

MORE THAN
2.6 MILLION* READERS!

NEWS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT INTERVIEWS PUZZLES COMPETITIONS

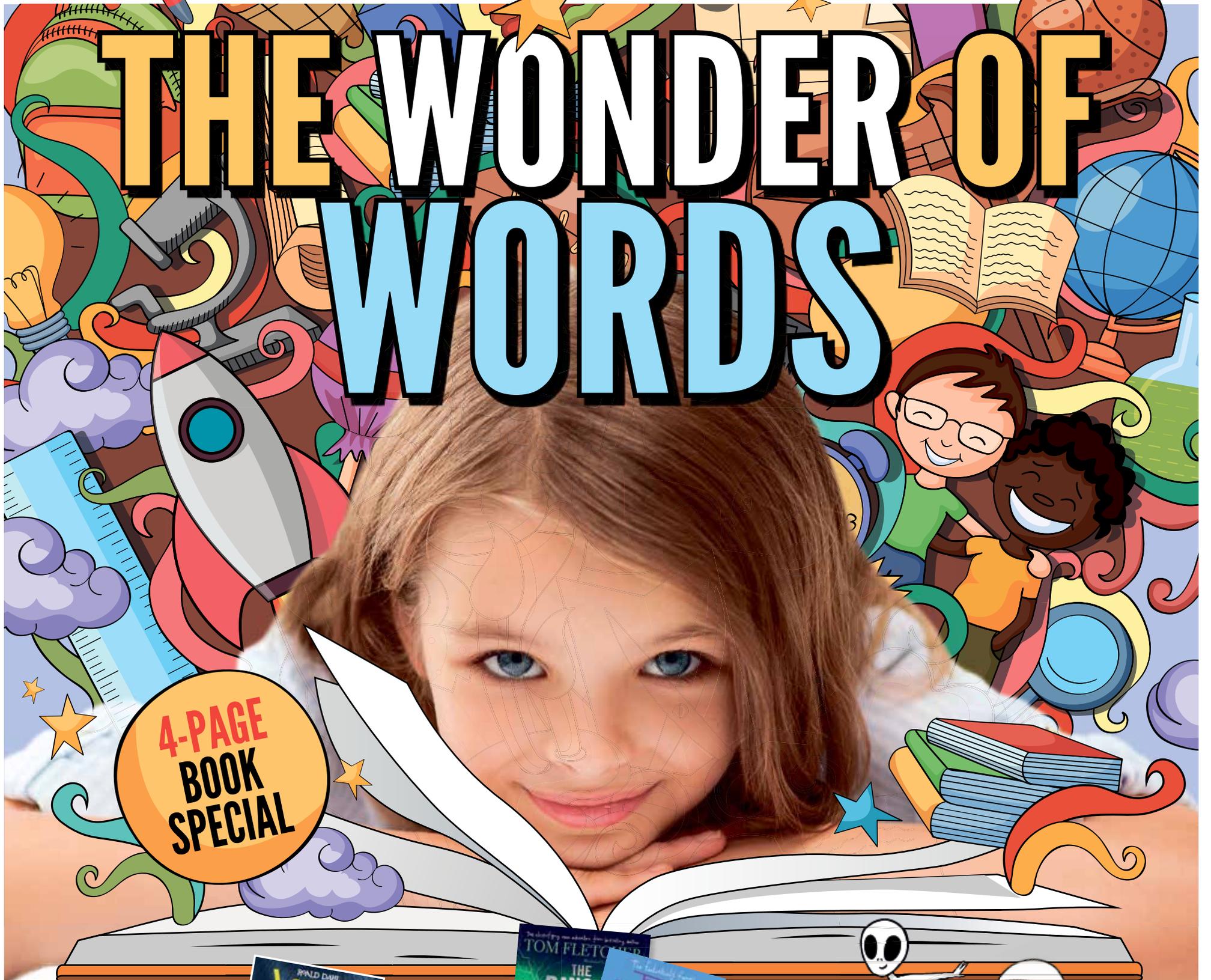
First News

Issue 743 £2.25 11 - 17 September 2020

THE UK'S ONLY
NEWSPAPER
FOR CHILDREN

THE WONDER OF WORDS

4-PAGE
BOOK
SPECIAL



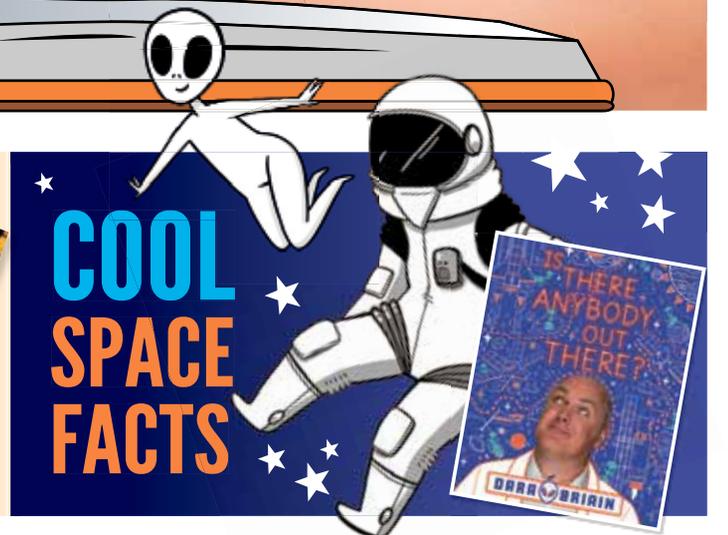
HAVE A SPECTACULAR

ROALD DAHL STORY DAY

TOP
NEW
RELEASES

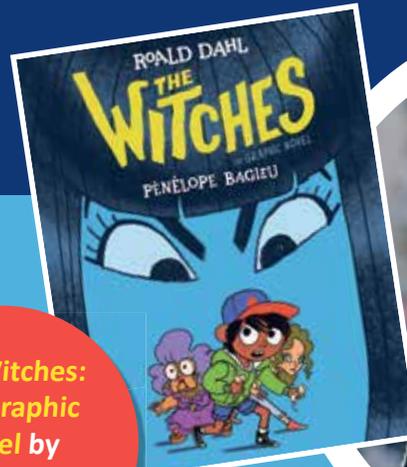


COOL
SPACE
FACTS



DRAW THE GRAND HIGH WITCH

WITCHES are real and they are very, very dangerous... This month, the first ever Roald Dahl graphic novel arrives. *The Witches: The Graphic Novel* has been adapted and illustrated by award-winning artist Pénélope Bagieu. Get ready to see *The Witches* as you have never seen it before!



The Witches: The Graphic Novel by Pénélope Bagieu is out now!

Pénélope says: "I first read *The Witches* when I was eight years old. I was terrified, and I loved it, and I read it over and over again. I remember being frozen on the spot while reading it. And I thought, wow, so you can have that kind of reaction with a book, which was new. And after that, I was a reader."

To celebrate her new book and Roald Dahl Story Day, the global celebration of Dahl stories on 13 September, Pénélope will show you how to draw the terrifying Grand High Witch!

1 Draw a wide V-line in pencil then add two large 'D's on their side.

2 Add a dot in the middle of each eye and big circles to fill the eyes completely.

3 Add eyelashes like sun beams going in all directions.

4 Next, draw severe thin eyebrows going down low between the eyes.

5 Add a chunky fringe.

6 Then add two little nostrils the size of pupils.

7 Add her tiny sniffy nose – perfect for sniffing out children!

8 Draw her strawberry-shaped face with round cheeks and a pointy chin. Add her mouth line like a rounded V under her nose.

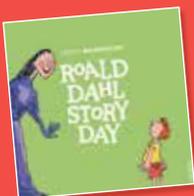
9 Make her lips with three little triangles, two above and one under the lip line.

10 Draw the lines of her crumpled neck and the bow of her scarf.

11 Now add the rest of her long wig, with lines to show the detail.

12 Give the Grand High Witch blue hair and find a terrifying supernatural green for her eyes, and there you go!

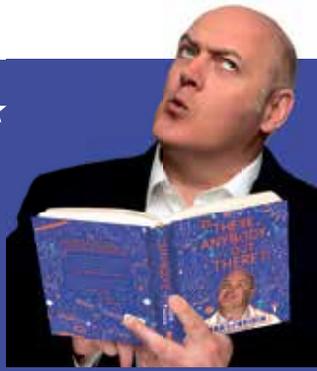
Photo © Simoné Eusebio. Illustrations © Pénélope Bagieu. © RDSC, 2020.



ROALD DAHL STORY DAY IS 13 SEPTEMBER AND THERE ARE LOTS OF WAYS TO GET INVOLVED. FOR LOTS OF FANTASTIC IDEAS, VISIT WWW.ROALDDAHL.COM



LOOK AT THE STARS!



COMEDIAN and space expert Dara Ó Briain has been working on a brand-new book about space and aliens. The book won't be out until October but we've got a sneak peek and a very special message from Dara!

Dear First News readers,

When you look up at the night sky, and see the thousands of twinkling lights, from stars dotted throughout the universe, do you ever think to yourself, I wonder, while I'm looking up there, if anyone is looking back at me? Are they sitting in their garden, also looking up at their constellations, their solar system and neighbouring planets, and picking out a faintly twinkling light, that has travelled all the way from our sun, and wondering who lives round THAT star?

And if they are out there, what is their planet like? What kind of creatures are they? Can we go and visit them? And if we could go and visit them, how long would that take? And what kind of ship would we travel in?

And why are there so many questions? Surely there must be some answers at some stage? Surely I can start a single sentence in a normal voice before realising halfway through that I have to do a "questions" voice and I'm doing that now and my voice is just getting higher and higher and where is the question mark, oh thank heavens, here it is?

Yes, there will be questions, because this is one of the greatest questions that we have ever asked as a thinking animal. Are we alone, or is there any other form of life? But we will also have some answers! We can learn how the solar system started; how life started on Earth; where to find other planets just like this one; and how to send them a greeting card.

But more excitingly, there will be lots of questions we don't have answers for yet, lots of problems we're only just working out how to solve, and lots and lots of distant worlds we're only just discovering. And we'll end up back with the first question we started out with: is somebody, or something, looking right back at you from space? And when we look up at the stars, in which direction should we wave to say hello?

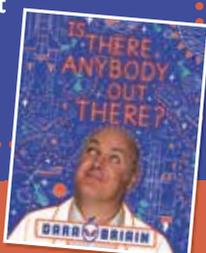
OUT OF THIS WORLD!

CHECK out a couple of the coolest facts we found in the book!

The name 'planet' comes from the Greek word 'Planetes' which means 'Wanderer'. Planets are in their own orbits around the sun and we get closer to and further away from them all the time, which means to our eyes they seem to wander in and out of sight along the lower part of the sky.

To remember the order of the solar system you just remember that the solar system starts with the sun and ends with the 'S.U.N.' which is Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. It's usually easy to fill in the blanks!

NASA estimates that 100 tonnes of space debris strike Earth each day!



Is Anybody Out There? by Dara Ó Briain is released on 1 October

Artwork by Luna Valentine. Photo by Brian J Ritchie

AMAZING AUTUMN

AUTUMN is a big month in the world of books, with some fantastic new releases. We've covered a few of them in this book special but check out these other cool new titles you definitely want to put on your reading list!



THE DANGER GANG by Tom Fletcher

Tom's new fiction book is full of brilliantly brave children and magical adventures.

Released on 1 October

THE TIME-TRAVELLING CAVEMAN by Terry Pratchett

This new collection brings together some of the first stories ever written by the late Terry Pratchett, some of which have never been published before.

Out now



ONE HUNDRED STEPS by Captain Sir Tom Moore

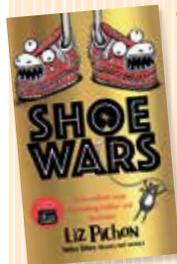
A brilliantly illustrated book about the extraordinary life of Captain Sir Tom Moore, who raised millions for the NHS during lockdown.

Released on 1 October

INTO THE SPOTLIGHT by Carrie Hope Fletcher

West End star, vlogger and Tom Fletcher's sister, Carrie releases her debut children's novel this month. Based on the famous book *Ballet Shoes* written by Noel Streatfeild.

Released on 17 September



SHOE WARS by Liz Pichon

Liz Pichon's latest book is her first novel that isn't about Tom Gates! *Shoe Wars* is a zany new adventure starring some of the craziest shoes you'll ever hear about.

Released on 15 October

MACBETH UNITED by Michael Rosen

What do you get if you mix Shakespeare and football? This brilliant new book by Michael Rosen!

Out now



NEVER AND FOREVER by Cressida Cowell

The gripping finale to the *Wizards of Once* series is full of magic, mystery and surprises. Find out more in our Big Interview with Cressida on page 20.

Released on 17 September

BREAKFAST ON THE GO!



GREAT British Bake Off champion David Atherton has shared a recipe from his new book, *My First Cook Book*. Perfect for a tasty, filling breakfast before school!



David says: "If you're up early for a dance class or a sports competition and you need something speedy, this is the perfect go-to breakfast. You prepare it the night before in jars, so you can eat it on the go the next day. You can experiment with the flavours but cinnamon and honey is my favourite!"



1 Mix the oats, chia seeds and cinnamon in a bowl.



2 Grate the apple into the bowl, then add milk, honey and grapes and stir.



3 Divide the mixture equally between 4 jars, screw the lids back on and put in the fridge overnight.



4 To serve you can add yogurt, fruit or any topping you would like.

INGREDIENTS

- 100g porridge oats
- 40g chia seeds
- 1tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 Granny Smith apple
- 250ml milk
- 1 tsp runny honey
- A handful of grapes chopped in half



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READING IS MAGIC



AN all-star line-up of authors and illustrators is taking part in Reading is Magic, a free online book festival for families and schools from 27 September to 2 October.

The festival is inspired by the Waterstones Children's Laureate Cressida Cowell's key message: "reading is magic and magic is for everyone", and brings together some of the most inspirational authors and illustrators in the world. Can you find your favourite in our wordsearch?

