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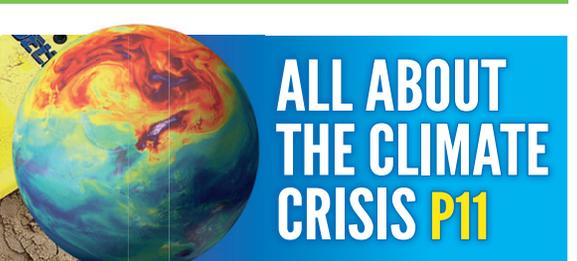
**PEYTON
ELIZABETH
LEE P14**



**IS AMERICA
GREAT AGAIN?
P16-17**



**DOG WHO
WAS SCARED
OF DOGS! P3**



**ALL ABOUT
THE CLIMATE
CRISIS P11**

First News

Issue 745 £2.25 25 September – 1 October 2020

**THE UK'S ONLY
NEWSPAPER
FOR CHILDREN**

STRIKE FOR THE PLANET



Climate activist
Greta Thunberg

TODAY (Friday 25 September), thousands of young people all around the world will protest again to demand urgent action is taken to tackle the climate crisis.

The schools strike movement Fridays For Future, which was started by Greta Thunberg, is calling on people to take action for the environment by heading out into the streets, where COVID-19 restrictions allow, or taking part online.

“Extreme weather driven by the climate crisis is accelerating around the world, and yet we still don’t treat it as a crisis,” says Greta. “We are in a global emergency that affects all of us. However, not everyone is suffering its consequences equally and the media ignore the devastation in global south countries being

by Shelley Moulden

disproportionately hit. On Friday 25 September, Fridays For Future and the youth climate movement will strike again around the world, in a safe way and following COVID-19 guidelines, to demand those in power treat this like the urgent crisis it is.”

Another young campaigner, Mitzi Jonelle Tan from the Philippines, says that “the Most Affected People and Areas (MAPA) are those that experience the worst impacts of the climate crisis. Despite being the

ones to bear the brunt, we are continuously ignored, and under-represented in places of power. There is a pressing need for our voices to be heard all over the world, especially in the global climate movement.”

For more information, see fridaysforfuture.org.

Inside this issue, you can read our I Don’t Get It report on the climate crisis on **p11**.

Then, on **p7**, you can find out how the carbon emissions of the world’s richest 1% are greater than the poorest 50%, and hear some good news about sales of electric cars.

Did you take part in the strike today? Write to newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk to let us know what you did!

2. QUICK NEWS

JOG FOR JUNIORS



The annual RBC Race for the Kids event will be going virtual this year. The fun run will be raising funds for Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH). The race will take place over the weekend of 17 and 18 October but you can sign up for free now and choose how far you want to run. Participants can choose to run in their local park or even in their garden! Visit rbcraceforthekids.com for more information.

LINCOLN'S LOCK

A telegram and lock of hair from the 16th US president, Abraham Lincoln, has sold for more than £60,000. The telegram was delivered shortly before he was shot dead during a theatre trip in 1865.

UK CHILD HUNGER

As the school year begins across the UK, a new study has revealed that 28% of teachers say the number of kids coming to school hungry has gone up. Meanwhile, more than two-thirds said they expect things to get worse once the Government furlough scheme ends in October. Children's charity Magic Breakfast has partnered with Heinz to raise awareness of the issue. Heinz has launched a film called *Silence the Rumble*, available to watch on YouTube. Meanwhile, an installation of 1,800 empty dinner plates were arranged in London, representing the 1.8 million children at risk of starting their day hungry.



QUICK NEWS

TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS

CHIPS FROM A CHIP



A robot waiter is serving customers at a restaurant in Seoul, South Korea. The trolley-like robot, known as Aglio Kim, can carry four trays of food to four different tables. The company behind the robot says it will lessen the workload for staff, as well as minimising human contact during the coronavirus pandemic.

VISIT FROM BATMAN



Saturday 19 September was Batman Day and two lucky kids were treated to a visit from the Caped Crusader. There's a village in Nottinghamshire called Gotham, the same name as Batman's home city, so what better place for Batman to visit two of his biggest fans and give them some cool new Batman toys too?

NO NEW COINS

The Royal Mint has said it probably won't make any new 2p or £2 coins over the next ten years, because it already has so many in storage. Demand for all coins has dropped as digital payments have become increasingly popular, although there remains demand for banknotes.

FIZZLED OUT

London Mayor Sadiq Khan has cancelled the city's annual New Year's Eve fireworks, saying the impact of COVID-19 would make it impossible to run the event safely. Mr Khan has promised an alternative celebration that people can "enjoy in the comfort and safety of their living rooms on TV", but there will be no display at all in the city, to stop people gathering to watch. Up to 100,000 tickets were sold for last year's festivities, with many more people lining the city's streets.



INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mexico has celebrated 210 years since gaining independence from Spain in 1810. However, due to COVID-19, there were no big public ceremonies for the first time in 153 years. President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said: "It is a ceremony that you can watch on television. We can all participate from our homes."

SLEEPY SPEEDERS

A Canadian man has been charged with speeding after falling asleep at the wheel at speeds of over 90mph. The driver and his passenger were asleep in the Tesla electric car. "The vehicle was operating on the autopilot system, which is really just an advanced driver safety system," said stunned police officer Sgt Darrin Turnbull. "You still need to be driving the vehicle!"

PUSH FOR PE

Olympic gymnast Beth Tweddle has called on schools to ensure PE doesn't "suffer". The three-time world champion has launched a free National Curriculum programme of physical literacy, as a new survey reveals that 96% of parents say their primary school children have done less exercise since lockdown. Beth said: "Physical education is good for health but also teaches other things such as teamwork, resilience and perseverance. They are life skills which you can use throughout your life, not just in sport."



MOTORWAY FALL

A woman has tumbled out of a moving car onto a motorway while trying to film a Snapchat video. Surrey police said the car's passenger fell into a "live lane" of traffic on the M25 in the early hours of the morning. She was treated by paramedics at the scene but wasn't seriously hurt.

KEEP TIKTOK-ING?

American TikTok users could soon be able to breathe a sigh of relief after President Trump said he might not go ahead with a plan to ban the app over security concerns. The president indicated he was happy with a deal for TikTok's Chinese owners to go into partnership with a US company.

SHARE YOUR STORY

As World Mental Health Day (Saturday 10 October) approaches, the Beyond Words writing project is asking you to express your feelings about this unusual year. The National Literacy Trust, Bupa Foundation, Cheltenham Festival and Mind want you to share your stories. You could write a story, poem or even express yourself in the form of art or music. Just make sure you share your story at bupafoundation.org/beyond-words by Sunday 18 October.





COVID CLAMPDOWN



THERE are new restrictions in place across many parts of the UK this week, as the four governments try to get to grips with rising numbers of coronavirus cases.

Boris Johnson and Nicola Sturgeon announced the new rules for England and Scotland this week

Although we won't be going into another full lockdown, PM Boris Johnson has asked all adults to work from home again if possible. He also announced that pubs and restaurants would have to close by 10pm, and First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said the same would happen in Scotland. However, those in the industry say that pubs and restaurants haven't been responsible for many outbreaks of the virus, and that the restrictions will just mean lots of businesses losing more money than they can afford.

Various parts of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are already under local lockdowns. In Wales, people have been told not to meet indoors, and staying overnight at someone else's home has been

banned. People are only allowed to leave the locked-down counties if they have a "reasonable excuse".

Scotland has also banned different households from meeting indoors and asked people not to travel abroad during half-term unless it was "essential". Scotland's restrictions will last at least three weeks.

One bit of good news came from Sir Patrick Vallance, England's Chief Scientific Adviser, who said it was possible that a vaccine could be available by the end of the year in small amounts for certain groups of people who are most at risk. However, Sir Patrick also warned that the UK is at a critical point in the pandemic, and that people have to stick to the rules so that the virus has less chance to spread.



GOOD NEWS FOR FURRY CRITTERS

POLAND, the world's third-largest fur producer, is on its way to banning fur farms, which would save the lives of more than eight million animals every year.

Sejm, the lower house of the Polish parliament (like the House of Commons), voted in favour of a fur-farming ban. It will save the lives of mink, foxes and raccoon dogs who are raised and killed for their fur. However, rabbits are not included in the ban. The decision must now be voted on by the Senate (the upper house) and signed by the president.

The UK, Ireland, Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg, Norway and Slovakia have all banned fur farming.

BARBADOS TO DITCH THE QUEEN



BARBADOS has announced that it will remove the Queen as its head of state and become a republic (a country with no king or queen) next year.

The Caribbean island's prime minister, Mia Mottley, said: "The time has come to fully leave our colonial past behind." She said that Barbadians want a Barbadian head of state and that they wanted to take the next step and become a republic by the time the country celebrates its 55th anniversary of independence from Britain in November 2021.

Buckingham Palace officials responded by saying that the plan to remove the Queen is a "matter for the government and people of the country."

DOG WINS BLUE PETER BADGE!



MEET six-year-old Staffordshire bull terrier Bonzai, who has been awarded a Blue Peter badge for helping children overcome their fear of dogs.

It was Bonzai's own fear of other dogs that prompted his owners to use him to help people overcome their phobias of our four-legged-friends.

When Bonzai was rehomed from the RSPCA's Block Fen Animal Centre, Emma, her husband Vitali and their children Jake and Maisie were told they needed to follow a specific training plan with their new pet, as he could sometimes be scared of dogs. After helping

Bonzai to overcome his fears, Emma saw a post on social media from a local cynophobia (fear of dogs) group who were looking for volunteers. After they completed their training, Emma and Bonzai started volunteering. At one session they met Blue Peter's Mwaka Mudenda, and Bonzai was so good at helping the presenter conquer her fears that he was awarded his very own Blue Peter badge. What a good dog!

4. NEWS IN PICTURES

ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA



ENGLISH springer spaniel Floki taking part in COVID-19 detection training. Researchers at the University of Adelaide are working to train sniffer dogs to spot COVID-19 in people by picking a COVID-19-positive sweat sample. Early results also show dogs trained in this way are able to identify infected individuals before they develop symptoms, or in those who are otherwise asymptomatic (not showing any symptoms).

PERTH, AUSTRALIA



PERTH Zoo hosted a birthday celebration for its Galapagos tortoise Cerro's 54th birthday, with a specially-made birthday cake filled with his favourite foods. Galapagos tortoises are the largest tortoises in the world, and the oldest Galapagos tortoise on record was said to be 175 years old when she died.

SOUTHSEA, UK



THE Earl and Countess of Wessex, along with their children, take part in the Great British Beach Clean.



CRIMEA, UKRAINE

A HOT-AIR balloon in flight during the Crimean Sky Balloon Festival, held near the White Rock to mark the 75th anniversary of victory in World War Two.

GRENOBLE, FRANCE



CYCLISTS hang under the Grenoble-Bastille cable cars during the 107th edition of the Tour de France cycling race.



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5. BIG NEWS



Al-Bara Mansour

2021 WARNINGS

THE UN's World Food Programme (WFP) has warned that 2021 will be a "make-or-break" year for those most vulnerable to hunger.

Five months ago, the chief of the World Food Programme, David Beasley, said that conflict, climate change and COVID-19 could lead to 270 million people going hungry.

Fortunately, this led to a surge in donations and support from countries and donors around the world. In the last six months, the WFP has been able to reach and help 85 million people.

However, as the pandemic continues and economies continue to struggle, richer countries are less likely to be able to support poorer ones.

More than 30 million people rely on the WFP to survive and 36 countries are at risk of famine, while places weakened by conflict are close to being overwhelmed.

Beasley called on the richest in society to step up and do their part to help these people.

"We need \$4.9 billion to feed, for one year, all 30 million people who will die without WFP's assistance. Worldwide, there are more than

2,000 billionaires with a net [overall] worth of \$8 trillion. In my home country, the USA, there are 12 individuals alone worth \$1 trillion."

"It's time for those who have the most to step up, to help those who have the least in this extraordinary time in world history. To show you truly love your neighbour. The world needs you right now and it's time to do the right thing."

He also warned that the pandemic was having a knock-on effect on people that wasn't being recognised, for example in Africa, where vaccination clinics have been closed to avoid the spread of infection.

The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine calculated that, for every COVID-19 death prevented, as many as 80 children may die due to a lack of routine immunisations.

The WFP chief said that the "last thing we need is to have the cure for COVID-19 be worse than the disease itself."

TEST TROUBLES MEAN MANY MISS OUT ON SCHOOL



Getty

SCHOOLS are finally open again, but according to the National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) more than four in five schools have children off school and self-isolating because they can't get a COVID-19 test.

Baroness Harding, the head of NHS Test and Trace, told MPs that schools reopening has meant the demand for tests from young people in England under the age of 17 has doubled. At the moment, if you have any coronavirus symptom, such as a high temperature, new, continuous cough or loss or change of sense of taste or smell, then you have to stay off school and self-isolate until you get a negative COVID-19 test.

But with so many people trying to get tests, lots of young people are unable to get one, so are having to miss school yet again. According to *The Guardian* newspaper, the number of pupils who are home-schooling has doubled in a week because of the test shortages.

Of the 736 schools NAHT collected data from, 82% revealed that they have children who are not attending because they cannot access a test to rule out coronavirus, and 86% have children off because they are waiting for their test results.

Have you had to stay off school while waiting for a coronavirus test or result? Let us know about your experiences by writing to newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk.

EDITOR'S COMMENT



THOUSANDS of kids around the world are set to remind people today that the climate crisis hasn't gone away.

In the early days of the pandemic, there were lots of hopeful stories about how skies had cleared, but in most places traffic and pollution has crept back up to normal levels.

