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First News

**HELPING
THE UK GROW**

NEWS | SPORTS | ENTERTAINMENT | INTERVIEWS | PUZZLES | COMPETITIONS

MAKE IT RAIN!



COULD hot countries control the weather to make it rain?

by editor in chief **Nicky Cox**

That's the question being asked by the United Arab Emirates (UAE), where a harsh climate means only around 10cm of rain falls in a year, mainly in winter.

The UAE is one of the hottest countries on the planet – with daily summer temperatures over 40°C – and it needs more fresh water. It is now experimenting with using catapults to launch drones into clouds. The job of the drones is to zap droplets in the clouds with an electric charge to try to make it rain.

A team of scientists from the UK's University of Reading came up with the idea in 2017. Dr Keri Nicoll, one of the key scientists, said they found that when cloud droplets were zapped with an electrical charge, the smaller droplets were more likely to join together and grow to become big raindrops.

The size of the raindrops is important, says Dr Nicoll, because in places like the UAE, which has high clouds and high temperatures, droplets often evaporate as they fall.

"What we are trying to do is to make the

droplets inside the clouds big enough so that when they fall out of the cloud, they survive down to the surface," says Nicoll.

To test out the theory, Nicoll and her team joined up with the University of Bath to build four 2m-wide aircraft with charge emitters to zap the clouds.

They carried out early testing in the UK and Finland but now the experiment is being completed in Dubai (above).

As climate change causes the planet to heat up, causing droughts in some places and floods in others, there is a growing interest in how to control the weather.

The WWF charity says two-thirds of the world's people could face water shortages by 2025. Other countries like China and America are also funding science projects to see if they can change the weather.

However, there are questions over whether increasing rain in one place might take precious water away from somewhere else.

What do you think? Should we try to control the weather?
Vote at first.news/polls

ZOO FUND CLOSED



The Government's £100m fund to support zoos during the pandemic has ended, but almost 90% of the fund has not been spent. Only £12m of the Zoo Animals Fund has been awarded or is due to be granted. Of 300 licensed zoos in the UK, just 34 have been given money, while 23 applications for funds are still being worked out. Jamie Christon, from Chester Zoo, said the lack of cash awarded was "extremely frustrating" and had slowed the zoo's global conservation work.

£4M SEWAGE FINE

Utility company Thames Water has been fined £4m after millions of litres of sewage flooded a park and river in New Malden. The incident occurred in 2016 when a sewage treatment works couldn't cope during a storm. Almost 50 warning alarms were ignored, causing a mess that took 30 people almost a month to clear. Gary Waddup, from the Environment Agency, said that better management "could have prevented this catastrophic incident".

CHILD GENIUS



A two-year-old has become the youngest member of Mensa in the US. Mensa is a high-IQ society, which basically means it's for really smart people! The average IQ (intelligence quotient) in the US is 98 but toddler Kashe Quest scored 146 on an IQ test. Kashe's parents say she can read full sentences, count to 100 and identify all 50 states. She's also learning the periodic table and Spanish.

QUICK NEWS

TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS

TINY PIGS ARE BACK



Pygmy hog numbers are said to be booming again. The tiny pigs – which are only 25cm (10in) high – were once common in India, Nepal and Bhutan, but after years of their habitats being destroyed, they were believed to be extinct. A breeding programme was started in 1971 after a small group was rediscovered, and there are now thought to be more than 400 in the wild. Project director Parag Deka said: "It's very important for me to save this species from extinction. We should all look for a purpose in life. When I got involved in this project, I realised this can give me that purpose."

CAT ART



A mysterious artist going by the name of Catsby (Banksy but with cats!) has been winning fans in Wokingham with their simple black cat artworks. The cats have been popping up all over town, with Catsby saying they are simply "trying to spread smiles with the aid of some friendly cats".



AIRSHIP TRAVEL

A company developing aircraft says its airships are an eco-friendly alternative to short-haul flights. UK-based Hybrid Air Vehicles (HAV) say that one of its Airlander ships could carry up to 100 passengers while reducing carbon emissions by 90%. It has proposed a number of short-distance routes that could be available from 2025. These include Liverpool to Belfast, Oslo to Stockholm and Seattle to Vancouver. HAV says its flights would take roughly the same time as planes when you include getting to and from the airport. They have a much smaller carbon footprint though, and would be faster than alternatives like ferries.



SELF-DRIVE TRIAL

Electric vehicles that drive themselves are being trialled in Cambridge. Three bus-like Auto-Shuttles will be used around the city. They can carry ten people and a safety operator will be inside just in case. The vehicles can travel at 20mph (32km/h) and have a range of 100 miles (161km) between charges. Transport Minister Rachel Maclean said such vehicles could provide "safer, greener and more reliable transport services" in the UK.

MONEY TO PLAY GAMES

Good news if you're an adult in the US – a company called Frontier is offering a pair of friends \$2,000 (£1,400) to play videogames for 21 hours. The chosen pair will be given a Nintendo Switch Lite along with snacks and games. Frontier wants to know if you play better with a friend by your side.

SHELL MUST REDUCE EMISSIONS



Oil company Shell has been told by a court in the Netherlands that it must do more to cut its emissions. The court ruled that Shell needs to reduce its CO₂ emissions by 45% by 2030. The ruling marks the first time a company has been legally told to meet the Paris Agreement on climate change, which aims to keep global temperatures less than 2°C above pre-1900 levels.

NEW JAB APPROVED

A new COVID-19 vaccine by Janssen has been approved for use in the UK. Unlike the other approved vaccines, those getting the Janssen jab will only need one shot instead of two. The UK has ordered 20m doses of the new vaccine that will arrive later this year.

HAIR-RAISING RECORD



A man with the Guinness World Record for the tallest fan mohawk now holds the record for the tallest spike mohawk too. Joe Grisamore, from Minnesota, got the fan mohawk record last year with a height of 108cm (42.5in). This time, he had his hair formed into a spike. After a lot of "trial and error" and "different hairsprays", Joe and his team hit a record of 129.4cm (50.9in) tall.

RADIOACTIVE RHINO HORNS

SCIENTISTS in South Africa are planning on injecting harmless radioactive material into rhino horns to discourage poachers.

It's thought that radioactive material could be picked up by existing scanners in airports across the globe – making it harder for poachers to smuggle the horns.

The structure of a rhino's horn means that it's very unlikely that any of the radiation will end up in the rhino itself.

James Larkin, a professor involved with the scheme, said that he "doesn't want to kill anyone", and that the plan is simply to "decrease demand for rhino horn and also make it easier to track".

Rhino horns are very popular in Asia's illegal markets, where they can sell for over £50,000 per kilogram.

In the last ten years, 9,885 rhinos have been killed by poachers.

PLASTIC FOUND IN DEEP OCEAN

A CLIMATE scientist has become one of the first people to explore the world's third deepest undersea trench – but instead of strange deep sea creatures, he only found plastic waste.

Climate scientist Dr Deo Florence Onda, and Victor Vescovo, an explorer from private exploration company Caladan Oceanic, descended more than 10,500m under the surface into the Emden Deep, part of the Philippine Trench.

Together, they found plastic bags, teddy bears, clothes and packaging. Dr Onda said that at one point he saw "white material floating around".

"I was saying: 'Victor, that's a jellyfish'. We went there and approached... and it was just a plastic bag.

"Seeing [the trench] for the first time was a privilege as a human being.

"But being a witness to the extent of pollution, and being a witness to the [seriousness] of the plastics problem from the surface to the bottom of the ocean, is another thing.

"It's my responsibility to tell people their garbage doesn't stay where they put it. It goes somewhere else and it will sink."



Dr Deo Florence Onda



Plastic bags were found on the deep sea floor



WOW! £10 TO HOWL!

LANCASHIRE artist Jamie Holman has paid 150 people £10 each to howl like a wolf at a bus station in Preston.

The "mass howl" will make up part of Holman's upcoming exhibition, and will be a memorial to the last wolf killed in England.

"It's about being a pack again," Holman said.

RECORD-BREAKING EVEREST CLIMBERS



Tsang Yin Hung in Nepal's capital, Kathmandu

A TEACHER from Hong Kong has become the fastest woman to climb to the top of Mount Everest.

Tsang Yin Hung, 45, reached the top of the world's highest mountain on 30 May in 25 hours and 50 minutes, beating the previous record by more than 12 hours.

But she isn't alone in breaking an Everest record recently. Last week, Arthur Muir, 75, became the oldest American to climb the mountain, while 46-year-old Zhang Hong of China became the first blind man from Asia to complete the challenge. He is only the third blind man in the world to reach the top of Everest.

BEIT LAHIA, GAZA



Getty

A PALESTINIAN man performs fire-breathing in front of a building that was destroyed by an Israeli air strike during the recent fighting.

PURI, INDIA



Getty

A SAND sculptor adds some final touches to a striking message for World No Tobacco Day on 31 May.

VENICE, ITALY



Getty

THE Italian Air Force display team, Frecce Tricolori (Tricolour Arrows), bring some colour to the Venice Boat Show.

CHESHIRE, UK



Chester Zoo

TWO very rare Coquerel's sifaka lemurs, which have never been seen before in Europe, have just arrived at Chester Zoo, following a nearly 4,000-mile (6,440km) journey from the USA. Beatrice and Elliott will be part of a new conservation breeding programme to help save the species from extinction.



Getty

ST PETERSBURG, RUSSIA

TWO harbour seals are released into the Gulf of Finland after being cared for at the local water company's Marine Mammals Research and Conservation Centre.



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TIME TO THANK TEACHERS



IT'S Thank A Teacher Day on 23 June. After such a difficult year, there's no better time to thank a special teacher who went above and beyond to keep you learning throughout lockdown.

To celebrate, *Gruffalo* illustrator Axel Scheffler has designed a free limited-edition e-card for you to use.

Send the card to your favourite teacher and you'll be able to enter this year's #HowWillYouSayThankYou competitions. You could bake a cookie, draw a picture or write a short story or poem for your teaching heroes, then upload a picture or video to show it off.

This year's competitions will be judged by author Sir Michael Morpurgo, TV chef Nadiya Hussain and *The Voice Kids* coach Pixie Lott.

This year, everyone's being encouraged to get sparkly on the day itself by showing off your best spangly outfits, jewellery and glitter.

For more information, head to thankateacher.co.uk and get involved!

ONE ROOF FOR ALL RELIGIONS



THE first stone has been laid in a ground-breaking building that will host places of worship for three religions under one roof.

The House of One in Berlin will feature separate places for Christians, Muslims and Jews to worship, as well as a large hall designed to bring people from different faiths together for events and festivals. The foundation stone was laid as part of a ceremony to begin the build, which is due to be completed in 2025.

The ceremonial moment was witnessed by a Christian pastor, Jewish rabbi and Muslim imam (above), who put objects from each of their religions into the concrete. Imam Kadir Sancı described it as "a very symbolic step forward for us".

EDITOR'S COMMENT



THERE has been a lot of talk about NHS heroes during the COVID-19 pandemic. Rightly so. But I have heard less about the education heroes who did their best in difficult circumstances to keep teaching – and took on a lot of extra work, too. So, *First News* is very happy to support Thank A Teacher Day this month. See left to find out how you can send a card to your favourite teacher and enter the competition.

GOOD WEEK

BORIS JOHNSON & CARRIE SYMONDS

PRIME Minister Boris Johnson and his partner Carrie Symonds got married at Westminster Cathedral. The wedding was planned in secret and took place in a small ceremony last week.



BAD WEEK



RENTERS

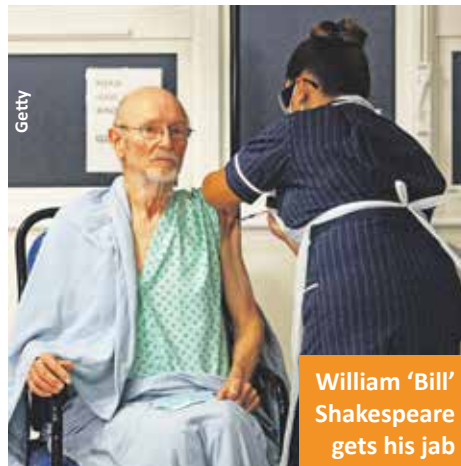
A BAN on evicting (removing) people from their homes, which was brought in during the pandemic, is due to end. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation said that 400,000 people in England have been handed an eviction notice or told they may be evicted. Meanwhile, 450,000 more are struggling to keep up with paying their rent each month.

