

# First News

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## TOP DOG!

### DOG WINS MEDAL AFTER SAVING MANY LIVES IN UKRAINE WAR

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Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky (centre) and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (left) clap as they award Patron his medal

by editor in chief Nicky Cox

**A DOG helping to fight the war in Ukraine has been given a medal.**

Patron, a mine-sniffing dog, has been recognised for his bravery after detecting more than 200 explosives in the war.

The little Jack Russell terrier was awarded his medal by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. He described the hero hound as “a wonderful little sapper” (a military engineer).

Patron’s efforts have prevented

many injuries and deaths.

Mr Zelensky presented the award in Ukraine’s capital city, Kyiv, alongside Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Patron barked and wagged his tail, while Mr Trudeau patted his pockets as if he was looking for a dog treat.

Mr Zelensky said: “Today, I want to award those Ukrainian heroes who are already clearing our land of mines. Together with our heroes,

a wonderful little sapper – Patron – who helps not only to neutralise explosives, but also to teach our children the necessary safety rules in areas where there is a mine threat.”



P16 MICHAEL MORPURGO TALKS TO *FirstNews* ABOUT HIS NEW BOOK



sky kids  
FYI  
INVESTIGATES

P11 COULD KIDS BE THE KEY TO PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

\*First News readership is 2,626,625. Source: Opinion Matters 2020. First News is the widest-read of all children’s publications audited in the UK. First News supports children’s charities.

## FOCUS ON REUSING E-WASTE, NOT MINING THE EARTH



The Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) has said that the world needs to focus on recycling more electronic waste to make new gadgets. Millions of tonnes of electronics are thrown away each year and less than 20% is recycled. The RSC wants to encourage tech makers to get more materials from recycled sources. Elisabeth Ratcliffe, from the RSC, says that "at the moment, we're just mining [materials] out of the ground constantly". The demand for batteries has seen the price of metals like lithium and nickel go up a lot, whereas other materials used in smartphones, such as gallium and silver, are at risk of running out in the next 100 years.

## FREE TRAVEL FOR REFUGEES

Ukrainian refugees in Wales will be able to use the bus for free. Complimentary bus travel has been added after it was confirmed that refugees could use the train for free back in March. Refugees can also go to many of the country's historical sites for free, so families can take their minds off the war.

## BOAR TROUBLES LEAD TO PICNIC BAN

People in parts of Rome, Italy, are no longer allowed to go for a picnic. The rule is part of the city's attempt to handle its growing population of wild boar. There are believed to be around 23,000 of the animals, which are known for searching for food in parks and bins. The crackdown has come into effect as a boar was found to have a disease called African swine fever and authorities don't want it to spread.



# QUICK NEWS

TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS

## ACTIVIST JAILED

Last year, we told you the shocking story of a Ryanair flight that was forced to land in Belarus so two activists could be arrested. Roman Protasevich and Sofia Sapega had both been critical of the Belarusian government and its leader Alexander Lukashenko, who has ruled for 28 years. Now, Ms Sapega has been sentenced to six years in prison after being accused of things like "inciting [starting] social hatred". Mr Protasevich, who helped to organise protests against the government, is waiting for his trial.

## ACTION NEEDED TO TACKLE DROUGHTS



By 2050, three quarters of the world's population could be affected by droughts (severe lack of water), with up to 216 million people forced to migrate. A new report by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) says that droughts killed 650,000 people between 1970-2019. The report says that every area of the world needs to better prepare for droughts, and that restoring habitats to their natural state is the best solution.

## RESCUE RECORD

Scottish Mountain Rescue attended 660 incidents in 2021, its busiest year yet. Common callouts were for people who had accidents while hiking and for people who had got lost during a walk.

## BUNNY BREAK-IN

In a raid that would make Peter Rabbit proud, a bunny was found in a US store eating all the young plants! The wild rabbit was spotted by a Walmart shopper, who said they left the rabbit there to finish its snack. For all we know, it could still be munching away!

## BIRTHDAY SKYDIVE

An adventurous woman celebrated her 100th birthday by jumping out of a plane for the first time. Raymonde Sullivan said: "I had never done it, and I've done a lot of things in 100 years so I thought I must do it while I can." However, the American, who served as a frontline nurse during World War Two, said it was scary and she wouldn't be trying it again.

## STRAY DOG TURNS OUT TO BE COYOTE



A family who took in a lost puppy they found in the road were shocked to discover they were raising a coyote. The wild dog was found in Massachusetts, USA, and is in the care of the Cape Wildlife Center now. The site has another coyote pup and said the pair will be able to "grow and learn natural behaviours" and be given "as much of a natural upbringing as possible".

## VALUABLE PAINTING SWAPPED FOR CHEESE SANDWICH

A Canadian couple who ran a restaurant in the 1970s might make thousands from a painting they swapped for grilled cheese sandwiches. Irene and Tony Demas made a deal with a painter that they would get some paintings in exchange for feeding him. One of the paintings was by another artist, Maud Lewis, and it's now expected to fetch up to C\$35,000 (£22,000) when it goes to auction next month. Not a bad swap for cheese sarnies!