We can all do our bit to help, but governments need to do lots more. Protests like today's keep up the pressure on politicians so they don't forget that they hold your future in their hands – and that soon you'll be old enough to vote.

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GOOD WEEK FOR...

DAVID TENNANT

ACTOR David Tennant, who played the Tenth Doctor in hit BBC series *Doctor Who*, has been named 'the best Doctor of all time' in a poll of 50,000 *Doctor Who* fans. The Thirteenth Doctor, Jodie Whittaker, came second, with just 95 votes less than David.



Getty

BAD WEEK FOR...

THIS FOOTBALL TEAM

GERMAN amateur side SG Ripdorf/Molzen II lost 37-0 in a recent match against SV Holdenstedt II. The team decided their players needed to socially distance, following the news that an opponent in their last game had caught the coronavirus.



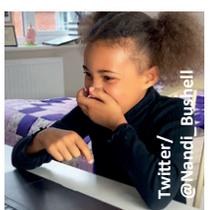
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NANDI VS DAVE GROHL!

TEN-YEAR-OLD British/Zulu musician Nandi Bushell has had a song written about her by Foo Fighters front man Dave Grohl, after she bested him in a drum battle.

Nandi Bushell first challenged the former Nirvana drummer to a drum battle, after she played the Foo Fighters hit *Everlong* on drums. Two weeks later, Grohl responded with a new song challenge for Nandi. After she aced it, multi-instrumentalist Dave Grohl recorded a "special" superhero theme song for Nandi, playing all the instruments!

Nandi says she's now going to recreate the song herself – playing all the instruments like Dave Grohl did. Rock on!



Twitter/ @Nandi_Bushell

6. HOME NEWS

NORTHERN IRELAND

● Bridge too far?

The UK Government has confirmed that it is still “excited” by the idea of a bridge between Northern Ireland and Scotland, despite the huge cost of the COVID-19 pandemic hitting public finances. Prime Minister Boris Johnson said last year that he was keen on a link between Larne and Portpatrick, but critics blasted the idea of a 20-mile bridge or tunnel. “This is a hugely exciting idea which could boost the economies of both Scotland and Northern Ireland,” a UK Government spokesperson told the *Daily Record*.



iStock

SWANSEA

● Splashes of colour

A group of artists have been making their city a little brighter with a series of colourful murals. Fresh Creative have spent the last six months livening up boring street furniture with exciting new artwork, including NHS-themed pieces to celebrate key workers. Artist James Burgess, who is leading the project, says Virgin, BT and the council have given their permission for his crew to create their paintings.



Fresh Creative Co.

HAMPSHIRE

● What do beans mean?

Parents in Swanwick have been left baffled after vandals covered a play park in baked beans! The saucy savouries were smeared all over the equipment at Chapel Street Park, with swings and roundabouts left dripping with yucky bean juice. No permanent damage was done, while a Facebook post revealing the sticky situation has been shared more than 11,000 times.



SCOTLAND

● Aggressive invaders

Wildlife experts are worried that some of Scotland’s wildlife could be squeezed out by aggressive invaders. More than 180 species of plants or animals are thought to be at risk from non-native species damaging habitats and killing other wildlife. Large numbers of migrating Pacific pink salmon have been spotted in the Highlands, while killer shrimp are thought to be the next big threat.



Getty

YORKSHIRE

● Alpaca on the pitch

A runaway alpaca staged his own pitch invasion at a football match when he escaped from a nearby farm. Carlton Athletic were facing Ilkley Town when Oscar raced on as an unexpected substitute and joined in the game. After unsuccessful attempts to lure the long-necked beast off the pitch with food, the farmer eventually managed to herd his unruly animal back home. Ilkley went on to win 2-0.



Ilkley Town AFC

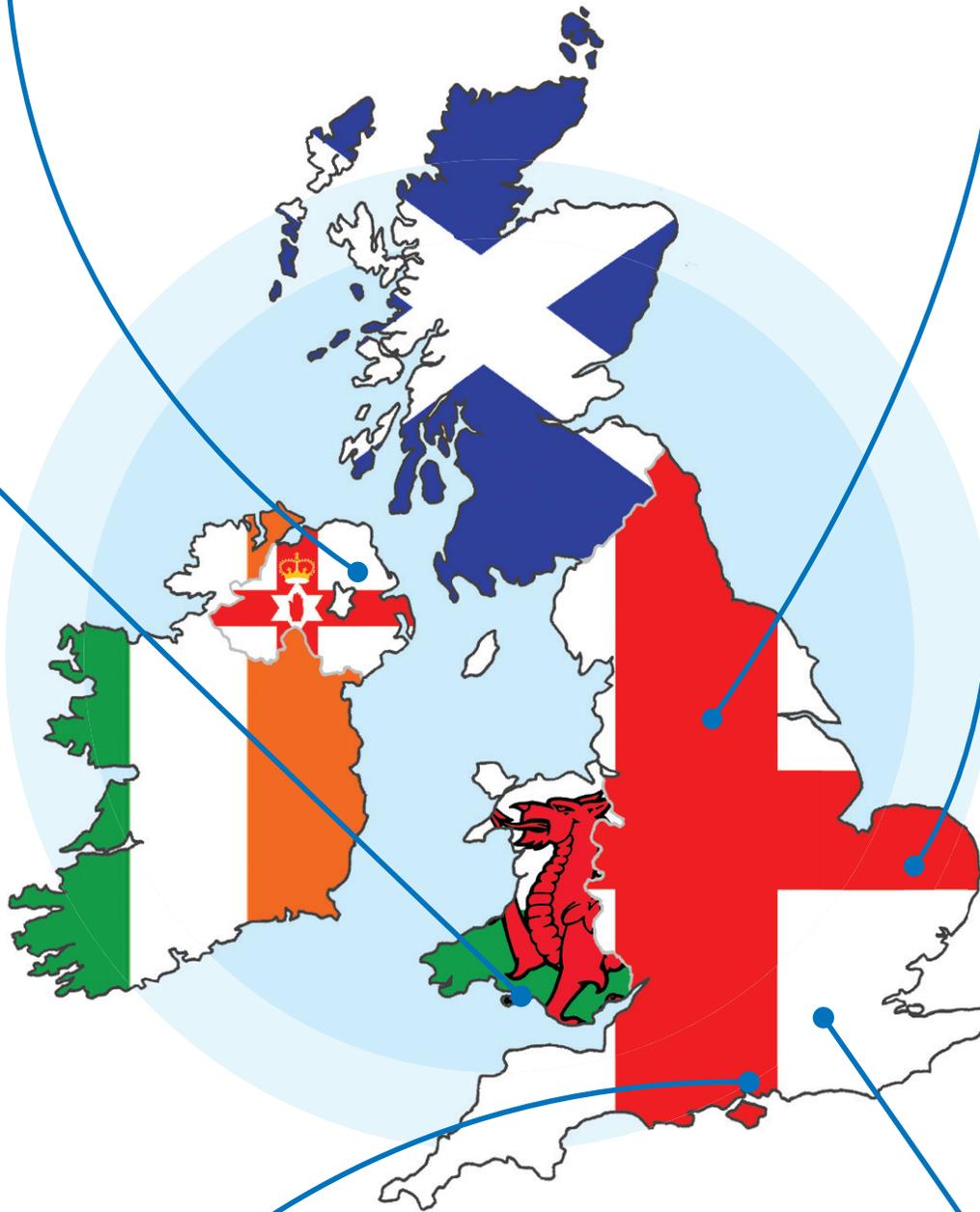
NORFOLK



Norfolk County Council

● Treasure trail

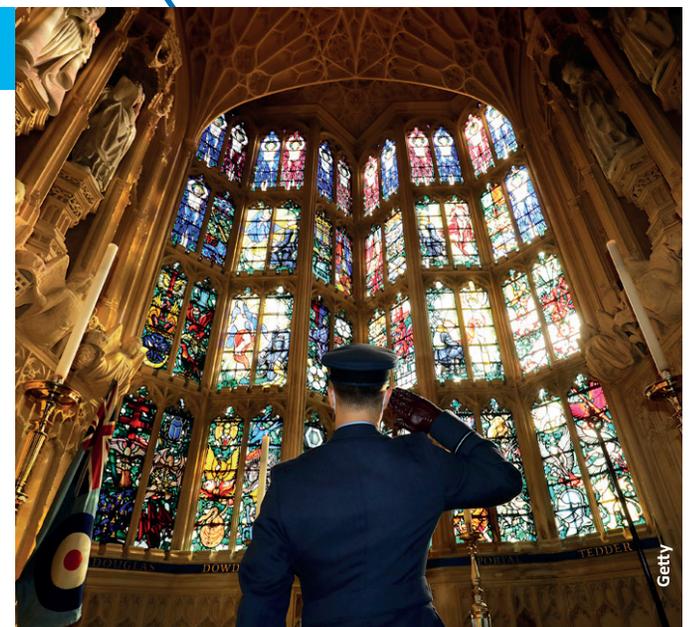
A Scottish medieval coin found with a metal detector in Long Stratton has been declared treasure. The silver penny, bearing the head of Alexander III of Scotland, was made between 1280-1286, and is thought to have been turned into a religious pendant or brooch before finding its way to Norfolk at some point. Under the Treasure Act 1996, all finds are to be reported to the local coroner. If they decide an item is treasure, the finder must offer to sell it to a museum.



LONDON

● Battle remembered

A memorial was held at Westminster Abbey to mark the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. PM Boris Johnson spoke at the service, the first major event to be held at the Abbey since the lockdown. In a normal year, more than 2,000 people would attend to remember those who took part in the first battle fought entirely in the air during World War 2, but this time only around 100 were allowed. A flypast of three Spitfires and a Hurricane brought the occasion to a climax.



Getty

7. BIG NEWS

ALL RIVERS IN ENGLAND POLLUTED



The River Tyne in Newcastle

NEW data from the UK's Environment Agency has shown that every single river, stream and lake in England is polluted.

Only 16% were given a "good" ecological standard, but no body of water in England currently has a "good" chemical status.

Environment minister Rebecca Pow described the report as "not comfortable reading". She said: "These results show we have a long way to go, with a new way of testing for chemicals more accurately reflecting what is in our water environment."

There has been no improvement in the state of English rivers since 2016, which is when the last set of data was published, though tests are tougher now. The Environment Agency had previously set a target of making 75% of England's rivers "good" by 2027. It now admits that is "unlikely" to happen in the next seven years.

The main sources of river pollution are raw sewage discharged by water companies into rivers, chemicals discharged by industrial sites such as factories, and pollution from water running off farm fields.

Scotland has the cleanest waters in the UK, with 65.7% of its rivers, lakes and streams classed as "good".

ECO-FRIENDLY OVERTAKES

For the first time ever, more electric and hybrid cars are being sold than polluting diesel cars. Official figures from the Department for Transport revealed that 33,000 pure electric and hybrid cars were registered between April and June, compared with 29,900 diesels. The most popular 'green' car was found to be the Tesla Model 3.

RICH HAVE DOUBLE EMISSIONS OF POOR



Private jets – owned by rich people like Kanye West and Elon Musk – are big polluters

A NEW report by Oxfam says the carbon emissions of the richest 1% are more than double those of the three billion people who make up the poorest half of the world.

The report, *Confronting Carbon Inequality*, looked at the emissions of different income groups between 1990 and 2015, during which time the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere has doubled. It showed that the richest 10% accounted for over half of the CO₂ emissions. The richest 1% were responsible for 15% of emissions.

Oxfam is calling for an increase in wealth taxes and new carbon taxes on frequent flights and luxury items like private jets and super yachts, as well as SUVs that have a high carbon footprint. The money this would make could then be invested in low-carbon jobs such as in the social care sector and in green public transport. It could also go towards helping poor communities around the world adapt to the changing climate.



SECRET FILES REVEAL "DIRTY MONEY"

TOP-SECRET documents that show banks have allowed criminals to move money around the world have been leaked to the media.

More than 2,500 documents, known as the FinCEN files, provide details of transactions worth a total of \$2 trillion (£1.5 trillion) carried out in banks around the world from 2000 to 2017.

More than 3,000 UK companies are named in the FinCEN files, which is more than any other country. Among other things, the documents reveal:

- British bank HSBC allowed criminals to transfer millions of dollars around the world even after it had found out

they were scammers.

- American bank JP Morgan allowed a company to shift more than £700m through a London account without knowing who owned it. The bank later found out the company might be owned by a "most wanted" criminal.

"Swift action is needed, including potential criminal charges, or banks will continue to treat the prospects of being caught and fined as a simple cost of business," the Tax Justice Network said.

POO STUDY SCOOPS SCIENCE PRIZE



KNIVES made out of frozen human poo do not work well.

That is the stunning conclusion of a piece of award-winning research by a team of scientists from the USA and UK. The award they won for their poo study was an Ig Nobel Prize for Materials Science.

The 'Igs' are dished out every year by the *Annals of Improbable Research*, a science magazine that covers "research that makes people laugh and then think".

These are some of the winners of other categories at this year's barmy ceremony:

- The Acoustics Prize went to an international team who studied how alligators communicate by getting a female Chinese alligator to breathe in helium and then bellow.
- The Peace Prize was given to the governments of India and Pakistan, for having their diplomats ring each other's doorbells in the middle of the night, and then run away before anyone had a chance to answer the door.
- The Economics Prize was for a study that compared different countries' gaps in income inequality and the average amount of mouth-to-mouth kissing.
- The Medicine Prize went to Dutch and Belgian scientists for diagnosing a new medical condition called misophonia – "the distress at hearing other people make chewing sounds".
- The Psychology Prize was scooped by a Canadian and American team who devised a method to spot narcissists (people with a very high sense of their own importance) by examining their eyebrows.