THE WRONG WILLIAM

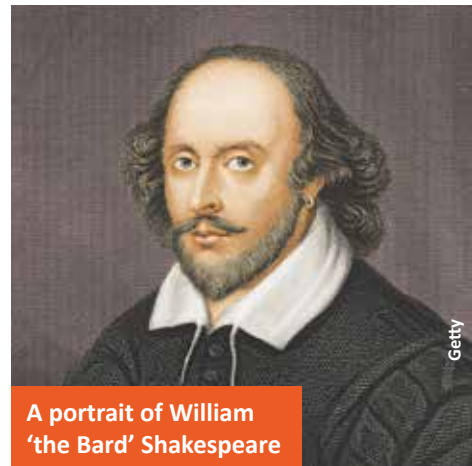
ARGENTINIAN news station Canal 26 made a big error after a man with a well-known name sadly passed away.

William Shakespeare was the first man to get the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, but he died recently from an unrelated illness. As you're probably aware, Mr Shakespeare shared his name with a rather famous playwright, and that's who Canal 26 thought had died.

Presenter Noelia Novillo announced the death of "one of the most important writers in the English language", unaware that the Bard had died more than 400 years ago, in 1616!



William 'Bill' Shakespeare gets his jab



A portrait of William 'the Bard' Shakespeare

JOIN THE BUG SPLAT COUNT



UK drivers are being urged to count the number of bugs splatting onto their car number plates. It might sound gross, but it's actually for important scientific research!

Ask most adults and they will say they remember a time when bugs splatting on the front of the car was a common occurrence. Nowadays, that happens a lot less, which suggests a worrying decline in insect populations.

That's why the charity Buglife has launched its Bugs Matter app. The app is free to download and aims to help scientists get an idea of insect numbers. Here's how it works: users wipe their number plate clean, then go on a journey

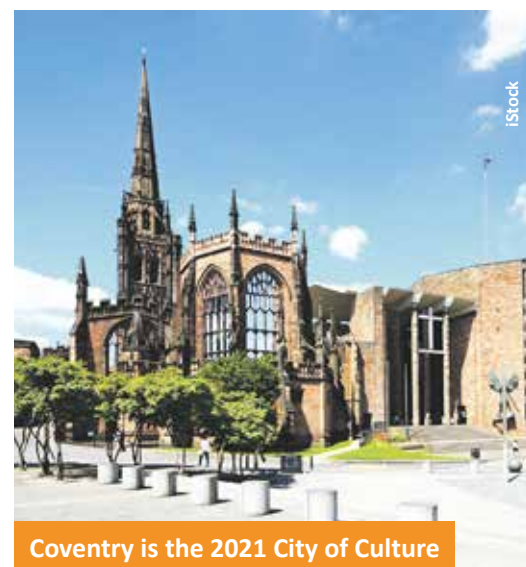
that the app tracks. After the trip, you count the number of bugs on the plate and upload a picture so it can be checked.

Buglife's Andrew Whitehouse said: "The falling abundance [a large number] of flying insects should be a major concern to everybody, as these essential creatures are the small things that run the world."

So let your family know about this simple way to help insects, and our environment as a whole, and get counting!



SEARCH BEGINS FOR NEXT CITY OF CULTURE



Coventry is the 2021 City of Culture

THE Government is on the hunt for the next UK City of Culture.

A competition was launched this week by Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden, who has urged towns and cities to apply.

For the first time ever, groups of towns can join together and apply for the title to be awarded to their local area. This means even more people could benefit.

Towns and cities will have to show their plans for the future, how they celebrate local heritage and how they use culture to bring their communities together.

The winner will be announced in spring 2022 and will take up the role in 2025. The title often means more funding for the town or city, more visitors and more jobs.

GOOD PROGRESS FOR JUNIOR JABS



THE European Union has approved the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for people aged between 12 and 15.

The jab has already been approved for that age range in some other countries, including the USA. It will be up to individual EU countries whether they roll out the vaccine, but Germany has already given it the green light.

UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab says NHS England is drawing up plans to vaccinate secondary schoolchildren later this year, in a move to prevent school closures if infections rise following the lifting of lockdown.

Moderna has said its vaccine is safe for 12 to 17-year-olds. If approved, it will become the second vaccine available to young people in America.

DIARY DATES



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY
5 JUNE

This day encourages worldwide awareness and action to protect our environment.

THE BIG LUNCH
5-6 JUNE

This great initiative wants us to celebrate our neighbours and communities. Head to edenprojectcommunities.com/the-big-lunch to find out more.

MUSEUM WEEK
7-13 JUNE

A virtual event, Museum Week is devoted to creativity. Get involved at museum-week.org.

CHILD SAFETY WEEK
7-13 JUNE

Child Safety Week is an annual campaign run by the Child Accident Prevention Trust. This year's theme is Share Because You Care.

WORLD OCEANS DAY
8 JUNE

Go to unworldoceansday.org to see what steps are being taken for a healthy ocean and climate.

COOK YOUR WAY TO GOOD HEALTH



SCHOOLS across the UK have been invited to take part in this year's **Healthy Eating Week** from 14 to 18 June.

The week aims to encourage children and adults to think about what they eat and how they keep active. The theme for this year is *Find Your Healthier You*. The British Nutrition Foundation (BNF) says it wants to give you enough information so that you can look after your own health and have fun. There are five daily themes across the week, with activities for groups and individuals:

- **Know the facts:** information and advice
- **Make a healthier choice:** tips on making better food choices
- **Plan for success:** ways to plan healthier meals
- **Be the chef:** learning how to cook healthier options that are still really tasty
- **Keep moving:** the importance of keeping active and not sitting still for hours

The BNF has urged people to remember that everyone is different when it comes to a healthy diet and lifestyle, so the aim is to find what works for you.

To find out more about the week, visit www.nutrition.org.uk/healthyliving/hew.

BADGER CULLS TO END

THE Government has announced that it won't give out new badger cull licences after 2022 and will look at other ways to prevent bovine tuberculosis (bTB) in England instead.

This infectious disease often leads to cows having to be killed. The Government says that badger culls have helped to reduce the spread of bTB by half in some areas, although experts strongly disagree on how effective the culls have been.

Falling levels of bTB mean the Government is now looking at a new strategy. It's working on a vaccine for cattle and plans to vaccinate badgers (a protected species). It's also developing a system to track the badger population and disease levels.

The National Farmers' Union

(NFU) is unhappy about the decision. The NFU's Stuart Roberts said: "The Government should be making decisions based on the science and evidence, which clearly shows that badger culling is effective."

Professor Rosie Woodroffe from ZSL is working on a badger jab. "Phasing out the cull isn't just best for badgers – it should be the best approach for farmers and their cattle," she told us. "Vaccination is not just kinder to badgers, it should also be more effective at eradicating TB to protect farmers and cattle."



RECENTLY we asked you if you think it's too risky for Brits to go on holiday in other countries. Here are some of your thoughts...

I think it's quite risky still. I would allow people to leave and return to the country for family emergencies, though.

weirdcat

I think visiting places like Cornwall or Scotland is OK as they are in the UK and have the same access to vaccines as the rest of the UK.

mcgeorge1

I think it is too risky to go on holiday abroad during this time because going abroad could risk creating new strains of the virus which could spread worldwide. I think it's wiser to go on holiday in the UK instead.

avion14

Even though I want to go on holiday, I think that it is too dangerous to go. If more people were vaccinated, especially kids, if more countries were on the green list and if you didn't have to isolate when you came back; but until then coronavirus still has its grip on holidays.

verdant

I think that you should only be able to go to countries on the green list because it's important to see your family.

ginny09876

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE



Nick Ludlow

● Teen attempts world flying record

An 18-year-old has set himself the challenge of becoming the youngest pilot to fly solo around the world. Travis Ludlow from Ibstone aims to complete the 24,900-mile (40,073km) trip in around 45 days. He started his journey at Wycombe Air Park and will travel across Europe, Russia and America. Travis wants to break the record held by Mason Andrews from the US, who was 18 years and 163 days old at the end of his trip. Travis is 18 years and 111 days old.



iStock

BIRMINGHAM

● Third clean air zone launches

Birmingham has launched England's third clean air zone, following in the footsteps of London and Bath. Some vehicles, especially older cars, will be charged a daily rate for travelling into the centre of town. The aim is to help cut down on pollution and promote better air quality. It has caused controversy though, with some people saying it's a bad time due to the coronavirus pandemic. Others argue it needs to happen to protect people's health.

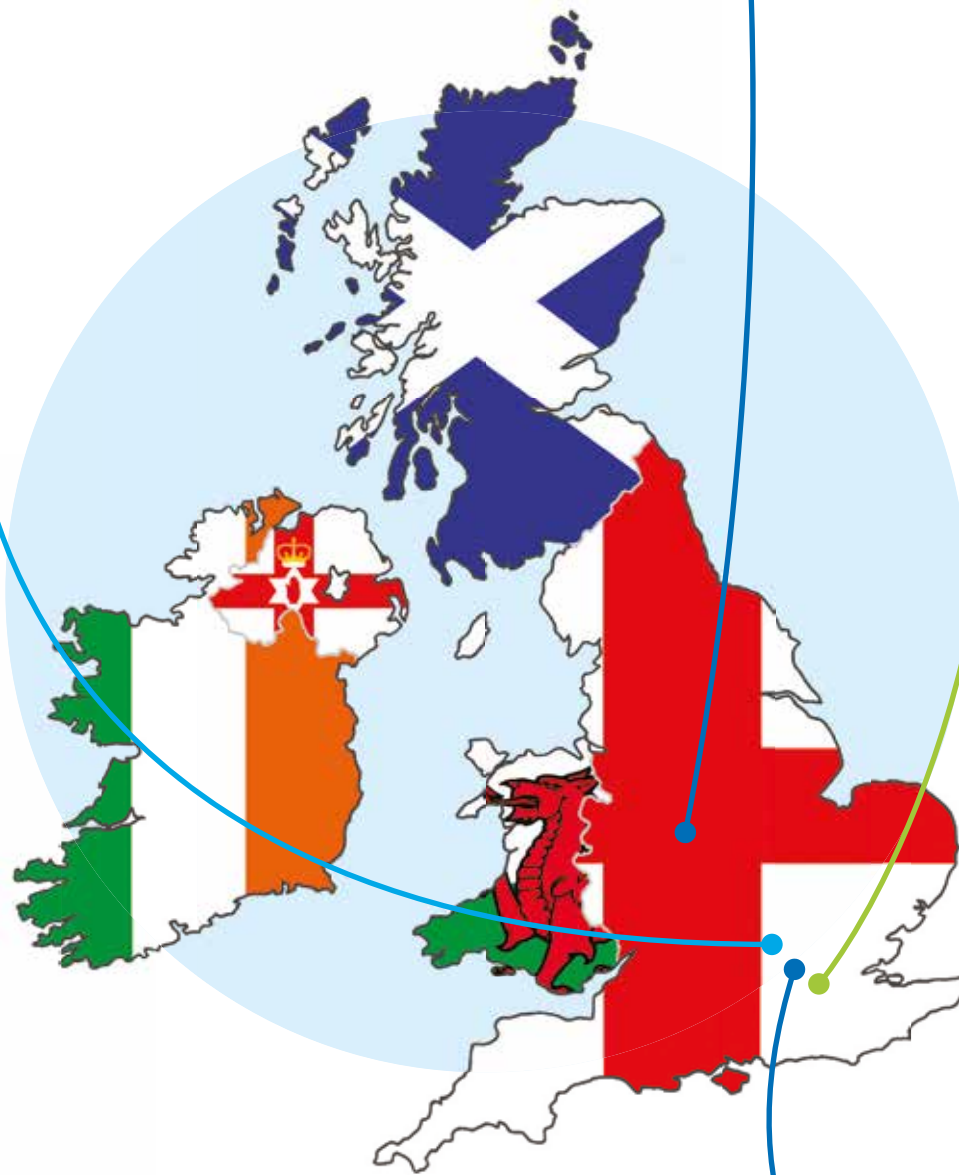
UK



Getty

● Celebrations for Empathy Day

A number of famous authors and illustrators are taking part in this year's Empathy Day Live! event on 10 June. The huge festival aims to help young people learn more about what empathy is (understanding and sharing the feelings of others) through the power of books. Malorie Blackman (above), Cressida Cowell and Michael Morpurgo are among those leading activities. Families are also being encouraged to take their own 'empathy walks'. You can watch all the events live at empathylab.uk/empathy-day-live-2021.



