the UN have already cast their doubts on the duck army, however, saying that Pakistan is likely to be too hot for the ducks, which may also be overwhelmed by the sheer number of locusts.

## ISRAEL



## ● Third time lucky?

This week, Israelis went to the polls for the third time in less than a year. In the previous two elections, the two largest parties haven't been able to find enough support from smaller parties to form a government. Since the last election, current prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been accused of bribery and fraud, after it was suggested he had offered political favours to media companies for positive news stories. As First News went to press, exit polls suggested that Netanyahu had won, being just two seats short of a majority.



OUR WORLD

NAME: RUARI  
LIVES: NORTHERN IRELANDTO FIND OUT MORE, GO TO  
[WWW.SPORTRELIEF.COM](https://www.sportrelief.com)

**WHEN** Ruari started high school, he was introduced to a peer mentor who was always on hand to support him.

Now, he's committed to providing the same support to other students.

He is proud to be part of the Endeavour Project, a peer mentor programme funded by cash raised by Sport Relief, which helps positively change young men's attitudes towards mental health.





# MEET TOTO

## AND HER CRIME-FIGHTING FRIENDS

# TOTO



**A NINJA CAT -  
SHE SLEEPS ALL DAY AND  
FIGHTS CRIME  
AT NIGHT.**



**SIGNED  
BY  
DERMOT**



**SILVER**

**TOTO'S  
BROTHER -  
HE'S THE  
WORLD'S  
GREEDIEST  
CAT!**



**CATFACE**

**TOTO'S BEST  
FRIEND -  
HE'S THE  
COOLEST  
CAT-RAT IN  
TOWN!**



**SOCKS**

**TOTO'S NEWEST PAL -  
HE'S LOUD, BRAVE AND ... TINY!**

Illustrations © Nick East, 2020

**THE LATEST PURRFECTLY PAWSOME BOOK FROM**  
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Available at **TESCO**



# #MARCH4WOMEN

THIS International Women's Day, young activists are set to put a spotlight on the women and girls who are most affected by the climate crisis. Thousands will be joining the #March4Women in London to call for gender equality and climate justice on Sunday 8 March.

## YOUNG ACTIVISTS

A number of passionate young climate activists will also be joining the march. Scarlett Westbrook, 15, from Solihull, is one of the young people helping to inspire others that urgent action is needed: "Just like society, climate change discriminates and we must fight for those who are the most vulnerable to its disastrous effects. Women and girls are more likely to be living in poverty, so when disasters like cyclones, floods and drought strike, they will find it harder to recover. I'm proud to be speaking at #March4Women to demand intersectional [all categories] justice for all."



Scarlett

The 1st Bassaleg Guides are travelling all the way from Newport in Wales, as they feel so strongly about being part of this movement.

Carenza, aged 12, says: "Women's rights are something that women have been fighting for for years. Over time, women have started to get the respect that they deserve. However, our rights are still not equal to men's rights."

On climate justice, Bronwen, aged 12, said: "2020 is a year that we can change our ways to help save our world and demand change from our politicians."



Girl Guides who are joining the march

## FAMOUS FACES

Stars of the stage and screen will be adding their voices on the day, including Emeli Sandé, RAYE, George MacKay (1917), singer/songwriter Låpsley, Natalie Dormer, Sandi Toksvig, and Nicola Coughlan (Derry Girls), alongside equality campaigners Helen Pankhurst and 22-year-old Hilda Nakabuye from Uganda.



## WHY ARE GIRLS AND WOMEN OFTEN MORE AFFECTED BY THE CLIMATE CRISIS?



Teenage girls in Nhamatanda, Mozambique, collect hygiene kits and water buckets supplied by CARE

- When drought occurs it is mostly girls who have to trudge further and further to fetch water.
- In a crisis, girls often have to miss out on school to help with chores and look after the young, the old and the disabled.
- And when all is lost, girls are often forced to marry young or are at risk of exploitation in the camps for refugees and displaced people.



Lourde

## MEET LOURDE FROM MOZAMBIQUE

Lourde is 14 years old and lost three of her brothers when Cyclone Idai hit last year.

"A plastic tent became our new home and we stayed there for a month and a half. I am very happy about the help we received; CARE gave me a new schoolbag, soap and underwear. If I had one wish, it would be to live in a real house again. But the most painful part is losing my brothers."

## HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

Bring all your friends and family along to the #March4Women on Sunday 8 March.

For rally tickets and information on the march, visit [careint.uk/m4w](https://careint.uk/m4w).





# WHO'S A CLEVER BOY, THEN?



**SCIENTISTS** have discovered that the kea is the only species apart from humans and other great apes (such as chimps) that is smart enough to understand probabilities.

Kea are clever parrots that are only found in New Zealand. They're well known for their intelligence, but they've proved just how smart by passing some tests that most animals fail – including several species of monkey and African grey parrots, which are often described as one of the smartest birds on Earth.

Six male kea took part in various tests, which all involved choosing the correct token when a researcher picked one with each hand from two jars (below). Choosing the hand with a black token would reward the kea with a food treat, whereas an orange token would get them nothing.

The proportions of black and orange tokens in the jars was changed for some tests,



so the kea had to work out which jar offered the best chance of a treat. In another experiment, the jars had a barrier halfway up, but the proportions of tokens were different above and below the barrier.

In a third test, the kea had to work out that one researcher was 'biased' and would always pick out a black token, while a second researcher was just picking at random. Three of the kea were smart enough to figure out that the biased researcher was the one to go to for treats.

The report in *Nature Communications* says that the study is useful for scientists who look at how intelligence developed throughout history, but also for IT specialists working on artificial intelligence.



# EARTH'S OTHER MOON



**THE news that really blew our minds this week is that our planet now has two moons.**

And if that's not enough to rock your socks, this sneaky second moon has been up there for three whole years!

The new mini-moon is pretty tiny – between 1.9-3.5m across – and has an unusual orbit, which is why it hadn't been spotted until now. It orbits Earth once every 47 days, but goes way out past the actual moon.

It's thought that the mini-moon is an asteroid that's been captured by Earth's gravity, but because its orbit is so unstable it will probably shoot off into space again by April.

The new object was spotted by two researchers at the Catalina Sky Survey at the University of Arizona in the US.

TATA  
CONSULTANCY  
SERVICES

## INNOVATIONS

**ALZHEIMER'S Research UK, a charity that looks into treatments for dementia, plans to develop a wearable device to detect early signs of the disease.**

Artificial intelligence is being used to look at huge amounts of data taken from ongoing studies into dementia, a serious condition that mostly affects the elderly.

This data will then be used to help design a device that can be worn to monitor various things, including heart rate and sleeping patterns. If early tell-tale signs of Alzheimer's appear, a person can receive appropriate treatment to delay the disease.

There are currently 850,000 people living with dementia in the UK and some 50 million worldwide.

SCIENCE  
MUSEUM  
GROUP

This report is  
from our friends  
at Locomotion

**WE may not always notice it, but we are constantly experiencing science.**

One example is gravity – the force that keeps us all on the ground and that holds Earth and the other planets in their orbits around the sun. Without it, we'd all be floating around like astronauts in space!

But gravity can also be a challenge. Scientists and engineers have studied and experimented with flight for hundreds of years. Leonardo da Vinci famously studied the wings of birds more than 500 years ago and in 1903 the Wright brothers achieved the first successful piloted flight – it lasted just 12 seconds!

You can design your own aircraft and learn more about everyday science at Locomotion from 7-15 March, as part of British Science Week.

A model of  
da Vinci's  
helicopter





## 12. ANIMAL NEWS

FirstNews ● Issue 716 ● 6 – 12 March 2020

# PROTECTING WILDLIFE



**NEW plans are going to be put into place to help protect jaguars and Asian elephants.**

Jaguars have lost 40% of their habitat over the last 100 years, but at a wildlife summit held in India, six countries put forward plans to help look after the big cats as they move across the borders of different countries. The new plans will help to preserve the big cats' habitat and it's hoped this will help the animals to move around between countries more easily.

The Thirteenth Conference of the Parties also passed a proposal to do more to protect Asian elephants, which are endangered because of loss of habitat, poaching and poisoning. Elephants also have problems migrating, due to things like new railways being built.

It was also agreed to increase protection for the oceanic whitetip shark, great Indian bustard and Antipodean albatross.