G	A	W	C	Z	Y	Y	D	Z	C	W	L	T	C	D	S	H	J	Y	Q
J	D	M	C	R	L	N	C	O	F	V	L	C	N	L	E	I	M	D	N
S	A	F	B	J	E	W	P	C	O	T	T	F	S	U	B	A	B	S	B
V	M	N	Y	D	O	S	W	E	S	I	L	X	X	K	D	N	L	V	P
S	M	P	W	R	Z	T	S	A	F	X	O	X	A	X	X	N	V	M	F
G	U	U	N	V	O	V	N	I	M	Q	N	Y	J	O	R	A	G	R	J
W	R	Z	O	A	U	B	L	R	D	A	V	F	B	I	V	W	O	V	A
V	P	R	U	O	T	F	I	S	P	A	Y	Z	F	K	E	I	H	E	S
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X	Y	Z	C	F	X	V	A	O	S	G	X	O	H	F	L	S	B	L	I
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J	E	S	S	I	C	A	L	O	V	E	Y	B	E	B	Y	L	D	H	R
U	L	D	A	P	O	A	D	E	O	L	A	O	N	N	M	S	G	E	B
A	K	X	C	E	V	L	S	O	A	X	M	K	N	M	S	M	Z	A	I
Q	W	T	J	O	S	E	P	H	C	O	E	L	H	O	W	R	H	T	L
S	K	C	H	R	I	S	R	I	D	D	E	L	L	W	Q	K	D	L	A
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Cressida Cowell | <input type="checkbox"/> Adam Murphy | <input type="checkbox"/> Joseph Coelho | <input type="checkbox"/> Dapo Adeola |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Robin Stevens | <input type="checkbox"/> Alex Wheatle | <input type="checkbox"/> Jessica Love | <input type="checkbox"/> Nathan Bryon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chris Riddell | <input type="checkbox"/> Jasbinder Bilan | <input type="checkbox"/> Anna Wilson | <input type="checkbox"/> Dara McAnulty |



FOR MORE DETAILS AND A FULL FESTIVAL LINE-UP, VISIT WWW.READINGISMAGICFESTIVAL.COM

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A CAR FOR
14-YEAR-OLDS
P5



KIDS IN
COURT FOR
CLIMATE P3



PENGUIN
LOVES
PINGU! P9



MARIO
IS 35!
P22



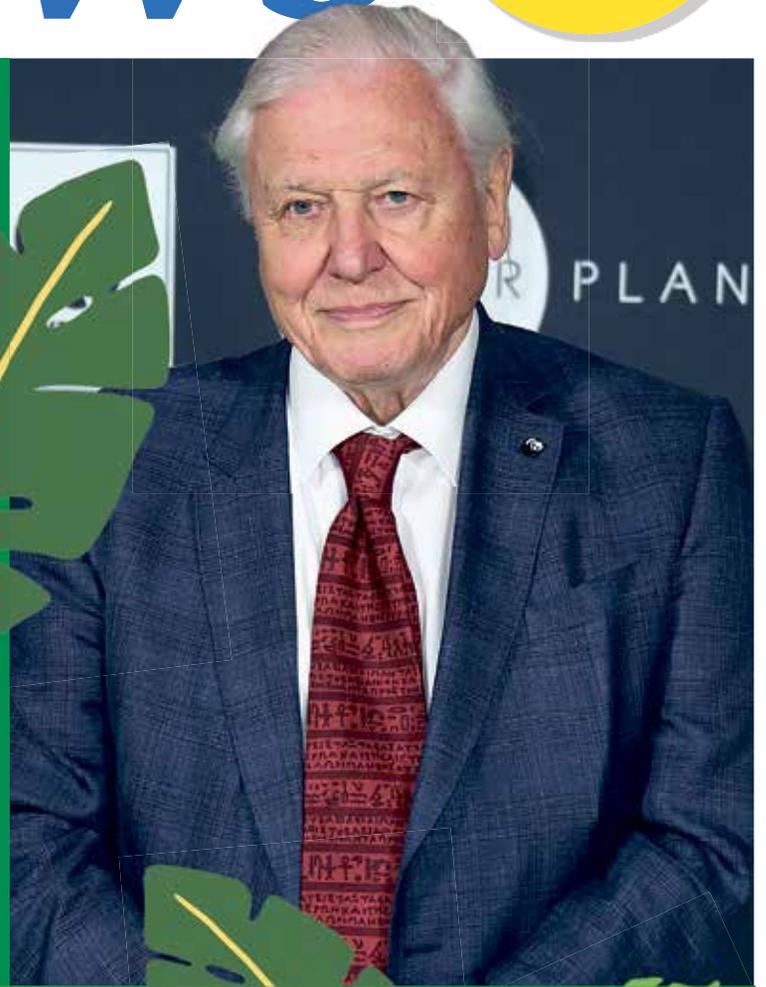
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THE UK'S ONLY
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FOR CHILDREN

SOS

FOR NATURE



SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH DEMANDS HELP FOR WILDLIFE

P11



2. QUICK NEWS

TWITCHY FINGERS



The Times reports that some schools say pupils have returned to start the new term with fingers and thumbs that won't stop twitching, as they've been playing so many computer games during the lockdown. Teachers have also said children are falling asleep at their desks because they're no longer used to getting up early and spending a full day in lessons.

BARGAIN BIN?



Would you pay £51,000 for a bin bag? That's what Phillips auction house is hoping to raise for *Dump*, a modernist piece by artist Gavin Turk. It's actually a lump of moulded bronze, painted black!

DEMO STOPS PAPERS

Some readers were left without their daily newspapers after Extinction Rebellion protesters blocked the roads outside printing plants in Hertfordshire, Merseyside and North Lanarkshire. The environmental activists said they were doing it because the papers, including *The Times*, *The Sun*, the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Daily Mail*, had failed to report on climate and ecological emergency issues. Their actions were condemned by Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who said people should never be denied access to the latest news. Police have charged 77 people with offences including aggravated trespass and obstruction of the highway.



QUICK NEWS

TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS

HARRY AND MEGFLIX



The Duke and Duchess of Sussex have announced their first big project since stepping down from royal duties – producing their own TV shows and films with Netflix. Harry and Meghan say they will have a strong focus on family shows. They're already working on a nature documentary and an animated series celebrating women.

MOON RUST



Scientists have discovered that the moon is rusting – and Earth could be to blame! Rust is iron oxide, so needs both oxygen and water to form, but the moon only has water. It's thought oxygen atoms might have been riding there on the Earth's magnetic field, then reacting to cause the rust. Mars is also rusty, which is why it's red.

SEAT OUT TO HELP OUT

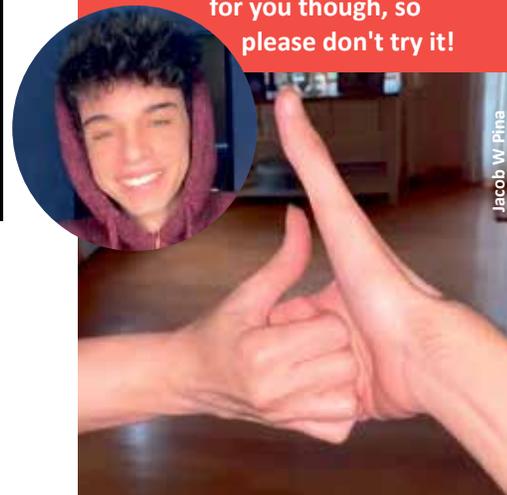
Following the massive success of the Eat Out To Help Out scheme, which saw diners enjoy 100 million cut-price meals in August, the same team responsible has been asked to plan how to encourage theatre and sports fans back into venues when they open again, reports *The Sunday Times*.

SCHOOL OUTBREAKS

As First News went to press, dozens of UK schools had been forced to close or ask pupils and staff to isolate as a result of COVID-19 outbreaks. In Liverpool, around 200 pupils and 21 staff were self-isolating after cases were found at five schools in the city. In Suffolk, five teachers at the same school tested positive, leading to a full closure. Most schools in England and Wales only went back last week.

THUMB BOY

An American student has shot to TikTok fame thanks to his freakishly long thumb! Jacob Pina, a 20-year-old from Massachusetts, has clocked up more than two million likes for showing off his stretched digit. He can extend his thumb from its usual 5cm to a whopping 14cm, just by dislocating it. He says doctors don't know why he has this odd ability, but says performing his peculiar party trick doesn't hurt him at all. This won't be the case for you though, so please don't try it!



DEAL OR NO DEAL?

The UK Government has been warned by the EU there can be no extension to the time allowed for trade talks, and that a Brexit deal must be done by 31 October. A new round of negotiations began this week. A UK spokesperson said: "Our goal remains to reach an agreement and we'll continue to work hard to do that."

GREEDY GULLS

Fed-up residents of three seaside towns are to get grants of up to £2,000 to seagull-proof their properties. Visitors to Filey, Scarborough and Whitby, all in North Yorkshire, have been plagued by aggressive birds swooping down to nab their fish and chips and ice creams, so the local councils are taking steps to stop the birds. They plan to use netting, spikes and repellent gels to stop them from nesting.



PLASTIC BAG BAN

Asda hopes to save 141 tonnes of plastic a year by getting rid of the free bags that customers put their loose fruit and veg in. Some stores are trialling a new system where people must bring their own bags from home, or pay 30p for a new, reusable type made from recycled plastic bottles.

WOTSIT ALL ABOUT?



Staff at Walkers Crisps are celebrating after they made a giant Wotsit that set a Guinness World Record. The 10.66-metre long 'Wotzilla' is now the longest puffed corn snack in the world. It took the team two hours and 29 minutes to cook up the jumbo cheesy snack, which was too large for the usual ovens so was made by hand.

SLOW NEWS DAY

Police in Leicestershire and Northamptonshire recovered a stolen narrowboat after a not-particularly-thrilling 4mph "chase" down the Grand Union Canal. Chris Tomlinson discovered his boat, the *Elusive No 1*, was missing, and a search party went after it. Officers caught up with the slow-moving craft and arrested a man. Not so elusive after all, then...

3. BIG NEWS

BACK TO SCHOOL WORRIES



Getty

RIGHT now, pretty much all of you are back at school, which is great – a chance to see your friends and a return to some kind of normality. However, it can also be quite a stressful and scary time for some, as Childline has discovered.

Between 23 March and 31 August, Childline delivered 4,510 counselling sessions with children and young people concerned about returning to school or college – that’s an average of 28 per day.

One of the reasons young people have been contacting Childline about returning to school and college is that they’re worried about being behind with school work and how this will impact on their future exams. They also have fears about catching COVID-19 and making themselves or family members ill, falling out with friends during lockdown and what it will be like when they see them again, plus feeling unsure what to expect about being back in school.

TV presenter and doctor Dr Ranj Singh says: “Lockdown has been difficult for everyone, especially vulnerable children and young people. That’s why it’s important, particularly for their mental health, for children to get back to school safely.

“However, it’s completely understandable that they may be worried about this. If any young person is anxious or struggling, then they should speak to a trusted adult or a service like Childline, which can be accessed by phone or online. Everyone is here to help make things better.”

If you need to speak to someone, call Childline on **0800 11 11** or go to www.childline.org.uk.

IT'S TIME TO CLEAN UP!



iStock

IT'S tidy-up time! This month, Keep Britain Tidy is asking everyone to do their bit for the Great British September Clean.

This year’s Great British Spring Clean was cancelled due to the coronavirus, but now you can do your part to help keep the country tidy. You can take part in the Great British September Clean between 11-27 September by organising a private clean-up or just doing it on your own. For more info on how you can pledge to pick up litter, visit www.KeepBritaintidy.org.

RACE RELATIONS HIT A NEW LOW IN THE US

A POLL has shown that people in America think that relations between black and white people in their country have got worse.

The poll, by research company Gallup, found that just 44% of Americans rated white-black relations as “good” (7%) or “somewhat good” (37%). The figure is the lowest since Gallup first started asking the question back in 2001.

Between 2001-2013, up to 72% of Americans thought white-black relations were good, but that figure had dropped to 47% in 2015 following a number of high-profile incidents the previous year, when unarmed black people were killed by white police officers.

This latest poll was taken after the protests following the death of George Floyd.



iStock

KIDS SUE OVER CLIMATE CHANGE

SIX young people from Portugal are taking 33 countries to court for not taking climate change seriously enough.

Catarina, 20, Cláudia, 21, Martim, 17, Mariana, 8, Sofia, 15 and André, 12, have started legal action at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. They are asking the court to hold 33 countries accountable for not doing enough to tackle the climate crisis. This first-of-its-kind case is about the rising threat that climate change poses to the lives and physical and mental well-being of young people. If the campaigners are successful, then the 33 countries would be forced by law to improve emissions cuts as well as take other steps to tackle climate change.

The case comes after Portugal recorded its hottest July in 90 years. A report prepared for the case by Climate Analytics describes Portugal as a climate change “hotspot” that is set to experience increasingly deadly temperatures.

Four of the young people live in Leiria, one of the regions worst hit by the forest fires that killed 120 people in 2017. The other two live in Lisbon, where temperatures reached a record 44°C in August 2018. On the current path of a 3°C rise in global temperature by the year 2100, scientists predict there will be a 30 times increase in deaths from heatwaves in western Europe between the years 2071 and 2100.



Campaigners André and Sofia

4. NEWS IN PICTURES

BLACKPOOL, UK



Sky Shots Karl Houghton

SOME of Britain's 'Corona Heroes' officially switched on the Blackpool Illuminations. The six NHS staff and a young fundraiser gathered in the resort's historic Empress Ballroom for a virtual event that was streamed around the globe to trigger the start of four months of illuminations. The famous lights will shine nightly from Friday 4 September to Sunday 3 January 2021.

ARIZONA DESERT, USA



Getty

ILLUSIONIST David Blaine soared above the desert holding on to a bunch of 52 helium balloons in a stunt that looked like something from the Pixar film *Up*. He spent around half an hour in the sky, before releasing the balloons one by one, then used a parachute to skydive back to the ground. The stunt took two years of planning and training, and David first had to get a pilot's licence, then become a certified skydiver!