CROYDON



Cats Protection

● Cool cat cookies win baking competition

A 16-year-old schoolgirl has been crowned the junior winner of Cats Protection's Pawsome Baking Challenge. The charity enlisted the help of Bake Off star Kim-Joy to help them pick the winner. Kim chose Isobel Davies' unusual cat-themed meringue cookies. Isobel revealed: "My bake was inspired by the paws of my two cats, Lola and Charlie." The competition raised more than £1,600 to help Cats Protection look after and rehome unwanted cats.



WALES

● Live music is back on

Live music events have been allowed to return in Wales. The Welsh Government confirmed last week that venues can host live performances, as long as risk assessments are carried out and strict rules are followed. That includes limiting groups to a maximum of six people and using one-way systems. The new rules do not apply to nightclubs.



iStock

LONDON

● E-scooter scheme races off

A new e-scooter rental scheme launches in London on 7 June. The electric scooters will be available across six areas in the capital, as part of a trial to see whether they are a practical and safe way to travel on the roads. People will have to take an e-learning safety course to ride them and will be able to travel only at speeds of up to 20km/h (12.5mph).



iStock

First News has teamed up with **sky kids** show **FYI** and the **young audiences CONTENT FUND** to make programmes and videos about the news, which you can watch on **First News Education TV**. And, join the **FYI News Club**! See below...



WE'VE launched the FYI News Club! Why not set one up at your school? You could find yourself on TV!

First News has teamed up with Sky News and Sky Kids to help create **FYI: For Your Info**, the award-winning weekly 15-minute news magazine show. Each week, **FYI** investigates the big issues young people need to know about. There are reports from around the globe, explainers, debates, Fake News or Fact?, and in-depth

reporting. The **FYI** team also get big-name interviews, from world leaders to pop and film stars.

In your school's **FYI News Club**, you can watch the show and talk about what you've found out with your friends and schoolmates. The topics up for discussion will range from fascinating to serious and sometimes a little silly.

To help with this, each week First News is creating a weekly **FYI News Club Chat** resource with lots of questions and ideas to get you thinking and talking about what you've watched in the show. These can be downloaded from first.news/EducationTV.

And check out the chance to be on the show yourself!



Fake News or Fact?
being debated in class

Ask your teacher to go to first.news/EducationTV to find out more about the **FYI News Clubs**.



First News Education TV is our free video platform for schools and families. **First News** subscribing schools can also download accompanying resources for the classroom. Go to first.news/EducationTV to find out more!

FROM STREET SPORT TO THE OLYMPICS



FYI presenter Declan meets skateboarder Bombette, who is hoping to make it onto Team GB in one of the new sports for this year's Olympic Games.

FIVE new Olympic sports will be making their first appearance in Tokyo: baseball/softball, karate, skateboarding, sport climbing and surfing. This makes a total of **33** sports for the Tokyo Olympics and **22** sports at the Tokyo Paralympics. Two new Paralympic sports will be badminton and taekwondo.



Bombette

Declan: So, the Tokyo Olympics have been delayed for a year, but I think it's going to be worth the wait. We're going to see a lot of new sports like surfing and karate. But one of the sports I'm excited to see is competitive skateboarding. So, skateboarding is no longer just a street sport. It's now an official Olympic sport. I don't stand a chance but all eyes are on Bombette Martin. Bombette, 14, is based in New York in the USA but she's part British and, news just in, **FYI** can reveal Bombette has qualified to represent Team GB at the Tokyo Olympics later this year. She took time out of training to catch up with **FYI**. So, hey Bombette, what are your goals for the Olympics?

Bombette: The maths says that I'm going to go, but it's not quite official yet. But, just the fact that for the rest of my life I'll be able to say: "I'm an Olympian", I don't think I could be more happy with myself.

Declan: Skateboarding being an official sport hasn't gone down well with everyone. Some skaters believe it should stay a street sport, while others, like you, want to make a career out of it.

Bombette: I know some people don't agree with it, and say that maybe it shouldn't be a sport. But, you know, I think it's going to help a lot of people and I think it's just going to be a great thing for

people to be able to watch.

Declan: Either way, you only have to head down to your local skate park to be able to see a whole lot of hopefuls hoping to make the cut to be part of the Olympic team. You might have guessed that street boarding originated from, well, the streets! And the Olympic committee has promised to respect the origins by keeping the tricks and the obstacles similar to what you might see at a park. However, the competition will be really tough for Team GB, as street skateboarding is massive all around the world.



Declan

What makes a sport a sport? Do you think it's right that skateboarding is an Olympic sport? Is it about the fitness, agility and ability that are required in most sports? Or is it more about how much training you do, and how much you push yourself?

See Bombette in action on **FYI episode 124** at first.news/EducationTV

FRANCE



● **Moving on from meat**

France's environment minister has announced plans to help people move away from meat. Meat will be off the menu at least one day a week in schools, and vegetarian options will be standard. Chefs will be trained in how to prepare healthy and tasty plant-based meals.

GERMANY



● **Genocide in Namibia**

Germany has recognised officially that, between 1904 and 1908, it killed tens of thousands of Namibians. German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas described the killings as a genocide, which is when a whole community or race is targeted. Germany promised more than €1 billion in financial aid over the next 30 years. Namibian politicians said it's "the first step in the right direction". Namibia was a German colony from 1884 to 1915.



CANADA



● **Stand-off over old-growth trees**

More than 130 people have been arrested for blocking the logging of 'old-growth' trees on Vancouver Island. In the state of Vancouver, an old-growth tree is one that's more than 250 years old, but some are over 1,000 years old. Some of these trees are more than 60 metres (almost 200ft) tall. Conservationists say that forests with old-growth trees can help protect against future climate change disasters, since they have thick, tough bark, large root systems and space between them, which all helps to prevent the spread of forest fires, and can reduce the effects of landslides and flooding. Old-growth forests also encourage biodiversity, as they're home to lots of wildlife species that don't thrive elsewhere. Canada's forestry industry says that it needs the wood, due to its value. Wood from old-growth trees is often used in expensive products such as high-quality furniture and musical instruments.



NORTH KOREA



● **Skinny jeans banned**

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has banned citizens from wearing skinny jeans or branded T-shirts, or having either spiky, dyed or mullet hairstyles. The secretive country's state-run news agency says that the rules are to stop the country from "falling like a damp wall" to western culture, which is "decadent" (having no morals and only being interested in pleasure).

AFGHANISTAN



● **Interpreters welcomed**

A scheme has been announced to help Afghans who worked as interpreters for British troops to come to live in the UK. Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said that, with family members included, this would mean more than 3,000 people. He said it's the right thing to do for "the people who supported the British Armed Forces and the British Government over many, many years in Afghanistan who feel they are in danger". Earlier this year, the UK announced that it would join the US in starting to remove all troops from the country.



BRAZIL



● **Protests against president**

Tens of thousands of Brazilians have marched against President Jair Bolsonaro, demanding his impeachment (removal from office). Since the beginning of the pandemic, Mr Bolsonaro has said no to efforts to fight the disease, calling it a "little flu" and refusing to take the COVID-19 vaccine. Many protestors carried homemade signs dedicated to loved ones they have lost to the virus, which has killed more than 460,000 people in Brazil.



CHINA



● **Three-child limit introduced**

China has announced that couples are allowed to have up to three children. From the end of the 1970s, lots of couples in China were limited to having one child, while others were limited to two. If they had more than the limit, they could face a fine. This was introduced by the country's government to take control of China's increasing population, which is the largest in the world. However, China's 2020 census found that there has been a sharp decline in births.



PROBING THE PUZZLE OF A FALCON'S FACE STRIPES



A peregrine falcon showing off its best side and its malar stripes

SCIENTISTS in South Africa say that they now have evidence that proves the purpose of the dark stripes under the eyes of many falcons.

It's been claimed for years that the dark patches, known as malar stripes, help to reduce light from the sun being reflected into the birds' eyes while hunting. However, no-one had ever backed the theory up with any evidence.

Three scientists from the FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology in Cape Town decided to test the theory by studying pictures of peregrine falcons, as the species is common around the world and lives in a wide variety of environments. Since peregrines hunt their prey in the air, they need to be able to pick out targets in bright skies, so reducing glare from the sun should be a big advantage for them.

The researchers measured the size of each bird's malar stripes and looked up figures for how much sun that part of the world gets on average each year. They found that peregrines living in sunnier parts of the world have stripes that are wider and darker, which suggests that the theory is correct.

One argument against the theory is that other species, such as the prairie falcon (right), have pale malar stripes.

However, the researchers say that since prairie falcons mainly hunt prey on the ground, such as rabbits and squirrels, reducing glare isn't as important for them.

The research was published in *Biology Letters*.



A peregrine falcon with dark malar stripes (above), compared to the pale stripes of a prairie falcon (below)



Getty

Many athletes use black grease to darken under their eyes. It's been claimed that it frightens opponents, but some research has shown that it does reduce glare

STILL STRUGGLING TO SEPARATE FAKE FROM FACT



AFTER years of warnings about the dangers of fake news, it seems as though we're not really getting any better at spotting it – even though we think we are.

In a study involving more than 8,000 American adults, researchers found that 90% of them claimed to be above average at detecting fake news. However, those who over-rated their abilities were the ones who were more likely to visit sites that are "known to spread false or misleading news". The same people are also more likely to share fake news, especially when it backs up their political views.

The scientists say their study shows that overconfidence in our own abilities "may be a crucial factor" in the spread of fake news.

DID YOU KNOW?

Moon dust is a big problem for astronauts and equipment, as it sticks to everything and is really abrasive (scratchy). In fact, the dust is so harsh that NASA says it even broke the vacuum cleaner that was designed to clean moon dust off spacesuits during the Apollo manned moon missions!

BIRD BRAINS AREN'T FOOLED BY MAGIC



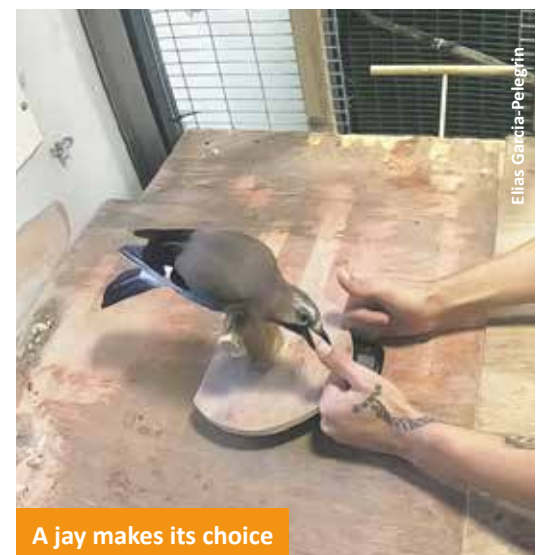
A NEW study in US science journal *PNAS* shows that crows are harder to fool than humans!

The scientists used three common magic techniques to see if six Eurasian jays (a member of the crow family) could tell which hand a worm was in. In all three experiments, humans picked the wrong hand most of the time, whereas the jays chose the correct hand when they were watching the palm transfer or 'French drop' techniques. However, the jays were still mostly fooled by a fast pass.