## PRESIDENT ACCUSED OF CHEATING ON EXAM



There's been some embarrassment for the leader of Peru and his wife – they've been accused of cheating on their exams! A TV station in the South American country claims the couple plagiarised (copied someone else's work) more than half of their joint master's thesis, a big essay you do at the end of university. President Pedro Castillo and Lilia Paredes, who have both worked as primary school teachers, have denied the accusations. Castillo says it is part of a plan to cause problems in his government, which has already seen a lot of problems in the ten months since he has taken charge.

## HISTORIC GAMES

The World Video Game Hall of Fame has added some new games to its collection. Part of a New York museum, the hall celebrates important and influential games. The latest additions include *The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time* from 1998 and 1982's *Ms. Pac-Man*, a popular arcade sequel.

## SRI LANKAN PM RESIGNS

Mahinda Rajapaksa, the prime minister of Sri Lanka, has resigned. The country has seen widespread protests for weeks as the country struggles with its biggest economic crisis in more than 70 years.

## COW BURPS SEEN FROM SPACE

Cow burps have been seen from space for the first time. One of the gases that comes out when animals burp and fart is called methane, which contributes to climate change. A satellite in space found the methane floating about in the air and, incredibly, scientists were able to track it back to a specific cattle farm in California, USA.

# BRITS SET TO BE THE MOST OVERWEIGHT IN EUROPE

**THE World Health Organization (WHO) has warned that Britain could become the most overweight nation in Europe.**

The UK has the third most obese population in Europe, with only Turkey and Malta in front. Obesity is when the body stores excessive amounts of fat.

Dr Kremlin Wickramasinghe from the WHO says that the UK population is spending “more and more” time staring at screens, and is “ahead of other European countries”, when it comes to online food deliveries and junk food adverts.

The WHO has said that the number of people who are overweight or obese in Europe has reached “epidemic proportions”, causing the deaths of nearly 1.2 million people each year.

Obesity is blamed for causing 200,000 cancer cases each year, and can lead to heart disease, strokes and type 2 diabetes.

“The UK was already not the best in the rankings, but Covid – definitely for children and maybe for adults – has made the situation worse,” said the WHO’s Dr Mirjam Heinen.



World Obesity Federation

# FIRST FLIGHT FOR ELECTRIC AIRCRAFT



Enabel Consortium

**A BRITISH-BUILT aircraft powered by electricity has made its first successful flight.**

The single-seat plane, known as a Sherwood eKub, was developed at Cranfield University.

The plane took off from Little Snoring airfield in Norfolk, and flew for ten minutes before landing. It then made a second 22-minute trip.

Both flights were piloted by Dr Guy Gratton, associate professor of aviation and the environment at Cranfield. He said that the aeroplane was “a new way of flying”.

Although electric planes are much better for the environment (if the electricity comes from renewable sources), making large passenger planes electric is a much bigger challenge.

# WHO IS THE NEW DOCTOR?

**SPOILER alert! At the end of the year, Jodie Whittaker will be leaving Doctor Who, and Ncuti Gatwa will be taking on the iconic role.**

Ncuti will become the 14th version of the shape-shifting character, and is the first black person to take on the job.

The 29-year-old Ncuti, who arrived in Scotland from Rwanda when he was a toddler, previously starred in the *Horrible Histories* movie.

“There aren’t quite the words to describe how I’m feeling,” he said. “A mix of deeply honoured, beyond excited and of course a little bit scared.”

“Unlike the Doctor, I may only have one heart, but I am giving it all to this show.”

Jodie Whittaker has played the Doctor since 2017, and will appear in one final episode, which will be shown this autumn.

The next series of *Doctor Who*, starring Ncuti, will air in 2023.



Getty

# UKRAINE UPDATE

**THE war in Ukraine continues to lead news headlines. Here’s some of what’s been happening.**

An investigation revealed that an attack in March by Russia killed around 600 civilians – more than double what was first thought. The people had been sheltering in a theatre in the town of Mariupol.

Then at the weekend, an attack by Russia on a school in the eastern village of Bilohorivka killed 60 people who were sheltering there.

On Monday, the anniversary of Russia’s victory over Nazi Germany in World War Two, Russian President Vladimir Putin gave a speech where he claimed that the war in Ukraine was necessary, as western countries were “preparing an invasion on our land”.



Getty

A destroyed building in Mariupol

He also pledged support for families of Russian soldiers who had been killed in the conflict.

On the day of the speech, hackers managed to get into Moscow’s satellite TV menus, changing the name of every programme airing that day to: “You have the blood of thousands of Ukrainians and hundreds of dead children on your hands. The TV and the authorities are lying. No to war.”