Do Donald Trump's eyebrows reveal something about his personality?

8. WORLD NEWS

ITALY



● Lovers lock it down

In April, we told you about the two Italians who fell in love after meeting from their balconies while stuck at home under lockdown. In May the pair met for the first time – and now they’ve announced that they’re getting married! Known in Italy as the ‘modern-day Romeo and Juliet’, Paola Agnelli and Michele D’Alpaos have already started planning their wedding together. Congratulations!



Instagram/paola.agnelli80

USA



● Top judge dies

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has passed away at the age of 87. Being a Justice at the Supreme Court involves making big decisions that affect the whole country. Ruth Bader Ginsburg, affectionately known as RBG, was the second woman ever appointed to the court, and was a big supporter of women’s rights, saying that “women belong in all places where decisions are being made.” Her replacement has yet to be announced.



Getty

ROMANIA



● Buried books

A stash of very rare books stolen from storage in London has been recovered from under the floor of a house in rural Romania. The £2.5 million haul included first editions by scientists Galileo and Isaac Newton. They were grabbed in a *Mission Impossible*-style heist by thieves who cut through a warehouse roof and abseiled down. London’s Metropolitan Police said 13 people had been charged.



Metropolitan Police

ISRAEL



● Second lockdown

A second nationwide coronavirus lockdown has begun in Israel, with new restrictions coming just before the start of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish new year. The strict measures are expected to last for three weeks, and have been very unpopular because they’re happening when families usually have big gatherings. People have been banned from going more than 500m from their homes, and there are limited numbers allowed in synagogues for services.



Getty



THAILAND



● People’s plaque

Protesters who want to reform Thailand’s monarchy installed a plaque near the Grand Palace that declares that the country “belongs to the people”, in the latest show of defiance against the government. Criticism of the monarchy in Thailand can be punished with long jail sentences. Despite this, tens of thousands joined a demonstration to challenge the authority of King Maha Vajiralongkorn. The plaque was removed by officials soon afterwards.



Getty

AUSTRALIA



● Round-trip flight

A planeload of passengers will be taking a flight to nowhere. Qantas is laying on a trip aimed at people missing the experience of flying because of COVID-19 restrictions. The flight, which will take off and land in Sydney, sold out in ten minutes. The seven-hour jaunt will take in the Great Barrier Reef and other landmarks, but climate campaigners say it will give off carbon emissions for no reason.



Getty

OUR WORLD



NAMES: MARTIM, MARIANA, SOFIA AND ANDRÉ
LIVE: PORTUGAL

TO FIND OUT MORE, GO TO
WWW.YOUTH4CLIMATEJUSTICE.ORG

MARTIM (17), Mariana (8), Sofia (15) and André (12) are four schoolchildren from Portugal who, along with two young adults, are working with the Global Legal Action Network (GLAN) to take 33 countries to court for failing to do enough to stop climate change.

Portugal is already feeling the effects of our warming climate – and it is first-hand experiences that convinced these young Human Rights Defenders to take action. Sofia and André’s love of science convinced them of the importance of swift action: Martim’s school closed due to forest fires in 2017; Mariana loves her grandparents’ farm, where climate change is an immediate reality and threat. These children are acutely aware that it is today’s children who will suffer the worst effects of our warming world. Their case against 33 governments is being taken to

the European Court of Human Rights.

Martim, Mariana, Sofia and André recognise that individuals can do their part, but that will not be enough. “The great changes must be promoted by government,” Sofia said. “That’s the basis of our action.”

Sofia’s brother, André, said: “We’d like all governments to listen to their scientists.”



JUMBO INTRODUCTION



AN elephant who was rescued as an orphan, rehabilitated and then released back into the wild has returned to her carers to show off her own brand-new baby.

Thirteen years ago, Lenana was rescued from Laikipia, northern Kenya, when she was 15 months old. Her mother had fallen ill and died, so she was taken into the care of the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust. Staff there hand-raised her until she was old enough to gradually be returned to the wild at Tsavo East National Park.

The elephant returned to her rescuers on the day her baby boy was born, to show off the new arrival. Staff have named him Lapa, which means 'Moon' in Samburu, a language spoken in northern Kenya.

The Sheldrick Wildlife Trust has helped more than 262 elephants that have lost their mothers to ivory poaching, conflict with humans, illness and other causes.



Sheldrick Wildlife Trust



SAVE OUR WILDLIFE

A GROUP of conservationists have written to the prime minister to ask him to commit to protecting nature in the UK.

The letter comes ten years after a review of wildlife sites in the UK. Ecologist Professor Sir John Lawton, who led the review in 2010, believes that more action needs to be taken if we want to safeguard the future of our wildlife.

A quarter of the UK's native mammals are now under threat of extinction and half of all species are in decline.

Professor Lawton says: "These losses

represent a decline in resilience of the ecosystems upon which we depend and a loss of experience and joy; there are too few places left where a child can walk through a cloud of butterflies or sit amongst a rainbow of flowers."

A second letter, signed by 25 wildlife charities, has also been sent to the Government, urging all four nations in the UK to work together to commit to a new plan for wildlife conservation.

RARE RHINO

WEST Midland Safari Park has welcomed its first ever Indian rhino calf.

The male calf is the first Indian rhino to be born at the park in its 47-year history.

The baby rhino's parents are 11-year-old Seto and 12-year-old Rap, who can often be spotted in the Asiatic section of the drive-through safari. At the moment, keepers are monitoring mum and the new arrival, who has yet to be named, in a private area while they settle in.

Indian rhinos in the wild face the threat of poaching and habitat loss.

West Midland Safari Park

BITESIZE NEWS

A CHEEKY seal gategcrashed a paddle-

boarding lesson on the River Witham in Lincolnshire this week. Instructor Phil May, from Yellowbelly SUP School, said he'd never seen the common seal in the river before.

LIFE ON VENUS?



Venus, Earth and Mars

FOR many years, space rockets and probes have been sent to Mars looking for evidence of life, but maybe scientists have been looking on the wrong planet: a new discovery shows life could be found on Venus instead.

Scientists were shocked to find a compound of hydrogen and phosphorous called phosphine in the clouds above Venus earlier this year, when they viewed the planet through the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope (JCMT) in Hawaii.

Phosphine on Earth is made by microbes – the most basic form of life – so scientists thought it was possible that microbes could also be making the phosphine they discovered on Venus.

For Professor Jane Greaves, who led the research team, the project was driven by curiosity. It was more a case of ruling things out than expecting to find anything important. Venus is a very hostile environment, as the surface of the planet is extremely hot and the clouds are very acidic. Scientists had wondered for years whether the clouds could contain microbes floating free above the scorching surface, but that were still able to stand the acidic atmosphere.

Dr William Bains, who was also involved in the project, considered some of the possible natural causes for phosphine, but none could have produced the amount that was observed. The existence of microbes is thought to be a very likely cause, but the team say that confirming the presence of life will need a lot more work.

The discovery raises many questions. The microbes on Earth

could not survive in such an acidic atmosphere, so how could microbes exist in the clouds of Venus? One idea is that they could protect themselves inside the cloud droplets. Answers may take a while, however. The only way to prove what created the phosphine is to take samples of droplets from the clouds, and that will mean a mission to Venus.

MISSIONS TO VENUS

- The journey to Venus takes around 130 days, depending on where it is in relation to the Earth at the time of launch
- The first spacecraft sent towards Venus was launched by Russia on 12 February 1961, but it missed the planet by 100,000km
- There are no planned launches to Venus in the immediate future, although Russia has said that it intends to investigate Venus further
- American company Rocket Lab has plans to get a craft there by 2023



MUSHROOM MAGIC



Mushroom raincoat

JACKETS made from fungus are not as odd as they might sound.

The process for creating them has been available for 70 years, but new research suggests the fungal mats they are made from could become a sustainable alternative to leather.

“It feels a bit and smells a bit like mushroom still, but it looks like a piece of old leather jacket,” said Alexander Bismarck, a materials scientist at the University of Vienna who carried out the research.

It takes about two weeks to grow the fungus on thick mats of organic material similar to sawdust – a much shorter time period than making leather. There are also fewer by-products than the process for making leather, plus fungus can be grown in the dark, so it needs less energy.

Dr Bismarck also found that the mats compare well to leather in that they can be much more versatile and yet just as strong and long-lasting.

Some products are already being created from the mats, but they are very expensive. Growing mushrooms for eating is already a huge industry, so costs could easily come down. With more sustainable products being created to reduce the impact on the planet, mushrooms and fungus may be a useful source of clothing – as long as we can get rid of the smell!

VIKINGS WEREN'T ALL BLONDS!

WE all know Vikings were blond-haired, fearsome warriors from Scandinavia who raided other countries – or were they?

Over six years, scientists at the University of Cambridge have studied the teeth and bones of 442 people who lived during the Viking period and compared them with others living in Europe. Their findings show that almost everything we think we know about the Vikings is wrong. The DNA shows that they were a much more mixed group of people, and that some of their ancestors had travelled north from places in Asia and southern Europe. Those living by the coast were more likely to have mixed with people because of migration and trading. Many of them also had brown hair, and Vikings from Sweden, Denmark and Norway all spread to areas close to their villages, rather than joining together as one tribe.



This report is from the Science Museum in London

SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

TODAY, we know that the Earth rotates on its axis.

That's why the sun appears to rise and set each day, when in fact it's the Earth that's moving.

In 1851 in Paris, France, physicist Léon Foucault demonstrated this rotation through a simple experiment using a pendulum. This was the first test to give simple, direct evidence of the Earth's rotation.

You can see a recreation of the Foucault Pendulum when you visit the Science Museum.

The experiment uses a pendulum that swings continuously. If you watch it for long enough, it will appear that the pendulum is also rotating by swinging in a slightly different direction. But it's actually the Earth that has moved and you with it. Now that's science!

Discover more at blog.sciencemuseum.org.uk/the-curious-tour.



11. I DON'T GET IT by Sky News FYI presenter Ella

First News has teamed up with **sky kids** show **FYI** and the **young audiences 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 Ella investigates the:

CLIMATE CRISIS

WE'VE all heard people talking about climate change, right? But what does it really mean for you and me?

WHAT'S CAUSING THE CLIMATE CRISIS?

Scientists say us humans are the problem, so all of the coal, oil and gas that we burn in factories, power stations and cars send more and more harmful gases into the atmosphere. So things like heating up our homes and using electricity plays a part in this.

The gases that we send into the air trap heat from the sun around our planet, causing it to warm up. But don't take my word for it, let's take a look at the evidence.

In the 1920s, the average global temperature was 13.8°C. In the 1930s and 40s this went up, until we get to today, the hottest decade on record.

IS THE CLIMATE CRISIS ALREADY HAVING AN IMPACT?

Yeah, it is. Take a look at some of the things I found out are already happening around the world.

The polar ice caps are melting at an alarming rate, threatening creatures like polar bears, who rely on the ice cover for food and shelter. That's resulted in rising sea levels, which have wiped out some low-lying islands in the Pacific Ocean, and caused devastating floods in countries like Bangladesh.

In the Caribbean there has been extreme weather, with increasing numbers of intense hurricanes and torrential downpours. And some countries in Africa have had severe droughts, which has had a terrible impact on crop production and millions of people have gone hungry.

There are also some unusual things happening that you might not have heard about, like more mosquitoes passing on diseases to humans, and ski resorts having to close early because all their snow has melted.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF WE DON'T TAKE ACTION?

If our planet continues to warm up, we'll face even more problems. Scientists say some parts of the planet will become impossible to live in, forcing millions of people to move away from their homes and starting a mass extinction of wildlife. And, closer to home, in the UK we could see more extreme weather and flooding.



WHAT CAN WE DO TO SAVE THE PLANET?

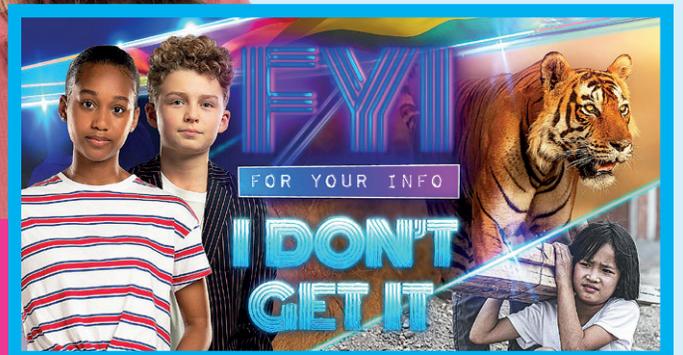
Having seen all this, I really want to know what we can do to make a difference. I mean, we're just kids, right?

Climate activist Anna Taylor says: "Just because you're young doesn't mean you have to feel powerless. Young people across the world have already achieved a lot through their campaigning, such as Greta Thunberg putting pressure on world leaders. An important part of creating that change is recognising that you do have a voice and do have the ability to do something about it."

So what kind of things can help ease the climate crisis?

"Recently we've seen what a difference the coronavirus lockdown has made, with far fewer journeys being made by cars and planes, and as a result fewer greenhouse emissions such as carbon dioxide have been emitted into the atmosphere. So, going forward we need to continue this by making an effort to cut out unnecessary car journeys. You can do this by walking to school or using a bike if you can. It's also important to cut out waste by making an effort to not waste food, water or electricity, such as turning the light off when you leave your bedroom."

The good news is, scientists say it's not too late to slow down global warming, but they do say time is running out, and we can't just leave it to other people. We have to change things ourselves.



CAN WE SAVE OUR PLANET?

Next week: **I Don't Get It – Racism**

Kids – you can watch the *I Don't Get It* video on the climate crisis at first.news/IDGI.