The scientists say that birds don't have the same expectations as humans, so just choose based on what they can see. They also say it's possible that crows use fast movements to hide their food, as they know that other crows will be fooled.



iStock



Elias Garcia-Pelegrin

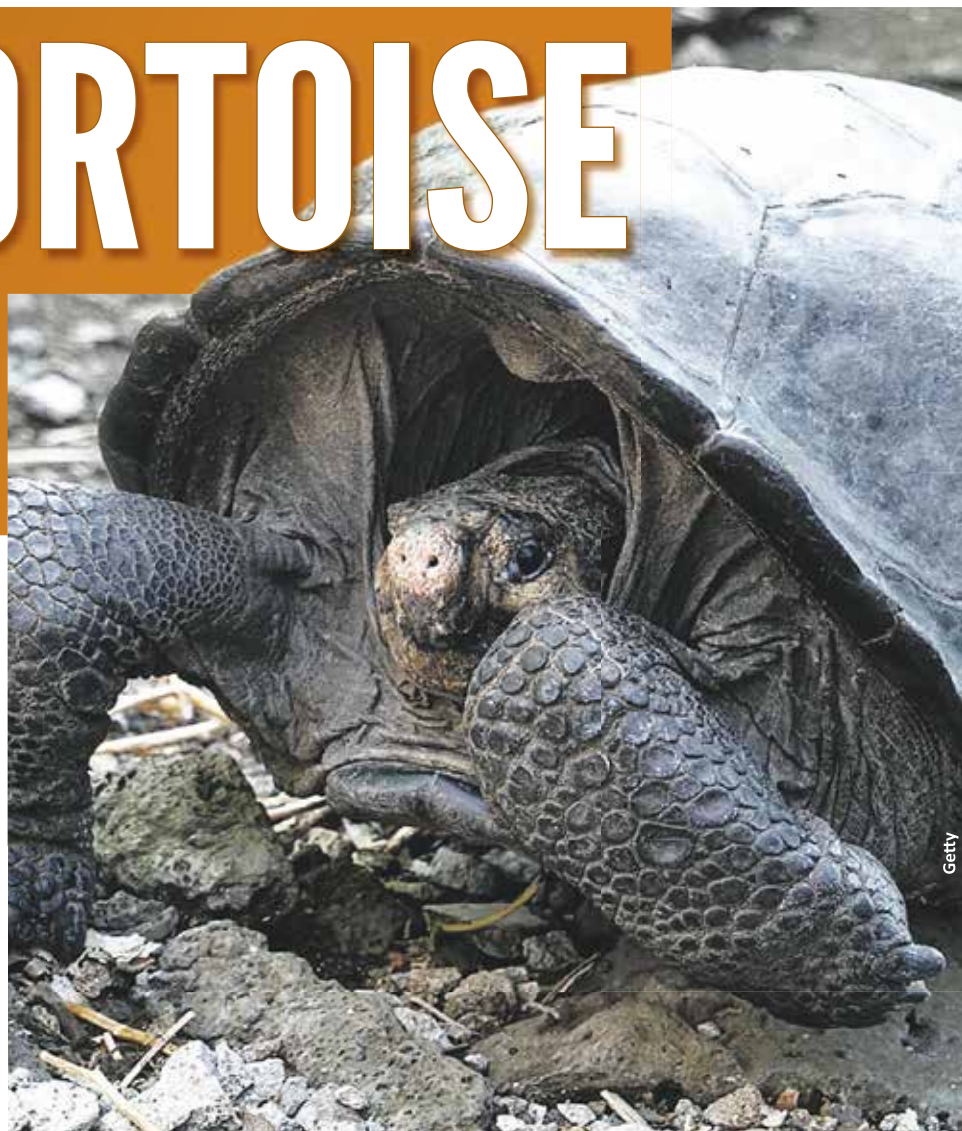
A jay makes its choice

TERRIFIC TORTOISE DISCOVERY

A GIANT tortoise found on the Galápagos Islands is from a species that was thought to have become extinct more than 100 years ago.

The female tortoise was discovered during an expedition on Fernandina Island in 2019. The team took samples from her and sent them to scientists at Yale University in America. They have now confirmed that the tortoise is from the *Chelonoidis phantasticus* species. This type of tortoise, also known as the Fernandina giant tortoise, was last spotted in 1906!

Ecuador's Environment Minister, Gustavo Manrique, celebrated the news by tweeting: "Hope is alive." It's believed there could be more of the species left in the wild, so another expedition is set to take place.



PONDS FOR POOL FROGS

JUNE is one of the best times to spot one of the UK's rarest frog species, the pool frog.

Pool frogs were once extinct in the UK but have bounced back from the brink in East Anglia. They breed later in the year than normal frogs and around this time of year will be looking for somewhere to lay their frogspawn.

Mirran Trimble, from UK charity Froglife said: "All of our native frog species are dependent on freshwater habitats in order to breed successfully, and we can provide this habitat by creating ponds in our gardens. Even mini-ponds can make wonderful habitats and can be created from any old container you might have lying around, whether it's a washing-up tub, a bucket or even an old bath!"



SINGING IN THE SEA



HUMPBACK whales have been recorded singing off the coast of New York.

Sightings of humpback whales in the area have increased in recent years, but the recordings show that whales are in the waters off New York all year round. Scientists from the Wildlife Conservation Society and from Cornell, Columbia and Syracuse universities recorded the whale song using special underwater equipment.

Their full report is published in the journal *Marine Mammal Science* and highlights how important it is for the area to get proper conservation status to help protect the whales.

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KEEPING WATCH ON THE WILD!



Build your own webcam like this one!

30 DAYS WILD
1-30 JUNE

Dr Rob Phillips

THIS month, the Wildlife Trusts' 30 Days Wild challenge returns. It challenges people to do one 'wild thing' every day for 30 days. There are loads of fantastic live events being held, including how to build a wildlife webcam!

This year, the challenge kicked off on 1 June with the Big Wild Breakfast – a nationwide outdoor event. You can still download the free breakfast placemat, which has been designed as a wildlife spotting guide.

Take it outside, and record what you see on the placemat as you munch your breakfast.

This Sunday (6 June), there's a look at how you can watch the wildlife around you, by building your own webcam! Dr Rob Phillips (left), who designed it, told us all about it.

● So, what's the Wildlife Webcams event on 6 June all about?

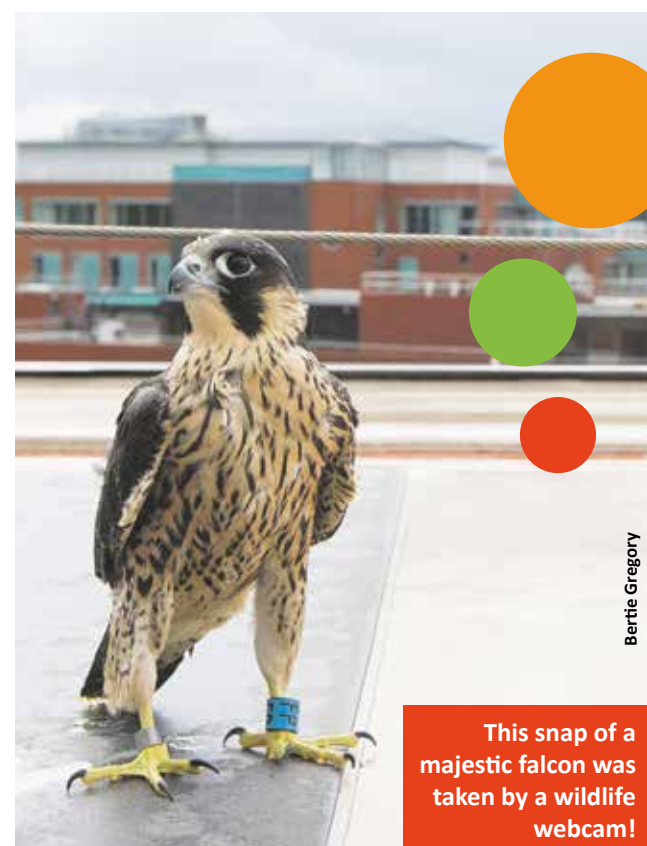
I'll be joining BBC Springwatch presenter Hannah Stiffall and a number of ecologists to talk wildlife cameras. There's a competition, where you have a chance to win one of five My NatureWatch DIY camera kits. It's an open event, so people don't need any wildlife or technology knowledge before they turn up. Experts will be sharing their experiences of how to set things up, and some common mistakes. I don't want to sound cheesy, but it'll be good, family, garden-watching entertainment!

● What have you seen with yours?

Our cameras are down by our family allotment, and we found that there were deer running around; we never knew they were there! We saw a lot of tawny owls, which we didn't know were there either, and then a lot of badgers! Someone described it as the mundane wonderful – everyday stuff that we don't really see. But it's not just about what you photograph, it's about setting it up and learning how it's done.

● Tell us about your design for an affordable wildlife webcam

I'm a product designer, I've done everything from kids' toys to bulletproof jackets, including the world's first bulletproof wallpaper, which you can see at the United Nations. We started a project at the Royal College of Art, where I work, looking at how we could use technology for good, get people outside and engaging with the natural world. Wildlife cameras usually cost around £200, so we wanted to find out if we could



Bertie Gregory

This snap of a majestic falcon was taken by a wildlife webcam!

make a good quality one for £35!

● Do you have a favourite UK wild creature?

I'd probably say a purple emperor butterfly. I've only ever seen one. They only come out at certain times of the year, and they're really beautiful!

● Do you have any advice for readers who might want to work in product design one day?

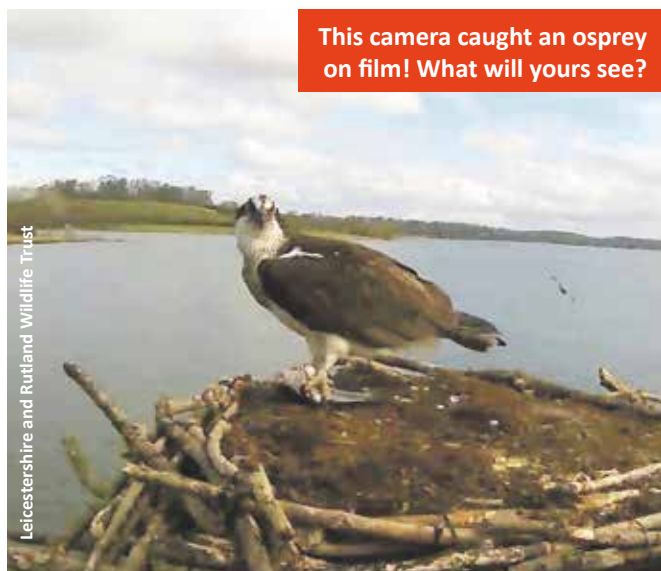
First of all, give it a go! If you want to make something, start with a prototype. It'll be terrible – they're always terrible – but that's how it is the first time you do anything! So don't stress about it too much. You also don't need to make a product for the world; it could solve a problem for a neighbour, or do something like capture a badger on camera at night.

You can find the instructions and a list of everything you need to build your own My Naturewatch webcam for around £35 at mynaturewatch.net

To learn more about 30 Days Wild and take part in the Wildlife Webcams event, head to www.wildlifetrusts.org



This camera caught an osprey on film! What will yours see?



Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust

14. ENTERTAINMENT

THIS WEEK

1 Trips to the cinema are back on! And this week, legendary Japanese animation Studio Ghibli is releasing a brand-new film that's set in the UK! *Earwig and the Witch* follows an orphan called Earwig, who is adopted by a strange couple with magical powers. While settling into her new home, she uncovers a world of potions and magic!



Studio Ghibli



2 The National Theatre has this week launched a new creative writing initiative called Story Seekers. Primary school pupils from around the UK are invited on a mission to find the best stories from around the world. Find out how you and your school can get involved (for free) at www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/storyseekers.