VENICE, ITALY



Getty

MEMBERS of the Canottieri Querini – a group of Venetian rowers – taking part in the Historical Regatta. Lots of boats were out on the Grand Canal to celebrate the glorious past of Venice.

DOVER, UK



Getty

MIGRANTS packed tightly onto a small inflatable boat attempt to cross the English Channel near the Strait of Dover, the world's busiest shipping lane. Thousands of migrants have made the journey from France to England by sea this year.



Getty

WARSAW, POLAND

RED Rebel Brigade activists during the march for climate. Thousands of people around the world took to the streets in the Great March for Climate organised by Extinction Rebellion. It was the start of a series of climate protests to demand immediate action from politicians and to raise awareness about climate change.

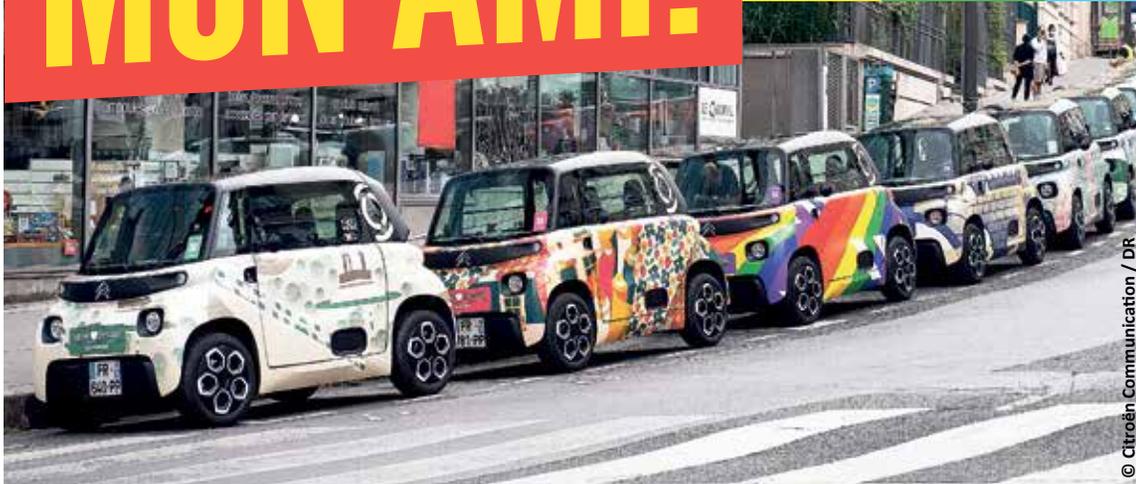


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5. BIG NEWS

BONJOUR, MON AMI!



© Citroën Communication / DR

SAY hello to your little friend – a new car that children aged 14 and over are legally allowed to drive on the streets of France.

The Citroën Ami (French for 'friend') is a dinky two-seat electric car that is now available in a Paris ridesharing scheme called Free2Move. Its size makes it easy to manoeuvre and park, although you might be stuck if you have bags, because it's not big enough to have a boot.

Because it has a small engine and a top speed of just 28mph (45km/h), the Ami is

classed more like a moped than a car, so you don't even need a licence to drive one.

People can buy one for €6,900 (around £6,000), or unlock one in ridesharing schemes like Paris' using an app.

What do you think of 14-year-olds getting behind the wheel when they haven't even had to take lessons or pass a test? Would you want to give it a go?



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SCOTLAND LISTENS TO KIDS

THE Scottish Government has said that it wants children's rights to have more protection.

Scotland has pledged to become the first part of the UK to include the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in the country's laws. The UNCRC is an international treaty that deals with the human rights of children, but including it in Scotland's laws will mean that children's rights would be better protected.

Bruce Adamson, Scotland's Children and Young People's Commissioner, has been campaigning for the change to be made. "It means adults start thinking about your rights more, and take more meaningful action to make sure those rights are realised," he said. "But it also means people and organisations – including the Scottish Government – can be taken to court in Scotland when they don't respect your rights."

Deputy First Minister John Swinney said the change "will mean children and young people are involved in the decisions that affect their lives and that children's rights are always respected, protected and fulfilled by public authorities."

You can read more about the UNCRC on p21.

EDITOR'S COMMENT



THE world feels like it is returning to some kind of normal, as we learn to live with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Most of you are back at school, and adults are returning to work.

And we're starting to hear more about other news, like Brexit, and climate change is very much in people's minds again.

This week's front page reminds us all that, after we beat the coronavirus, we still need to fight for our planet.

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Uganda Wildlife Authority/Facebook

GOOD WEEK FOR...

GORILLAS

UGANDA has reported five baby gorillas being born in just six weeks in the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. The latest addition arrived last week and brings the total born this year to seven. Only three gorillas were born at the park in the whole of last year.



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BAD WEEK FOR...

FLY SWATTING

A MAN in Dordogne, France, blew up his kitchen while trying to swat a fly. He was using an electric fly swatter, which reacted with a leaking gas canister in his home and caused an explosion!

TAKE CARE OF THE AIR

LOCKDOWN might have helped to clear the air for a while, but the head of the UN has said that global leaders need to make clean air more of a priority.

"As we recover from the coronavirus pandemic, the world needs to pay far greater attention to air pollution, which also increases the risks associated with COVID-19," said UN Secretary-General António

Guterres on 7 September, the first ever International Day of Clean Air.

The UN says that only a tenth of the world's population breathes clean air, and that air pollution kills seven million people a year.



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6. HOME NEWS

CUMBRIA

● Epic run

A mental health campaigner has run 440 miles in nine days to raise funds for his charity Mind Over Mountains. Alex Staniforth ran up the three highest mountains in the UK, as well as running between them. The distance meant that Alex was running more than a marathon and a half every day, sometimes up mountains!



mindovermountainscic/Facebook

SCOTLAND

● Asthma easing

A 2014 campaign to stop adults smoking in the home has been suggested as a reason for fewer asthma issues in under-fives. Research by Scottish universities shows that hospital admissions for asthma-related issues in under-fives dropped by 25% between 2014 and 2018. Professor Steve Turner from Aberdeen University said: "While we cannot say conclusively that one is a direct result of the other, the figures are encouraging and suggest that public health campaigns can make a difference."



Getty

UK

● Donations double

Donations to charity shops have doubled since they reopened after lockdown. Some shops have had to stop taking donations as they are getting so much. Among the stranger donations were an old hand grenade (that thankfully was harmless) and this bizarre-looking Batman teapot!



MIND Thornaby/Facebook

GWYNEDD

● Animals rescued

Hundreds of animals have been rescued from appalling conditions in northwest Wales. The animals included more than 100 horses and more than 120 birds and rabbits. The RSPCA and North Wales Police Rural Crime Team worked together to rescue the animals, who are now being cared for in safer environments. Police officer Rob Taylor said: "All cruelty is horrendous, but this rates on a high scale because of the numbers of animals involved. A case will be taken against the person responsible."



NWPRuralCrime/Facebook

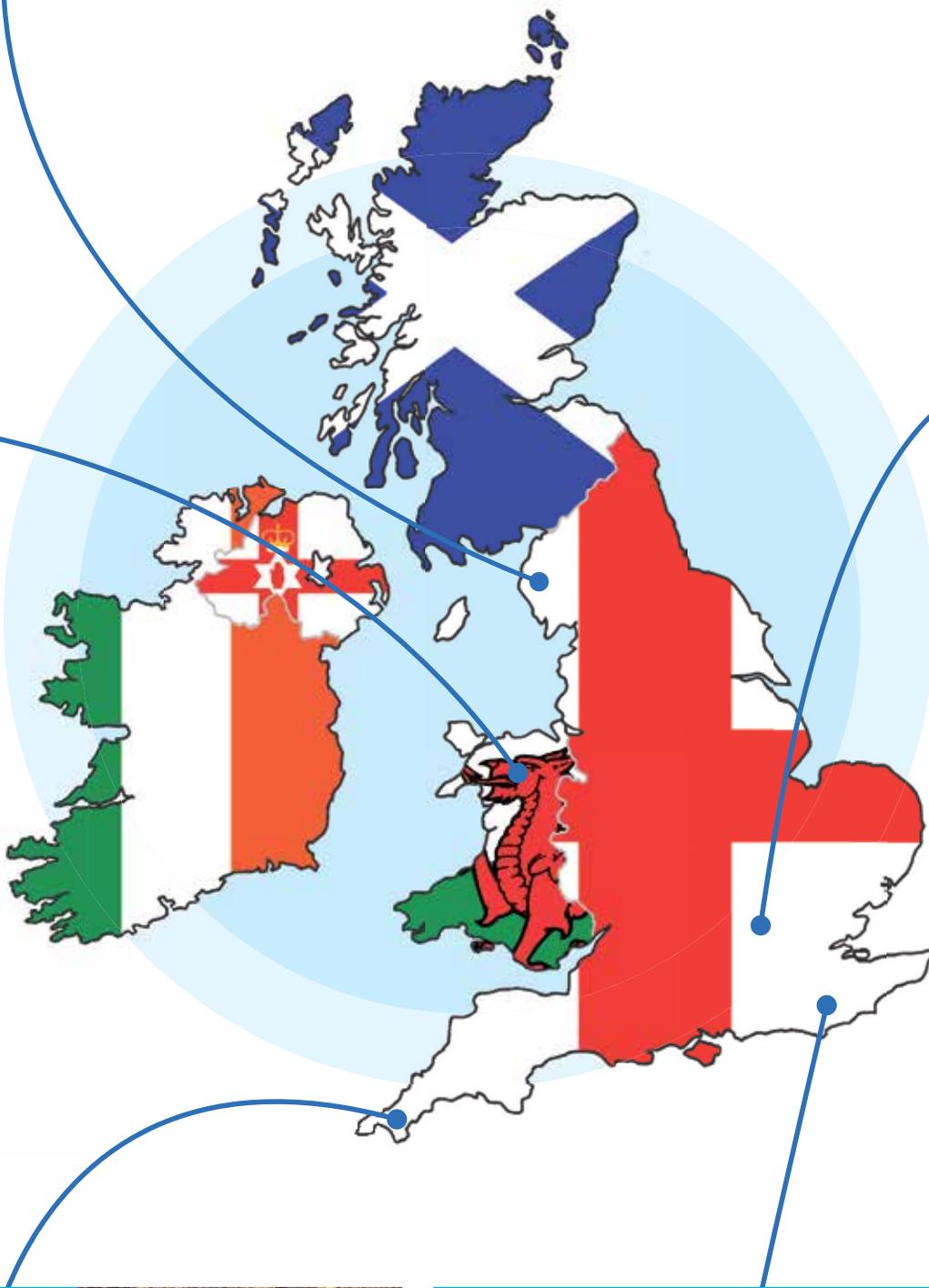
WATFORD

● Book charity

A student from Watford has set up a charity to give people books about black history and racism, even if they can't afford to buy them. Maja Antoine-Onikoyi, 20, set up Maja's Education Project CIC to help people learn more about the subject, no matter how much money they have. Since June, more than £4,000 worth of books have been given out. "It just feels like I'm actually making some sort of change, which is really cool," Maja said.



Maja's Education Project CIC



CORNWALL

● Plastic pollution

A Cornish charity that cleans up beaches is warning of a new threat. Jack Middleton, from the charity Surfers Against Sewage, said: "We've witnessed a new wave of plastic pollution littering our beaches in the form of disposable masks and gloves. While the PPE [personal protective equipment] has helped to save lives, we need to consider how we dispose of it properly to prevent it from flowing into our rivers and oceans and destroying our beaches."



HugoAS/Twitter

EAST SUSSEX

● College charged

An agricultural college has been fined £50,000 after its poor management of cow slurry [manure and water] polluted a stream and killed more than 1,500 fish. Plumpton College spread the slurry as a fertiliser on a field, but it ran into a nearby stream. The Environment Agency said the college "did not report the pollution had occurred", despite it clearly being visible in the water, which turned brown and foamy. Among the fish harmed were protected species like migratory trout.



itvmeridian/Twitter

7. BIG NEWS

CARGO SHIP SINKS DURING TYPHOON



A member of the ship's crew being rescued

A CARGO ship carrying 43 people and nearly 6,000 cattle has capsized in the East China Sea after a typhoon hit the area.

The ship ran into trouble near southwest Japan after Typhoon Haishen brought high winds and stormy seas. Rescue teams found three crew members, but one died in hospital and 40 are still missing.

It was the second typhoon to hit the region in less than a week.

The ship, named Gulf Livestock 1, had a crew of 43 from the Philippines, New Zealand and Australia.

The transportation of live animals, who are usually killed for their meat, causes rows. Calves, cattle, sheep, pigs, goats and horses travel long distances before being placed on ships for long voyages at sea. Some charities, such as Compassion in World Farming, have called for a worldwide ban on live exports of animals.

Typhoon Haishen struck South Korea (below) after making landfall in Japan, where high winds caused a loss of power in 430,000 homes. A total of eight million people in Japan were told to evacuate their homes in the storm's path. Sadly at least two people have died because of the typhoon.



DON'T CALL ME!

ARE you a texter or a talker? A new survey has revealed that most British people prefer to text than make phone calls.

YouGov Profiles data shows that 55% of Brits say they would prefer to receive a text message over a phone call.

It seems younger people are the biggest fans of texting, with 72% of people under the age of 40 saying they prefer texts.

Some of the reasons people gave for not wanting to speak on the phone included feeling they don't have very good social skills, verbal skills or a good enough concentration span.

What do you think?

POLL OF THE WEEK

Would you rather text your friends than talk on the phone? Vote at [first.news/polls](https://www.first.news/polls)

WEAR JEANS TO HELP SAVE YOUNG LIVES

THIS year's Jeans for Genes Day – which is actually a week – takes place from Monday 14 to Sunday 20 September.

The event, organised by the charity Genetic Disorders UK, encourages children and adults to raise money for children and families affected by a genetic disorder. The idea behind Jeans for Genes Day is to wear a pair of jeans to school or work and make a donation.