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

THE BIG PICTURE

THIS giant Dalmatian in New York is the latest public work of art to be fitted with its own mask.

The 38ft-high (11.6m) sculpture is called Spot, and she has been sitting outside the Hassenfeld Children's Hospital like a very good girl since 2018. It was created by Donald Lipski, using fibreglass, steel and a real Toyota Prius taxi. Although the engine, gearbox and seats were taken out, apparently the lights and windscreen wipers still work.

Donald said that he wanted the piece to be "about toys and play in some way", so that it would make patients, parents and hospital staff smile. It's also a reference to the Hassenfeld family that the hospital is named after, as they founded the famous Hasbro toy company.



Getty

BACKSTAGE MAGIC

WEST End star Carrie Hope Fletcher releases her debut children's book, *Into the Spotlight*, this week. We chatted to the actor and author about theatre, the book and her next big role.



● **Into the Spotlight is inspired by Noel Streatfeild's classic Ballet Shoes, so what made you base your book on it?**

Well, I was actually asked to! This year would have been Noel Streatfeild's 125th birthday and it is Puffin's 80th anniversary, so they approached me to write a re-imagining of *Ballet Shoes*, because it's theatrical and I have a theatrical background. I had actually never read *Ballet Shoes* before, so I got to experience it as an adult, which I think was really interesting. I loved it and I loved the idea of three people growing up who are adopted, and that they are family because they say they are family. They have chosen their family, which I think is a really amazing message. And the other message is that children can be anything that they want to be if they are given enough support and their dreams are nurtured. So I kind of wanted to incorporate those two messages into a story of my own.

● **Tell us about the children in the book.**

There is Marigold, the oldest, who is desperate to be a writer but she doesn't have a lot of confidence in herself. I think that is something that a lot of children struggle with and that a lot of adults struggle with, but may never talk about. I used to be like that; I used to cry at the drop of a hat or if anything went slightly awry, or I did something that was slightly deserving of a telling-off. Mabel, the middle child, is desperate to be better at maths and science in school because she's struggling a bit, but her dream is to send people into space. She wants to work for NASA one day. She is really good at problem solving but the academic side is failing her slightly and she feels like she'll never be able to do it. But with a little bit of older sister encouragement she decides that it is possible and she just needs to get her head down and work hard. Then there is young Morris, who is a little

bit scared at the beginning of the book because he thinks his sisters know exactly what they want to do with their lives and he has no idea, which I think is the same for a lot of kids. It doesn't take Morris long to find out that he was born to dance, but he is told at school that boys don't dance, so he has to overcome that hurdle. Luckily his sisters and his theatrical family coax him into having a few lessons.

● **The relationship between the siblings is so lovely. How much of your own sibling experience did you put into the story?**

I have a brother, obviously [author and McFly star Tom Fletcher], and he's seven years older than me, so there is quite a big age gap there, not like the kids in the book. Any time they are teasing each other, that is definitely me and my brother. Anyone who has a brother or sister will know!



Illustrations by Kiersten Eagan

● **You have a lot of theatre experience, so are you like any of the characters?**

I have kind of split myself across them all. I grew up in theatre, so many of my memories are of being backstage or in costumes, or being given scripts for the first time and highlighting my lines, going from dressing room to dressing room to say hi to the rest of the cast. It was such an exciting thing for a child and if I had the choice as a kid I would honestly have lived there. I would have set up a little bunk bed in a corner and lived there quite happily. It is my dream manifested [made real] in this book that these kids get to live in the theatre and get to be around these wonderful, colourful, eccentric people all of the time.

● **Do you think the story gives a good look at life behind the scenes in a theatre?**

I hope so. I mean the Pebble Theatre in the book is a strange theatre and there are a lot of things that you wouldn't find in a normal theatre, but yeah, I think it does give a good insight into the magic of backstage.

Maybe not the glamorous side of it. Everyone thinks that being in theatres is all red carpets and champagne after-show parties, but a lot of it is dead mice in the corner, old theatres crumbling and old paint peeling, but I feel that adds to the charm of it!

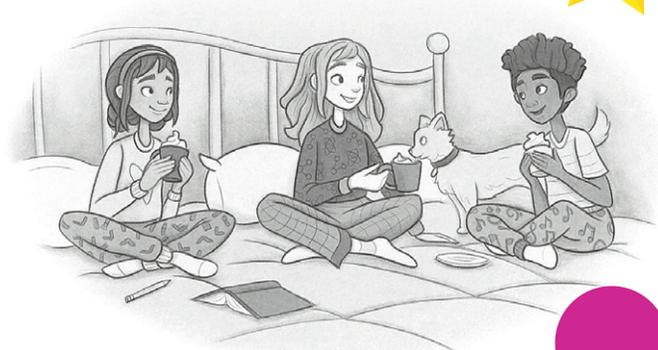
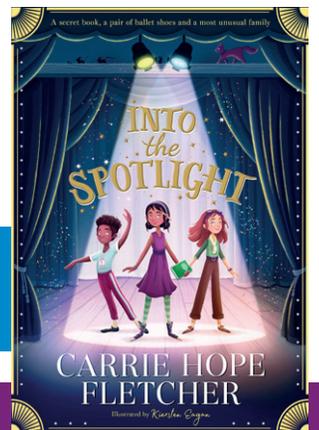
● **The theatre in the book is named after pebbles collected from around the world. What do you collect?**

I collect bookmarks; I love a bookmark. I have hundreds and hundreds of bookmarks. I'm a bit of a book collector as well, but if I am going anywhere I always find myself a bookmark to bring home from all over the world. If any of my family are going anywhere, I always ask them to find me one too! Every souvenir shop has a bookmark somewhere.

● **You're about to play Cinderella in Andrew Lloyd Webber's new musical that was due to open this autumn. What can you tell us about your version of her?**

This is Andrew Lloyd Webber's brand-new version of *Cinderella*. I don't know how much I'm allowed to say, but she is definitely not the Cinderella everyone knows. The *Cinderella* team have all been working really hard to get the script and the score in the best place possible, so that when we get to the first day of rehearsals in January, we're going to be the best-prepared cast in the history of first day of rehearsals. It's disappointing that we couldn't start when we wanted to. Our opening night would have been a few weeks ago, which is really devastating. At least we know that when we get started, we're going to be in a really good place!

Into the Spotlight is out now



CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY FIRST NEWS



IT'S TOUGH BEING THE SECOND-BORN!

SECOND-BORN siblings get superpowers along with the hand-me-downs in this exciting new Disney+ movie! We spoke to the star of *Secret Society of Second-Born Royals*, Peyton Elizabeth Lee, to find out about the film – and what it's like to be a second born herself.

CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT THE FILM?

Secret Society of Second-Born Royals follows my character Sam, who is a second-born royal. Her sister is the heir to the throne, and when we first meet Sam she's struggling with the idea of not only feeling like she's second-born, but also like she's second-best. When her sister begins the process of becoming the queen, Sam begins her initiation into the Secret Society of Second-Born Royals, where she meets other kids just like her, who are struggling with the same things she is. With them, she builds these really strong relationships and figures out how to use this sort of meaningless title that she's been given for good and how to make an impact with it. It's a really fun story! There's something for everyone: there's action and adventure, and there are great character stories, friendship stories and family stories. There's also a ton of fun music throughout the whole thing, so I'm very excited for people to eventually see it.



HOW EXCITED ARE YOU ABOUT THE FILM COMING OUT ON DISNEY+?

I'm so excited! I mean, this project has been a long time in the making. The first time I read the script was almost two years ago, and then there was the whole process of filming it, and now it's finally coming out.

OUR READERS WILL PROBABLY KNOW YOU BEST FROM THE DISNEY SHOW *ANDI MACK* – HOW WAS IT GOING FROM THAT SHOW TO THIS SUPER-POWERED MOVIE?

On *Andi Mack* we had the same cast, the same crew and the same sets for three years, so everything became very familiar and very second nature. Everyone was like a family. With *Secret Society of Second-Born*

Royals we had a much shorter time to produce the movie. Because everything's constantly changing and moving, and you're meeting new people, and you've only just started working together, the whole experience is all much more fast-paced. And both experiences have merit. I think there's definitely something fun about how every day I was doing a totally new thing in a totally new place with these people that I didn't know that well!



DO YOU HAVE MUCH IN COMMON WITH YOUR CHARACTER, SAM?

I really relate to Sam in a lot of ways. I hope most young people will relate to her, in the sense that she is struggling with where she can fit in and where she can stand out in the world. I think that's something we can all relate to – when part of us wants to just fit in and blend in, but part of us wants to really be recognised for how special we are.

YOU'RE A SECOND-BORN SIBLING YOURSELF. DID THAT HELP YOU RELATE?

Yes! I could connect to Sam very personally on that level, being second born. Having an older sister is amazing, since you've got someone who's gone through all the things you're going through – but it can also be difficult. My sister is a bit of a golden child: she's at Harvard [a very famous university in the US], and she's super strong both academically and athletically. So yeah, I relate to Sam in the way that sometimes you feel as if you're in someone else's shadow, wondering what you can do to get out of that and into the spotlight yourself.



All pictures: Disney+

SAM HAS SUPER-SENSES IN THE MOVIE, BUT WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH THOSE POWERS?

Hmm, I think that since right now people are being called out on social media, when they say things that are wrong or inappropriate, it'd be good if I could use my sense to find these people and, um, punish them! Give them a stern talking to!

THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SECRET SOCIETY OF SECOND-BORN ROYALS HAVE ALL SORTS OF POWERS. WHICH OTHER POWER WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE?

I think if I were to take one of their powers, it might be James's ability to clone himself. That would be really nice! It would mean that you could get things done quickly; you know, you could take a nap and clean your room – all at the same time! I feel like that would really come in handy.

WHAT WAS IT LIKE ON SET WITH YOUR CAST-MATES?

It was very interesting! What was happening in the script was also happening in real life in real time. As our characters were getting to know each other in the story, we were bonding in real life!



***Secret Society Of Second-Born Royals* launches today (25 September) on Disney+**

THIS WEEK



1 *Beauty and the Beast* is returning to the UK stage. Disney's musical version of the classic story will return as a touring production in 2021. The musical will open in May at the Curve theatre in Leicester, with more locations to be announced.

2 *Bake Off* is back! The new series kicked off this week (22 September), with 12 new bakers whipping up tasty treats in the tent. Matt Lucas has joined the show, replacing Sandi Toksvig, who quit after the last series.



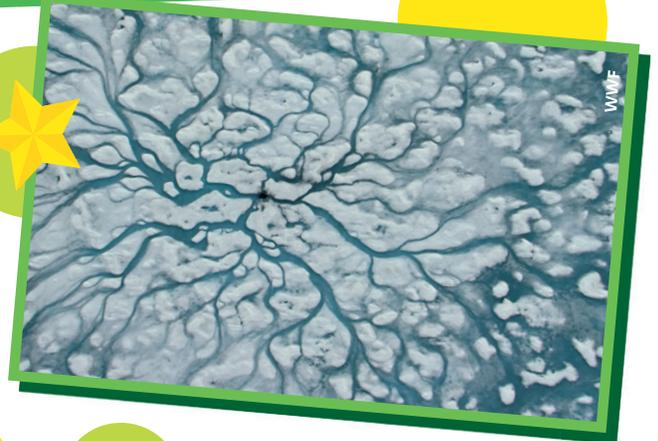
3 Little Mix have announced a new tour for 2021, and they're looking for a support act. At the beginning of the year we told you that Little Mix would be fronting a singing competition called *Little Mix: The Search* and it starts this week (26 September)! The girls are looking for a band to join them on *Confetti*, their massive arena tour, which kicks off on 28 April in Dublin.



PICS OF THE WEEK

SIR David Attenborough has made a film about how the world has changed during his lifetime.

The legendary broadcaster's new film – which includes footage from some of his earliest programmes – is an honest and sometimes shocking look at the damage that has been done to our planet during his own life on Earth, and the way that damage has affected wildlife. However, there are things we can all do to help protect the future of our planet, as Sir David says: "Saving our planet is no longer a technological problem, it's a communications challenge." *David Attenborough: A Life On Our Planet* premieres in cinemas on 28 September.



HORRIBLE FUN!

WE love the *Horrible Histories* books, and now illustrator Martin Brown has released four fantastic new images that imagine what characters from history are doing in 2020.



Martin Brown says: "I have been drawing cartoons for the *Horrible Histories* for years and it always seems

history has something to tell us about the present. So I wondered how characters from the past might feel about dealing with what we have to deal with in 2020."

HORRIBLE HISTORY FACT!

Vile Victorian sweep boy
Chimney sweeping was a popular job for young boys and girls, who were chosen for their size and agility. But beware! Any of you who think this job was easy, think again! If a worker was found sleeping on the job, or if by his or her own misfortune they became stuck in the chimney, their master would light a fire beneath them!



HORRIBLE HISTORY FACT!

Gorgeous Georgian ladies
The dresses of rich Georgian ladies were worn over wide-hooped petticoats. These came into fashion for most women in 1710, and went out of fashion in 1780. A writer complained that when one young lady walked down the street she took up the full width of the pavement and pushed pedestrians into the road. He must have been 'guttered'.

HORRIBLE HISTORY FACT!

Terrifying 20th century astronaut
Americans landed on the moon in 1969. They announced it is not made of green cheese and flew home. Egyptian radio called it "the greatest human achievement ever". (The builders of their pyramids probably disagreed.)



All the *Horrible Histories* books from *Savage Stone Age* to *Woeful Second World War* are out now





Donald Trump wearing a 'make America great again' cap when he was campaigning to become US president

WHEN Donald Trump was campaigning to be president of the United States in 2016, his big promise was that he would “make America great again”. So after nearly four years in the job and with an election due in November, we asked various experts and organisations to give us their opinion on whether President Trump has lived up to his claim.