3 Olivia Rodrigo broke a UK music record last week, after she topped the album and singles chart at the same time. The 18-year-old actor turned singer became the youngest solo artist ever to score an Official UK Chart double. Her debut album *Sour* made it to the top spot, alongside her latest single *Good 4 U*.



Getty

PICS OF THE WEEK



Netflix

IF you like fantasy and action, then check out *Sweet Tooth*, a brand-new series that launches on Netflix this week.

This quirky adventure is set in a world where a mystery virus has caused chaos (sounds familiar!) and children are all born as half human, half animal hybrids. The show follows Gus, a young boy who has spent most of his life hiding out in the woods. An encounter with a mysterious stranger sends Gus off on a big adventure across America to find out what on earth is going on.

Sweet Tooth launches on 4 June on Netflix.



Netflix

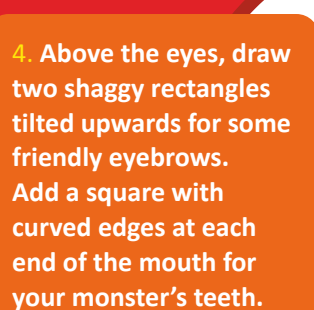
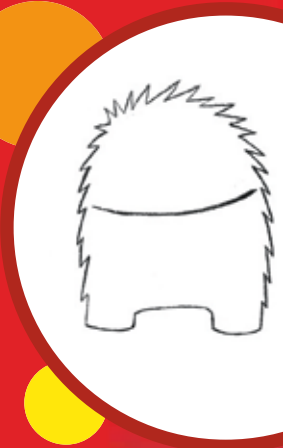
DRAW WITH ROB!



TO celebrate Empathy Day LIVE! on 10 June, a this exclusive, step-by-step guide to drawing a



1. Let's start with an upside-down U shape. Make it nice and shaggy, as I've done here. Then join it up at the bottom with a straight line, with two rectangular bumps for the legs.



4. Above the eyes, draw two shaggy rectangles tilted upwards for some friendly eyebrows. Add a square with curved edges at each end of the mouth for your monster's teeth.



5. Add two curved rectangular shapes underneath the mouth to give your monster some arms. These should be shaggy too.



7. Let's give your monster some enormous ears – all the better for listening (a very important empathetic skill). Draw a big circle on each side of the head, with another big shaggy circle around it.

The Kindness Monster is a preview from Rob's new book *Draw with Rob*. Empathy Day takes place on Thursday 10 June. For more on this year's free acti



Author and illustrator Rob Biddulph has given First News a kindness monster!

2. A big curved line right across the middle gives your monster a smiley mouth.



3. Above the mouth, draw two circles and colour them in. Then draw two more circles around the first two. Voilà! Our Kindness Monster is awake!



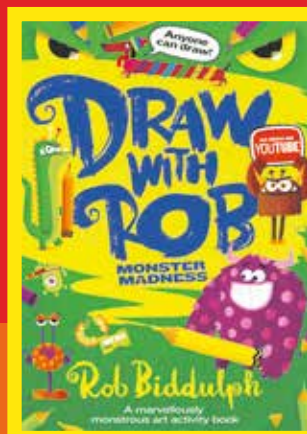
6. Draw five rectangular shapes on the end of each arm for fingers, and four on the end of each foot for toes. Colour them all in, just like I have.



8. Finally, it's time for some colour. I've given my monster a heart design right in the middle of his tummy. Be as imaginative as you like, but don't forget the scribbly shadow underneath.



Extract taken from
Draw with Rob: Monster Madness
by Rob Biddulph, published by
HarperCollins Children's Books



Draw with Rob: Monster Madness, out 22 July
Activities and digital events, visit www.empathylab.uk



What was it like filming your first concert for UK audiences?

We were so excited to perform together again! We were nervous at first, but once we got out on stage, it was so much fun. Some of our fans got to watch the show from home with their families. Even though it was a virtual audience, they all had KIDZ BOP banners watching from home – it was so awesome!

What's your favourite thing about performing?

I love to sing and dance, but being able to perform with the other KIDZ BOP Kids is my favourite part! We've grown up together over the last few years – they're some of my best friends – and we're like one big family. We had so much fun making the whole show. *Blinding Lights* was a new number we learned, so I'm excited for fans to see it!

You filmed a behind-the-scenes documentary at the same time...

It was so great to be able to see the other KIDZ BOP Kids again in person! We loved being able to show fans every step of the way from putting together the show and rehearsing, right up to the big performance!

Do KIDZ BOP have any rituals before a show?

We all do a pre-show warm-up together to make sure we're ready to sing and dance. Ashton definitely loves the pre-show warm-ups more than all of us.

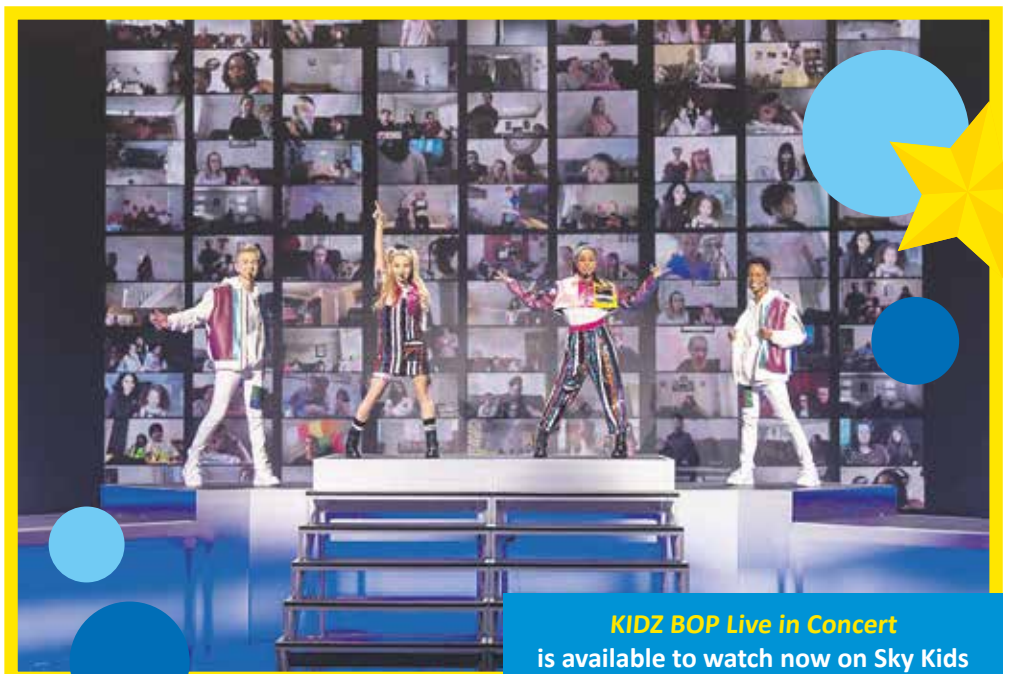
What things do you always pack from home when you're off touring?

When we're performing, I always have my phone, camera to take pictures with the other KIDZ BOP Kids, and a water bottle.



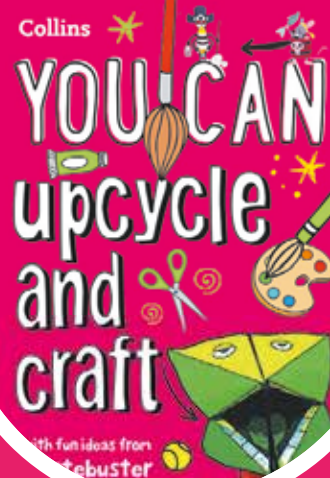
Which other live acts inspire your performances?

Some of my favourite artists are Ariana Grande, Anne-Marie, and Little Mix.



KIDZ BOP Live in Concert
is available to watch now on Sky Kids

LEARN BRILLIANT THINGS WITH **YOU CAN**



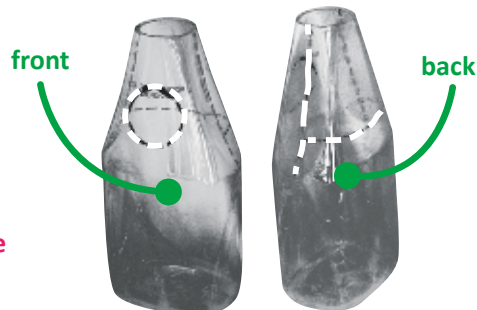
MAKE A PLASTIC BOTTLE PENCIL CASE



1. You'll need two identical plastic squirty sauce bottles. Cut the screw top off one bottle.



2. Use the screw top to draw a circle on the front of your bottle. Draw a line halfway down each side and a line across the back slightly above halfway.



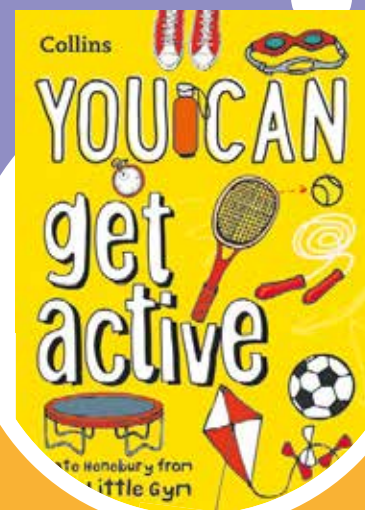
3. Cut along the marked lines. Twist the screw top through from the inside so the lip stops it falling out. Loosely attach the bottle cap to the screw.



4. Cut the top section off your second bottle where it starts to get narrower. Cut out a shape to match the picture here. Make the width as wide as your screw top.



5. Smooth any pointy edges with a nail file. Push the second bottle over the first with the screw top sliding into the slot. Tighten the cap to hold the bottles together.



MAKE AN OUTDOOR OBSTACLE COURSE

Get creative and make an obstacle course in the garden or park. You can use anything you have in the garden, or you can head to your nearest playground and use the equipment that is already there. Here are some ideas:

Use a skipping rope as part of the course

If you're at the park, use the climbing frame, monkey bars and slide as part of your course

Use hula hoops to jump in, crawl through or hula hoop with

Lay down a ladder to step or jump in the gaps

Dribble a football for part of the course or do keepy-uppies

Plan out your obstacle course by drawing it on a piece of paper. Then have a go at making it for real! Time yourself and see if you can get faster each time.



WIN!

A FULL SET OF ALL TEN **YOU CAN** BOOKS!

Enter the competition at
collins.co.uk/youcanwin

The competition closes on **30 June 2021**

Entry is open to residents of the UK and Republic of Ireland only. Please make sure you have your parent or guardian's permission to enter. Ask a parent if entering via social media. Alternatively, click the envelope icon to enter via email. Full terms and conditions can be found at collins.co.uk/youcanwin



● Tell us a bit about Twitch!

The book idea came before the character. When Beetle Boy came out I met a lot of children who like insects, and a lot of them liked birds as well. Quite a lot of them seemed like outsiders, people who weren't necessarily the most popular kid in school or the most outgoing. But a lot of those children also seem to be quite self-assured, so I wanted to create a character like that, a child who knew exactly who he was and what he cared about and was less concerned about the social stresses of popularity and friendship.

● How much research did you have to do?

Quite a lot! I spent six years studying beetles and I feel like that's my subject. I'm not that way about birds at all. I can still look at a little brown bird and not be sure what I'm looking at while desperately flicking through my field guide, then the bird has gone and I don't know what I saw. I'm still learning how to identify birds but it takes time. One of the joys about being an author is that you do get to learn. You pick a subject that your book's going to be about and then you fill your head with as much knowledge as possible. I've been learning about birds, watching documentaries, going bird spotting with my kids and doing as much bird-based activity as possible, which during lockdown was perfect and it really helped because it lifted my spirits.

● Is there one bird that surprised you?

I was really surprised by how amazing pigeons are. They are one of the most intelligent creatures. I had the general view that most people have, that they are vermin and pests, but now I have a very, very different view of pigeons.



I'M A BRILLIANT DEN BUILDER!