## BABY'S NEW NAME



**A RARE baby chimp born at the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland's Edinburgh Zoo has been named.**

The newborn western chimpanzee, who was born on 3 February, has been named Masindi following a public vote. It is the name of a town nearest to Budongo Conservation Field Station in Uganda, where RZSS funds conservation efforts for the species. His arrival was very exciting, as western chimpanzees are critically endangered in the wild.



## SNAP HAPPY



**IT'S good news for Siamese crocodiles, which were once thought to be extinct, after ten babies were spotted in the wild in Cambodia.**

The critically-endangered crocs have disappeared from 99% of their habitat, but a group of scientists with Fauna & Flora International spotted the group of hatchlings at a protected part of the Steung Knoung River. It's only the second time in a decade that baby Siamese crocodiles have been found in the wild in the country.

Experts thought the species was extinct in the wild until 2000, when it was rediscovered by a team of scientists in southwest Cambodia's Cardamom Mountains.

## SEEING DOUBLE

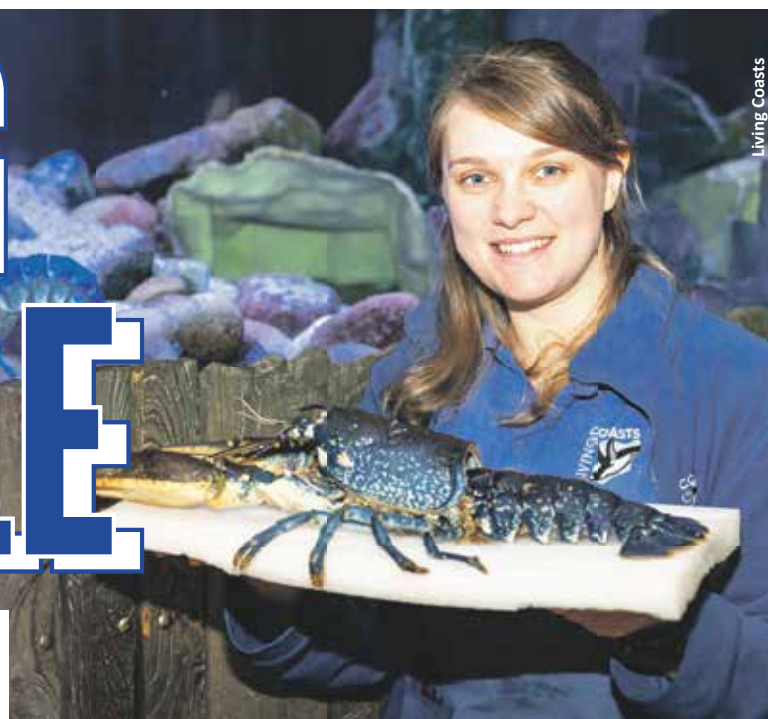
**AQUARISTS at Living Coasts in Torquay had to look twice when they spotted two lobsters in a tank that usually only contains one!**

For the first time in two years, European lobster Homer shed his shell, leaving behind a perfect replica of himself!

Aquarist Sam Worthington explains: "This exoskeleton is almost perfect – right down to the antennae and the eyes.

Lobsters moult their protective outer shells in order to grow. It's hard work – some die of exhaustion in the process."

Lobsters are unusual animals, as they taste using their legs and are very house-proud, tidying their habitats and even gardening!



Living Coasts

iStock



# THE HEAT IS ON!

**SPORT RELIEF** IT'S GAME ON

LAST week, seven intrepid celebrities crossed the oldest desert on the planet on a fundraising journey for Sport Relief. CBBC presenter Karim Zeroual was part of the courageous crew cycling and trekking across the biggest sand dunes in the world. This is his photo diary for *First News*.

## DAY 1 THE SCALE OF THE TASK AHEAD BECOMES A DAUNTING REALITY...

"I was looking for a big challenge, but nothing could have prepared me for how physically and mentally tough it was going to be."



"This gives you an idea of how big the desert is. It just goes on for miles and miles in all directions. This bit wasn't too hard to cycle on, but it didn't stay flat for long!"

"I was sharing a tent with Rob Rinder, who took part in *Strictly Come*

*Dancing* a few years before me. He was absolutely hilarious. It was like two worlds colliding. We are so different, but we got on brilliantly."



## DAY 2 THE TEAM SAY FAREWELL TO THE BIKES AND HEAD FURTHER INTO THE DESERT ON FOOT...



"Physically I'm strong, but the terrain was so tough. For every two steps forward I made, I slid one step back."

"Temperatures exceeded 40°C every day in the desert and there was nowhere to hide from the blistering sun. I'm North African so I didn't struggle with the heat as much as some of the others, thankfully."



## DAY 3 BIG DUNES DAY...

"My body was in shock, but I was determined to make it over the finish line, even if I crawled over on my hands and knees. I was so proud that I made it over all 19 dunes in one day!"



"This shows you how tough the Sport Relief challenge was on me. My body wasn't used to such extreme physical exercise in desert conditions. By day three I was really starting to struggle. It'll all be worth it though, if it helps to raise lots of money for the charity."



"I kept pushing through because of the reason behind the challenge: to help raise awareness of mental health issues. Every time I was in pain, I thought about the struggles other people go through. I want young people to speak up about their mental health and not to worry about bravado. I was so emotional at the end of day three. Thankfully, singer Frankie Bridge was at the finish line waiting to give me a big hug."

## DAY 4 BACK IN THE SADDLE AND HEADING FOR THE FINISH LINE...

"I might look like I'm having fun, but it was seriously hard work. It's a special fat-bike but it kept sinking in the sand. It was so hard to pedal, especially uphill."



"This was by far the hardest thing I have ever done, but it is also my proudest achievement. There were so many moments where I wanted to throw the towel in, but I pushed myself and I will treasure the experience forever."



To see the highs and lows of the challenge, tune into the Sport Relief documentary *The Heat Is On for Sport Relief* on Wednesday 11 March at 8pm on BBC One. Go to [www.sportrelief.com/TheHeatIsOn](http://www.sportrelief.com/TheHeatIsOn)

**COMIC RELIEF**



# KIDZ RULE!

KIDZ Bop make family-friendly pop albums with covers of some of the biggest hits in the world. Next month they're heading off on their first UK tour. We chatted to Max, Ashton, Twinkle and Mia about being in the band and what we can expect from the tour!



## ● How long have you been in Kidz Bop?

**Max:** Just over three years now for me. I am part of the original UK team.

**Mia:** Just over a year. I was at school with Ashton and Twinkle, so I knew a bit of what Kidz Bop was all about when I started the audition process.

**Twinkle:** I was ten when I started, so it's been over three years now. I was at the Sylvia Young Theatre School for about a year before auditioning.

**Ashton:** It's been about three years, and it's been incredible seeing how much we have grown, from making music videos here in the UK through to travelling to New York last year, then looking forward to having our own tour in the UK.

## ● What's your favourite thing about being in Kidz Bop?

**Max:** I love performing, I love being on stage – so the tour will be amazing; singing some of my favourite songs with some of my best friends.

**Mia:** It's like all my dreams come true; I get to rehearse songs and travel the world with my best friends. I love all the clothes we get to wear too.

**Twinkle:** For me, it's the rehearsals for our live shows and performances. It's when we get to experiment with new dance moves and our vocals, and we learn so much during the rehearsals. It's hard work but so much fun.

**Ashton:** I really enjoy the production side of it, making the songs and learning about that technical process. Then we take it out to the live shows and it's amazing to see people singing back to you.

## ● Do you enjoy all the experiences that Kidz Bop has brought you?

**Twinkle:** It was amazing working with the US kids, with different people and on different songs. We've been to Germany to film with the German Kidz Bop kids too, joining in with their videos, so we get to learn songs in other languages too. We share the love of singing and dancing and that's what brings people together, wherever they come from.

**Ashton:** We just didn't realise how many opportunities it would bring us: traveling, meeting so many people, touring the UK. It's just... wow!

## ● You're only a kid for so long, so what would you like to do after Kidz Bop?

**Max:** Hopefully I've still got a little while as a Kidz Bop kid. I would definitely like to stay in music, writing and producing my own songs.