WHAT IS GREAT, ANYWAY?

“It depends how you define ‘great,’” was the first response from Inderjeet Parmar, professor of international politics at City, University of London. “I think for President Trump’s supporters, great in international affairs means standing up for America first, where he seeks to get as much advantage from other states as possible. So for them, I think they would say the US has done very well. It has got new trade deals with Canada and Mexico that are more advantageous, and has put China a bit more in its place. But in terms of international co-operation and listening to what other countries and leaders have to say, the US has lost moral authority and international status.”

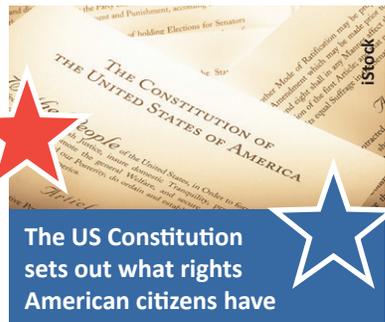
Inderjeet says many who voted for Trump have had a boost to how they feel about America.

“They feel that the forgotten Americans, the white Americans, the hard-working Americans, have been done down since the 1960s by women, racial minorities, immigrants and others, and the US has been taxing people like them and giving their hard-earned money to people who don’t deserve it. So I think they feel like they’re under siege and on the verge of extinction. Underneath it all, what Trump promises is that he’ll give

America back to the real Americans. But most of them haven’t received more money or more job security, health care and so on. So in terms of what Trump has actually delivered, it’s not a great deal.”

George Lewis is the head of the School of History, International Relations and Politics at the University of Leicester. “‘Make America great again’ captured a mood and an aspiration rather than a clear political programme,” he says. “It was vague, too, perhaps deliberately so in order to appeal to a greater number of voters. When was America last ‘great’, how might that ever be measured, and by whose standards? As a result,

it is difficult to chart its success with any precision. If America’s greatness was to be measured in its founding Constitution [the rules the country is run by], then Trump’s lack of respect for that document would suggest otherwise. If it was to be measured by its treatment of its own citizens, then the Black Lives Matter movement and the shambolic response to COVID-19 would suggest not. If it was to re-establish US leadership on the world stage, then the withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement would suggest failure. And if it was to return to the original idea of America as a shining beacon of democracy, then the repeated attempts to stop certain groups voting in the November elections would suggest that here, too, Trump has fallen short.”



The US Constitution sets out what rights American citizens have



President Trump’s supporters have usually said that he has done good things for the US economy

“Has Donald Trump made America great again? The short answer is no, at least not if we measure greatness using the economic benchmarks [standards] that he used in the 2016 presidential campaign,” says Professor Peter Trubowitz, the director of the US Centre at the London School of Economics. “Back then, he vowed to ramp up economic growth to 4% a year, slash the national trade deficit [the difference in value between what a country imports and exports], and bring manufacturing jobs that had been lost to China back to the US. This would make America more economically inclusive [giving equal opportunities to all] and independent, he argued. Four years later, it is clear that he has failed to achieve these goals. During Trump’s presidency, US economic growth averaged only 2.5% and the trade deficit has increased each year. While the number of manufacturing jobs did rise somewhat before the pandemic struck, there is little evidence that manufacturing jobs have come back to the US. Today, the American economy is a shambles, suffering from the worst decline since the Great Depression [in the 1930s], in no small part because of his disastrous handling of the health crisis caused by the coronavirus. In short, by Trump’s own economic measures of success, it is hard to argue that he has made America greater. More politically and socially divided, to be sure. More economically inclusive and self-reliant? Not so much.”

DOLLAR DOUBTS

Although Mr Trump’s supporters regularly give him good marks for what he’s done for the economy, many experts aren’t that impressed.

Donald Trump’s supporters have enjoyed repeating the president’s catchphrase at his rallies



17. SPECIAL REPORT

PANDEMIC PROBLEMS

While we're talking about the pandemic, we also put the question to John E McDonough, Professor of the Practice of Public Health at the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health.

"From a health care and health policy [plans] perspective, the answer is no," he told us. "President Trump has repeatedly sought to end the Affordable Care Act without any believable replacement plan, even though it would cause at least 20 million Americans to lose their health insurance protections. In three of the last four years, the life expectancy of Americans had dropped, the first such decline in the last 60 years. Among advanced nations, the US is at or near the bottom in terms of infant and maternal mortality [deaths of mothers and children], obesity, diabetes, suicides, injuries due to gun violence, and more. Not a single meaningful health statistic has improved under his watch. His lack of leadership and incompetence [inability to do his job] regarding the US response to the pandemic has been historic. That is his legacy."

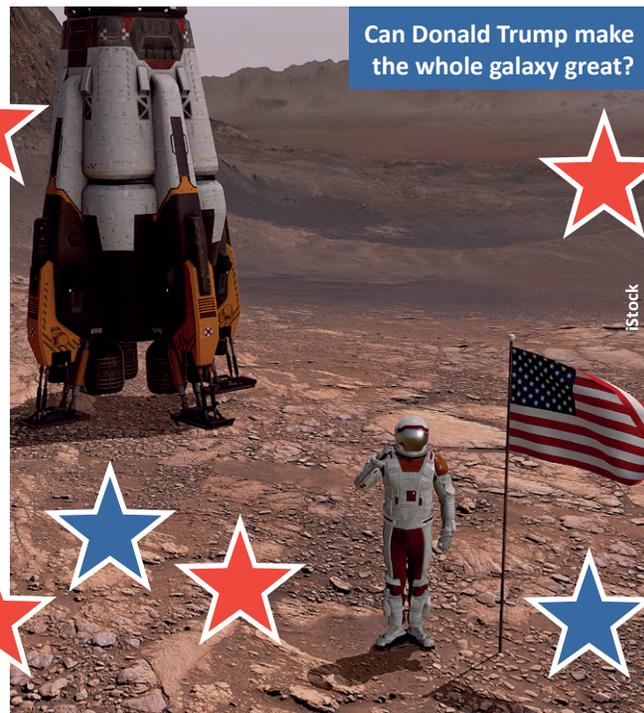


A protest sign put up by Mr Trump's opponents, who say that he has ignored scientists' opinions about the pandemic and climate change

GALACTIC GREATNESS

We obviously wanted to know what Donald Trump's own Republican Party thinks of his first four years, so Erol Morkoç, a spokesman for Republicans Overseas UK, gave us his enthusiastic opinion.

"President Trump uses his presidency to improve the quality of life for all Americans," he told us. "He believes that if you have patriotism [love for your country] in your heart there is no room for prejudice. The promise to 'make America great again' is an inclusive message that inspired Americans to 'be best' in their own lives. He promised to be the no-war president and brought US soldiers home after defeating Islamic State. Along with a world-record economy, he guided America to the lowest unemployment rate for all Americans in over 50 years. America became energy independent while supply chains and manufacturing returned to the USA. He challenged NASA to put the first woman on the moon and send a manned mission to Mars. Working with genius immigrants like Elon Musk, President Trump is making space exploration a reality and the US Space Force can one day make the galaxy great as well!"



Can Donald Trump make the whole galaxy great?

Black Lives Matter protesters and Donald Trump supporters have clashed lots of times in recent months



MEDIA MATTERS

Dr Catherine Happer is the deputy director of the Glasgow University Media Group, studying how the media affects public understanding of certain issues.

"Donald Trump entered politics at a time when public trust in government and media in many countries was at an all-time low, especially in the US," she told us. "He campaigned by saying: 'No longer can we rely on those elites in media and politics who will say anything to keep a rigged system in place'. He won on a promise of stopping corruption [illegal behaviour by officials] and giving power back to ordinary people. However, his presidency has seen a dramatic increase in protest and resistance in the form of Black Lives Matter. He described this as a 'symbol of hate', which showed his total inability to address the real problems that exist. But ultimately he will be judged on the COVID-19 pandemic. Clear, informed public health advice is more important than anything else – believing in what the president does and says is literally a matter of life and death. But Trump has pumped out inconsistent, ill-informed and in some cases simply incorrect and dangerous advice, making it an issue of party loyalties rather than everyone working together. Confidence is crumbling, with nearly two-thirds of the US public saying they simply do not trust him. Meanwhile, the US has the highest COVID-19 death toll in the world. Greatness restored? It seems certain this is not what most Americans imagined."

GREAT AND GREEN?

What about the biggest issue of our time – climate change and the environment? We asked the US branch of Greenpeace whether Donald Trump had made America great again, and their answer was one word: "No." When we asked for a bit more detail they didn't get back to us, but at least their answer was clear.

However, Thanu Yakupitiyage, associate director of US communications at 350.org, another environmental organisation, was happy to give a longer answer.

"Trump has done everything he can to block the bold action on climate change that we need," she told us. "He removed the US from a key international climate agreement, weakened environmental regulations, and supports the coal, oil, and gas industries that continue to pollute our Earth and cause climate destruction. Despite these setbacks, communities have stood up for what's right, from indigenous peoples resisting construction of oil and gas pipelines on sacred land, to students joining mass strikes to demand strong climate measures, and much more. It's incredibly inspiring that everyday people are realising the scale of the problem and acting collectively [as a group] to address it."



Environmental campaigners are unhappy with the president's lack of action on climate change

WRONG ABOUT RIGHTS

Nicole Austin-Hillery is the executive director of the US programme at Human Rights Watch, and she's not quite so enthusiastic about her president.

"From our perspective, he has not been a rights-respecting president," she says. "He has really tried to make this a nation of closed borders, even though the history of this country is one where we have always welcomed immigrants – including immigrants that came from his own family. He has not been rights-respecting when it comes to race relations and the treatment of individuals from different ethnic backgrounds. We see that on the news now every day in the US, how he has been a president that has chosen to fan the flames of division, rather than bring about healing. He also publicly stated that voters in certain areas should commit voter fraud. He encouraged them to vote by mail and also attempt to vote in person. That is a US president for the first time in history encouraging voters to vote twice, which is illegal."

[Trump actually said if a person's postal vote hadn't been added, they should vote in person. He said if their postal vote was added after that it would be ignored.]



President Trump has been repeatedly criticised by doctors and scientists for giving out bad medical advice about the coronavirus



beko
HARVESTfresh™



PRESERVES VITAMINS IN FRUIT AND VEGETABLES FOR LONGER

WHAT IS A HARVESTFRESH™ FRIDGE FREEZER?

Beko HarvestFresh™ fridge freezers use innovative technology that cleverly preserves vitamins A and C in your fresh fruit and veg for an additional five days. So you know the fruit and veg you do eat will be having a positive impact on your health. It works by using three-colour light technology inside the fridge's crisper drawer, which mimics the 24-hour cycle of the sun. It's almost as if the fruits and vegetables in your fridge are still outdoors growing in the field, not inside your fridge.



BENEFITS OF VITAMINS

Vitamins A and C are essential vitamins that are necessary for the healthy functioning of the body. They have many benefits, such as:

Helping boost your immune system

Promoting a healthy heart

Healthy skin, blood vessels, bones and cartilage

Providing natural antioxidants



COMPETITION ALERT!

WIN A HARVESTfresh™ FRIDGE FREEZER FOR YOUR SCHOOL

Now it's your chance to win a Beko HarvestFresh fridge freezer for your school and experience the benefits for yourself. There are ten of these up for grabs. To enter, all you have to do is design an A4 poster that shows the benefits of HarvestFresh™ and eating fruit and veg.

How to enter

Please email or post your entries by 16 October to:

competitions@beko.co.uk

Competitions, Beko House,
1 Greenhill Crescent, Watford, WD18 8QU

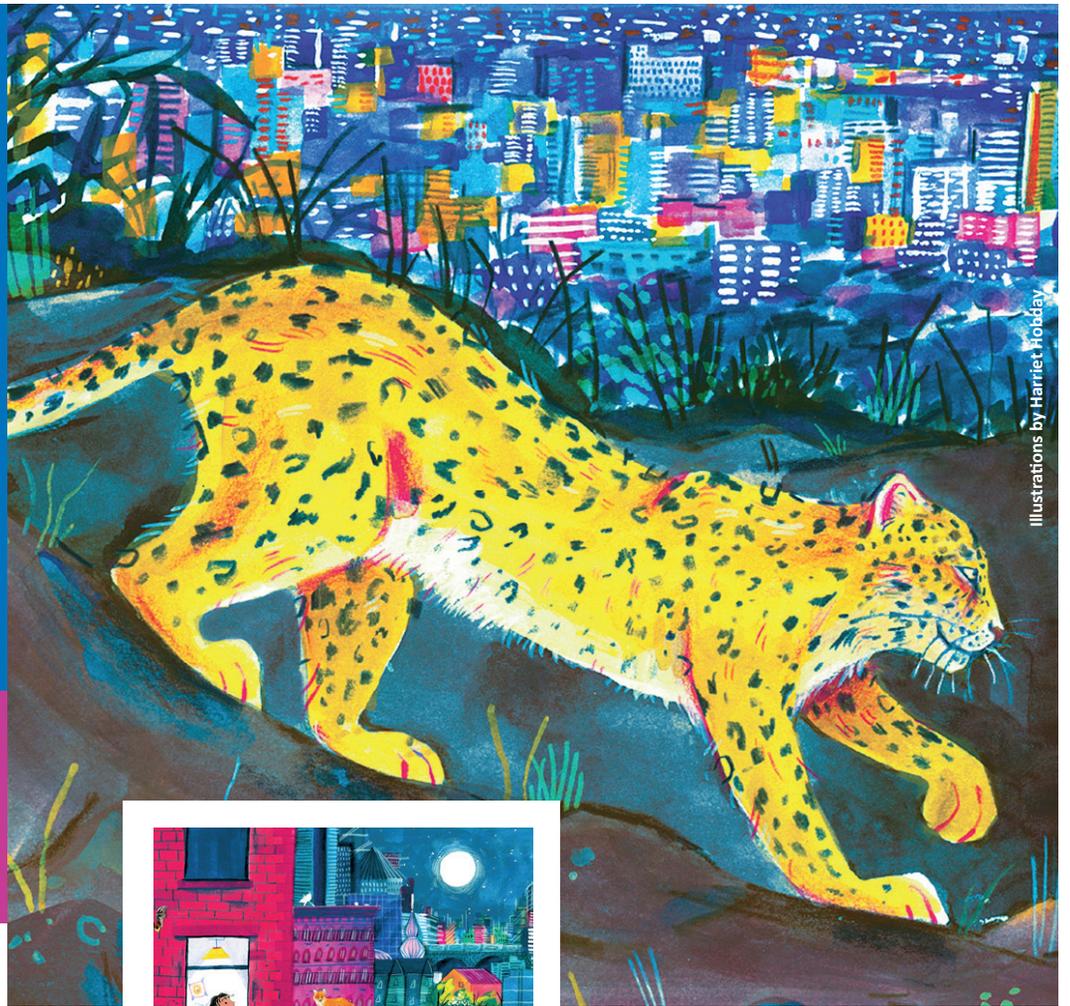
Please remember to include your name, age (you must be under 16) and contact details. If you're working on it in class, please include the teacher's name and contact details.