MG Leonard's new book follows a keen bird watcher called Twitch, who stumbles across a mystery involving an escaped bank robber and some missing cash. We talked to her about the book, bird spotting and building dens.



A kingfisher

● Tell us about the setting of the book.

It's based on a real place in Yorkshire called Cromwell Bottom, which is a nature reserve. I like to do my research in real places, so I took my kids there in 2019 for a summer holiday and to go bird spotting. None of us had done it before and I said whatever birds we identified I would put in the book. I got up really early one morning and bumped into this chap who told me to go and stand on a bridge in the middle of the river and I'd see some kingfishers. The first thing I saw was this very weird blue streak. I just thought my eyes were playing tricks on me. I kept still and eventually the bird stood still on a branch and I caught sight of it. It was almost like a spiritual experience because it felt like real magic. It was so awe-inspiring that I can still remember how it felt now, several years later. The kingfisher did something to my insides and I want to see more birds now. It's definitely given me the bug.

● Do you attract birds to your own garden?

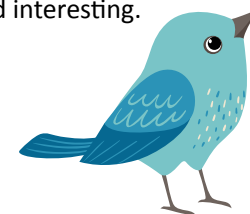
I have feeders next to my bug hotel in my garden but I live in Brighton, which is quite built-up and gardens are very small here. I've seen blue tits and robins and garden birds, but mostly my feeders are attacked by crows. The seagulls aren't that interested; they mostly prefer the chips and doughnuts they steal from the seafront! I do live near Pulborough Brooks Nature Reserve though and I saw a great spotted woodpecker there on Sunday – they have little red bottoms and are just a delight. I go there very regularly, and that's where I also heard a nightingale.

● Twitch builds an incredible den in the woods, but how are your own den-building skills?

I am a brilliant den builder! When I was little I lived in Hertfordshire and we backed onto a local wood, and I built a den with adjoining rooms that I tried to camouflage. It was a work in progress for the best part of three or four years and then my family moved. When I was about 16 my mum asked what I wanted to do for my birthday and I said I really wanted to have a picnic back by the old woods where we used to live. We went back and my den base was still standing, five years later! I feel like I would be fine surviving on a desert island.

● Your other books have all been part of a series, so will Twitch be a series too?

I'm writing book two at the moment but I don't know if there will be more than two. Twitch is like the origin story of the Twitchers, this bird-watching group of kids. So Twitch is Twitch's story and the origin of the Twitchers, and the next book will be about the Twitchers. All of it orbits around the relationship between Twitch and Jack, which I think is very special and interesting.



Twitch by MG Leonard is out now



CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY FIRST NEWS



EAT THEM TO DEFEAT THEM!



WHAT'S THE CAMPAIGN ALL ABOUT?

Eat Them To Defeat Them is all about encouraging young people to eat healthily and enjoy more veg.

The campaign was first launched in January 2019 and is said to have led to sales of over 517 million additional children's portions of vegetables. That adds up to £63 million worth of veg!

WHAT'S THIS YEAR'S THEME?

The theme for this year's campaign and TV advert is *Prepare For Battle*. It sees an army of warrior kids vow to defeat a legion of evil vegetables. The kids go through intense training using everyday kitchen utensils, eventually squaring up against the veg on the battlefield. After a terrifying tomato gets forked, all hell breaks loose!

Fun fact: ITV's *The Masked Dancer* included a Beetroot character, inspired by the campaign!

WHO'S TAKING PART?

A whole host of celebrities is joining in the fun for this year's ad and voicing the villainous veg. They include Dame Emma Thompson, Amanda Holden, Jamie Oliver, Stephen Mulhern, Giovanna Fletcher and Ranvir Singh.



Giovanna Fletcher and Stephen Mulhern, the voices of Broccoli and Sweetcorn!

ITV and Veg Power's award-winning healthy eating campaign is back for a third year – and the gang is looking fiercer than ever! We found out what the veg have in store for you all this year...



It's kids versus veg!

WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING?

As well as the TV advert (which is airing on ITV, STV, Channel 4 and Sky), the campaign will pop up in other ways too. A total of 1,900 primary schools will get to enjoy veg tasting sessions, posters, resources and games. A further 500,000 children are also being given a vegetable reward chart and sticker pack, alongside a puzzle book co-created and funded by Public Health England's Change4Life campaign.

THE FACTS

There's lots of evidence to show that young people aren't eating enough of the green stuff. It's become even more of a concern during the pandemic, with research conducted by YouGov finding that 35% of parents are worried about their children's diets. Check out these interesting stats, too:

- A new report called *Veg Facts 2021*, released by The Food Foundation and Peas Please Partnership, shows that almost a third (29%) of children aged 5-10 years old eat less than one portion of veg a day.
- 89% of children aged 5-10 eat less than the Government's Eat Well Guide recommendations for veg.
- One in three children leaves primary school overweight or obese.



TAKE PART IN OUR POLL!

We're on a mission to find out what First News readers' favourite veg are! Head to [first.news/polls](https://www.first.news/polls) to take part in our poll and share your thoughts.



A BEARY FUN PARTY!



A GROUP of bears crashed a school pool party in Tennessee, USA, last week.

Michelle Johnson and her friends from Jefferson County High School were at the Chalet Village pool in Gatlinburg, when their unexpected guests showed up for a swim. The seven bears enjoyed cooling off in the pools, playing with each other and checking out the tennis courts. Their funny antics were caught on camera by the

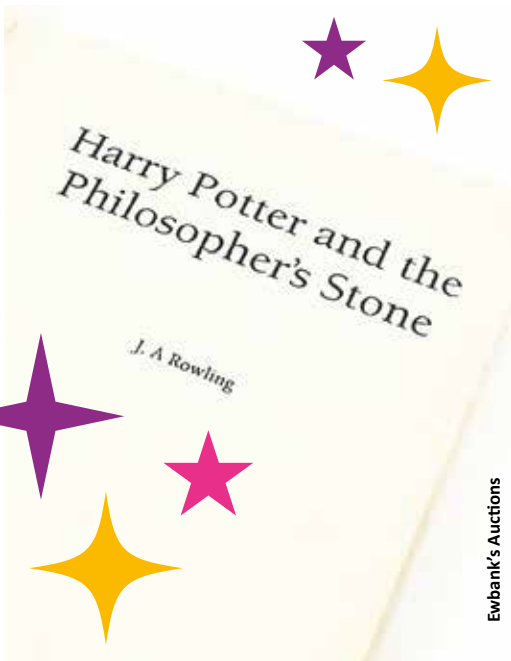
students (who were all standing a safe distance away) and the footage was uploaded to YouTube. It's now been viewed hundreds of thousands of times. Staff at the Chalet Village say it's not unusual to see bears in the area, but that they had never seen so many together at once!



BRITISH people living overseas can now buy bottled rainwater from the UK – yes, really!

Travel company My Baggage is selling the bizarre item this summer to help those who are missing the great British wet weather. The bottles are being sold for £20, with the label reading “pour over your head for an authentic feel of British weather”. The company said it's been collecting rainwater from the roof of its office building in Belfast for the past couple of months. Erm, lovely!

THE POWER OF POTTER

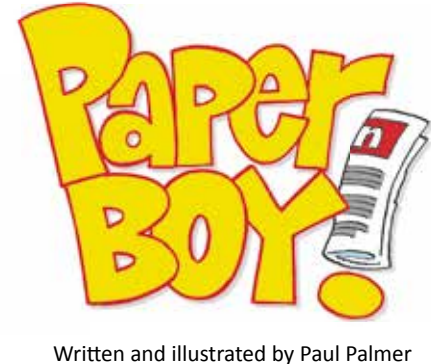


A RARE Harry Potter book with a spelling error in it has scooped a staggering £27,300 at auction.

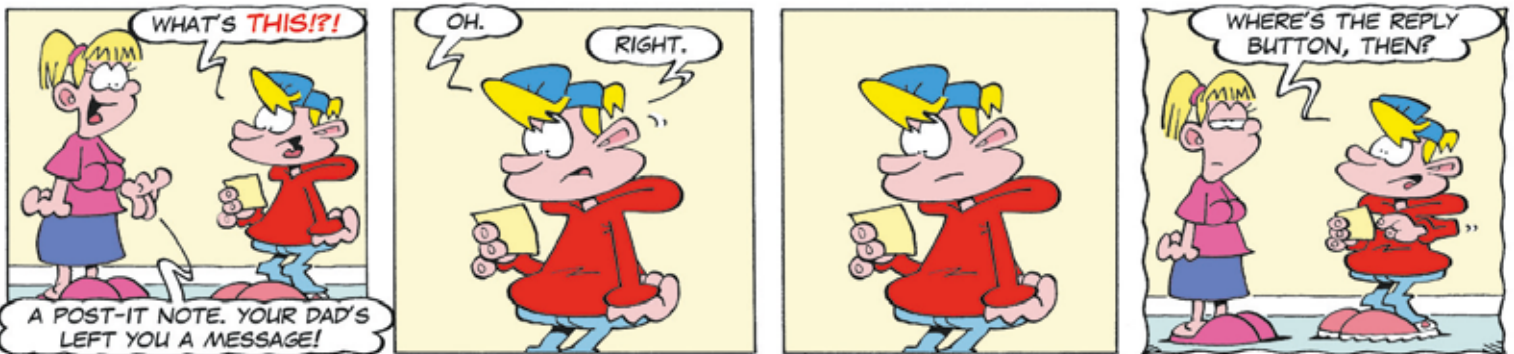
The uncorrected proof copy of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* features JK Rowling's name as JA Rowling. Only 200 of these copies were sent out by publishers Bloomsbury. They were designed only for reviewers to see, before the official release of the book in 1997. Auction house Ewbank's valued the rare copy between £2,000 and £4,000, so the end result was magically eye-watering!

DID YOU KNOW?

A FAMOUS YouTube video of a boy biting his brother's finger has sold as a digital NFT for £538,000! The viral *Charlie Bit My Finger* video, featuring Harry and Charlie from Buckinghamshire, has millions of views on the site. It's now a non-fungible token (NFT), which means it is a completely unique digital asset that can't be replaced.



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer



ALDI AND TEAM GB LAUNCH THEIR NEW DESIGN A LORRY COMPETITION

TO celebrate the upcoming Tokyo Olympic Games, Aldi and Team GB are challenging young people aged 5-14 to get creative and design an Aldi lorry that celebrates fresh, healthy food.

By taking part in the competition, students have the chance to see their designs come to life – with the two winning designs each used on their own Aldi lorry, ready to deliver produce to Aldi stores around the country! The winning students will also receive a Team GB goody bag and £50 of Aldi vouchers to spend on fresh produce or kitchen equipment, and their school will win £1,000 of Aldi vouchers for kitchen equipment or ingredients.

The winning design will be selected by a judging panel including Aldi's Team GB Athlete Ambassadors such as triathlete champions the Brownlee brothers, Olympic gymnast Nile Wilson and sport climbing star Shauna Coxsey. The judges will be on the lookout for an inventive, exciting and eye-catching design that celebrates good food and will inspire others.

Students can submit their entries up until Friday 25 June. To download the entry template and cover sheet for entries, please visit getseteatfresh.co.uk/designalorry



COMPETITION TIME

WIN! FAMILY TICKETS TO SEA LIFE AQUARIUMS

FROM 12 June, SEA LIFE aquariums nationwide welcome the Octonauts to their underwater world and invite explorers to become Captain for a Day!

ONE FOR
YOU AND YOUR
YOUNGER
SIBLINGS

In their first family event since re-opening their doors, SEA LIFE are inviting intrepid explorers to solve conservation-themed clues to locate the missing Captain Barnacles and return him to the Octopod. As you explore, you will be able to enjoy learning all about some amazing ocean-dwelling creatures including turtles, sharks, octopuses, rays and penguins. There will also be daily meet-and-greet opportunities with one of the crew members themselves!

Post-mission, all honorary Octonauts are encouraged to find out about SEA LIFE's many conservation programmes and tips for protecting the oceans – this is a perfect adventure for Octo-fans and their whole family.

We have four family tickets (for four), up for grabs.