**Mia:** I would love to stay doing this forever if I could! But I'd also maybe like to try acting on TV. I had done some bits and pieces of acting before Kidz Bop. One of the things that

has been really amazing is getting to experience lots of different areas of the industry: music, TV, producing, performing.

**Twinkle:** Yes, I'd like to stay in the industry too, making more music and also doing more acting.

**Ashton:** Before Kidz Bop, I just wanted to be an actor, but this has really opened my eyes to so many different things and different opportunities.

## ● What are you looking forward to most about the tour?

**Max:** For me, the London Palladium dates will be the big ones, as I've got my family and friends coming along, and it'll be so good to see them all there in the audience. I'm especially looking forward to performing Uptown Funk, as it gets such a great reaction when we perform it.

**Mia:** The first songs I did with Kidz Bop were Rise and One Kiss, so they're always special and I'm looking forward to doing them. The Manchester show will be extra special, as I come from Lancashire, so lots of my family and friends are coming.

For Kidz Bop tour dates and ticket information, visit [www.cuffeandtaylor.com](http://www.cuffeandtaylor.com)

# SOCCER AID IS BACK!

OLLY Murs, Robbie Williams and a host of other celebs are back on the pitch this June!

Soccer Aid 2020 takes place on Saturday 6 June at Manchester United's Old Trafford stadium.

It's England vs the Rest of the World, with Usain Bolt, Olly Murs, Danny Jones, Lee Mack, Joel Dommett, Patrice Evra, Casey Stoney and Kelly Smith just some of the stars announced.

Sam Allardyce will manage England and Harry Redknapp will manage the Rest of the World.

Soccer Aid for UNICEF has raised more than £38m for UNICEF since its first match in 2006.

You can get tickets for Soccer Aid at [www.socceraid.org.uk/tickets](http://www.socceraid.org.uk/tickets)



Soccer Aid



Soccer Aid



## THIS WEEK

**1** James Newman has been announced as the UK's entry for the Eurovision Song Contest 2020. His entry, *My Last Breath*, was played for the first time on Radio 1 this week. Songwriter James is already a BRIT Award winner. Eurovision 2020 is being held in the Netherlands this May. Last year, the UK entry came last!



**2** The cast of *Friends* are reuniting for the first time since the show ended more than 15 years ago. The cast announced the reunion on Instagram. It will be an unscripted special, not a new episode of the hit show. It's not known if we'll be able to see the special in the UK, as it will be shown on a new streaming service launching in America.

**3** Chris Pratt is spending the next 100 days chasing dinosaurs! Production has officially begun on *Jurassic World: Dominion*. Sadly we won't get to see the film until at least June 2021.



**4** Andrew Lloyd Webber's hit musical *School of Rock* is going on tour. The show will open in Birmingham in February and tour the UK for a year.

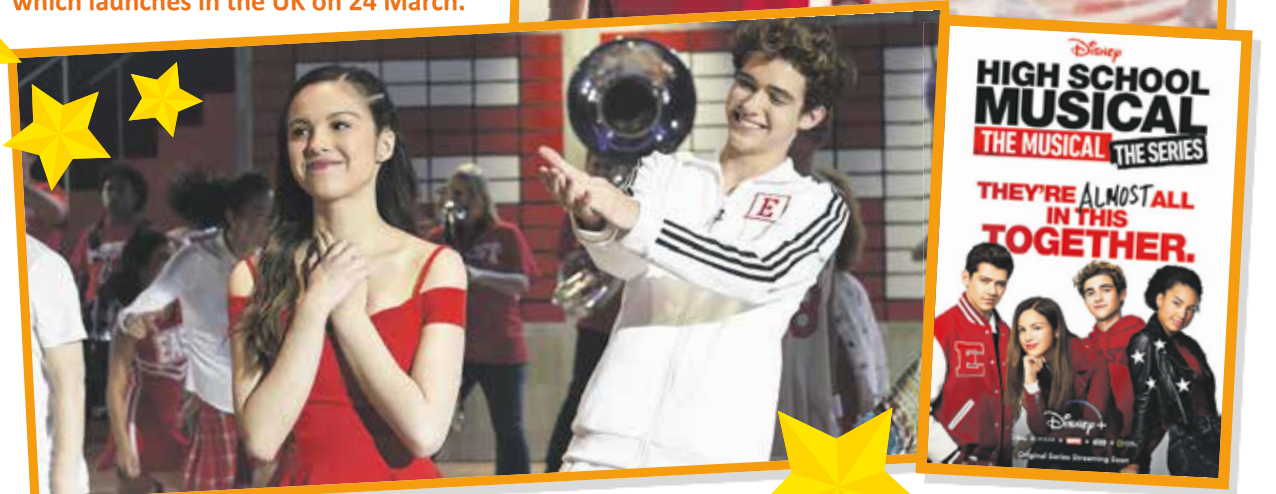
## PICS OF THE WEEK

**HIGH School Musical is back with a brand-new series launching on Disney+ later this month.**

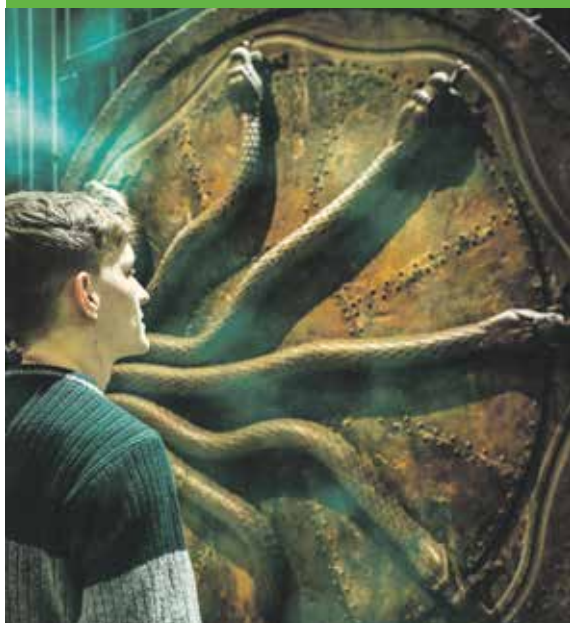
These first-look pictures from the new series show the new cast in the next chapter of the franchise.

It's a mock documentary, filmed using hand-held cameras, which revolves around pupils staging their own production of *High School Musical*.

**High School Musical: The Musical: The Series** will be available on Disney+, which launches in the UK on 24 March.



## SLYTHERIN SECRETS

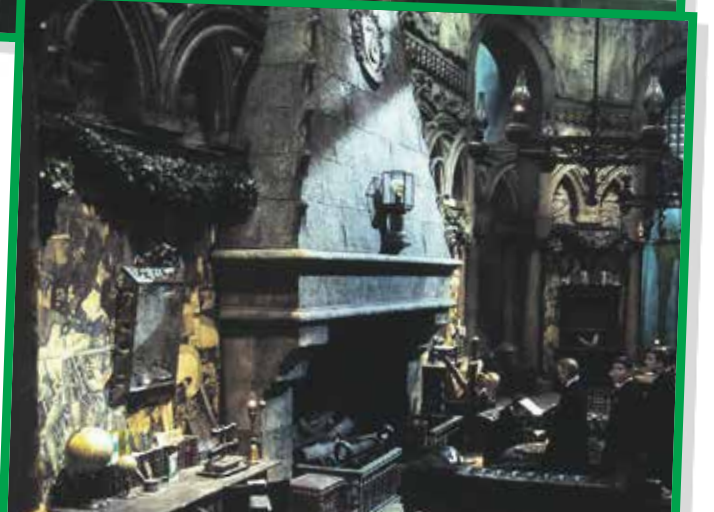


FOR the first time, *Harry Potter* fans can get a glimpse into life as a Slytherin at Warner Bros Studio Tour London – The Making of *Harry Potter*.



Visitors to the special exhibition will be able to step inside the Slytherin common room for the very first time. A huge, 7.6m section of the actual film set will be on display, allowing Potter fans the chance to see the furniture and props used in the films.

Green and silver will be the colour scheme for both the dungeon and the famous Great Hall of Hogwarts, which will be dressed in Slytherin house colours during this special feature.



The Celebration of Slytherin special feature will run from **Friday 3 April – Sunday 6 September 2020** and is included in the normal ticket price.