T&Cs apply. Please visit www.beko.co.uk/competition for full details.

LOOK OUT FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A **HARVESTfresh™** FRIDGE FREEZER FOR YOUR HOME.

WILD CITIES

THERE are more people in the world than ever before. With less space, humans and wildlife are coming into contact more and more often. Ben Lerwill has written a new book that looks at how wildlife has adapted to live alongside us in cities and towns.



Illustrations by Harriet Hobday

CITIES ARE GROWING

Our cities are growing bigger. It's estimated that well over four billion of us worldwide live in urban areas, and this number is expected to keep increasing over coming decades. This is having a major impact not just on the human race, but on the natural world. More and more animals are now living in and around cities, too. Many of these animals have little option but to live and survive within city limits, because as our built-up areas continue to expand, the territories of wild animals continue to shrink.

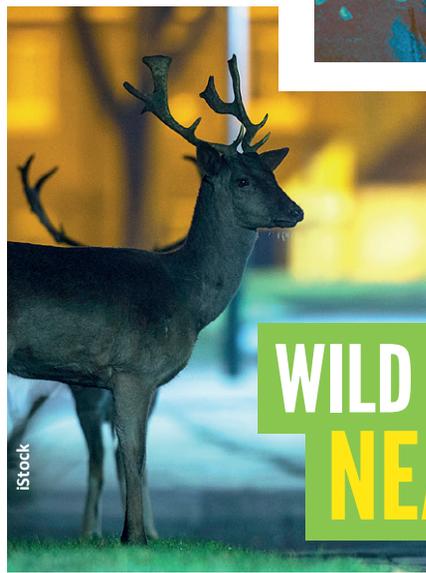
There are other reasons, too. Some animals are attracted to cities because they provide easy sources of food, or because cities are able to offer more shelter and security from predators and hunters. For all these reasons, and more, we're seeing more animals in our urban environments.



LEARNING TO ADAPT

Many animals are using clever methods to adapt to city living. In New York, some red-tailed hawks nest on tower blocks. In Calgary, jackrabbits have learned to avoid crossing roads during rush hour. And in Berlin, stone martens are finding homes in house lofts that mimic the tree trunks and rock crevices of the countryside.

Unsurprisingly, they can also be very clever where food is concerned. On the outskirts of Mumbai, for example, leopards have discovered that tasty stray dogs and pigs can often be found rooting through rubbish bins. Bears, raccoons and birds, meanwhile, have also picked up habits that allow them to find meals from human trash.

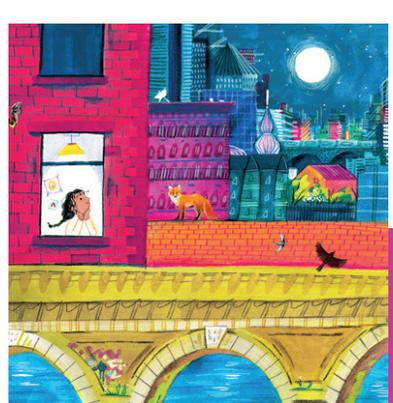


WILD ANIMALS NEAR YOU

The first thing to say is that there's probably far more wildlife to be found in UK cities than you'd imagine. From quick foxes and shy deer to rare beetles and hardy mice – not to mention an enormous array of birdlife and riverlife – there's a huge amount for young nature lovers to discover. The best part is that the more we find out about these animals and the ways they live, the more fascinating they become. We have all sorts of extraordinary wild neighbours!

RISKY BUSINESS

One of the greatest risks is that some people see wild animals as pests. But it's important to remember that our land is also their land. Foxes, skunks and owls, for example, don't understand things in the same ways that we do. Like us, they're all just doing their best to survive. So where possible, it's always best to treat them with respect.

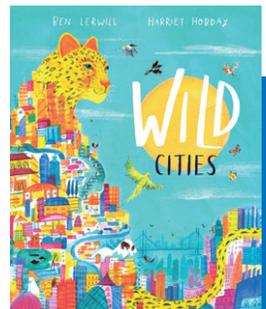


HELPING WILD ANIMALS IN CITIES

The best place to start is simply through awareness and experience. A family trip to a local city park takes on fresh purpose if you arrive armed with notebooks and binoculars. How many animals can you spot? Why are they doing the things they're doing? What challenges are they facing? It's a good way of strengthening curiosity and compassion for the natural world.



There are other practical ways in which children and parents can make a difference. If you're fortunate enough to have a garden, try making it as wildlife-friendly as possible with trees, small ponds, wildflowers and log piles. Even balconies and window boxes can attract a range of pollinators and other creatures. Bird feeders can help, too – though be sure to clean any feeders regularly. And things like bat boxes, insect hotels and hedgehog highways have all become popular ways of encouraging local biodiversity.



Wild Cities by Ben Lerwill, and illustrated by Harriet Hobday, is out now. A story by Ben called *Keep Flying Little Bird* also features in *The Puffin Book of Big Dreams*, the 80th birthday anthology featuring a host of authors and illustrators.

WIN! REALLY RAD FARTBRO

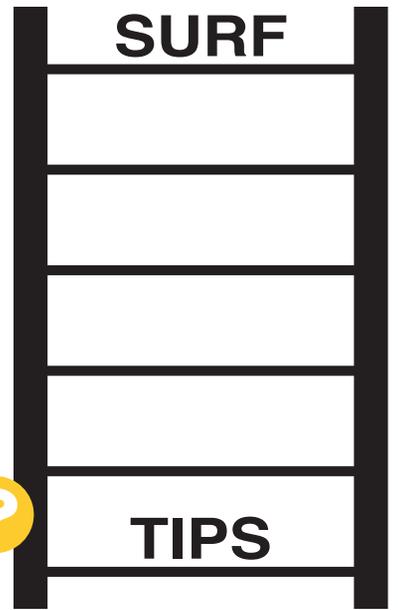


CAN you complete our sudoku puzzle, filling in the numbers one to nine?

Send in your answers and two lucky readers will win a Really RAD Robots Fartbro. The people at Really RAD Robots build robots to suit your needs. These bots are not your usual box of nuts and bolts, they are packed with attitude and in your control. Really RAD Robots are programmed with personality and RAMMED full of fun, none of the boring bits included. Fartbro is the Interactive remote-controlled robot made for pranking! Team up with Fartbro and go on some sneaky 'Fart Blasting' missions! www.character-online.com

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

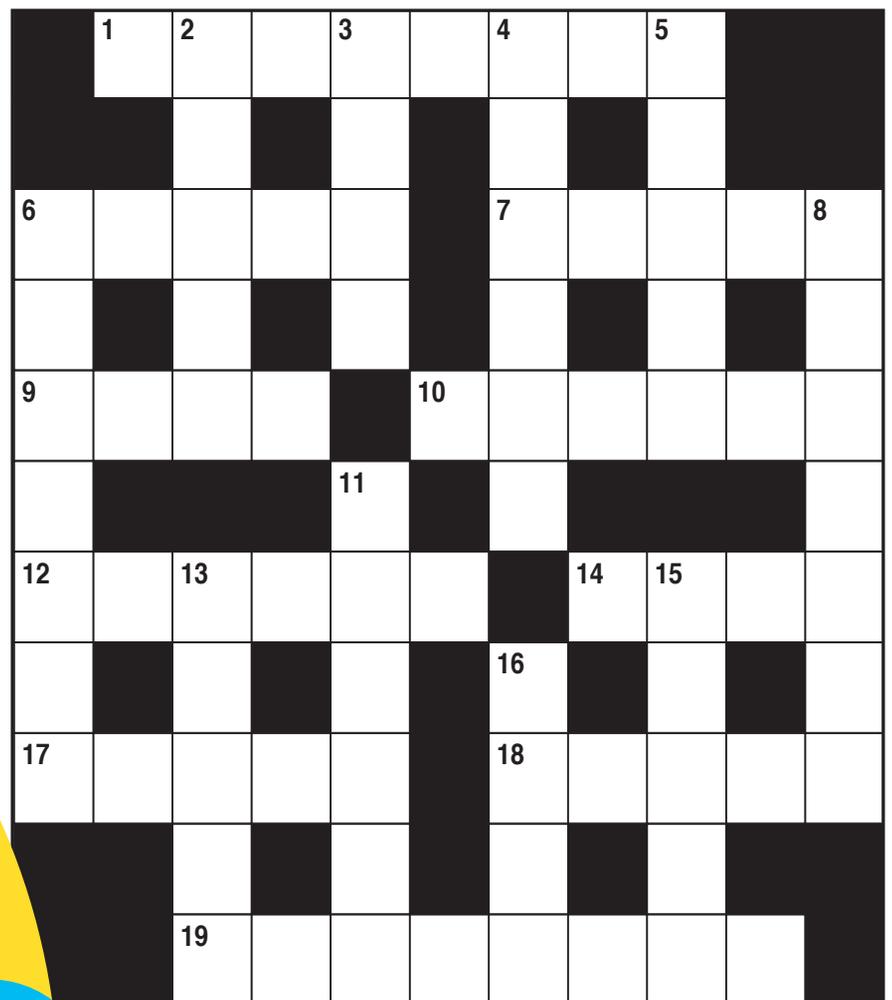
WORD LADDER



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

CROSSWORD

JUST for fun this week! Can you complete our crossword puzzle by using the clues below?



ACROSS

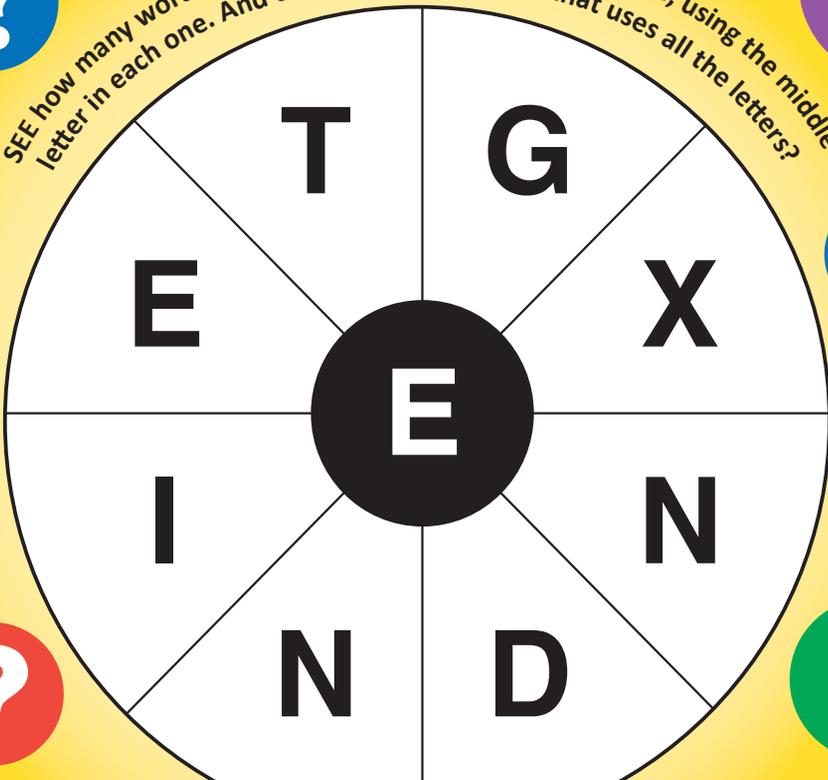
- 1 Group of words that mean something (8)
- 6 ___ Cup: global football competition (5)
- 7 Large box (5)
- 9 A large tub that you wash yourself in (4)
- 10 Precious stones (6)
- 12 Scratches (6)
- 14 Labyrinth (4)
- 17 Long ___ owl: British bird of prey (5)
- 18 Done or shown openly; trove (anagram) (5)
- 19 Fizzy drink (8)

DOWN

- 2 A type of white heron (5)
- 3 Regular movement of the sea (4)
- 4 A silvery-white metal (6)
- 5 Escape or avoid (5)
- 6 E.g. www.firstnews.co.uk (7)
- 8 Simplest (7)
- 11 Rarely (6)
- 13 Type of hard substance that forms large reefs (5)
- 15 Change or alter (5)
- 16 Grumble (4)

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?