It's estimated that one in 25 children is affected by a genetic disorder. Some 30,000 babies and children are newly diagnosed in the UK each year.

If you want to get involved, you can ask a teacher, parent or guardian to visit www.jeansforgenesday.org.

COVID TEST SHORTAGES REPORTED

THERE are concerns that UK health authorities are struggling to keep up with demand for COVID-19 tests.

People with symptoms are encouraged to request a test, but some are being told to travel hundreds of miles away to a testing centre.

There have also been shortages of home testing kits. The news comes as COVID-19 cases in the UK continue to rise, though the number of people becoming seriously ill remains low.

TV presenter Will Millard said he asked for a test for his daughter, who had developed a fever. He was directed to a centre 200 miles away.

Health officials in the northeast of England reported that tests were running out within two hours each day, despite a rise in cases in the area.

Dido Harding, the head of NHS Test and Trace in England, said she was "very sorry" for the situation.

Separately, a group of celebrity doctors are calling on the Government to tackle online anti-vaccine lies. Author and former junior doctor Adam Kay, Dr Ellie Cannon, Dr Phil Hammond and Dr Dawn Harper have written a letter to ministers asking them to introduce a new law "to prevent dangerous lies about health and medicine being spread".

Recent data shows that social media companies are taking down just 2.3% of posts spreading false information about vaccines. The Center for Countering Digital Hate (CCDH) found 409 anti-vaccine pages across social media with a following of 58 million in July alone.

Some of the lies spread about a potential COVID-19 vaccine include that it will be poisonous, that it will cause autism and cancer, and even that people who refuse vaccines will be forced into starvation.



A soldier carries out tests at a COVID-19 testing site

8. WORLD NEWS

USA



● Attacks remembered

Today (Friday 11 September), the USA marks the 19th anniversary of the 9/11 (Americans write the month first) terrorist attacks. People all over the world will remember the 2,977 people who were killed when al-Qaeda terrorists hijacked planes and flew them into New York's World Trade Center and the Pentagon in Virginia. Another plane crashed in a field when the passengers tried to tackle the terrorists. The attacks led to America's invasion of Afghanistan, which was the longest war in US history.



USA



● Record-breaking heat

A heatwave in southern California has seen record-breaking temperatures reached in parts of the state. Woodland Hills recorded a high of 49.4°C on Sunday, causing power outages and roads to melt. A stage two emergency was declared, with all hiking trails closed for public safety. The mayor of Los Angeles, Eric Garcetti, urged people to save energy, stay out of the sun and maintain social distancing during the extreme weather.



AUSTRIA



● Mr Freeze

An Austrian man has broken his own world record for standing in a box filled with ice. Josef Koeberl was packed in like a beardy fish finger, wearing just his swimming trunks, for two hours, 30 minutes and 57 seconds – that's 30 minutes longer than last time. He then celebrated his frozen feat by tucking into... an ice cream cone!



HONG KONG



● Election protests

A Chinese government decision to delay elections led to 300 arrests on the day the vote was to have been held, after protests. Police were then criticised after they held down and arrested a 12-year-old girl, who said she was just buying art supplies. People are angry about a strict new national security law that would give China more control than ever over life in Hong Kong. The territory was ruled by the UK until 1997.



TAIWAN

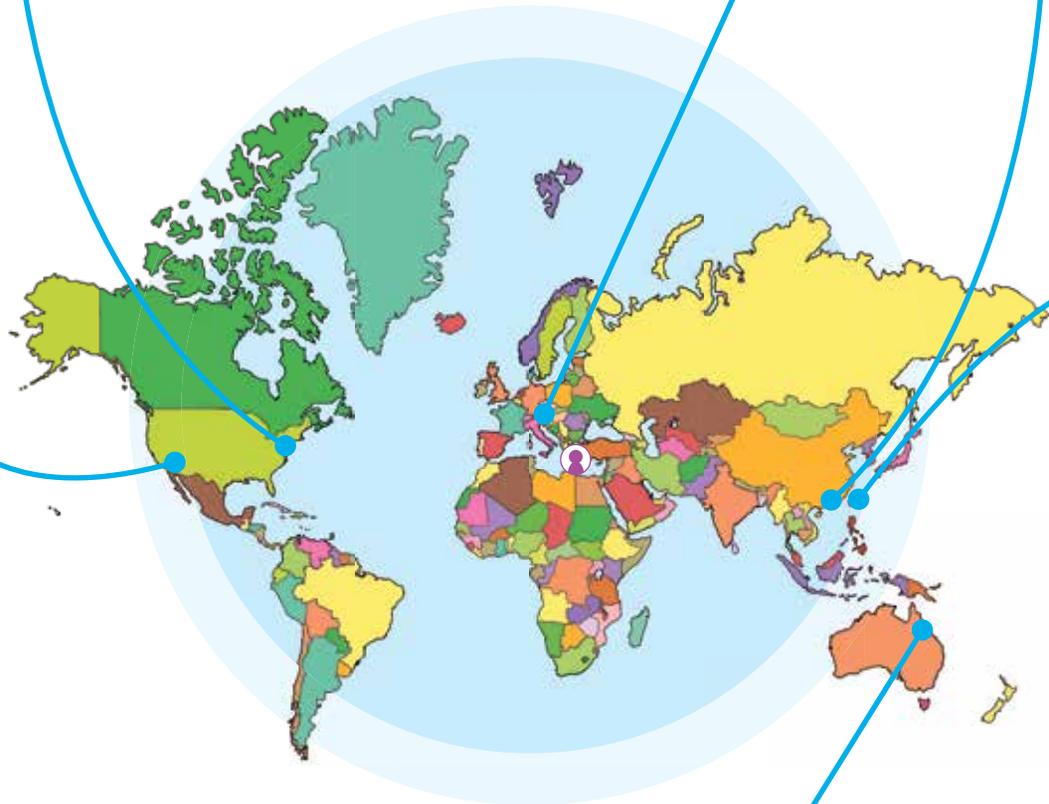


● Passport changes

Taiwan has changed its passports, hoping to stop its people being confused with Chinese citizens. During the pandemic, Taiwanese people were often stopped from travelling to countries that had a ban on Chinese nationals, as Taiwan's passport had the country's formal name, Republic of China, in English at the top. The country has settled on one that now only has 'Republic of China' written in Chinese and features 'Taiwan' more clearly. The changes won't be welcome in China, as officials there say Taiwan is not a separate country.



Left: the original design
Right: a mock-up of the new one

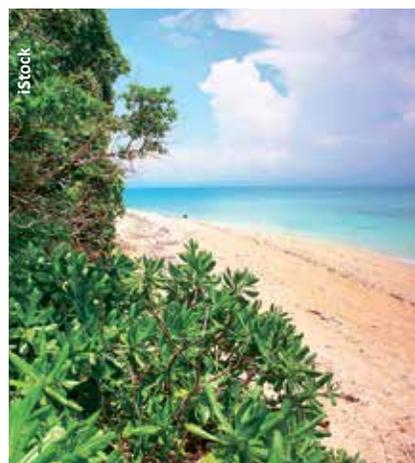


AUSTRALIA



● Wanted: island caretaker

Australian conservation bosses are looking for a new caretaker for the Low Isles – a pair of stunning tropical islands off the coast of Queensland. But anyone who applies expecting to lie on the beach all day will be disappointed. Looking after an island is very hard work, and the successful applicant will have to take care of all maintenance – including the sewerage system!



OUR WORLD



NAME: PARWANA
LIVES: GREECE

TO FIND OUT MORE, GO TO
WWW.AMNESTY.ORG.UK/ZIP



SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD Parwana Amiri arrived in Greece in September last year, after fleeing her home country of Afghanistan.

She was placed in a migrant camp with over 10,000 other people. Horrified by the conditions there, and concerned that people didn't know how bad things really were, Parwana started writing "letters to the world" to share what she witnessed.

The camp itself has many problems. It was built to house just 3,000 people – less than a third of the number that currently live there. Litter covers the streets, and people face long queues for things as basic as food and showers. But Parwana felt there were even bigger problems that were being hidden from

the world – "like the violence", she said.

"If you live under conditions not even fit for animals, violent conditions, then you can become violent any time yourself..." she says in one of her letters. "I feel powerless against this violence. I feel it crawling in our veins."

Parwana's letters were published online, and next year they are being republished as a book. Parwana sees them as a way for her to give a voice to all refugees, ensuring they are heard, recognised and remembered.



Thomas Alboth

LONELY PENGUIN LOVES PINGU!

KEEPERS at Perth Zoo in Australia are cheering up a lonely penguin by showing him videos of other penguins!

Pierre, an endangered northern rockhopper penguin, was found washed up on a beach in the southwest of Australia. Perth Zoo took him in and is looking after him until he is well enough to return to the wild.

Pierre is the only one of his kind in care in the whole of Australasia and his keepers were worried that he'd be lonely, so they started showing him videos of other northern rockhoppers, including the live-streams from Edinburgh Zoo, but it turns out the cartoon penguin Pingu is his fave!



DOLPHIN TRAGEDY



ACCORDING to Greenpeace, 39 dolphins have died in an area affected by a big oil spill off the coast of Mauritius.

In July, a Japanese cargo ship struck a reef, spilling tonnes of oil into the sea. Environmentalists are calling on the authorities to find out as quickly as possible if the animals died as a result of the oil spill, or whether there is another cause. Although the long-term impact the spill will have on the local wildlife is not yet known, it's thought that it will affect turtles, sea birds and other marine life for a long period of time.



THINK PINK

LONGLEAT has been tickled pink by the arrival of 14 Chilean flamingo chicks – and more are on the way.

This could be Longleat safari park's best summer yet for flamingos, especially after the heavy snow last year prevented the birds sitting on any of their eggs.

All 14 chicks were born with white feathers, which they keep for around three years, and a straight bill, which gradually droops down as they grow.

Fully-grown Chilean flamingos are around 1.5m (4ft 11in) tall and can weigh anywhere up to 7kg (15.4lb).

In the wild, Chilean flamingos can survive at high altitude in the Andes Mountains. They live for 15-20 years in the wild, but in captivity, where they are safe from predators, they can reach ages of around 70 years.

BITESIZE NEWS

SWANS might have a bad reputation for being aggressive towards other birds and people, but a study by the University of Exeter and the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust shows that swans have most of their fights with other swans, over food and resources.

WHY KIDS SAY THAT BLACK LIVES MATTER



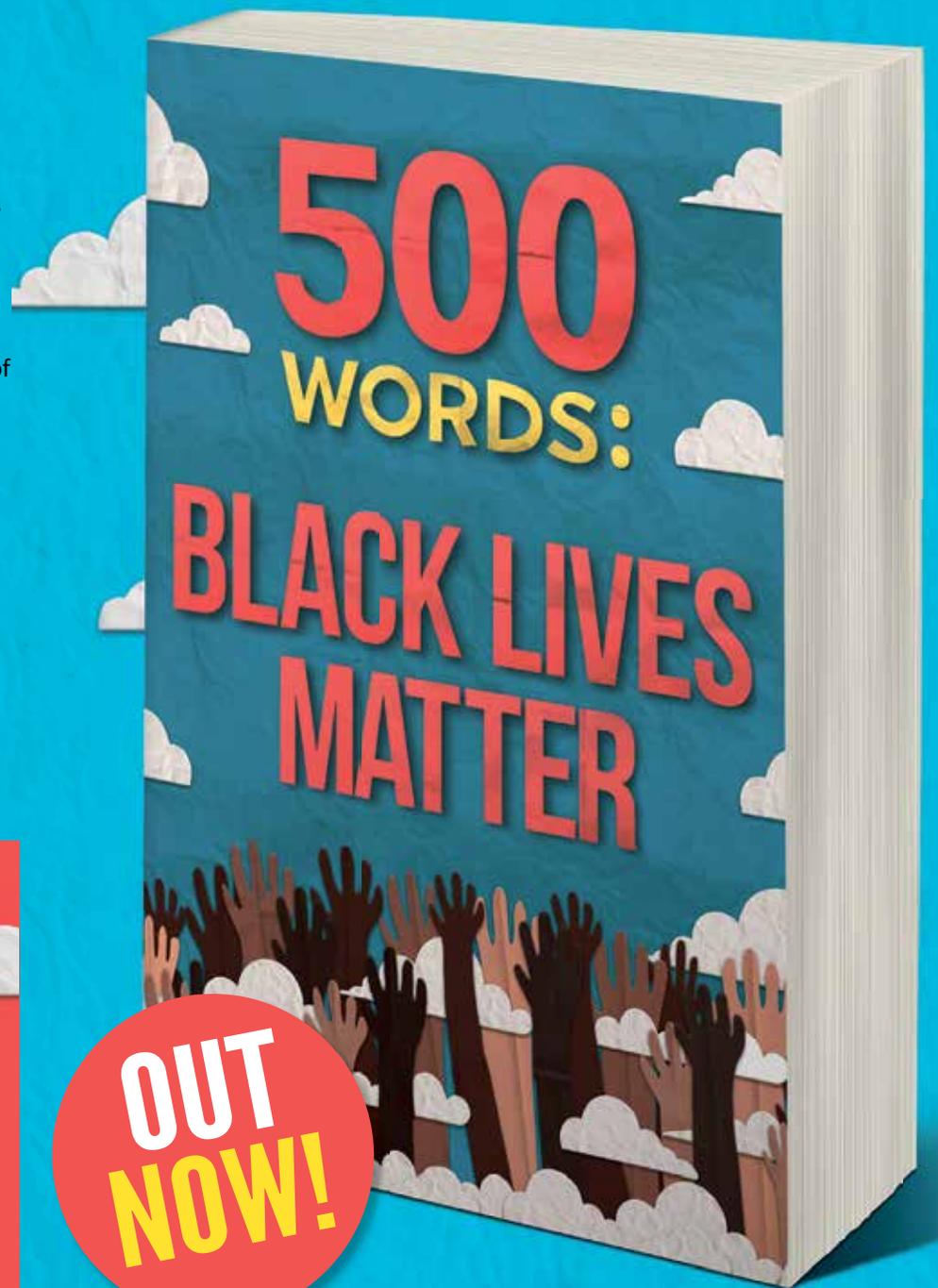
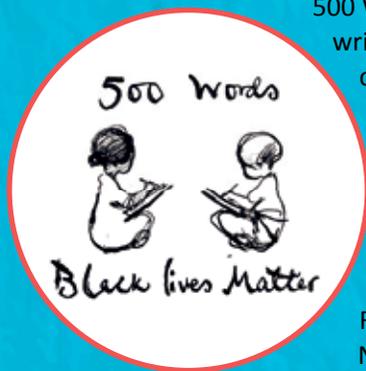
IN July, kids across the UK were inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement to write their own inspiring and moving stories. The amazing entries suggest that your generation is giving the planet hope for a better future.