# 16. GAME ZONE

FirstNews ● Issue 716 ● 6 – 12 March 2020

## RIP KONAMI CODE CREATOR

↑↑↓↓←→←→ B A START

**CHEAT codes don't feature in videogames as much as they used to, but there's a good chance you've seen the one above before.**

Created by Kazuhisa Hashimoto, who sadly passed away last week, the code – up, up, down, down, left, right, left, right, B, A, start – has appeared in everything from *Ratchet and Clank* to *Rocket League*.

Just last year, when *Fortnite's* Chapter 1 came to an end and a black hole appeared, inputting the famous code unlocked a minigame.

The code was originally created back in the mid-'80s, when Hashimoto was

working on a game called *Gradius* for the company Konami. Hashimoto said he found the game too difficult, and so added the code to give himself all the power-ups.

After *Gradius*, the Konami code appeared in lots of other games from Konami, before spreading outside of the company.

If you've got a smart home device, like an Amazon Alexa, why not try saying the Konami code aloud?

## COOL CUBES!

**MATTEL has partnered with *Minecraft* to create tiny toy versions of the game's cubic characters!**

Called Boost Minis, the figurines aren't just nice to look at – they also unlock in-game power-ups and rewards in *Minecraft Earth*.

While there's no set date on just when we'll be able to get our blocky hands on them here in the UK, we'll be keeping an eye out.



## FARMING AND FIGHTING

### RUNE FACTORY 4

**RUNE Factory 4 (PEGI 12) is an interesting mix of farming and fighting! Games reviewer Cleo, aged 13, gave us her thoughts.**

"Rune Factory 4 is a complicated game! You've got to juggle looking after your farm, meeting and talking to your neighbours and delving into dungeons.

As the game goes on, you find that you need better weapons, armour and medicine to beat the harder dungeons. This means you need better crops, so you can make the better weapons and armour – and then to grow better crops, you need better tools! It all can get a bit annoying sometimes, but I did enjoy it."



## ONE POWERFUL BOX

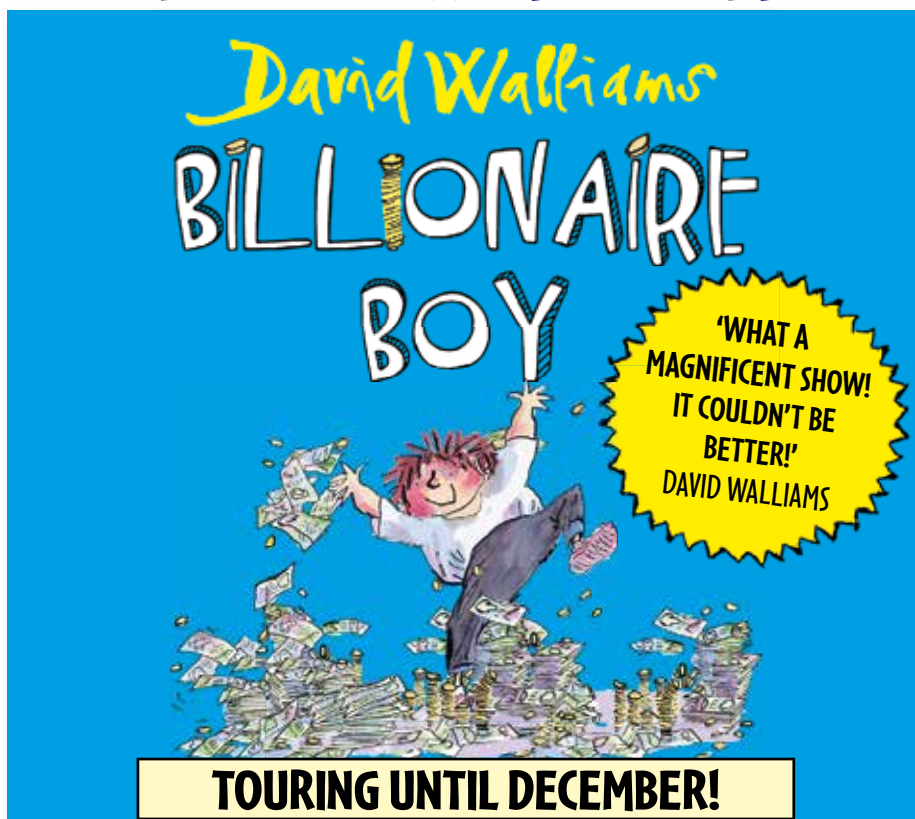
**MICROSOFT has revealed a few more details about the Xbox Series X console.**

According to the company, the Xbox Series X will be eight times more powerful than the Xbox One!

There will also be a new Quick Resume feature that will allow players to continue games from where they left off instantly, even after completely shutting the console down.



## TWO GREAT SHOWS FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!



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**See [birminghamstage.com](http://birminghamstage.com) for your local theatre!**



# "I WONDER WHAT THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF A DRAGON IS?"

TOM Holland is the voice of Ian Lightfoot, a shy elf who gets an unusual present for his 16th birthday, in Disney Pixar's *Onward*. We caught up with Tom at the premiere to find out more.



## ● We meet Ian when he's just turning 16. What's his story?

Yes, he's coming up to 16 and is having a hard time fitting in at school – and his older brother Barley isn't really helping the situation. He's not very confident, he's a bit of an introvert and, on his 16th birthday, his dad, who was a wizard before he died, leaves him a magic staff with the ability to bring him back for the day, so Ian will finally get to meet his dad. But it goes a bit awry, so it is up to Barley and Ian to go on this crazy quest to try to meet their dad.

## ● What did you think when you first heard about the story?

It is definitely an unusual concept! It's a fantasy film set in a modern society and it explores the idea that technology is kind of taking over the magic of the world. I think sometimes we forget that the world we live in today is pretty magical. We've all been a bit obsessed with what is happening in the fake world that exists on our phones, on Instagram and Twitter and all that stuff. I think the most important message of this film is to help young boys understand that expressing your emotions is not something to be ashamed of. Expressing how you feel is something to be proud of and something that you should be rewarded for. I was always very open as a kid and was very lucky because my parents were always very eager to listen. I really hope this film will make people feel more comfortable in expressing or explaining how they feel.

## ● If you could bring back somebody for a day, who would it be?

My grandad Bob is one of the nicest people I know and his dad passed away when he was a baby, so he never got to meet him. So I would bring back

Barley (Chris Pratt) and Ian (Tom Holland) Lightfoot are brothers on a quest



my great-grandad so that my grandad could spend the day with him. He doesn't know what the film is about; he's going to watch it for the first time at the premiere with my entire family, so I'm very excited to see how he responds. He's a real crier though, he cries a lot.

## ● What about if you could do magic?

I'm obsessed with nature and wildlife, and scuba diving is one of my favourite things to do because it's the only time you can truly be in a private place. When you are scuba diving with a manta ray, no-one is taking pictures of you, they're taking pictures of the manta ray. I've seen first-hand what plastic and pollution is doing to our oceans and I would really, really, like to be able to do something to fix that. So that's something I'd be very keen to sort out with a bit of magic.

## ● How would you feel about being a wizard?

I was a super Harry Potter fan. I was obsessed: I had all the audiobooks, I read all the books, watched the films, and I've been to the Wizarding World of Harry Potter a bunch of times too, so I would love to be a wizard.

## ● The Lightfoot family have a pet dragon – which magical creature would you like for a pet?

She's a pretty useless dragon though! If you had a pet dragon that could fly, that would be pretty useful. I do a lot of flying in my life, so if I could have a more eco-friendly way of flying around, that would be great. I wonder what the carbon footprint of a dragon would be? I don't think it would be that much, so if I could fly around on a dragon, that would be great!

## ● What are your memories of being 16?

I would have been doing my GCSEs, which I did find really tough. I was at secondary school and I'd just finished *Billy Elliot*, where I'd been doing a lot of ballet, so I had a bit of a hard time with bullies. It wasn't the best time for me but I found my friends, who are still my friends to this day, and I was lucky to have them. A lot of people have it a lot harder than I did and I was very lucky to have my family, who are a strong influence in my life. But I don't really look back on my 16th and 17th years as fondly as I would like.

## ● What advice would you give to our readers who may be going through a similar thing?

I think there's no point tackling something by yourself; everything is easier with a bit of help. If you have help readily available, then go to those people. If you don't, then I'm sure your school will have programmes where you can go and speak to someone if you want to talk to people. I really think that if you feel inclined to get something off your chest, then don't feel ashamed or embarrassed. Go and speak to someone about it; that's what I did and that's what I still do with my parents and my brothers, and I've got to say it really helps!

## CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY FIRST NEWS

Disney Pixar's *Onward* is in cinemas now!





## 18. SPECIAL REPORT

# THEY RISE AGAIN!

THE veggie army is back and, once again, it's up to you to crunch through those crops and gorge on those greens!

### LAST YEAR'S BATTLE

In the UK, just 1.2% of food and drink advertising is spent promoting vegetables – but 80% of children don't eat enough veg. Campaign group Veg Power wanted to change that, so last year they teamed up with major supermarkets to create the Eat Them To Defeat Them campaign – an adventure game where vegetables are trying to take over the world, and parents need you to help them! By the end of last year's campaign, Veg Power found that 650,000 children were eating more veg!

### ABSORB THEIR POWER!

Eating up the veggie army doesn't just stop them from taking over the world, it also gives you loads of benefits! You've probably heard that eating lots of carrots can help you see in the dark, and there is definitely some truth to that.

Carrots are packed full of vitamin A, so if you don't get enough vitamin A, you can suffer from a condition called night blindness, which makes it harder to see in the dark. So eat plenty of carrots or other vitamin A-filled food like sweet potatoes, and you can protect yourself from night blindness and decrease the risk to your eyesight.

But carrots are not the only superpowered vegetables. Dark leafy greens like spinach and kale might not seem exciting, but they're full of fibre and nutrients that are brilliant at boosting your immune system and reducing the risk of more serious illnesses like heart disease.

### TURN THEM TASTY

You might be surprised at just how yummy vegetables can be! There are plenty of brilliant recipes from some of the UK's top chefs available on the website below that will help you turn all of these veggie villains into mouthwatering meals. Try Claire's beetroot and black bean burger or Vic's sweet potato apple muffins. Or tuck into Helen's squeaky unicorn pink wee rainbow chilli!

FirstNews • Issue 716 • 6 – 12 March 2020

## EAT THEM TO DEFEAT THEM

EACH week, it's down to you to devour the soldiers of the veggie army! Here's a list of just what you've got to eat, and when!

**YOU'RE GOING DOWN, PEAS!**  
2-8 MARCH

**IT'S TIME TO FACE THE HEAT, SWEETCORN!**  
9-15 MARCH

**HASTA LA VISTA, BROCCOLI!**  
16-22 MARCH

**BRING IT ON, TOMATOES!**  
23-29 MARCH

**YOU'RE STUFFED, PEPPERS!**  
30 MARCH – 6 APRIL



# EVERYONE FOR TENNIS!

The LTA is offering teachers free training through their Youth Schools programme to enable them to deliver cross-curricular PE and PSHE lessons with confidence.

The active lesson plans, designed by teachers, include a range of fun tennis and racket-based activities designed to enhance young people's physical skills, control, agility, balance and co-ordination. Teachers will find it helps them deliver outstanding PE lessons with confidence, and the additional content can be used in PSHE lessons.

Madison Chipman, a Year 5 teacher from Nansen Primary School in Birmingham, says she's noticed the children "becoming more independent and confident in the classroom, asking lots of questions. They want to be more involved in PE lessons, which wasn't the case before."

Jacqui Johnson, assistant head/ PSHE lead

at Eureka Primary School in Derbyshire, says: "There are such a variety of resources which can be used in other curriculum areas and the fact they're easily adapted to develop the children's skills is a real plus."

Every teacher who signs up will receive a free pack of resources to help keep their pupils engaged and motivated. These include activity flipbooks, invitations and stickers. Participating schools will also be provided with a £250 voucher on completion of the free training. Additionally, for a time-limited period, schools are eligible to win a fantastic schools experience day at the National Tennis Centre.

Teachers can sign up to the free training at [lta-tennis.force.com/schools](https://lta-tennis.force.com/schools)



## WIN! A John Adams SCIENCE BUNDLE



TO celebrate British Science week we have four John Adams bundles up for grabs, which include:

**Hot Wires:** More than 100 action-packed experiments involving light, sound and movement! Make anything from a flying disk to a burglar alarm, from a voice recorder to a lie detector.

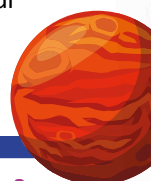
**Thinking Time:** Allows curious minds to create a gruesome brain clock powered by chemistry. Connect the wires, add the electrodes and see your clock spring into life.

**Beating Heart:** Create a gruesome, squelchy, beating heart! Construct each half of the heart, attach the pump tubes and fill with fake blood.

**Mission to Mars:** Lets you explore life on the Red Planet! Create your own red Martian soil, make meteor craters and use AR to create a video backdrop to your play scene and launch your escape rocket.

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

What is the largest planet in the solar system?  
a) Mars b) Venus c) Jupiter



## ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY MARS

[firstnews.co.uk/competitions](https://firstnews.co.uk/competitions) or see page 23. The closing date is 20 March 2020.

## WIN! MOJIPOPS BUNDLES

MOJIPOPS are fun-loving characters, each with a removable, double-sided face: flip it over to switch between emotions and expressions or even swap faces completely with another character in the collection!



MojiPops Party Series is a brand-new collection of 90+ characters designed within different themes: Gardeners, Foodies, Fruttis, Homies, Cuties and Crafties, all with a special finish in either gold, pearl or glitter.

There are six Pearlised characters and the exclusive and rare Poppy,

who is the queen of the party!

To add to the Party collection, there are Club Room sets with interchangeable speech bubbles, Club House Sets that can be opened out to create a dancefloor and stacked with other Club Houses to create the ultimate Moji Club, and I Love Sunny Beach, a cute little beach-themed playset! We are giving readers the chance to win a MojiPops Party Series bundle containing five One Packs, two Club Room sets, one Club House set, plus an I Love Sunny Beach set.

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

What is the name of the exclusive MojiPops?  
a) Rose b) Iris c) Poppy

## ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY POPS

[firstnews.co.uk/competitions](https://firstnews.co.uk/competitions) or see page 23. The closing date is 20 March 2020.



WORDS  
FOR LIFE

**MATILDA Woods** grew up in the Southern Tablelands of Australia. Matilda splits her time between writing middle-grade fiction and working as a youth social worker. She currently lives in the same small town where she grew up, with her four chickens, three dogs, two cats and one bird. Matilda told us what her all-time favourite book is:

“ **The Twits** by Roald Dahl. I love the writing and the illustrations. It makes me laugh to be grossed out so much! ”



TO READ THE FULL INTERVIEW, VISIT [WORDSFORLIFE.ORG.UK/AUTHOR-INTERVIEWS](https://www.wordsforlife.org.uk/author-interviews). FOR BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS, ACTIVITIES AND GAMES, GO TO [WORDSFORLIFE.ORG.UK](https://www.wordsforlife.org.uk).

## YOUR READS!

**THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE DEADLY 7** GARTH JENNINGS

reviewed by **Louis Khan, aged nine**

This book is a funny fantasy about a boy who has his sins extracted and turned into seven monsters. These monsters are invisible to everyone except the boy and any animals they encounter.

The plot revolves around what happens when an older man's sins are extracted and turned into a gigantic, dangerous beast.

The boy and his monsters need to stop the giant beast and save the world. It's the second book in the series – the first one is called *The Deadly 7*.

I really enjoyed the book – it has even more jokes than the first book and I couldn't wait to see what would happen on the next page. My favourite monster is Crush because I find him funny and I like his strange shape. I hope this is not the last book in the series. I would recommend it for all eight to ten-year-olds.

BECOME A  
PREMIER LEAGUE  
WRITING STAR!

**THE Premier League Writing Stars competition is BACK!** This year, the competition is themed around 'ambition'. We caught up with hip-hop poet Karl Nova, one of the judges for this year's Premier League Writing Stars, who last week visited his old school to encourage pupils to be ambitious in the competition.

■ **Tell us a bit about this year's Premier League Writing Stars contest.**

We want to get kids to write a poem about ambition in any style that they choose – and I'll join Wes Morgan of Leicester City and Cressida Cowell, who's the Children's Laureate and an amazing author, to pick out the best poems from KS1 and KS2, and there will be prizes for the winners. That's the long and short of it!