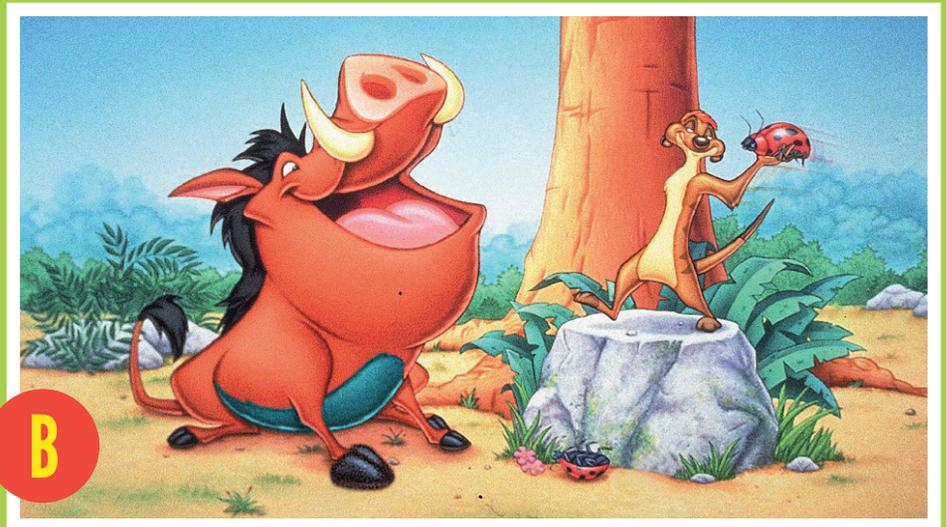
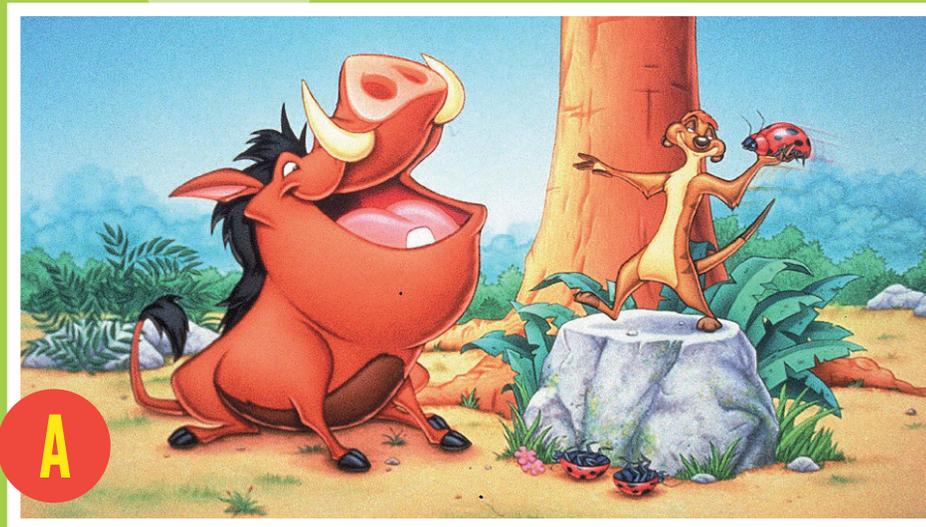


21. PUZZLE FUN

HOW TO ENTER: Send your finished puzzles by email to win@firstnews.co.uk. Don't forget to put **Puzzles 745** in the subject box. We're afraid that we can't accept postal entries for now. The closing date for entries is **Thursday 1 October 2020**.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

JUST for fun this week! Can you spot the five changes we've made to this picture from Disney's *Timon and Pumbaa*?



Disney

WIN! A HEXBUG NANO FLASH PLAYGROUND SET

BUILD the fun with nano® Playground!

Featuring eight jelly walls, two ramps, two merry-go-rounds and connectors to create the ultimate track for your super-speedy bugs, this neon-coloured set is a must-have for HEXBUG aficionados!

It includes two original HEXBUG nanos and the all-new HEXBUG nano Flash, which has had a slender redesign for more pace, and LED lights to illuminate your track.

Twelve lucky winners will each win a HEXBUG nano Flash Playground set.

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

A funfair merry-go-round normally features which animal?
 a) monkey b) elephant
 c) horse

HEXBUG® Available from Smyths Toys and all good toy retailers

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY NANO

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see below. The closing date is 7 October 2020.

WIN! A RUBIK'S BUNDLE

TO celebrate the 40th anniversary since the original 3x3 Rubik's Cube was awarded Toy of the Year in 1980, we've teamed up with Rubik's to offer five lucky readers the chance to win an awesome Rubik's bundle! You could win:

Rubik's 3x3 Metallic Anniversary Cube: A special edition Rubik's Cube to celebrate the 40th anniversary!

Rubik's Pyramid: A two-layered, edge-turning, twisty puzzle where every turn changes the puzzle's shape, which makes this a fun puzzle to play with, even if you cannot solve it straight away!

Rubik's Tilt: Twist! Turn! Tilt! A digital Rubik's Cube where motion controls the cube and you provide the logic! With this handheld electronic video game, you tilt forward, backwards, left and right to turn the rows and sides of the cube.

Rubik's Revolution: An all-new spin on the world's #1 cube! Includes six different games, requiring speed, agility and quick thinking, that can be played individually or in groups. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

Which colour doesn't appear on a traditional Rubik's Cube?
 a) purple
 b) blue c) green



ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY CUBE

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see below. The closing date is 7 October 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. Email us at win@firstnews.co.uk putting the 'competition name' (e.g. Holiday), in the subject box. **Please note:** First News will not share your personal details with third parties. First News will only use your details to contact the competition winners. First News competitions are only open to those aged 17 and under, and residents of the UK & Republic of Ireland, except employees of First News, First Group Enterprises Ltd, Reach plc and any associated companies and their families. Winners will be the first correct entries drawn after the closing dates. No purchase necessary. No responsibility can be accepted for entries that have been lost or damaged in transit. First News will not enter into any correspondence. All winners will be notified accordingly and their names and location will be available on request. No cash alternative for any prizes will be offered. The winner may be required to partake in media activity relating to the competition.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS:

Spot the difference: paddle is red, background paddle has been removed, woman's head is bigger, T-shirt is a different colour, patch of stars missing.

Word ladder: hand, band, bans, bats, oats, outs.

Word wheel: character.

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

NEXT GEN CONSOLE NEWS

SONY and Microsoft have at last given us the release dates for their upcoming consoles. We also know how much they will cost, which means we know how much money we have to save up, and how long for!

XBOX SERIES X AND SERIES S

MICROSOFT have announced a companion to the already-announced fridge-like Xbox Series X. The Xbox Series S is a smaller version of the flagship console, but still packs a punch.

Perhaps a little awkwardly for Microsoft, the trailer for the new Series S was leaked before the company had a chance to officially announce it – but that didn't take away from how impressed we were.

The all-digital Series S will be just as fast as the Series X, although it will have less storage and won't have quite the same level of graphical power.

The big selling point for the all-digital Series S, though, is the price. Costing just **£249**, the console will open up the next generation of games to players on a budget, without sacrificing performance.



The Xbox Series X has a recommended price point of **£449**. Both consoles will be released on **10 November**.

PLAYSTATION 5

AT long last, we now know when the new PlayStation will be released, though it turns out that we'll have to wait slightly longer to give it a go here in the UK.

Both the physical and digital edition of the PlayStation 5 will launch in the UK on **19 November** – a week later than it will arrive in places such as the US, Japan and Australia.

The physical edition (with a 4K UHD Blu-ray disc drive) will cost **£449**, while the digital edition (for downloadable games only) will cost **£359**. Unlike the Xbox, the PlayStation consoles will have exactly the same features.

Top games for the next-gen PlayStation 5 will cost a whopping **£70** when it launches, which may help you when choosing which console to go for.



DID YOU KNOW?

There have always been rivalries between videogame consoles, long before people were arguing whether the PlayStation or Xbox was better! Back in the '90s, the Super Nintendo Entertainment System was taking on the SEGA Genesis, and SEGA launched its mascot Sonic in an attempt to top Mario. Who knew they'd one day end up playing sports together?!



MONEYREADY Advertisement feature

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£18 FOR A
YEAR'S
SUBSCRIPTION



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FREE FOR UK SCHOOLS OFFER

Simply email:
miss@moneyready.org
with the number of pupils from
your school email address
to get started.



Visit us at www.moneyready.org

23. CRAZY BUT TRUE

HUNGRY DOG EATS LEAD

HAVE you ever felt so hungry that even things that aren't food start to look pretty tasty? Well, Max the Labrador certainly felt that way when he ate his own lead!

In the space of a 15-minute car journey, the peckish pooch managed to munch his way through his dog lead, leaving nothing but the metal end.

His owners rushed Max to the vet, where the lead was removed, as it could have caused the greedy doggo some serious damage.

Laura Playforth, Vets Now's professional standards director, said: "[It] goes to show some dogs, particularly Labs, will eat almost anything."



iStock

"Mmmm..."

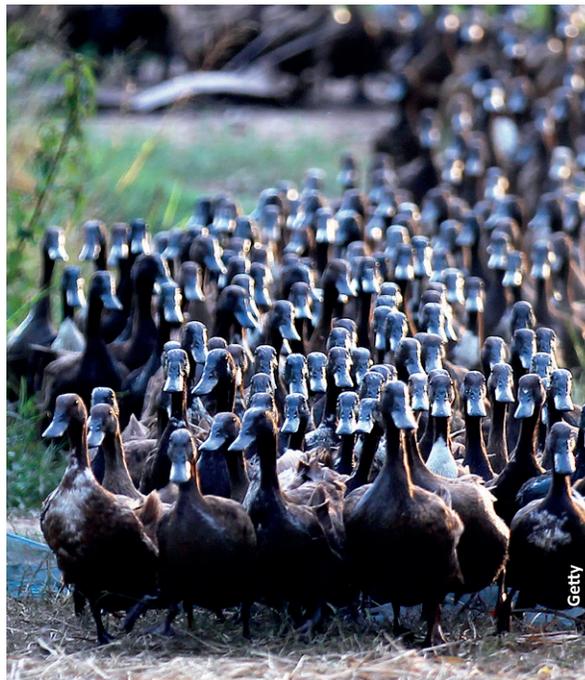
DUCK ARMY!

MORE than 10,000 ducks have been released into rice paddies (fields) in Thailand to help get rid of pests.

Farmers are more used to using chemicals and pesticides to protect their crops, but this clever solution helps both the rice farmers and the duck breeders.

The ducks help the rice farmers by eating up insects, snails and other pests that could harm the rice crops. Meanwhile, the duck breeders save lots of money on duck feed – and the ducks get a tasty meal too!

The army of hungry ducks will be allowed to roam free in the paddies for five months. They can clear an area about the size of 100 football pitches in a week.



Getty

SUBMITTED
BY MAISIE,
AGE 9

WHAT DO
CAMELS
USE TO HIDE
THEMSELVES?
CAMEL-FLAGE!

WHAT KIND
OF SCHOOLBAG IS
ALWAYS TIRED?
A NAP-SACK!



SHARE YOUR JOKES WITH US AT NEWSDESK@FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK

SKINNY HOUSE

A PROPERTY for sale in London is believed to be the skinniest house in the city.

The blue-fronted building is five floors high but is less than six feet wide in places. The sellers describe it as "unique, beautiful and stylish", but we're not sure if we'd feel a bit boxed in by the narrow rooms!

But if you like something a bit different and you've got a million quid lying around, this two-bedroom London property could be yours!



Winkworth



Winkworth

SNAKE MASKS?!

A MANCHESTER man was seen boarding a bus with an unusual face mask – a real-life snake wrapped around his neck and mouth!

A passenger on the bus said they thought it was a type of "funky mask" before noticing it move. The anonymous passenger said "no-one batted an eyelid" and she found it "really funny". We're not sure we'd be laughing if there was a snake on our bus!

A Transport for Greater Manchester spokesperson said: "Passengers can make their own [mask] or wear something

suitable, such as a scarf or bandana. While there is a small degree of interpretation, we do not believe it extends to the use of snakeskin – especially when still attached to the snake."



iStock

Note: a snake is not a suitable replacement for a mask...



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer



24. SHOPS

WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?

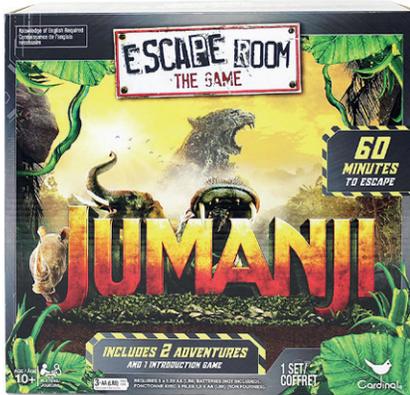
TRAPPED ARGOS £12.99 EACH

Now you can bring the fun and excitement of an escape room to you! Each Trapped game pack has all you need to enjoy an action-packed escape-room experience in your own home. Place the pack contents on walls and surfaces in a room of your choice, then work together with family and friends, or compete against each other, to beat the clock, crack the clues, solve the puzzles – and escape! There are three different Trapped games to challenge you.



JUMANJI ESCAPE ROOM AMAZON.CO.UK £19.99

You have 60 minutes to decipher the codes that will set you free in this Jumanji Escape Room game! Enter the correct keys into the decoder to move further along in the game. Enter the wrong keys and lose valuable time! There are three different adventures to choose from: The Drumming Closet, The Search for Jesse, and Break the Curse.