500 Words is the UK's most successful short story-writing competition for children between the ages of 5 and 13. Since it launched, more than one million stories have been sent in.

This year, almost 6,000 children, aged between 5 and 13, submitted stories expressing their personal experiences, tales of learning and respect to the 500 Words: Black Lives Matter competition, which ran on Virgin Radio in July.

Now, 100 of the most impressive stories have been collected in the 500 Words: Black Lives Matter book. It also features writing tips from judges Malorie Blackman, Charlie Higson, Francesca Simon and Frank Cottrell-Boyce, to help you put your own pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard).

Even in the middle of this coronavirus pandemic, the Black Lives Matter movement has been front page news. Lots of difficult conversations are being had about race, so this is the best time to get stuck into these inspiring short stories – and then write your own.



MALORIE BLACKMAN'S TOP WRITING TIPS

“HOW DOES YOUR CHARACTER **SPEAK**? DO THEY HAVE A PARTICULAR WAY OF **EXPRESSING** THEMSELVES? HAVE **FUN WITH EXPLORING** THE DIFFERENT WAYS YOUR CHARACTERS COULD DO THAT. THEY DON'T NEED TO STRUCTURE THEIR SENTENCES IN THE SAME WAY THAT YOU DO.”

“MOST IMPORTANTLY, **HAVE FUN**. IF YOU **ENJOY WRITING** YOUR STORY, WE'RE MORE LIKELY TO ENJOY READING IT. IF YOUR CHARACTERS SURPRISE YOU, MAKE YOU **LAUGH**, MAKE YOU **CRY**, MAKE YOU **GASP**, MAKE YOU **THINK**, THEN HOPEFULLY THAT'S WHAT THEY'LL DO TO US TOO. **ENJOY YOURSELF**.”



Available from Amazon, Audible and all good bookshops. All royalties from the sale of this book will be matched by the publisher and donated to the children's charity Coram Beanstalk.



11. SPECIAL REPORT

OUR LIVING PLANET

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?



It's going to require a lot of work from all of us all across the world to reverse nature's decline. There's no doubt that it's going to be hard, but it's not impossible.

The LPR outlines a few of the biggest challenges we face today. For starters, we've got to find ways to stop, or at least lessen, the impact of climate change. We've got to give nature more land – 30% of all land on Earth is currently used for agriculture, and we've got to stop wasting so much food, as the LPR says that a third of all our food is wasted.

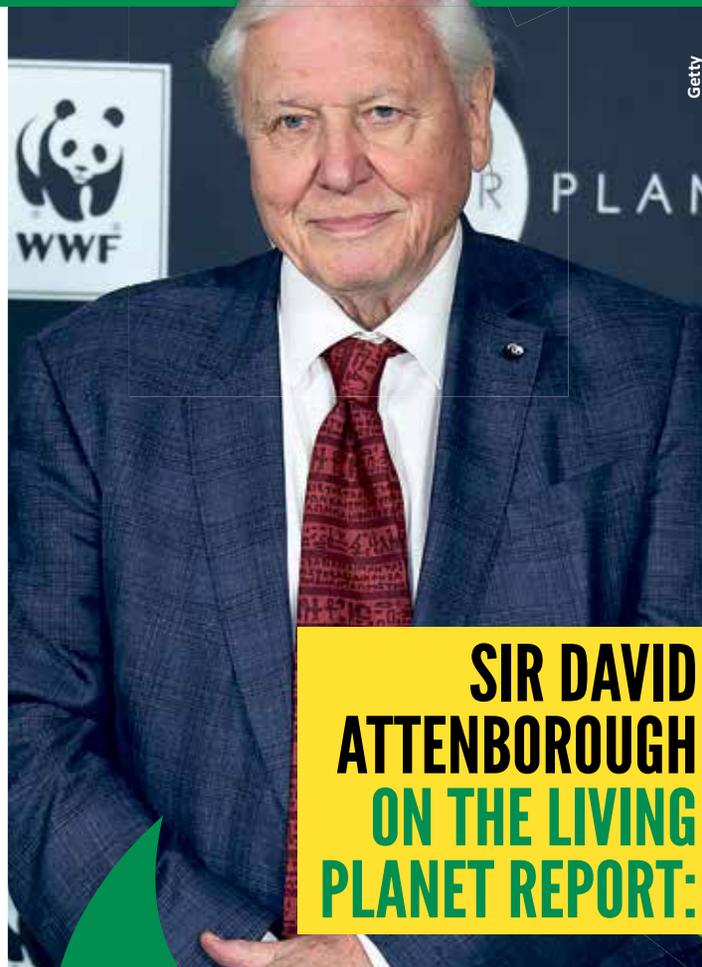
Whenever humans do something that damages the planet, the LPR says there are three solutions:

- **Stop doing it altogether.** This option is the hardest, since it requires a lot of willpower, and might mean having to find an alternative, which can also cause problems.
- **Do it less.** By reducing the amount of harmful activities we do, we give nature time to replace what we take and recover. The LPR says that those who live lifestyles that use lots more resources should learn to live with less.
- **Find new ways to do it so that we get the same benefit, but in a way that does not cause damage to the planet.** This means finding green solutions – like using renewable energy to power our homes, rather than energy produced by burning fossil fuels.

It can all seem quite overwhelming when the problems we face are laid out like this, but you can start by make a difference at home.

Help by eating a more plant-based diet, and making sure your food hasn't been produced by deforestation. You can ask your parents if your energy is coming from renewable sources, write to your council about their efforts to protect biodiversity, take part in protests and talk to school friends about protecting the planet.

EVERY two years, the WWF produces its Living Planet Report (LPR), a detailed health-check of our natural world that includes the Living Planet Index (LPI) – a massive monitoring project that measures how the populations of over 21,000 mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish populations have changed over the last 50 years. The report and the LPI is used to guide businesses and governments on how best to conserve the natural world.



SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH ON THE LIVING PLANET REPORT:

NATURE IS IN DECLINE

Sadly, although perhaps unsurprisingly, the report and the LPI shows that overall, the natural world is struggling.

Globally, wildlife populations have fallen by 68% since 1970, a million different species (500,000 animals and plants, and 500,000 insects) are threatened by extinction, and the habitats of thousands more are being destroyed every day.

Freshwater wildlife has been hit especially hard, declining by 84% on average over the last 50 years.

Here in the UK, the LPI has revealed that the native grey partridge and Arctic skua birds are in serious trouble.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

We humans only exist on this planet because of a complicated living system that allowed us to thrive. Without lots of living things and the many different interactions between them, this system could break down, making life much more difficult for us.

Having lots of different varieties of life on Earth is called biodiversity. Because of climate change, some species will become extinct, threatening that complicated living ecosystem we rely on. However, the more biodiversity and variety among species on our planet, the more likely it is that some species, and our ecosystem, survives.

In the Living Planet Report, WWF gave an example of this. In 2007, Peru was hit by a frost which destroyed its entire potato crop, except for one species. Without biodiversity, Peruvians might have relied on just one variety of potato that the frost could have wiped out, causing severe food shortages.

“ [Now] could be the moment we achieve a balance with the rest of the natural world and become stewards of our planet. Doing so will require systemic [complete] shifts in how we produce food, create energy, manage our oceans and use materials. But above all, it will require a change in perspective. A change from viewing nature as something that's optional or 'nice to have' to the single greatest ally we have in restoring balance to our world.

The time for pure national interests has passed, [an international effort] has to be our approach and in doing so bring about a greater equality between what nations take from the world and what they give back. The wealthier nations have taken a lot and the time has now come to give. ”



ARCTIC WILDFIRES BREAK RECORDS



A wildfire in June in Kamchatka Territory, Russia

THIS summer's Arctic wildfires have already broken last year's records for carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions.

Scientists at the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS) study daily wildfire activity across Earth, based on satellite images that show the fires' strength and estimated emissions.

The data they have seen this year surprised them. It is estimated that this year's CO₂ emissions from the Arctic Circle fires have increased by just over a third compared with 2019, which was the previous record year for emissions. From 1 January to 31 August 2020, the estimated emissions for the region were 244 megatonnes, compared to 181 megatonnes for the whole of 2019. Ten years ago, there were just 25 megatonnes of emissions.

Most of the increased wildfire activity this year has been in Russia's Sakha Republic, where millions of acres of land have been destroyed. Some of the fires there early in the summer are thought to be so-called zombie fires. These are blazes that continue to burn through the winter in peat (decayed plants) below the frozen Arctic surface. When spring comes, these underground fires set fire to vegetation on the surface. This produces CO₂ emissions from the burning vegetation, as well as from the peat, which stores carbon dioxide.

The emissions contribute to global warming and drive climate change. It's thought that increasing temperatures on Earth will make it more likely that the fires will spread.

The CAMS research also found that a large region of the southwestern USA has been experiencing major wildfires due to heatwave conditions. California has been badly hit, suffering some of the worst wildfires in its history. They were believed to have been started by lightning. But as climate change leads to warmer temperatures and drier conditions, fires are more likely to spread easily.



Damage caused by a wildfire in California, USA

Rod Downie, Chief Polar Adviser at the World Wide Fund for Nature, said: "The Arctic is in meltdown. Large areas are burning in front of our eyes. The climate crisis behind these broken records is a global problem."

SAVE LAND TO HELP MAMMALS



The Kayapo tribe in the Amazon protesting against deforestation

A STUDY has found that protecting indigenous peoples' lands also protects thousands of threatened and endangered species of wildlife.

Research published in the journal *Conservation Biology* says that 2,175 mammal species have 10% or more of their populations living in indigenous peoples' lands. Of those, some 646 species have more than half of their animals within those lands.

So if the people who live in these areas are protected and not forced to leave, the animals are more likely to be protected, too.

Indigenous people are the descendants of the original inhabitants of a piece of land. They represent about 5% of the world's population. Examples include the Saami of northern Europe and the Aborigines in Australia. Many are being forced out of their land to make way for new buildings, while others face terrible prejudice and abuse.

The study's senior author, James Watson of the University of Queensland, said: "We must recognise that an essential ingredient to stopping the loss [of mammal species] is greater recognition and support for indigenous people's rights to and relationships with their land."

COVID TREATMENT HOPE

SEVEN medical trials around the world have shown that widely available steroids can help save the lives of COVID-19 patients.

An analysis of the results of seven trials involving 1,703 people found that a steroid called dexamethasone saved the lives of one in eight very sick people. These were patients who had to rely on a ventilator to breathe because their lungs had been so badly affected by the new coronavirus.

Separately, the studies found that a very cheap steroid, hydrocortisone, can also help treat COVID-19. The two steroids can reduce the risk of death in seriously ill individuals by 20%. They are already being used to treat coronavirus patients in hospitals worldwide.

Steroids reduce inflammation in a variety of conditions, and they often form a part of treatment for diseases such as cancer.



Dexamethasone

This report is from the Science Museum in London

SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

HERTHA Ayrton was a British suffragist, physicist, mathematician and inventor.

She lived at a time when few women had access to opportunities in science, technology, engineering and maths.

Born in 1854 to a relatively poor immigrant family, at the age of nine, Hertha went to live with an aunt who ran a school in northwest London, where she was introduced to science and maths.

She began working on her first invention while studying at university. The invention was a line divider, which is a mathematical tool and drawing instrument used in engineering. Hertha received a patent – an official licence from the Government to make and sell her invention – and would go on to receive patents for an impressive 26 inventions during her lifetime.

Discover more at www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/women-science.



Science Museum Group

CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

AS September marks Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, First News caught up with Cancer Research UK for Children & Young People to find out about the research they fund to help more people aged 0-24 survive cancer with a good quality of life.

Cancer Research UK for Children & Young People works with scientists and doctors across the UK to run clinical trials that test new drugs, providing more treatment options for young patients. This week, we spoke to 13-year-old Rhys, who was diagnosed with brain cancer when he was younger, and we heard about brain tumour research aiming to help more children like Rhys in the future.



MEET RHYS

Rhys, now aged 13, was diagnosed with a brain tumour when he was only four years old. Thankfully, Rhys had an operation to remove the tumour and is much better now, but he was left with a large scar running down the back of his head.

Rhys doesn't let his scar bother him though, and takes pride in it when his school friends ask him about it. When Rhys was eight years old, he even asked his granny to sew a hole in his favourite toy monkey Geoff's head, so they would have matching scars!

As part of Rhys' treatment for his brain tumour, he took part in a Cancer Research UK-funded clinical trial, which tested new drugs on Rhys that will one day improve the lives of children and young people diagnosed with brain tumours.

Rhys' mum Keely said: "I am so proud of Rhys. He is such an amazing, kind, caring, thoughtful young man and it is always a pleasure to be in his company. He enjoys life and we love watching him as he gets older!"



Cancer in children and young people is very rare, but around 500 children develop brain tumours every year in the UK. Most children receive chemotherapy as a part of their treatment, but this can also cause long-term side effects, such as hearing loss or infertility [not being able to have children] later in life. Since cancer is different in children compared to adults, new treatments are needed, and Cancer Research UK for Children & Young People is there to help.

In April 2018, Cancer Research UK launched the Cancer Research UK for Children & Young People Children's Brain Tumour Centre of Excellence, supported by TK Maxx.