■ **You're back at your old school for the competition! What's that like?**

It's really, really weird! Even the playground looks the same. And I've had memories of this playground in my mind for years. I'm here to show the kids here now that I was exactly where they were once, and to say: "Look, I'm a real thing!" I'm proof that they can be a successful author or poet like me.

■ **Tell us about the poem you wrote for the competition.**

It's called *Beautiful Ambition*, and you can read it on the website [below]. It was a great experience to be at the Premier League's headquarters to record it, and be there with the trophy, doing a poem that's related to the Premier League. When I told my friends, they were like: "Ahhhhhh!" And I'm like: "Wahey!" It's been great to be part of this!

■ **Do you have any advice for readers who might want to enter the competition?**

Just do it! Don't second-guess yourself, don't think: "Oh, I'm not going to be good enough" – just jump in and do it! Don't forget that just because it's a poetry competition, it doesn't have to rhyme! Lots of people get hung up on the rhyming aspect. I'm a hip-hop artist, so I lean heavily on the rhyming device, but not everyone has to do that. Instead, make us feel your ambition, any way that you can. Go for it! Do it!

Head to [plprimarystars.com](https://plprimarystars.com) to enter the Premier League Writing Stars competition, read Karl's poem *Beautiful Ambition* and more!

## BOOK NEWS

## POTTER'S POPULARITY PLUNGES



**FOR** the first time in over a decade, the *Harry Potter* series has not appeared on an annual list of secondary school pupils' favourite books.

Research into the reading habits of the UK's children has found that JK Rowling's celebrated stories about a Wizarding World have fallen out of favour with those in secondary school.

However, the *Harry Potter* series does still appear in the favourite books of primary school pupils, taking up spots one to seven. Secondary pupils instead say that their favourite book

is *The Blood of Olympus* by Rick Riordan.

The research also found that the average pupil is reading 240,599 words, which is 1% more than last year's average.

## STARS VOICE BEEDLE BOOK

**WHILE** the popularity of the main Potter series may have declined, this all-new audiobook version of JK Rowling's *The Tales of Beedle the Bard* is sure to attract a lot of attention.

Several of the actors from the Wizarding World, including Jude Law (Albus Dumbledore in the *Fantastic Beasts* film series) and Jason Isaacs (Lucius Malfoy in the *Harry Potter* film series), will read the stories in the first ever audiobook version of *The Tales of Beedle the Bard*.

First mentioned in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, *The Tales of Beedle the Bard* is a selection of fairy tales that wizarding children grew up with, and features the origin of the invisibility cloak.





## 21. FNQ – THE WEEKLY FN QUIZ

FirstNews • Issue 716 • 6 – 12 March 2020

# FNQ

## LIVE ON SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY

**PLAY FNQ live at 5pm on Sunday and Wednesday!**

You're one step ahead when playing FNQ with this copy of *First News*! All the answers to this week's live game of FNQ can be found inside this edition of *First News*.

Join in our live quiz at **5pm on Sunday and Wednesday** and be in with a chance to win Amazon vouchers.

**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!**

**Download the FNQ app from the App Store and Google Play now!**



**WIN  
AMAZON  
VOUCHERS**

**FREE  
TO PLAY**

# DOWNLOAD THE APP NOW!





FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [WWW.FNQAPP.CO.UK](http://WWW.FNQAPP.CO.UK)

## SPANISH FOR LITTLE ONES Advertisement feature

# LEARN WITH SPANISH FOR LITTLE ONES!

ARE you a parent or teacher? Do you want your children and/or pupils to learn Spanish in a fun and natural way? Then visit [www.spanishforlittleones.com](http://www.spanishforlittleones.com) to find a universe of resources designed with love, passion, magic and creativity. Spanish for Little Ones will awaken the curiosity of children during their learning process.



**VIDEOS**

Children will learn Spanish through videos starring four different characters, along with puppets and the funny dialogues between them.



**SONGS**

Original rhythmic songs to help teach Spanish. For ease of use, lyrics are included with every single song, along with worksheets to enhance learning.



**STORIES**

Interactive stories will allow children to have fun while they are learning Spanish in a simple and natural way. Different activities and games are provided for every story.



**WORKSHEETS**

Literacy worksheets with exercises to initiate children into reading and writing skills in Spanish: vocabulary, riddles, games, and much more.









Subscribe to our newsletter for our **free vowel booklet!**

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Use the code **MARCH2020** at the checkout

● **FLAT RATE**
● **NO TIME COMMITMENT**
● **EASY AND EFFORTLESS**


[Spanishforlittleones.com](http://Spanishforlittleones.com)



# 22. PUZZLES

FirstNews • Issue 716 • 6 – 12 March 2020

## WIN! A FART NINJA

CAN you complete our sudoku puzzle and fill in the numbers one to nine?

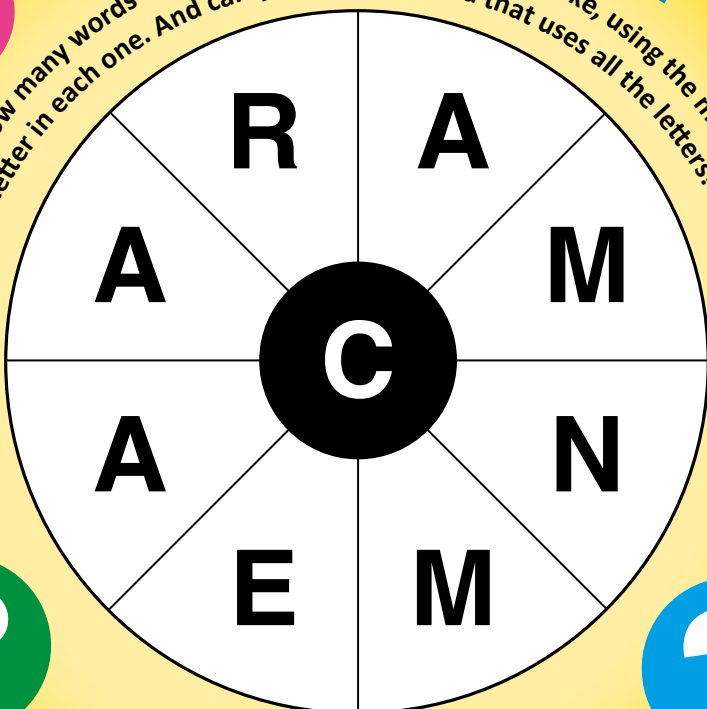
Send in your answers and six lucky readers will receive two Season 2 Fart Ninjas\*, which are available now in new colours and poses. You'll love collecting the different characters to create fart noises, which are perfect for pranking friends and family! Be careful, if you walk past a Fart Ninja, the motion sensor will be activated! Which one will be your favourite? \*Style may vary



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

## WORD WHEEL

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



## WIN! AN AMAZON VOUCHER

TO be in with a chance of winning one of two £50 Amazon vouchers, visit [first.news/survey2020](https://first.news/survey2020) and complete our readership survey!



The survey is for all First News readers under the age of 16. To enter this competition, you'll need a parent or guardian to confirm they are happy for you to have your say.



## WIN! ALFIE FLEET'S GUIDE TO THE UNIVERSE



CAN you complete our crossword by using the clues below?

Send in your answers and five lucky winners will win a copy of Alfie Fleet's Guide to the Universe. Alfie Fleet and the Professor are on a planet-hopping quest – keep up if you can! Alfie Fleet's Guide to the Universe will show you all the best, not-too-bad and never-go-there-in-a-million-years holiday destinations that are literally out of this world.

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

### ACROSS

- 1 Female restaurant worker (8)
- 6 Great Barrier \_\_\_\_ : famous Australian natural wonder (4)
- 7 Playground seats that move back and forth when pushed (6)
- 9 Make late; hold up (5)
- 11 Hurt; ache (5)
- 12 Country where one finds New Delhi (5)
- 13 Smell (5)
- 16 Get away from (6)
- 18 Type of public transport (4)
- 19 Distinct (8)

### DOWN

- 1 Spanning the whole globe (9)
- 2 Perfect (5)
- 3 Simple (4)
- 4 Move like a snake (7)
- 5 Type of carpet (3)
- 8 Ship that goes underwater (9)
- 10 E.g. dogs and camels (7)
- 14 Barack \_\_\_\_ : former US president (5)
- 15 Opposite of shallow (4)
- 17 Timid and lacking in confidence (3)



## 23. PUZZLES

**HOW TO ENTER:** Send your finished puzzles to Puzzles 716, 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 12 March 2020.