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

Which of these creatures has the most legs?

a) Crab b) Otter c) Shark

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY SEA

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 23. The closing date is 17 June 2021.

WIN! FAMILY TICKET TO SEE HORRIBLE HISTORIES -TERRIBLE THAMES!

IT'S setting sail soon!

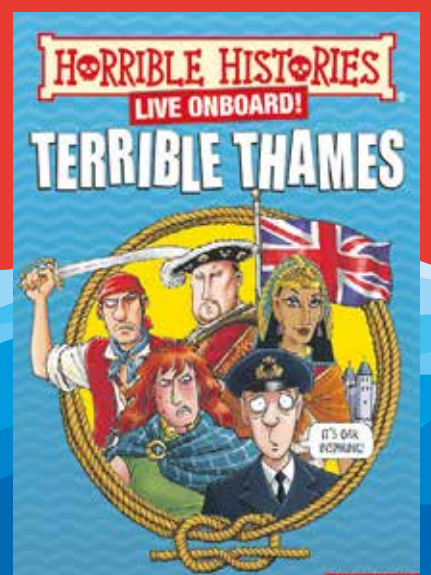
Hop on board and tremble in terror at the Tower! Give Cleopatra the needle! Be washed away at Westminster! Lose yourself in Lambeth! Get gobsmailed by the Globe! Hold onto your head at London Bridge and escape from Execution Dock!

It's the horrible history of the Terrible Thames – with the nasty bits left in!

Three readers will win four tickets to see Horrible Histories – Terrible Thames. For your chance to win, just answer this question:

At the Tower of London, what birds are referred to as "guardians of the tower"?

a) Blackbirds b) Ravens c) Magpies



Horrible Histories – Terrible Thames sets sail from Tower Bridge Quay from 17 July to 31 October with daily sailings throughout the summer. Visit terriblethames.com for more information and to book your tickets. Prize tickets valid for all midweek performances, subject to availability.

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY THAMES

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 23. The closing date is 17 June 2021.

LEARNING ABOUT LEPROSY



LEPROSY is the world's oldest disease, but how much do you know about it and what can we do to help people suffering from it?

WHAT IS LEPROSY?

Leprosy is an infectious disease, caused by a slow-growing bacteria in the body. It affects the nerves and skin, and can even damage the eyesight. Over three million people across the world are believed to be living with undiagnosed leprosy. Every day, 600 cases are diagnosed, 50 of which are in children. Through raising awareness, prevention, treatment and follow-up, Lepra supports people so that they can regain their independence and live fulfilling lives of purpose and joy.

Leprosy is the world's oldest disease, but the prejudice and discrimination faced by people affected by leprosy is still a major problem across the world. Leprosy-related disabilities often force children to leave education because they are unable to hold a pen, find it difficult to walk, or can no longer cope with the bullying that often accompanies the symptoms of leprosy.



MEET SHAKILA

Shakila was just seven years old when she was first diagnosed with leprosy. As her condition worsened, ulcers began covering her face, she suffered hair loss and her hands became weak and disfigured. Other children mocked her and Shakila felt like a burden to her family. One of Lepra's co-ordinators spotted Shakila in her village and took her straight to a local hospital to begin treatment. Shakila was able to resume her education and regain her confidence and independence after she was treated.

While leprosy is completely curable using a combination of antibiotics, the disease can have a serious effect on a person's livelihood, mental health and even their place in the community. Lepra visits schools across India and Bangladesh to screen for leprosy and teach children, their families and teachers about where to get diagnosed and treated.



GET INVOLVED!

Lepra needs your support to continue helping people and to achieve our goal of beating leprosy! You could help spread the word, fundraise or even get your school involved in a challenge – find out more at www.lepra.org.uk.

WRITING ABOUT LEPROSY

Best-selling author Victoria Hislop is an ambassador for Lepra. She told us about her new book, *Maria's Island*, and why she wanted to write about leprosy.

● Tell us a bit about the book...

Maria's Island is an adaptation of my first adult novel, *The Island*, which is set on a leper [a person who has leprosy] colony in Greece during the 1940s and '50s. It tells the story of two children, Maria and Dimitris, and how their lives are touched by this disease – and how they eventually overcome it. It is beautifully illustrated by Gill Smith, who has created the most touching and beautiful images to take us through the story.



● Why did you want to help raise awareness of leprosy?

Although there is a cure for this disease, there are still more than 200,000 new cases found in the world every year. Since writing *The Island* I have been an ambassador for Lepra, which raises funds to diagnose and to treat sufferers. Funds are also used to train doctors and to go into the rural areas where the disease still exists and to educate and encourage people to come forward for the cure. The reason they often hide symptoms is that they are ashamed.

● What made you want to write a children's book about leprosy?

There are many themes within this story that are as relevant to adults as to children – shame, stigma, isolation, loss; difficult themes, but they can touch the lives of children as well as adults.



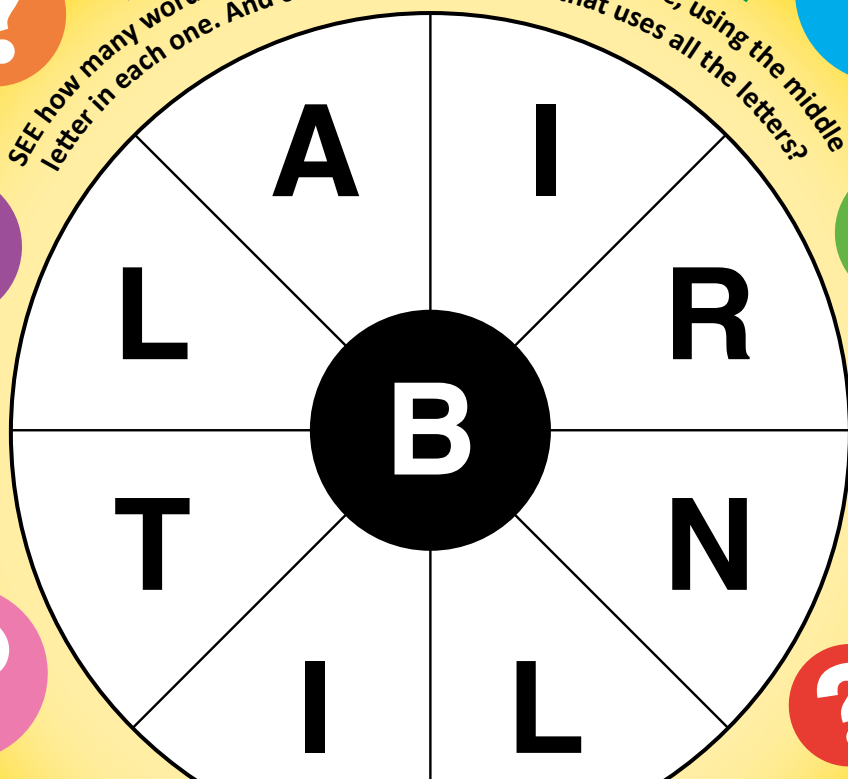
Maria's Island by Victoria Hislop, illustrated by Gill Smith and published by Walker Books, is out now.

lepra
We will beat leprosy together

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

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

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?



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.



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.



CAN you complete our crossword puzzle using the clues below?

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

- 1 Part of a train (8)
- 6 Least good (5)
- 7 The path of a planet around the sun (5)
- 9 Make musical sounds (4)
- 10 Stroll; walk leisurely (6)
- 12 Repeat performance (6)
- 14 Female child (4)
- 17 Titles (5)
- 18 Tests such as GCSEs (5)
- 19 Magician (8)

2 A protective garment worn when cooking (5)

3 ____ Ora: singer (4)

4 Type of jacket (6)

5 Receded; flowed back (5)

6 Opposite of eastern (7)

8 Delights (7)

11 Jail (6)

13 Funny; someone who tells jokes (5)

15 US state (5)

16 A country in South America (4)

WIN! TOM & JERRY THE MOVIE DVDs

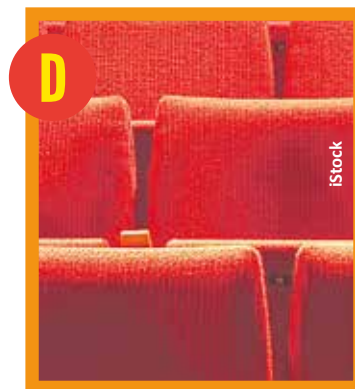
CAN you spot the five changes we've made to this picture from *Tom & Jerry The Movie*? Everyone's favourite cat and mouse team renew their classic rivalry in the animated comedy adventure *Tom & Jerry The Movie*, as Tom is hired to get rid of the pesky mouse Jerry in an attempt to stop him ruining a glamorous wedding! *Tom & Jerry The Movie* is available now on Blu-ray, DVD and Digital Download.



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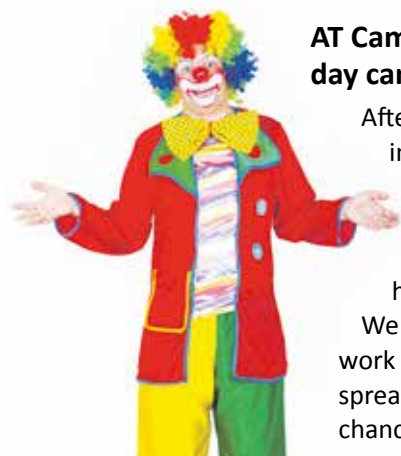
WHAT ON EARTH?

ALL of these are associated with the cinema. Can you guess what they are?



WIN! A FUN-FILLED VIRTUAL ENTERTAINER FOR YOUR CLASS

REMEMBER TO ASK YOUR TEACHER'S PERMISSION BEFORE ENTERING



AT Camp Beaumont, we have over 40 years' experience in providing fun and exciting day camps for kids from 3-16 to help keep you entertained over the holidays.

After a tough year, we think it's more important than ever to smile, so we've partnered up with Spread a Smile – a charity that brings laughter to seriously ill children and their families during hospital stays.

We want to shine a light on the important work that Spread a Smile does, and to help spread even more smiles, so we are offering the chance for one lucky winner and their class to

win a fun-filled virtual session with a professional entertainer such as a clown, poet or a magician, whose job it is to share smiles and joy!

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

International Clown Week was passed in American law by which president?
a) Richard Nixon b) Theodore Roosevelt
c) Ronald Reagan



Registered Charity Number 1152205

ENTER NOW!

MARK YOUR ENTRY SMILE

Find out more: www.campbeaumont.co.uk www.spreadasmile.org

firstnews.co.uk/competitions
or see below. The closing date is
17 June 2021.

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 '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: head is bigger, sheep's cravat has been removed, rooster has an extra wing, frog's sleeve cuff is bigger, scarecrow's patch is missing.
Word ladder: gold, told, toed, toes, does, dyes.
Word wheel: architect.

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

WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?

BUBBLE POPPER FIDGET TOY WWW.AMAZON.CO.UK £4.99

Push the bubbles to hear it pop, just like bubble wrap. One touch and your fingers won't be able to stop pushing, poking, and popping! Once pressed, the bubbles appear on the other side, ready to pop all over again. This addictive bubble popper can help to soothe a restless mind, and leaves you feeling calm with each popping sound it makes. Available in lots of different designs.



LOOPY LOOPER THE ORIGINAL MARBLE SPINNER WWW.THETOYSHOP.COM £6.00 EACH

These great fidget spinners promise plenty of fun. With enough speed, your ball will stay on the track. It features a soft-shell marble with a metal core, so it spins quietly after launching with a flick of your wrist. Each different colour comes with its own fun twist!



*All prices correct at time of printing

FIDGET TOYS

PEA POD PUSH POPPER KEY CHAIN SMYTHS £1.99

Attach this key chain to your bag, phone or keys and take it with you wherever you go. Push in one of the peas and it makes a very satisfying popping sound, as it jumps out of its thick green pod. There are three peas in the pod and they can be popped over and over again.