The centre in Cambridge brings together expert researchers from across the globe to speed up the development of better treatments, increasing survival and reducing side-effects for children diagnosed with brain tumours. The centre makes it easier for world experts to collaborate and combine their efforts in brain tumour research, so the lives of more children with cancer can be improved.

TK Maxx has partnered with Cancer Research UK for Children & Young People for the past 16 years, and in that time it has raised over £37m for research into cancers affecting young people. Together with its customers and associates, TK Maxx has also committed to raising £3m to entirely support the Cancer Research UK for Children & Young People Children's Brain Tumour Centre of Excellence.

Sheona Scales from Cancer Research UK, said: "The Cancer Research UK Children's Brain Tumour Centre of Excellence is a great example of the amazing work we're able to fund to help more children and young people in the future, and it's thanks to TK Maxx and everyone who supports us. More children and young people are surviving cancer than ever before, but it still claims the lives of 510 children in the UK each year. Some experience long-term side effects for the rest of their lives, so we need to do more. Cancer Research UK is committed to finding new and better treatments for children and young people with cancer."

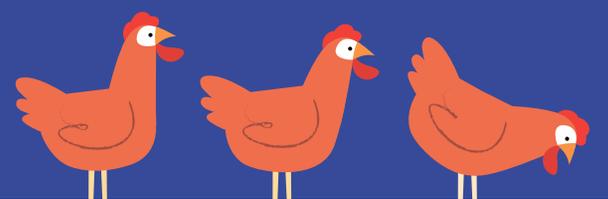
HOW TO SUPPORT CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Help more children and young people survive cancer during Childhood Cancer Awareness Month by supporting Cancer Research UK for Children & Young People, in partnership with TK Maxx. You can get involved by donating a bag of pre-loved quality clothes, accessories and homeware to your local Cancer Research UK or TK Maxx store as part of their Give Up Clothes For Good campaign. For more information, please visit cruk.org/childrenandyoungpeople.

Can you help the nation's farmers tackle one of earth's greatest challenges?



We're looking for young people to use their ingenuity and problem solving skills to create an innovation or invention to help farmers fight climate change.





Need some inspiration?

Take a virtual tour and meet some of our farmers and visit our inspiration hubs filled with activities and videos to get you started!

The Prizes:

The top 9 entries will win £1000 for their school to spend on STEM or Outdoor Learning equipment and will receive their prize at a prestigious awards ceremony at the Houses of Parliament in Summer 2021

The competition is open for ages 5-14 and closes on 31st May 2021.

For more information go to www.farmvention.com

FANTASTIC PHANTOMS

If you liked *Descendants* then you're going to love Netflix's new musical show, *Julie and the Phantoms*. Here's everything you need to know about the spooky series...



WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

After her mum dies, Julie loses all passion for music. That is until the ghosts of three teen boys (from '90s band *Sunset Curve*) appear and transform her life.



CALLING ALL DESCENDANTS FANS

The show is directed by Kenny Ortega, who was also the man behind the *Descendants* movies and *High School Musical*.

DON'T I KNOW YOU FROM SOMEWHERE?

Stars Cheyenne Jackson (Caleb Covington), Jadah Marie (Flynn), and Booboo Stewart (Willie) all worked with Kenny Ortega on *Descendants 3*.



ONE FOR THE HSM FANS...

The mascot of Julie's school, Los Feliz High School, is a bobcat. This is a nod to the East High's wildcat mascot in *High School Musical*.



STAR SEARCH

The show's casting director saw 700 auditions from around the world for the role of Julie. Madison Reyes, who got the part, self-recorded her audition tape at home after a teacher suggested she try out for the part.

PRANKSTERS!

The cast loved to prank each other during filming. When Owen (who plays Alex) went home for a weekend, Charlie (who plays Luke) switched all the belongings in their bedrooms and gift-wrapped every single item!

LOOK OUT FOR...

In the first episode, when the three phantoms are sitting down on a couch eating hotdogs, look behind Luke and you'll see his missing person poster.

STAR SCHOOL

Before filming began, the four main cast members went on a month-long performance boot camp. There they worked on acting, singing, dancing and playing their instruments.



Julie and The Phantoms is available now on Netflix

THIS WEEK



1 The BBC has confirmed that ex-boxer Nicola Adams will be the first *Strictly* contestant to have a same-sex partner when the show returns next month. The new series will be shorter than previous ones and will be filmed without an audience. Other contestants include former *The Wanted* singer Max George, Radio 1 DJ Clara Amfo, TV presenter Ranvir Singh, NFL star Jason Bell and singer HRVY. The new series starts later this autumn.

2 Ed Sheeran has revealed that he is now a dad. Ed's wife Cherry Seaborn gave birth to a baby girl called Lyra Antarctica Seaborn Sheeran.

3 London's famous festive fair, Hyde Park Winter Wonderland, has been cancelled for 2020, due to COVID-19. Organisers made the announcement this week. The attraction is usually visited by millions of people from around the country. Social distancing rules have made it hard to open the attraction safely. It will return in 2021.

4 Former boxing champion Chris Eubank has signed up to appear in a new animated film. He'll voice monster wrestler King George in *Rumble*, which is out in February 2021.



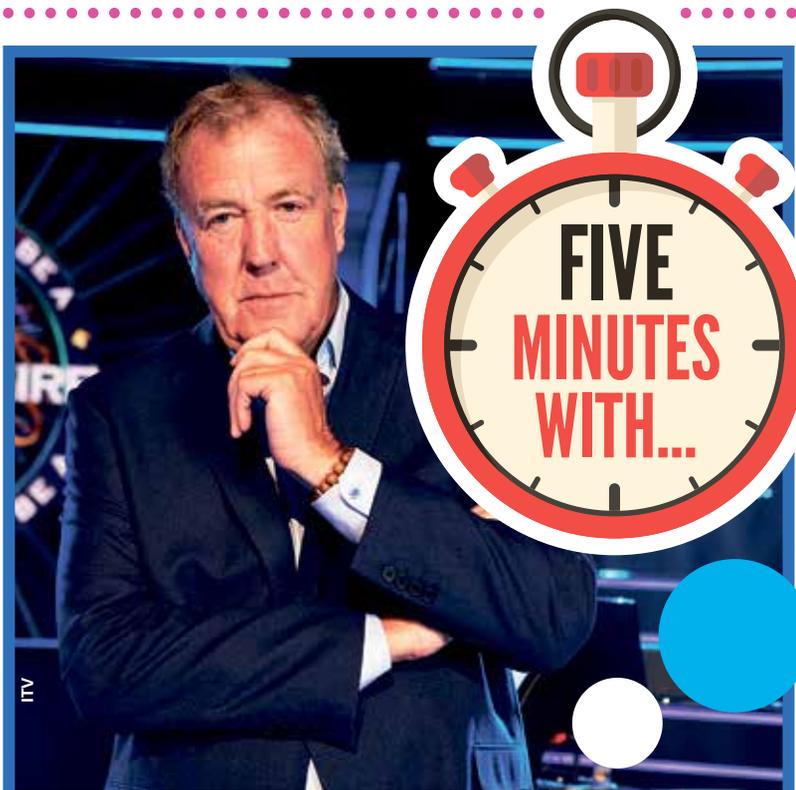
PICS OF THE WEEK

THE winner of *Blue Peter* and McLaren's supercar of the future competition has been revealed.

The Superganic 3000 by Alex, ten, was chosen by the team at *Blue Peter* and McLaren and revealed on the show this week as a 3D model. It was chosen for its sleek, streamlined design, which is based on a leaf!

Alex said: "I'm always sketching and drawing, especially cars, so to win the prize was amazing and after this I definitely want to work on supercars and new technologies when I'm older."

Alex's prize included a VIP trip to McLaren, a ride in a 720S with *Top Gear*'s The Stig, and an orange *Blue Peter* badge!



JEREMY CLARKSON

The game show host and *The Grand Tour* star told us all about the new series of *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?*

■ How did you find filming this new series of *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?* with the new socially distanced restrictions?

For the first programme we filmed, it was a bit strange, to be honest. You say things that you think are funny, and there's mainly silence. Maybe a little laughter but not what you normally expect. I then realised when filming the next few episodes, it's better to just talk to the people like you're in a phone box and it got much easier. It's quite a lonely existence out there anyway, even when there is an audience. The audience for *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?* is always in the dark so you're not always aware of them being there. The show is really about one person, in the spotlight, demonstrating how much general knowledge they have, or in some cases, don't have.

■ The biggest change for the show is you had to replace the Ask The Audience lifeline with two chances to Phone A Friend. Were you pleased they didn't suggest two chances to Ask The Host?

I'd have had a heart attack if they'd suggested that we let contestants Ask The Host twice. It's great to Ask The Audience and it's nice to have four different lifelines, but when you don't have an audience there really is nothing you can do about it. That's what we had to do

because of COVID-19.

■ In lockdown, everyone became a little quiz obsessed and played quizzes with friends. Did you?

James May, Richard Hammond [Jeremy's *The Grand Tour* co-presenters] and I hosted a quiz in lockdown to raise money for The Felix Project – getting food to people who can't get out or can't afford it. So we did a general knowledge quiz. The contestants had to be honest, as we couldn't see what their answers were, and they told us how they'd done. I couldn't believe how honest people were – people said "I didn't get them all right". They could easily have said they did! We wouldn't have known, but people were honest.

■ Have you learnt a new skill during lockdown?

I learnt how to become a shopkeeper. We're selling everything now – jams, chutneys, honey, cakes, potatoes. I've become a beekeeper as well! So I have a quarter of a million bees and a shop! As if I wasn't very busy, that's just given me something else to do. I even made some candles the other day out of the beeswax!

Catch *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire* Friday, 8:30pm, ITV

18. BOREDOM BUSTERS! PUZZLE FUN

WIN! GORMITI ACTION FIGURES

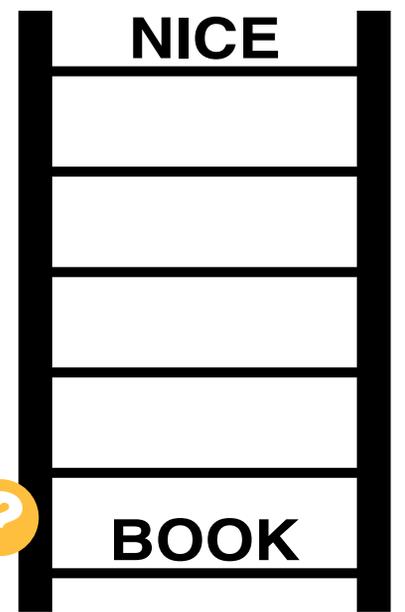


CAN you complete our sudoku puzzle, filling in the numbers one to nine?

Send in your answers and three lucky readers will win a deluxe Gormiti action figure*. There are three Lords of the Gormiti, directly from the animated series: Lord Keryon and Voidus light up, while Lord Titan attacks enemies with an unstoppable rotating attack! Each pack includes the character's weapon; Lord Keryon and Titan have a token compatible with the Elemental bracer, while Lord Voidus includes an exclusive 5cm Shadow Soldier character! Use the digital code included in the package to unlock content on the site and in the app. *Styles may vary.

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

WORD LADDER



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



WIN! REBEL GIRLS PUZZLE

CAN you complete our crossword puzzle by using the clues below?

Send in your answers, and two lucky winners will win a Rebel Girls puzzle from Gibsons.

Designed to let you explore, learn and play, the new puzzle collection features queens, activists, scientists, artists, sporting champions, iconic world leaders and little-known pioneers.

The 100-piece jigsaw puzzle features heroines Elizabeth I, Empress Jingū, Irena Sendlerowa and Ada Lovelace.



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

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?

ACROSS

- 1 Place where people eat (10)
- 6 Puts a question to (4)
- 7 Removing something from a place (6)
- 8 Stick of wax used for drawing (6)
- 9 Every (4)
- 11 The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (abbr) (1,1,1,1)
- 13 List of ingredients needed to make a meal (6)
- 15 Dried grape (6)
- 17 Swedish pop group (4)
- 18 Flying machine (10)

DOWN

- 2 Makes certain (7)
- 3 Delicious to eat (5)
- 4 Part of the leg (5)
- 5 Nine plus one (3)
- 7 Unit of weight (3)
- 10 Skilled; competent (7)
- 12 Green herb with a pleasant smell (5)
- 13 Sprint (3)
- 14 Hold tightly (5)
- 16 Powdery residue left after the burning of a substance (3)



19. BOREDOM BUSTERS!

HOW TO ENTER:

Send your finished puzzles by email to win@firstnews.co.uk. Don't forget to put **Puzzles 743** in the subject box. We're afraid that we can't accept postal entries for now. The closing date for entries is **Thursday 17 September 2020**.

WIN! GOO JIT ZU FIGURES

CAN you spot the five changes we've made to this picture from Ashley Garcia: *Genius in Love*? Send in your answers and three lucky readers will each win a Goo Jit Zu Aqua-blast figure. The original Heroes of Goo Jit Zu squad have been joined by super cool new Heroes Reptaur, Gigatusk, Redback and the ultra-rare three-headed Hydra! This awesome Ninja warrior team have acquired new weaponised arms and armour suits, and have a special Aqua-blast feature! This fab collection will also include exclusive, golden slime-filled heroes and bad guys Rock Jaw and Batter. Styles may vary.



www.character-online.com



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WORDSEARCH

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

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

- Owl
- Eagle
- Robin
- Kingfisher
- Raven
- Peacock
- Toucan
- Parrot
- Sparrow
- Seagull
- Flamingo
- Pelican

WIN! A NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIT BUNDLE FROM BANDAI UK

EMBARK on adventures filled with excitement and discovery with the latest STEM educational kits from Bandai UK.

For those with an artistic streak, the National Geographic Crystal Garden Kit blends the science of a crystal-growing lab with the creativity of an art project! Watch how the crystals absorb the ink from the markers and grow in your chosen colours. A range of Dig Kits and Science Kits are also available in the range, where you can excavate real-life specimens including a Shark Tooth, Dino Fossil, Dino Poop, Real Bugs and Gemstones, plus many more.