# WIN! A THUNDERBIRDS DVD

CAN you spot the five changes we've made to this picture from *Thunderbirds Are Go*? Send in your answers and five winners will win a copy of *Thunderbirds Are Go Series 3 Volume 2* on DVD. Following the earth-shattering news that their father may still be alive, the Tracy brothers embark on their most personal rescue yet. *Thunderbirds Are Go Series 3 Volume 2* is out on DVD and available on Download and Keep now!



## WIN! A SCIENCE BUNDLE FROM LEARNING RESOURCES

CELEBRATE British Science Week between 6 and 15 March 2020 with a brilliant bundle of science-themed toys from Learning Resources®.

Spark your imagination with the Primary Science® Lab Set, Yuckology Slime Lab, GeoSafari® Jr My First Microscope, GeoSafari® Jr My First Telescope, GeoSafari® Jr Kidnoculars®, GeoSafari® Jr Kidnoculars® Extreme™ and a tub of Stems.

We have three science bundles up for grabs. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:



What is the first element on the periodic table?  
a) Hydrogen b) Nitrogen c) Iron

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



## ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY SCIENCE

[firstnews.co.uk/competitions](http://firstnews.co.uk/competitions) or see below. The closing date is 20 March 2020.

## WHAT ON EARTH?

THESE are all items you might find in a science lab.  
Can you guess what they are?



**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:** glasses have been added, plant is larger, spider's web has been added, badge has been added, dog's ear is bigger.

**Word Wheel:** stressing.

**What on Earth?:** Post-it notes, stapler, sellotape, elastic bands, paperclips, drawing pins.

9	3	4	8	2	5	1	6	7	S	E	R	A	T	E	L	E	
5	2	6	3	1	7	9	8	4	H	E							
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2	4	7	5	8	6	3	1	9	L	R	T	M	T	E			
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6	9	5	1	7	3	8	4	2	P	M	G	V					
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4	7	3	2	5	8	6	9	1	L	Z	L	A	R	R			
8	5	9	7	6	1	4	2	3	C	A	T	R	O	P	A	S	
									I	M	P	O	S	S	I	B	L

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



## 24. WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?

FirstNews ● Issue 716 ● 6 – 12 March 2020

# WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?

### LARGE WATER BOTTLE SAINSBURY'S £4.00

Stay hydrated on the run with this reusable Sport Relief 2020 water bottle, perfect for school or the gym. At least £2 from each bottle sold goes direct to Sport Relief.



### KEYRING SAINSBURY'S £3.00

Do good, feel good by supporting Sport Relief 2020 with a keyring that says it all. At least £1.50 will be donated to Sport Relief.

### REUSABLE BAG SAINSBURY'S £4.00

Never leave your running shoes behind with this 2020 Sport Relief reusable bag. At least £2 from each bag sold goes direct to Sport Relief.



### EXERCISE JOURNAL SAINSBURY'S £5.00

Ease into your exercise regime with this jam-packed journal. Perfect for showing your support for Sports Relief 2020 and staying motivated when fundraising for this good cause. Great fitness plans, ideas and so much more included! At least £2.50 will be donated to Sport Relief from each journal sold.



\*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.





ADVENTURE HOLIDAYS  
for 7-17 year olds

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\*Terms and conditions apply.



# 25. CRAZY BUT TRUE ❄️

FirstNews • Issue 716 • 6 – 12 March 2020



## FORECASTING A FACEBOOK FAIL

**WEATHER news can risk being a little bit boring. It's mostly sunny or rainy – sometimes it snows.**

But news reporter Justin Hinton managed to bring an extra sense of fun to his report about snowfall in America... even though he didn't realise it at the time! His news report went out on live TV with a Facebook filter on. This meant that people tuning in to the news saw Hinton's appearance change through various funny faces. Viewers of WLOS News in North Carolina were surprised to see a wolf, a sci-fi spaceman and a beardy wizard all commenting on the snow! Hinton only realised afterwards and was able to see the funny side of his Facebook fail. He later posted on social media: "If you can't laugh at yourself, what's the point of laughter? I hope you enjoyed the snow day, and remember to smile and laugh!"



## SNAKE SURGERY

**A PET snake needed surgery after she swallowed a giant beach towel!**

The Small Animal Specialist Hospital in Australia was shocked when a family brought in their 18-year-old carpet python, named Monty Python. A team of vets used a device called an endoscope, which is like a long wire with a tiny camera. By putting it down Monty's throat, they could see the towel inside of her, grab hold of it and gently pull it out. "It was smiles all round and we are happy to report that both Monty and the beach towel have lived to see another day," they posted on social media after the op.

## DRESS-UP DISASTER!

**LEANNE-NICOLE Evans is a great mum. That's why she spent a whole evening getting her kids ready for their school's 'dress up as a crayon' day.**

As you can see from the picture, she did a great job dressing up Charlie, eight, and Chloe, five. The only problem was the dress-up day wasn't until next month! Luckily for the embarrassed siblings, the school was able to find some uniforms for them to wear. Plus the kids got a trip out with mum to say sorry for the mishap!

Imagine turning up to a normal school day dressed like this!



**WHY DON'T SHEEPDOGS LIKE SHEEP JOKES? THEY'VE HERD THEM ALL!**



**DID YOU HEAR THE JOKE ABOUT THE BLUNT CRAYON? NEVER MIND, IT DOESN'T HAVE ANY POINT**

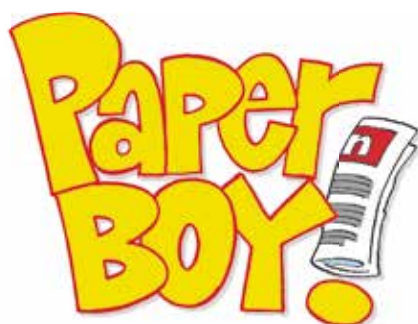
SHARE YOUR JOKES WITH US AT [NEWSDESK@FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK](mailto:NEWSDESK@FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK)

## SHAGGY DOG STORY

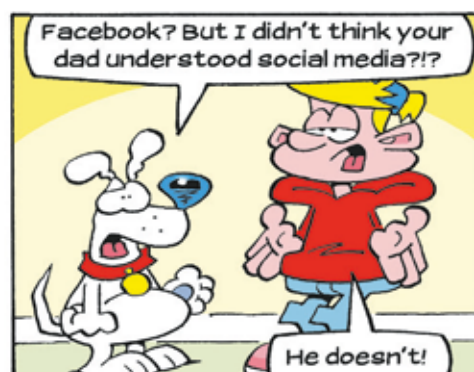
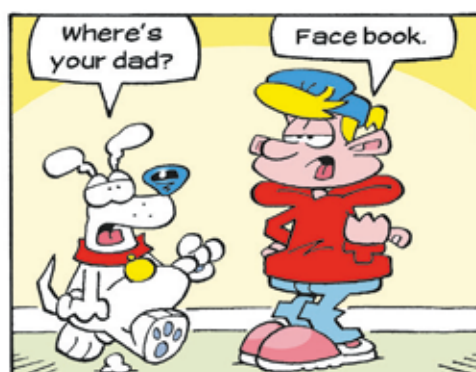


**A NEGLECTED sheepdog with matted hair that covered his eyes and made him bump into things has been given a drastic haircut.**

Two-year-old Arlo was given to Battersea Dogs & Cats Home by his owners, but his long shaggy hair had not been well looked after. His hair was matted, clumpy and causing him discomfort. Staff at Battersea decided to cut it all off to give him a new lease of life. It took three people two hours to clip and snip all his hair and, at the end, he looked like a completely different dog! Arlo's chopped hair weighed almost 2kg, so he's feeling a lot more free and easy now. Rebecca Lodder from Battersea said: "Dogs with long hair require a lot of grooming and attention. Arlo's coat will grow back, so he is looking for new owners who will keep him looking like the suave, well-groomed boy that he has become."



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer





## BETT 2020 EVENT

by pupils from Four Oaks Primary School

**OUR** class were invited to help on the Promethean stand at the BETT show because a STEAM leader was so impressed with our designing and engineering.