ESCAPE GAMES

THE CRYSTAL MAZE BOARD GAME ZOOM.CO.UK £24.99

Welcome to the Crystal Maze, where a maze of complicated puzzles and tricky challenges lie in wait for you and your family. Who will be chosen to battle against the mind-bending mental puzzles and who is plucky enough to tackle the challenging physical trials? Let the games begin!



*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! AN BUNDLE

I DIG... MONSTERS! FUN FEELS, COOL REVEALS!

EIGHT lucky winners will get their hands on an I Dig... Monsters Jumbo Plush and an I Dig... Monsters Small Popsicle Pack!

Jumbo Plush: I Dig... Monsters is the cutest new range of collectable figures inspired by the spine-tingling world of ASMR! What's inside this giant Monji? Inside its tummy you will feel an icy Popsicle Pack for you to reveal! There are 28 stylish Monji looks to collect, in various rarities and special finishes. Dunk Monji in icy water to reveal a cool colour-change surprise!

Small Popsicle Pack: Monji is the cutest little collectable monster around, but before you can meet this stylish little figure you need to slice, grate and peel your way through the smooth, cold, and wet popsicle for some spine-tingling ASMR experiences! There are 28 cool, styled Monjis to collect. Look out for rare ones and special finishes! Which Monji will you reveal?

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

What is the spine also known as?
a) sidebone b) frontbone c) backbone



ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY DIG

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 21. The closing date is 8 October 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](https://www.firstnews.co.uk/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. After a battle with the Lord of the Beasts and his army of subjects in a race to the centre of the magical maze, Ferocity discovered that the Lord of the Beasts was her father and he was killed in the battle.

PART 26: BY FLORRIE EVANS

Trembling, Ferocity turned round to face the curtain of darkness. At the heart of what she could now see, in the jet-black fog stood a figure. It advanced slowly, cackling with a might that Guggalugs found particularly frightening. 'Please, Ferocity,' he whispered.

The smoke that puffed weakly from his large ears was thin with anxiety. 'I... I think... I think you may have lost your father.'

'No. No! That can't be the way!' Ferocity crouched on the dirt, only to hear her name called by a soft voice. She got up abruptly, dropping Guggalugs. There, shrouded in the fog, was a woman.

'Mother?'

That couldn't be true, surely. Mother had been seized by a Tapper six years ago. It had almost killed Ferocity and her brother, but Mother had sacrificed herself for Ferocity. Or...

'He's still alive!'

Typhon. Typhon was her brother!

As Ferocity emerged from her trance, her mother walked forward slowly, slowly towards her. Ferocity backed away. Suddenly the maze walls closed around her. Ferocity, Trick, Aida, Ariella, Guggalugs and now her mother were thrown high above the maze. From their viewpoint in the air, they could clearly see the centre, a glowing yellow light.

'The copper pieces!' Ferocity managed to yell, before abruptly vomiting downwards. The sludge tumbled wildly down, landing with a splat far below.

'Ouch! I will kill whoever sicked on me!'

PART 27: BY YOU!

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



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](https://www.firstnews.co.uk/cressidacowell).

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

National Literacy Trust's Virtual School Library



DOUBLE trouble with Zoe Antoniades!

Our author of the week is Zoe Antoniades, introducing her hilarious new book *Cally and Jimmy: Twins in Trouble*, illustrated by Katie Kear.

Zoe has some great advice on what to read next. Her favourite children's books are:

- *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by CS Lewis
- *Orchard Greek Myths retold* by Geraldine McCaughrean, illustrated by Emma Chichester Clark
- *Holes* by Louis Sachar

Visit virtualschoollibrary.org.uk to read the first of four stories in *Cally and Jimmy: Twins in Trouble* for free, watch an exclusive video with the author and download fun colouring activities!

“Words for Life”

Virtual School Library

National Literacy Trust

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

YOUR READS!

CHARLIE AND THE GREAT GLASS ELEVATOR ROALD DAHL

reviewed by Beau Bruce, aged seven

Clever Charlie Bucket, his parents, grandparents and Willy Wonka are on their way to the chocolate factory. Their exciting journey starts with them shooting off into the air in the great glass elevator. The terrified grandparents cause them to orbit the Earth and go on an amazing space adventure. Back at the chocolate factory, more trouble is caused by them taking too many youth-giving and ageing magical pills. This leads to a scary trip to Minusland.

My favourite part was when the grandparents leaped out of bed to go into the helicopter, which would take them to the White House party. To see them finally leave their bed and sprint, with their spindly, hairy old legs and scraggy night dresses on, was so hilarious!

I would recommend this book to 7 to 11-year-olds because it is scary, funny, imaginative, exciting and action-packed.



BAKING BUSINESS

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

by Neel and Nand Patel

WE were really bored during lockdown, especially after school and over the summer holidays.

Our mum banned us from eating unhealthy snacks like we did on a normal school day and told us to eat vegetables instead!

We decided to create healthy snacks that taste unhealthy for ourselves and our close family. We were overwhelmed by the positive responses and recommendations for new products.

We then marketed on social media and The Twin's Treats was born! Within a month, we were delivering all over London and we even reached Manchester! Our products have appealed to those that take physical and mental wellbeing seriously.

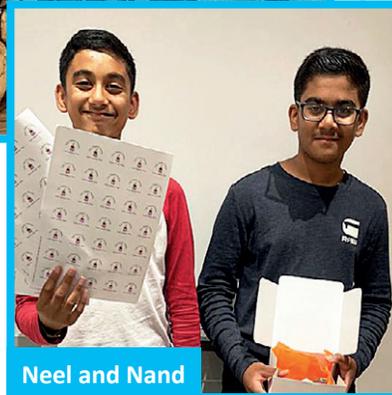
Our weekly orders have now tripled, and our products are also stocked in a local café, so even our parents have had to help! The excitement and challenge of starting a

new business with innovative products has grown our creativity, accountancy, and business skills. For our GCSEs, I study business and my brother studies economics and food preparation and nutrition. We thought that this business would be the perfect combination of both of our skills.

Our products are infused with nuts, sunflower and pumpkin seeds, chia seeds, hemp seeds, cacao powder and cacao nibs, dates and natural fruit flavourings, with healthy fats like almond butter.

We can't wait to see what the future holds for our business.

Tasty treats



Neel and Nand

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

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

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

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.

CYCLE CHALLENGE

by Nicole and Luca Holt

AFTER reading an article in First News, I became aware of the struggles of children living in refugee camps.

After fleeing war zones or crisis in their own countries, many of these children are already undernourished, ill and weak, so the effects of coronavirus can be devastating for them and their families.

I was deeply saddened to learn of the terrible conditions that refugee children find themselves in, and I desperately wanted to help.

Over the summer holidays, my little brother and I rode our bikes a total distance of 100 miles between us, to raise money for UNICEF's Save Generation Covid appeal. This was a huge challenge for us both, but especially for my little brother, Luca, who was only three! We rode in all weathers: wind, rain and sunshine, and although some of the rides were exhausting, we enjoyed every single one!

We managed to raise a total of £260 for UNICEF. We are incredibly grateful to everybody who supported us.



Nicole and Luca

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

ECO SCHOOL

by pupils from Highfield and Brookham Schools

EIGHT children from Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 are taking meaningful steps to ensure Highfield and Brookham Schools in Liphook are as eco-friendly as possible.

Our team of eight Eco Warriors had already received our Bronze and Silver Awards from Eco-Schools, part of Keep Britain Tidy, but this wasn't enough for our determined team.

The team worked tirelessly over the past year, planning and implementing projects in order to gain the prestigious Green Flag Status.

We focused on three key areas. First, biodiversity: to encourage and protect the hedgehog population at Highfield and Brookham, we made four wooden hedgehog boxes that we placed in the school grounds.

Second, energy: we organised a 'swish' event where people brought in items of clothes that they no longer wore and then swapped them. We also visited the school's very own biomass system and learnt about the renewable energy source.

The third area we focused on was global citizenship. We learnt about Fair Trade and made posters, which we displayed in the hall during Fair Trade week. Luckily, just before lockdown a Green Flag Assessor came to our school, where we spent time showing him around and explaining how we believed we qualified for a Green Flag.

We are all overjoyed at the news of our Green Flag Status but we won't stop there. We are already planning on the next steps: organising another swish event; talking to the catering staff about our meat and dairy consumption; and looking at other ways we can encourage biodiversity within the school grounds.

SCHOOL NEWS



Four of the Eco Warriors

SUBSCRIBE FOR SCHOOL – FIND OUT MORE AT [SCHOOLS.FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK](https://schools.firstnews.co.uk)

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SPORT IN PICTURES



Leeds United midfielder Hélder Costa (left) celebrates scoring his side's fourth goal with Patrick Bamford (right). Newly promoted Leeds beat Fulham 4-3 in their first Premier League win in 16 years. Leeds' opening two games this season have seen 14 goals, the most in a side's opening two matches in the top division since Wolves in 1962-63. The second weekend of the season saw a total of 39 goals scored in eight matches



Jack Mauger of Exeter Chiefs dodges a tackle on his way to scoring his side's first try in their 38-15 Champions Cup quarter-final win over Northampton Saints. The victory puts Exeter in their first ever Champions Cup semi-final

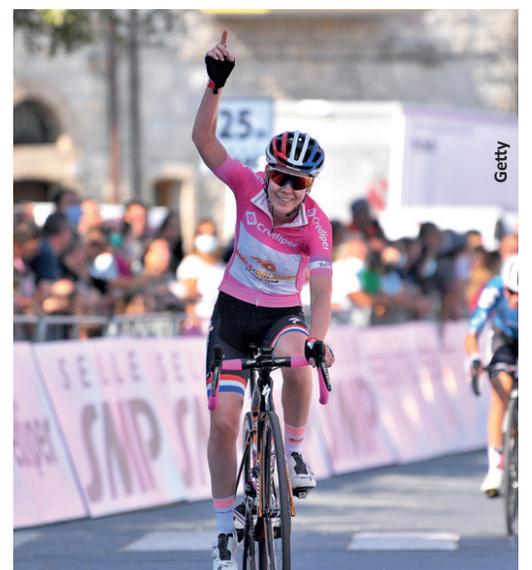


Romania's Simona Halep plays a forehand during the Italian Open final. She beat the Czech Republic's Karolína Plíšková 6-0, 2-1 after Karolína retired injured



Spain's Maverick Viñales celebrates after winning the Emilia Romagna Grand Prix – the sixth winner in seven MotoGP races in 2020

Jemma Reekie of Great Britain leads the pack on her way to winning the 800m race at the Diamond League meeting in Rome. Jemma's training partner, fellow Brit Laura Muir, finished third



Dutch rider Anna van der Breggen has won her third Giro Rosa title. She said she was "really happy" to triumph at the 109.9km circuit in Motta Montecorvino, Italy

SPORT IN NUMBERS

2 competitors finished in third place at the 2020 Santander Triathlon. When Britain's James Teagle (below) took a wrong turn with less than 100m to go, Spanish athlete Diego Méndrida slowed down to let him overtake. James was third to cross the line, but Diego was given honorary third place – and both athletes were given equal prize money.



6.15 metres is the height cleared by Sweden's Armand Duplantis in the pole vault at a Diamond League meeting in Rome. This amazing feat is the highest ever outdoors jump. The 20-year-old already holds the pole vault world record, after clearing 6.18m indoors in Glasgow in February.



2 years is how long female fans of Australia's women's football team will need to wait to buy replica away kits. Both the men's and women's teams are wearing the new away kits – but only replica men's sizes are available to buy now. Australia's Elise Kellond-Knight (below) said that it is "a fairly significant problem."



Tadej Pogačar, who only wore the yellow jersey for one stage, called it an "amazing three-week adventure"

THE 2020 Tour de France saved the best 'til last with the youngest winner in a century riding to victory!

In the early stages of the Tour, the yellow jersey, which indicates the rider leading the race overall, was worn by three different competitors. The ninth stage was won by Slovenian cyclist Tadej Pogačar, who was 21 at the time, making him the youngest winner of a stage for 27 years. However, it was fellow Slovenian Primož Roglič who took the yellow jersey, finishing less than a second after Tadej.

Although he didn't win any more of the stages, Primož raced well, keeping ownership of the yellow jersey for the next ten stages. Stage 21, the final stage, is really a victory parade to celebrate the winner, which means that the other riders only had Stage 20 left to win the Tour from favourite Primož, who



began with a 57-second lead. This section has a huge climb at the end and Primož began to fade. This let Tadej power on and complete the stage 1 minute and 56 seconds faster than his rival and claim victory. He is the second youngest Tour de France winner ever, after Henri Cornet in 1904.

Tadej also triumphed in the young rider classification, (the white jersey). He was also made King of the Mountains (the polka dot jersey) for reaching summits first. But he did leave the green jersey for another rider. That rewards points collected in sprints and was worn by Irish cyclist Sam Bennett.

TROPHY HALL!

ENGLAND'S Georgia Hall won her first Ladies Professional Golf Association tour title in the US, but wasn't only facing the other competitors...

Golfers sometimes find their game affected by rain or wind, but this tournament in Portland suffered from air pollution caused by nearby wildfires. With local residents staying inside because of the smoke, the first round of play was cancelled and the competition shortened to 54 holes.

When play did start, it didn't look like 24-year-old Georgia was going to be the one lifting the trophy. She went into the final round four shots behind Mel Reid. However, as Mel faded, Georgia shone and led by one shot at the final hole. A one-over-par bogey left her tied with South Africa's Ashleigh Buhai, setting up a tense play-off.

Both golfers parred the first hole, but on the next Ashleigh could only manage a bogey, while Georgia parred again to win the tournament. "My goal this year was to win in America," she said afterwards. "And I'm really glad I've done that!"



Georgia Hall had to endure a play-off before taking the trophy