Ten lucky winners will win a Bandai National Geographic Bundle, which includes a Real Bug Dig Kit, Crystal Garden, Gem Dig Kit and Mini Dig Kit. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

Which gemstone represents 60 years of marriage?
 a) Ruby b) Opal c) Diamond

Suitable for ages 8+ and available from Amazon and Argos. www.bandai.co.uk



ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY DIG

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see below. The closing date is 24 September 2020.

COMPETITIONS: You can enter First News competitions in one of two ways. 1. Go to firstnews.co.uk/competitions and follow the instructions. 2. Write to us at 'competition name' (e.g. Holiday), First News, 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, Reach plc and any associated companies and their families. Winners will be the first correct entries drawn after the closing dates. No purchase necessary. No responsibility can be accepted for entries that have been lost or damaged in transit. First News will not enter into any correspondence. All winners will be notified accordingly and their names and 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: Word removed from book spine, girl's shirt is now pink, computer screen is blurry, box in background has changed, wooden panel added behind girl.
Word ladder: like, line, fine, find, fond, food.
Word wheel: hamburger.

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

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

“I FIND IT REALLY SAD TO SAY GOODBYE!”

CRESSIDA Cowell’s wonderful *Wizards of Once* series comes to an end this year, with the spellbinding *Never and Forever*. We spoke to the Waterstones Children’s Laureate and author of the beloved *How To Train Your Dragon* series about what it’s like to say goodbye to your characters, what to expect from *Never and Forever* and what’s next for her.



■ **How does it feel when you finish a series? Is it sad to say goodbye?**

It’s really sad to say goodbye! I found it really, really difficult with *How To Train Your Dragon*, because you fall in love with the characters and the world so much. I think what’s keeping me going is that, when I finished *How To Train Your Dragon*, I thought that I’d never be able to write something that I loved as much as that series – but the thing that I discovered was that it was a bit like having another child! You think, how can I ever love it as much as the first one... but you do! You just fall in love, and I fell in love with those characters. I was all: “Dragons! Hiccup! Fishing! The sea!”, and now I’m all: “Magic! Witches! Xar!”

■ **Did it get emotional, writing this book?**

Well, when I was doing the last illustrations in *Never and Forever*. The last illustrations are always a bit bittersweet in my books, but in *Never And Forever*... oh my goodness! I was drawing one where Perdita says goodbye, and I was in floods of tears!

■ **Did you always have an ending in mind when you began the series?**

Even with *How To Train Your Dragon*, which is much longer and a story about a hero going on a journey without realising, I had written the ending right from the beginning, even though I didn’t know exactly how I was going to get there. With this book, that was even more so. I had really planned out *Wizards of Once* in a much more distinct way, and indeed I’d written the end of this one right from the beginning. Although I did make it four books rather than three, so there were some bits that ended up taking a different direction! I mean, it’s a bit of a spoiler, which I’d written right from the beginning – but characters might not be who you think they are!



■ **Without spoiling too much, do you think you could tell us about what happens in this book?**

Well, it’s about whether Wish and Xar can find the ingredients to get rid of the spell that can get rid of Witches. Not only are Witches trying to get rid of Wish, but they’re taking over the forest and want to destroy the world! They’ve also got to remove a Witch stain from Xar’s hand, that’s taking him to the dark side. Also, Squeezjoos, a sweet little sprite, is in real danger, so they’ve got to rescue him too. The stakes are quite high in this book!

■ **Readers of the book are really curious about the identity of the unknown narrator. Will that be revealed in this book?**

You do find out who the narrator is! Although I’ve said at the beginning of the epilogue that: ANYONE WHO SKIPS TO THIS EPILOGUE BEFORE READING THE REST OF THE STORY IS A BIG CHEAT!

■ **Over lockdown, we saw that you’ve been reading a chapter a day of the *How To Train Your Dragon* series for free on YouTube. What’s that been like?**

I’ve actually really enjoyed it! Which is good, isn’t it? It’d be terrible if I’d not! But yes, luckily I’ve been enjoying it just as much as everybody else – maybe even a little too much. I keep on laughing, since I’d forgotten bits! I’d be like: “Oh, this is funny! This is clever!” I know I shouldn’t be saying that, since it’s my own book! I’m quite surprised at some of the

twists and turns, that I’d forgotten. It’s been quite a lot of commitment, to do it every single day, but it has been a lovely thing to do – especially as I’ve had some very nice letters from families who have enjoyed it through lockdown.

■ **You were kind enough to help start our collaborative story here in *First News*, which has taken all sorts of twists and turns!**

Has it surprised you at all?

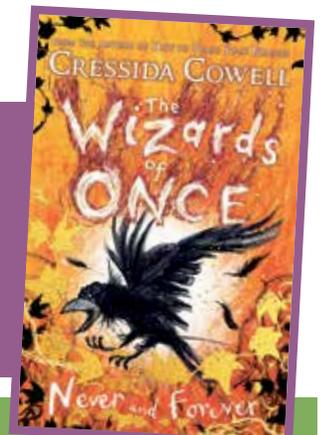
No! Children are naturally creative. I think that they often want to write about things that they want to read about, like magic! And so, it’s not surprising that your readers have picked up the story and run with it, as they might find it more interesting than writing about what they did over their summer holidays.

■ **Do you already know what you’ll be writing next, now that you’ve finished the *Wizards of Once* series?**

Um, well, I know I’m going to write! I’m going to write another book, or book series. I can’t say exactly what it’s going to be yet, but I’ve always got lots of ideas. It’s just about what’s the most fun one to go with!



WIZARDS OF ONCE: NEVER AND FOREVER (Hodder Children’s hardback, £12.99) is published on 17 September.



CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY FIRST NEWS



First News has joined up with Sky TV's FYI show and the BFI's Young Audience Content Fund to make a series of videos for you to watch at home or at school, called I Don't Get It. The plan is to explain stuff that can be complicated or difficult to understand. This week, FYI presenter Xavier kicks off with:

DO CHILDREN HAVE RIGHTS?

YOU BET WE DO!



MORE than 30 years ago, world leaders signed up to a set of promises, giving children basic rights. But has the agreement made any difference to the lives of children around the world?

There are 2.3 billion kids of all kinds on Planet Earth when you think about it: there are children with disabilities, with different faiths, different cultures, and children born into wealth, poverty and even war. And, back in 1989, something incredible happened, when nearly every country in the world signed up to a set of promises.

World leaders promised they would give us all a fair start in life by: keeping us safe, giving us access to healthcare and education, and helping us grow up in a world where everyone respected our beliefs, cultures and needs – a world free from discrimination. All in all, there were 54 things that world leaders agreed, and they were written down in a historic treaty, or agreement, called the United Nations Convention On The Rights Of The Child.



And it's a particular problem for girls. At the age of 15, Malala Yousafzai from Pakistan was shot by a group called the Taliban, just because she had been campaigning for her right to an education, and the Taliban didn't agree that girls should go to school. Luckily, she made a full recovery and went on to win a place at Oxford University and the Nobel Peace Prize.

In addition, one out of every five girls are married before their 18th birthday – that's 12 million girls a year. And, very often, they have no say in whether it's what they want. In some countries, girls as young as nine have been forced into marriage. Also, an estimated quarter of a million children have been recruited as soldiers to fight in conflicts.

There's still just one country that hasn't made the convention one of their laws – the USA. Although the USA helped create the convention, there are still some people in the country who don't want it to become law. They say it's not needed, and parents should be allowed to decide for themselves how their children are brought up.

Now, 30 years on from world leaders agreeing to protect children's rights, we need to continue making sure they stick to their promises. When we see adults failing kids, we've got to make a stand and tell them. As Greta Thunberg says: "We will not let you get away with this. Right here, right now is where we draw the line. The world is waking up and change is coming, whether you like it or not." Go, Greta!

Us children have rights – and that's official.

WHAT HAS THE CONVENTION ACHIEVED?

The convention has inspired many countries to change their laws to improve the lives of children. For example, 12.5 million children didn't live past the age of five, mainly because of poor healthcare. But the most recent figures show that the number has been cut to 5.3 million, which means children are living longer. And, although it's still a really big problem, the number of children not getting enough healthy food has nearly halved.

Does that mean everything is all right now?

No! Not enough people know about children's rights, and there is still a lot that needs to be improved. One in four children still have very limited access to clean water, and one in five still don't go to school – that's 262 million kids not getting a proper education.

"We will not let you get away with this!"

– Greta Thunberg



Kids – you can watch the I Don't Get It video on children's rights at first.news/IDGI

Teachers – you can watch the film in the classroom using our tie-in award-winning educational resources at schools.firstnews.co.uk

Next week: I Don't Get It – Conservation

22. GAME ZONE

MARIO TURNS 35!



NINTENDO'S main man Mario made his first appearance 35 years ago, and to celebrate, the company is launching lots of games featuring the world's most famous plumber.

In a special Nintendo Direct presentation, the company revealed that for a limited time, it'll be selling a collection of classic 3D Mario games.

The collection, called *Super Mario 3D All-Stars*, will include *Super Mario 64*, *Super Mario Sunshine* and *Super Mario Galaxy*.

The classic titles are all loved by gamers, and have received upgrades that will make them look and play even better.

You won't have to wait long for this one, as it releases on 18 September! Make sure you look out for our review in next week's issue.

Alongside the 3D *All-Stars*, lots of the 2D Mario games will be popping up in the *Super Mario All-Stars* pack, which is now available for free for Nintendo Switch Online users.

There's also going to be a Switch version of the Wii U game *Super Mario 3D World*, which will come with a bunch of extra mysterious-looking levels called *Bowser's Fury*, which we'll learn more about closer to its release in February.

If that's not enough Mario for you, here's more –

a multiplayer, battle royale version of the original *Super Mario Bros* is also on the way!

Called *Super Mario Bros 35*, 35 players will run through a *Super Mario Bros* course at the same time, all competing to be the last Mario left.

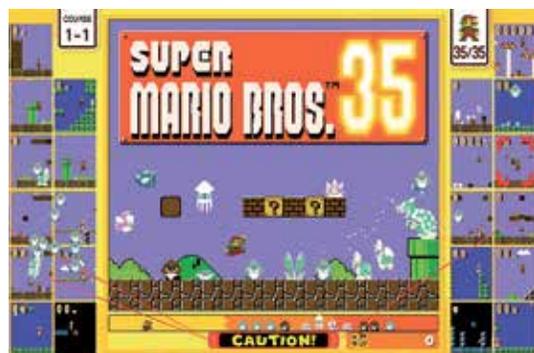
Enemies stomped on can be sent to another player's game, and there's also an item roulette that can give out temporary power-ups.

Both *Super Mario Bros 35* and *Super Mario 3D All-Stars* will only be available until 31 March next year, however.

This means that physical copies of *Super Mario 3D All-Stars* are going to be rare, since they're only on sale for a limited time.

Because of this, people who have managed to grab themselves a pre-order of the game ahead of its release next week are selling their game online for up to three times as much as usual.

So, Switch gamers, are you feeling excited about all these Mario games on the way? Or is it more like Mario-verload!?



MINECRAFT LIVE!



MINECRAFT'S annual festival is getting a new name, and will be held online this year.

Minecon is now officially called Minecraft Live, and on 3 October it'll be broadcast live online.

The event was announced with a flashy CGI trailer, and the Minecraft team has promised that it will be hosted by top content creators, feature juicy Minecraft news, and apparently include "lots and lots of chickens"!

There will also be a community vote on the next creature to be added to the game. We're hoping for a giant, walking newspaper here at First News!

TURN YOUR HOME INTO A MARIO KART TRACK!

ALONG with all the Mario madness mentioned above, Nintendo is launching an augmented reality remote-control Mario Kart set.

The £100 Mario Kart Live: Home Circuit set will come with either a Mario or Luigi kart, which has a camera on the top of the vehicle. This vehicle is controlled via the Switch console, and you'll be able to see through the camera on the Switch's screen.

Using cardboard checkpoints that are bundled in the pack, you'll be able to set up your own Mario tracks in your house, and take on virtual opponents as you drift around real-life bits of furniture.

There will be AR items that you can fling at other racers, and up to four racers can take on each other at once – although with each kart costing £100, it'll get pretty pricey!

Once you've got the kart, the game software itself will be a free download from the Nintendo eShop.



23. CRAZY BUT TRUE

JET PACK JOYRIDE?

TWO pilots on two separate flights have reported seeing someone with a jet pack flying 3,000ft (914m) in the air.

The crazy sight was witnessed over the skies of Los Angeles in the USA, and the media managed to get a voice recording of the incident.

In the recording, a stunned pilot can be heard telling air traffic control on the ground: "We just passed a guy in a jet pack. Off the left side, maybe 300 yards or so, about our altitude [height]." Someone else can be heard saying: "Only in LA!"

The Federal Aviation Administration confirmed the sighting and said it had contacted local police. The FBI is also investigating. We'll keep you informed about whether the mysterious flyer is found...



KITCHEN CHAOS

A MAN in Australia got the shock of his life when two huge snakes fell through the ceiling and landed in his kitchen.

The two carpet pythons measured 8ft 2in (2.5m) and 9ft 6in (2.9m) long. Luckily, all it took was a quick call to Brisbane North Snake Catchers & Relocation to sort out the slithery serpents.

Steven Brown, who works at the company, believes the pythons were probably fighting over a female when they came crashing into the home. "These snakes were two of the fattest snakes I've seen," he said. The healthy snakes were soon captured and safely returned to the wild.



brisbanenorthsnakecatchersandrelocation / Facebook



MASSIVE MOHAWK

JOSEPH Grisamore from Minnesota has taken the Guinness World Record for the tallest mohawk.

As you can see from the pictures, a mohawk is a hairstyle where the sides of the head are shaved and the remaining hair points up. It is often associated with punk rock music.