When we arrived, we sat down and talked to Mr Robinson from The Learning Partnership, about how we could make a rocket car drive super fast. After we had spoken, we all got to play on the iPads using real physics, and then we got to race cars with gas that made it drive super fast.

We tested about seven different cars! When we finally decided on the best one, Mr Robinson placed it next to his.

One went so quickly, it broke a wall!

The one we designed beat his, by miles, along the lengthy racetrack. As we predicted, the more streamlined car beat the other car to the finish line.

We managed to walk around the exhibition and visited different stands

like the 3D art pens, a Virtual Reality area where we jumped into a volcano, and the LEGO Education stand where there were engines for LEGO. We even got to take home a LEGO set.

I hope I can go back next year. It was a great experience!



Racing the cars



The Four Oaks BETT team

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.

## SNAPPED

by Rachel

SCHOOL NEWS



"I AM a big fan of First News.

I am nine and have been reading it for two years and love the jokes, quizzes, puzzles, news updates, all of it really!

My school is running a 'Read Anywhere' competition. I thought you might like to see my entry, as I am reading First News for it!"

Why not send us your pictures of you reading First News? Send them to [yournews@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:yournews@firstnews.co.uk) and you might see yourself in First News.



## MUSIC EXAMS

by Rebecca

**I LOVE** playing musical instruments. I was able to complete my Grade 4 cello and my Grade 5 piano exams both with distinction in the last year.

I started piano when I was three years old and had my first concert at almost four, but only started Grade exams when I was in Year 2.

I started cello when I was seven, in 2017. I had the benefit of starting my instruments early but I believe anyone can do whatever they put their minds to.

I was so nervous for my last piano exam. It takes a lot of hard work and commitment, but anyone can do it if they try.

I would like to say thank you to my parents for their support and my piano teachers Mrs Ivana and Miss Westcott, and also my cello teacher Mrs Sara for their patience.

Thanks First News. I hope this encourages others to follow their musical dreams.

JUNIOR JOURNALIST



Rebecca with her certificates

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



# SPORT IN PICTURES



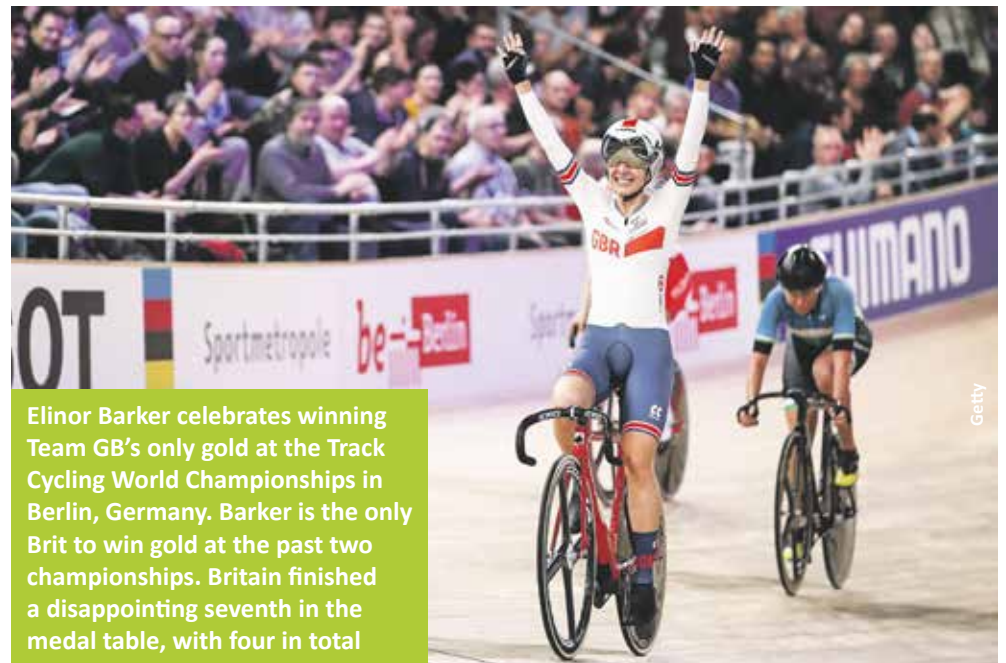
Britain's Heather Watson celebrates after winning the Mexican Open – her first WTA title in four years. The tennis ace beat 17-year-old Canadian Leylah Fernandez 6-4, 6-7, 6-1 in the final

Getty



Garrett Gerloff of the USA (number 31) crashes into Sandro Cortese of Germany during the warm-up for the first Superbike World Championship race of the season, at Phillip Island in Australia. Gerloff suffered concussion but made a full recovery

Getty



Elinor Barker celebrates winning Team GB's only gold at the Track Cycling World Championships in Berlin, Germany. Barker is the only Brit to win gold at the past two championships. Britain finished a disappointing seventh in the medal table, with four in total

Getty



Real Madrid's Vinícius Júnior celebrates scoring in his side's 2-0 win over Barcelona. The 19-year-old Brazilian has scored four times for his club this season

Getty

The German four-man bobsleigh team piloted by Francesco Friedrich won a third World Championship title in a row last weekend. This year's event was held in Altenberg, Germany



Getty



Nina Ortlieb of Austria took the first World Cup victory of her career in the women's super-G race in La Thuile, Italy

Getty



# SPORT IN NUMBERS

46

runs was England's winning margin against West Indies in Women's T20 World Cup. The result meant

England qualified for the semi-finals. Nat Sciver scored 57 runs – her third half-century of the tournament. England finished on 143 for 5, while the Windies notched up 97 for 9.



85

singles titles have now been won by tennis superstar Rafael Nadal (below).

The Spaniard beat the USA's Taylor Fritz 6-3, 6-2 in the final of the Mexican Open to claim his 85th singles trophy. Meanwhile, Serbia's Novak Djokovic won his fifth Dubai Tennis Championships title by beating Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-3, 6-4.



1

team has beaten Liverpool in the Premier League since January 2019. Watford won 3-0 to

end Liverpool's joint-longest winning streak (18) in the top division. The Reds also had the second longest unbeaten run (44) in the history of England's top division. Ismaïla Sarr (below) scored twice for the Hornets.



# CANCELLED

## COVID-19 HITS SPORTING EVENTS

Linda Djougang (left), Aoife McDermott (centre) and Nichola Fryday won't be facing Italy this weekend due to COVID-19



**THE COVID-19 outbreak has already led to the cancellation of several sporting tournaments and matches worldwide – and more could follow.**

As governments try to limit the spread of the virus (see front page), various events have been scrapped to avoid large gatherings of people. Here are some of the sporting casualties of the new coronavirus:

### ● Rugby Union

In the Six Nations Championship, Ireland's men's and women's matches against Italy in Dublin this weekend have been cancelled. Italy has the biggest outbreak of COVID-19 in Europe. England's match against the Italians in Rome on 14 March could also be called off. It's possible that the tournament won't be completed for the first time since 1972.

### ● Football

Italy's premier division, Serie A, has already seen five matches postponed and other Italian games were played without spectators inside the stadium. All Swiss football league matches were cancelled last weekend. Japan, South Korea and China's leagues have all been suspended. England's friendly against Italy at Wembley on 27 March could be cancelled too.

### ● Badminton

The German Open, Vietnam Open and Polish Open have all been called off.

### ● Snooker

The China Open ranking event in Beijing is off.

### ● Cycling

The UAE Tour was cancelled and all cyclists tested for COVID-19.

### ● Formula 1

The race in Shanghai, China, due to take place on 19 April, has been postponed.

### ● Olympics and Paralympics?

No decision has been made on the Tokyo games, due to start on 24 July. But Japan has one of the largest outbreaks of COVID-19 and the event may be postponed, or moved to another country.



# GREAT EIGHT

**MANCHESTER City have won the League Cup for the third year in a row – their eighth domestic trophy since Pep Guardiola became manager in 2016.**

City defeated Aston Villa 2-1 in the Carabao Cup final at Wembley. Argentinian striker Sergio Agüero – the highest-scoring overseas player in Premier League history, with 180 goals – struck first. Rodri doubled City's lead ten minutes later. Villa pulled one back through Mbwana Samatta but City held on for a historic win.

The result means that, under Guardiola, City have now won three League Cups, an FA Cup, two Premier League titles and two Community Shields.