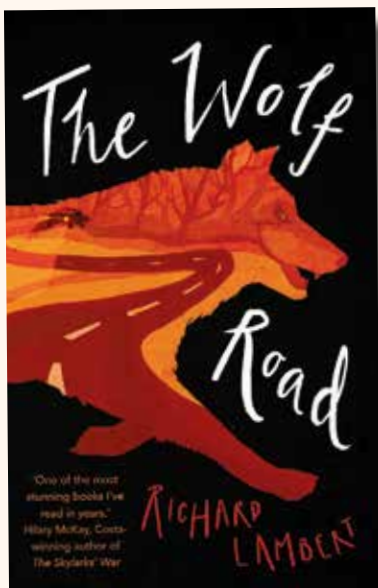


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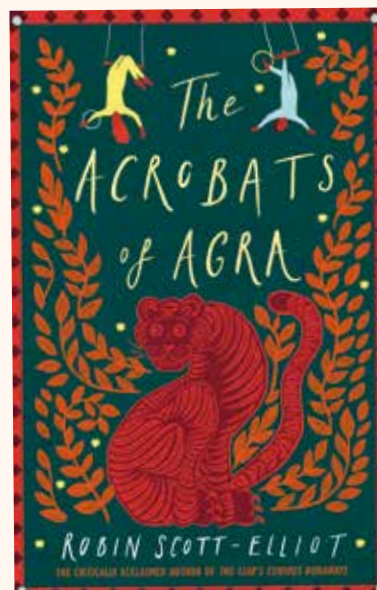
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MAGICAL READS



Compelling thriller picked by Times, Sunday Times, FT, Guardian as one of the best books of 2020. At the car crash that killed his parents Lucas saw a wolf. Now it's come for him.



Can three brave orphans save a starving tiger and a circus in a country at war? Sometimes you need something more than courage to survive!

It's a race against time to stop a devastating flood for Needle, Glory and their magical crow.

'The plot swirls and sparkles and keeps the reader on tenterhooks'
— Lovereading4kids



EVERYTHING WITH WORDS

30 YEARS OF SONIC!

THIS week, the Sonic the Hedgehog series celebrated its 30th anniversary!

The world's most famous hedgehog first appeared in 1991's *Sonic the Hedgehog*, for the Sega Mega Drive console.

Since then, he's been in tons of different games, comics, animated series, and a movie – with more on the way.

During a special livestreamed celebration of Sonic, a few exciting things were announced.

Firstly, the Nintendo Wii game *Sonic Colors* is getting a re-release for modern consoles, with a bunch of new features.

There's also *Sonic Origins*, a collection of classic Sonic titles. It will include the games *Sonic the Hedgehog 1, 2, and 3*, *Sonic & Knuckles*, plus *Sonic CD*. They'll be getting new features too.

Lastly, there was the news that a big new Sonic game from Sonic Team, the main developers of the Sonic series, would be out next year. What are you most excited for?



MAKE yourself, your friends, or anyone you like and fight alongside them or against them in this madcap RPG adventure.

In *Miitopia*, all of the characters are Miis, Nintendo's silly customisable characters. You've got to assemble your own gang of Mii characters to take on the Dark Lord (who is also a Mii), to take back the stolen faces of *Miitopia*'s residents!

Making Miis for the game is a lot of fun, since *Miitopia*'s Mii creator has had a serious upgrade. By using the shapes and lines in the 'make-up' part of the creator, you can get very creative, and make pretty much anyone!

You could make your grandad the hero of the game and your brother the villain! Or swap them around at any point, should you fancy.

The actual game part is a turn-based RPG, which means each character takes a turn to attack, use a skill or heal. You only control your hero character, leaving the game to look after everyone else. The fights aren't always particularly exciting, but you can speed through them if you want to make things faster.

Between the battles, your party members can bond and build their relationships. If you've put silly characters in, these scenes can be hilarious and were definitely our favourite part of the game.



POKÉPLANS

THE Pokémon Company has announced when its next games are being released.

Pokémon Brilliant Diamond and *Pokémon Shining Pearl*, remakes of the DS *Diamond* and *Pearl* games, will be out on 19 November.

Pokémon Legends: Arceus, the first open-world Pokémon game, set in a past before professors and Pokéballs, will be out on 28 January 2022.

We're already saving up our money!

BOOKS

YOUR READS!

THE STORM KEEPER'S ISLAND CATHERINE DOYLE

The Storm Keeper's Island is a magical and adventurous story, which is full of mythical worlds and stormy seas. It is set on a fantasy island called Arranmore, where a boy called Fionn spends his summer.

At first he feels homesick and alone, but after a while his confidence grows. However, he still had no clue about what adventures awaited him.

A mysterious battle takes place between two tribes, but not in the way that you think it will, or in the present!

It is a great book and the fact that it is part of a series makes you want to read the next part of the story, but the language can be quite challenging, so I think it is aimed at a very confident reader.



reviewed
by Olivia
Peate,
aged 11

The entire
Storm Keeper's
series is
available now

National Literacy Trust's Virtual School Library



DISCOVER your shiny magical powers with Harry Heape!

Harry is our Virtual School Library author of the week. Visit the Virtual School Library from the National Literacy Trust and the Oak National Academy to read *Shiny Pippin* and *the Broken Forest* for free!

Harry recommends these three reads:

- *You're a Bad Man, Mr Gum!* by Andy Stanton, illustrated by David Tazzyman
- *Fantastic Mr Fox* by Roald Dahl, illustrated by Quentin Blake

- *A Series of Unfortunate Events* by Lemony Snicket
Step inside the library to watch an exclusive video with Harry Heape and read a Q&A!
His new book *Indiana Bones*, illustrated by Rebecca Bagley, is out on 3 June.



“Words for Life”

Virtual School Library

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

MAGAZINE FOR NATURE

by Libby Greenhill

I AM extremely honoured to be part of *The Green Fuse*, a nature magazine created by young naturalists for young naturalists.

It was originally started by a small group of young people from Carmarthenshire, and was named after a beautiful Dylan Thomas poem about the area.

Since then, the editorial team has grown to six (new members are not from Wales). The magazine comes out quarterly and is available to download from our website, thegreenfusemagazine.com.

We are all home-educated young people. We all have different skills that we bring to the team, from photography to website design. Because of this, the magazine is created entirely by us.

The magazine has had some truly wonderful opportunities to interview inspiring naturalists, including Kate Humble and Chris Packham, for features in the magazine. We not only have a passion for the natural world, but are dedicated to doing what we can to ensure that this beautiful world we live in, is still there for future generations to enjoy.



Libby

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.

BULBS IN BOTTLES



Getting ready for planting

by Year 5, Ysgol Esgob Morgan

WE have been busy being creative, using recycled plastic bottles to enhance the positive feeling in the eco area and reflection garden.

We were asked to bring in a plastic bottle. We then cut out the centre of the bottles and filled them with compost. We chose bright colourful bulbs to place inside – fingers crossed for a beautiful display of flowers for the summer.

We are excited to see how this will brighten up our eco garden, where we can reflect and take time to enjoy the outside, as wellbeing is so important to us here at our school.

SCHOOL NEWS

HELPING REFUGEES

by Sienna and Sebastian

AFTER I read *No Ballet Shoes in Syria* by Catherine Bruton, I decided I wanted to raise money for refugees, as they go through such a tough time finding new homes where they can live safely.

I asked my brother if he wanted to help me, and he said he would love to. We also wanted to split the money with NHS Charities Together, to thank the NHS staff for helping in such a difficult time during COVID.

We decided to run 50km in ten days

between us. When I was running I tried to think about the money we were raising and how it would help those who really needed it.

In total we raised £1,721 and we felt so, so happy we had raised that much money for the charities.



Sienna and Sebastian

SNAPPED!

WE asked you to send in photos of you with your copy of First News, and to tell us why you and your family like reading the paper each week.



Here's Nikhil and Kirtika enjoying their weekly copy of First News



SUBSCRIBE FOR SCHOOL – FIND OUT MORE AT SCHOOLS.FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK
CALL: (020) 3195 7256 EMAIL: SCHOOLS@FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK

SPORT PIC OF THE WEEK



Chelsea attacking midfielder Kai Havertz skips past Man City goalie Ederson before placing the ball into the empty net for the only goal of the game in the Champions League final. It was Havertz's first ever goal in the competition. He got a bit carried away on live TV after the game and said some naughty words, so he had to tweet: "Sorry for the swearing" afterwards!

Getty



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TOP TEAM TO TAKE ON THE TROLLS



IN previous weeks we've reported on the problem of footballers being targeted on social media with racist and sexist abuse, and now BT has put together a team of pros from around the UK called Hope United, with the aim of tackling online hate. One team member is Watford and Wales striker Helen Ward, who told us about her negative experiences online, but also why she's hopeful that things can change.

● **What kind of abuse do you get?**

I don't get too much, but it's general sexist stuff, to do with women not knowing anything about football or shouldn't be able to play football. But whether you get lots of it or just get one or two, it's never nice to see. Getting involved in this campaign was just a way of saying to anyone, children and adults, that words can be hurtful, but not to feel like you can't go and tell someone or report it if it's affected you.

● **Is most of it from men and boys?**

It does tend to be males, especially the sexist stuff. But there are women as well who obviously aren't fond of football and they don't like other women being fond of football and talking about it.

● **Do you think social media companies genuinely want to do something about it?**

Social media is a massive money-making business, and the more people that are on it, whatever they're saying on there, the more money the companies are going to be making. It's a shame, because they say a lot of the right things, but when you look, is there ever any action? I'd like to think they do care, but I'm not sure that they do, or at least not as much as they should.

● **Is the abuse mostly anonymous?**

You do get people who openly talk to you using their real name and picture, but the worst is often from accounts where you don't know who they are. The trolls of this world don't want to give away their identity too easily. It's too easy to create a fake account and go and churn out whatever it is you want to say. Some of these things often break the law, but I'm just not sure how it can be policed. But if you're an honest and genuine person, you shouldn't have any problem with your account being verified.

● **Would it help if people are educated from a younger age about this kind of thing?**

Yeah. We talk in schools about bullying and how things you say can hurt other people, and I think it should be no different. The world is ever evolving in terms of technology and I think the more kids know about it, the better. Sometimes it can be a bit scary to say how horrible it can be online, but at the same time, I think we need to prepare children for that. But not only for what might come towards them, but also making sure they think about what they're saying and writing. You can hide behind a screen, but just think about who's on the other side of that and how it makes them feel, how you would feel in the same situation. Just making sure that they are aware of how damaging their actions and their words can be. I think it's really important that children know that from an age where they're able to understand how to use social media and computers.

● **Has it made you want to ditch social media?**

It hasn't got to that point. Sometimes it's made me quite angry and I've had to resist trying to respond. I do respond to a few things, but I always try to do it in a respectful and polite way. I usually try to ignore it and put my phone away for a little while. It does make you wonder if it's worth scrolling through.



● **Most social media sites say you have to be 13 to sign up, but what advice would you have for any readers who are thinking about it?**

Don't believe everything you read. If there's anything you've got a question about, ask a parent or guardian, or somebody you trust. And don't try to hide behind a false name. Of course, when you're young you have to be careful. Have a private account if you think that's safer, but just make sure that what you write won't get you into trouble. It's not nice to receive abuse, but you don't want to be the person sending something you don't really mean. If you're not going to say it to someone's face, you shouldn't be writing it online either.

● **Are you hopeful that things can change?**

I am. There's so much attention on it now that things have to change. There are so many people trying to call out things that aren't right, and that's what Hope United can do. We want to bring everyone together to realise that the good things can outweigh the bad, and that if we do it together, it'll be much more effective.

DID YOU KNOW?

Helen Ward has scored more goals for Wales than any other player – male or female – in history. In 89 games she's scored 43 times. In second place is Gareth Bale, with 33 in 90 games.



Helen smashing in a goal for Wales

BT's Hope United will rally the UK to tackle online abuse as part of BT's commitment to improve the nation's digital skills.

To find out how you can play your part, watch BT's Tech Tips at bt.com/hopeunited. Together we can beat online hate.