Jewel_97/Twitter

The long-haired wonder tried and failed to beat the record back in 2007. However, he finally achieved his goal with a recorded mohawk height of 42.5in (108.2cm).

It can take a full hour plus half a can of hairspray to make the huge hair stand up straight.

Joseph said: "I feel like I'm the mohawk king of the world. I want to keep that title forever."



MathInTheNews/Twitter

CRAZY CHALLENGE

AN 11-year-old has solved 30 Rubik's Cubes... with one hand... in less than an hour... while hula-hooping!

The crazy challenge was completed by Sankavi Rathan from Ontario in Canada. As if doing any one of these things wasn't hard enough on its own, she managed to do all of it together, solving each complex cube in under two minutes.

While Sankavi has been hula-hooping since she was little, she says she "only started learning Rubik's Cubes earlier this year".

Sankavi decided to combine hula-hooping with cube-solving for fun. She said: "It was a bit challenging at first but I got better at it, and in August I got the Guinness World Record."



CBC Toronto/Facebook

SUBMITTED BY ELIZABETH, AGE 13

WHAT'S A CAT'S FAVOURITE DESSERT?
CHOCOLATE MOUSE!

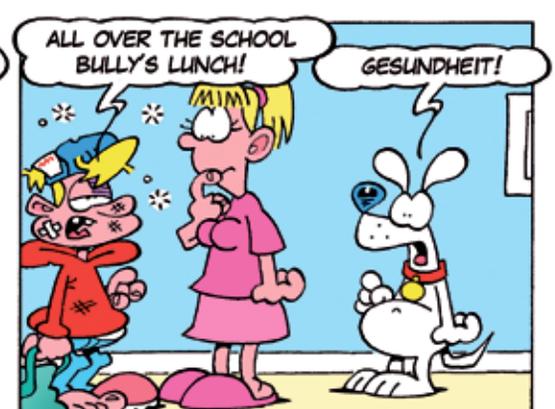
WHY DO CATS ALWAYS GET THEIR WAY?
THEY ARE VERY PURR-SUASIVE!



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Paper Boy!

Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer



24. SHOPS

WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?

DOGS

DOG GROOMING KIT JOHN LEWIS £20.00

This kit is perfect for all those mucky pups, and comes complete with everything you need to help keep your pooch nice and clean. There's a brush to remove caked-in mud and a lovely scented shampoo, plus a handy drying towel glove that means you can stroke them as you dry them!



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Keep your dog entertained and exercised without the effort with this ball launcher. This clever launcher allows you to load two tennis balls to fire off. Simply squeeze the trigger and watch the launcher fire the balls up to 30m away, as your pooch races off to find them. The launcher comes with two tennis balls and a handy carry strap.



*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.

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WIN! A BOTLEY® 2.0 CODING ROBOT BUNDLE

IT'S National Coding Week (14-20 September) and we've partnered with those clever people over at Learning Resources, who specialise in educational toys and games.

To celebrate, we've got a brilliant bundle of coding toys worth over £200 to give away, including the new Botley® 2.0 The Coding Robot Activity Set.

Meet Botley 2.0, the latest screen-free coding robot, designed to teach you the FUNdamentals of coding.

Programme a sequence of up to 150 steps in six directions, watch it put on a light show, set it challenges, unlock cool features and even programme it to make noises like a police car, ghost or dinosaur!

Two lucky winners will each win a coding bundle that includes a Botley 2.0 Activity Set, Artie 3000 the coding drawing robot, Coding Critters Bopper, Hip & Hop and Coding Critters Pair-A-Pets Fluffy & Buffy.

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

National Coding Week falls in which month?

a) August b) September c) October



Learning Resources have a brilliant selection of coding toys as well as some fun screen-free coding activities, just head over to their website. For more information, visit www.learningresources.co.uk

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY BOTLEY

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see below. The closing date is 24 September 2020.

WRITE A STORY WITH CRESSIDA COWELL

A FEW months ago, Cressida Cowell, author and Waterstones Children's Laureate, started a new story in *First News*. Then she handed things over to YOU to write what happened next. Every week the story has continued, written by our readers, 250 words at a time. Read every part of the gripping tale at:

FIRST.NEWS/CRESSIDACOWELL



SO FAR IN THE STORY...

Long ago, a war between spellcasters and evil creatures took place. For years, many of these evil creatures have been locked away... until shapeshifter Typhon helped his father, the Lord of the Beasts, to find the door to an ancient maze that could return these monsters to the world. The task of stopping these evil beings has fallen on young spellcaster Ferocity and her smoke-producing pet boggart, Guggalugs, who, after surviving a surprise attack from the shapeshifter, have tracked down the Lord of the Beasts with their spellcasting allies: the mysterious Trick, his sister Aida and his mum Ariella. The three had been fooled into believing that the shapeshifter was actually Trick's grandfather, and very nearly lost their lives to him. Now they face Typhon, the Lord of the Beasts and an army of his subjects in a race to the centre of the strange, magical maze – and Ferocity has just realised something shocking...

PART 24: BY BEN PRIEST

'My dear,' her father began, 'look how far you've come.' He reached out to touch her face but she batted his hand away, and took a step back.

'No,' she muttered. 'No. It can't... you can't...'

Trick, Aida and Ariella all stood back awkwardly, uncomfortable, unsure what to do; none of their fathers were the most evil being in existence. Trick took a step forward, resting his hand on Ferocity's shoulder.

'You okay?'

Ferocity nodded, but didn't take her eyes off the Lord of Beasts – her father, she reminded herself – and it was a good thing she didn't, otherwise she might have missed what happened next.

There was a sudden shift in her father's face, and his features contorted, then he spoke. 'Ferocity? What are you doing here?'

'Father?' Against her better judgment, Ferocity took a step forward.

'My dear, what are you doing here?'

'What happened to you?' she asked.

'It was the Lord of the Beasts, he's taken over my body, not strong enough to sustain his own form. I'm just able to repress him, but I don't have much time,' he reached out and stroked her cheek. She let him.

'Tell me what happened to you,' her father said.

And she did.

Once she had finished, he sighed. 'You are an incredible girl, and your mother would be so proud, but you need to go.'

'Why?' asked Ferocity. But suddenly her father's face changed again, and his hand slid from her cheek to her neck, and before she knew what was happening, it closed around her throat.



PART 25: BY YOU!

IF you took the time to have a go at continuing the story, thank you!

We're still enjoying reading all of your amazing entries! If your story wasn't chosen this week, there's no reason you can't try again. We could choose you to be next week's star writer!

You can submit the next part of the story by email at newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk, popping **Story** into the subject line, or at first.news/cressidacowell.

We'll be deciding on the next part of the story every Monday, so make sure you send us your story by then!



WORDS FOR LIFE



WORDS for Life is moving!

Words for Life from the National Literacy Trust is getting a makeover! From mid-September, you'll be able to find new and well-loved activities to improve your reading and writing at home on the newly-updated Words for Life website!

Check out brilliant videos from your favourite authors, have a go at fun quizzes and find your next read with lots of handy, themed book lists!

Words for Life

National Literacy Trust

VISIT WORDSFORLIFE.ORG.UK TO FIND OUT MORE

YOUR READS!

MALORY TOWERS ENID BLYTON

reviewed by **Fatema Zahra Datoo**, aged eight

Darrell, a 12-year old girl, is going to boarding school for the first time.

On the train, she meets a friend called Alicia who loves playing tricks. There are many funny scenes, but my favourite is when Alicia sees a creepy spider on her desk. Mischievously, she calls the teacher, but before she can capture it, the spider crawls up the teacher's neck! The teacher panics and jumps like a kangaroo until it falls off. I was laughing out loud when I read this!

I give this book a five-star rating and recommend it to children aged 8+.



SURVIVORS DAVID LONG

reviewed by **James Lazarou**, aged ten

This book is full of incredible stories about people who survived when they shouldn't have. Some are quite gruesome and disgusting, but they all have a happy ending. I would recommend this book unless you get sick easily.

This book was the 2017 Blue Peter Book Awards winner. I would give this book a five-star rating because it gets you hanging on the edge of your seat. My favourite story was *The Survivor That No-one Believed*.

I won't tell you about it, so you'll have to read it to find out what happens!





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PIZZA MAKING

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

by Jacob and Isaac Astor

WE really missed going to our favourite pizza restaurant during the lockdown, so we decided to make our own pizza shop at home.

We named our restaurant after two of our favourite things, dragons and pizza, and as pizza sauce is red, we thought we would call it the Red Pizza Dragon. But that sounded a bit boring though, so we added “go” on the end to make it the Red Pizza Dragon Go Restaurant.

We made our own signs, logo and decoration for the restaurant. We decorated the table and made sure everything was perfect for our grand opening.

We made our own menus with a choice of drinks, pizza

toppings, starters and side dishes. We took the food orders from our family and then made the food. We used wraps as the pizza base, topped them with tomato sauce, grated cheese and the toppings. The side dishes were carrot sticks, cucumber sticks and cherry tomatoes with hummus.

Everyone loved the food we cooked and gobbled it up. Dad asked if he could come to the Red Pizza Dragon Go Restaurant every day! This has inspired us to open our own restaurant when we are older.



Jacob and Isaac hard at work

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

Write in to let us know what you've been up to lately! Have you been getting creative? Been for a great day out? How has it made you feel now that lockdown is over? Why not share your experiences with First News readers?

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

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

FAMILY SWIMMING

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

by Anushka Sharma

DURING August, our family went to the Lake District in Cumbria.

The Lake District was very windy, but the sun was still shining and everyone enjoyed the beautiful scenery. After playing with our aunt and uncle's dogs, Hildy and Albert, my sister Anjali went down to the river for a swim. After about ten minutes in the cold water, she came out. I wasn't confident about swimming in the water, but after a while, I thought about it and decided to try. At first it was very cold but then I got used to that feeling and enjoyed myself.

My uncle told me all about this lake, Coniston Water, while swimming, and how it was the setting for *Swallows and Amazons*, a fantastic book. Once we went a little bit further, we could see the mounds of green and the dozens of trees surrounding the picturesque landscape. The view was incredible and I felt extremely proud of

myself, as not many people would have done this. After ten minutes in the water, my uncle and I came out, and my family took photos of us while wrapping us in towels.

In the future, I hope to challenge myself more like I did that day.



Swimming in the lake

ORANGUTAN DIET

by Ethan

EVER since I was little I've had a passion for helping wildlife.

I recently learnt that orangutans are endangered because of deforestation and the destruction of their habitats.

Deforestation is due to farming for producing palm oil and the cutting down of trees to make way for humans.

I came up with the idea of doing a fundraising activity called 'Eat Like An Orangutan', which involves eating nothing but food orangutans would eat for four days.

The food on the menu includes fruit such as mangoes, melons, bananas and pineapples. But I can also eat honey, and some nuts to give me protein, as this is what orangutans eat as well.

I did find out that orangutans eat bark and insects, but I don't think I'll be doing that!

I think it's important that we respect and try to save the lives of such beautiful and intelligent creatures – it is their planet too.

JUNIOR JOURNALIST



Ethan

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SPORT IN NUMBERS

3 US Open men's singles titles have been won by world number one Novak Djokovic. However, the Serbian star won't be adding the 2020 title to his impressive tally. He was disqualified from the tournament after striking a ball in anger and accidentally hitting a line judge. Novak apologised, but still forfeited his match to Pablo Carreño Busta.



0 is the number of Formula 1 victories French racing driver Pierre Gasly had achieved before the 2020 Italian Grand Prix. Over 53 incident-packed laps featuring crashes and malfunctions, time penalties and even the race being suspended, the AlphaTauri driver kept his nerve and took the chequered flag.



4 home nations – England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales – have joined forces to create the #TogetherWeAreNetball campaign. The sport had seen a huge increase in the number of players and supporters before the COVID-19 pandemic halted progress. The campaign hopes to see players safely competing once again.



RACING INTO THE RECORD BOOKS



Mo Farah became the 12th athlete to hold the record for the men's one-hour race



EVEN without a stadium of spectators to cheer competitors on, records have been tumbling in the world of athletics – and four-time Olympic champion Mo Farah enjoyed success in his first return to the track since 2017.

The men's one-hour race sees athletes try to run as far as possible over 60 minutes. The previous record of 21,285m was set by Ethiopian legend Haile Gebrselassie. At the Diamond League meeting in Brussels, 37-year-old Sir Mo ran 21,330m, setting his first outdoor world record. "I was very excited to be back on the track," he said afterwards. Mo had been concentrating so hard on the race that he failed to hear the finishing gun and continued to run for an extra 20 seconds!

The women's one-hour race was also won in record time by Dutch runner Sifan Hassan. The only athlete to have won both

the 1,500m and the 10,000m at a single World Championships or Olympic Games, Sifan was once again in impressive form in Brussels. She ran 18,930m in one hour, beating Dire Tune's record set in 2008 by 413m; that's more than one whole lap!

The records kept tumbling in Prague, where Kenya's Peres Jepchirchir ran the women-only half marathon in just 1:05:34, taking 37 seconds off the previous best. She broke away from the other runners after 20 minutes and stayed in front, even though she slowed down near the finish. "I was thinking to run maybe 1:04:50, but I'm so happy," said Peres.

HIT FOR SIX!

THE 2020-21 Women's Super League has kicked off with a mix of thrilling action and glorious goals.

Marking themselves out as two of the teams to watch this season were Everton, who scored four away goals at Bristol City, and Arsenal, who racked up an emphatic 6-1 victory against Reading. Vivianne Miedema was once again on the score-sheet for the Gunners with a couple of goals, while Jill Roord notched up a hat-trick.

The men's leagues begin with Middlesbrough travelling to Watford for the first Championship match today (11 September). The Premier League gets underway tomorrow, with Leeds United, back for the first time since 2004, facing an opening day trip to 2019-20 champions Liverpool. And there will be plenty of new faces, including midfielder Donny van de Beek at Manchester United. Chelsea have been splashing the cash too, but can 21-year-old Kai Havertz live up to his £89 million fee?



Vivianne Miedema rounds Reading's Grace Moloney to score her second goal