**A PAINTING of Marilyn Monroe by artist Andy Warhol has sold for an eye-watering \$195 million (£158.17m).**

The painting is called *Shot Sage Blue Marilyn* and was painted by Warhol in 1964. Its sale makes it the most expensive piece of 20th century art, and the most expensive piece of American art ever produced.



Getty



Getty

### BAGUIO, PHILIPPINES

CITY councillor Vladimir Cayabas, wearing a traditional outfit, displays his freshly inked finger, after voting in the country's general election. In countries where many people don't have an ID document, officials use a special ink to tell who has voted and who hasn't. The ink is put on a voter's finger once they've cast their vote, and it can last for a week. The election was won by Ferdinand Marcos Jr, the son of a former leader who was forced to flee the country in 1986 due to widespread protests against him.



Getty

### SANTIAGO, CHILE

ACULEO Lagoon is one of Chile's largest natural lagoons. It has dried up completely, partly due to man-made problems other than climate change. After over a decade of drought, the situation has forced Chile to put a water rationing plan in place, which means different parts of the capital, Santiago, get water at different times.



RSPCA

### PONTYPRIDD, UK

FIVE tiny ducklings became trapped after they fell into a storm drain. All five ducklings were rescued unharmed by an RSPCA inspector and firefighters after being enticed out by duck noises that the officers played on their mobile phones.



Getty

### COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

TO mark World War Two Liberation Day (when German occupation ended), Danes traditionally put candles by their windows. This year, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky addressed the public via large screens.



Getty

### BEIJING, CHINA

A SUN halo appears in the sky above a lamppost. A sun halo is a circle around the sun that appears when the sun's angle directs sunlight through ice crystals in the clouds.



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# TENT BOY GETS AWARD



Max with his medal and a portrait of the Queen

**TWELVE-YEAR-OLD Max Woosey has been awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM), after raising nearly £800,000 for charity.**

Last year Max discovered he was set to become one of the youngest-ever recipients of the British Empire Award. He's now received his medal at a special event at the Royal Marines base at Lymington, Devon.

Max spent two years camping out in his garden to raise money for North Devon Hospice, which looked after his close family friend, Rick Abbott. His impressive efforts have seen

him camping in amazing places like London Zoo and the garden of Number 10 Downing Street, all while raising thousands of pounds.

The schoolboy has even inspired other young people to raise money for charity as part of Max's Big Camp Out.

Max told BBC Radio Devon: "It's been a great adventure. I've not regretted any part of it."

# MILLIONS MISSING MEALS

**MILLIONS more people are missing out on meals because they can't afford food, a new survey has shown.**

Families are struggling as the cost of living increases, with everyone having to pay more for food, energy bills and petrol.

The Food Foundation and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine found that in the past month, 12.8% of households (6.8 million adults) have had smaller meals than usual or skipped meals because they couldn't afford or get access to food. Numbers have risen by more than half in just the past three months.

They also found that a total of 2.6 million children aged under 18 live in households that do not have access to a healthy and affordable diet. This is putting them at risk of suffering from all sorts of diet-related diseases.

The researchers are now calling on the UK Government to take urgent action to help those in need. They want things like food prices to be made fairer so that healthy food is more affordable, and for free school meal schemes to be expanded.



A food bank in Weymouth

## EDITOR'S COMMENT



WHEN it comes to climate change and other big issues, people often feel helpless because they think they can't make a difference, but Max Woosey (left) has single-handedly raised nearly £800,000 for charity. Plus you only have to see our front page to realise that even a tiny Jack Russell can save hundreds of lives! So remember: no matter how small you are, your actions can have huge effects.

## WE LOVE A SALE!

Do you have a friend who'd like to try First News? They can try the first six issues for free.



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### KAMI RITA SHERPA

THE Nepali mountaineer has climbed Mount Everest for the 26th time, increasing his own world record. The 52-year-old scaled the 8,849-metre mountain with ten fellow Sherpa climbers to set the record for the most climbs. His wife, Jangmu, said she was happy with his achievement.



### HAY FEVER SUFFERERS

HIGH-STREET chemists have run out of some hay fever medicines, because of a shortage of the ingredient chlorphenamine maleate. Stocks of the ingredient, found in brands such as Piriton, are running low. It comes at the same time that the Met Office has warned pollen counts will remain high. Chains such as Boots say other medicines are still available and the issue should be sorted out soon.



## GO CAR-FREE FOR WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK

THE annual walking challenge is back from 16-20 May.

Pupils across the UK are being encouraged to walk, cycle, scoot or wheel to school to promote better fitness and wellbeing, as well as to help the environment.

Top scientist Professor Sir David King supports the idea, saying that walking or cycling to school would be much better for children's health. Back in 2017, he said that air pollution is actually more harmful to children in cars than outside them, and he warned parents and carers: "You may be driving a cleaner vehicle but your children are sitting in a box collecting toxic gases from all the vehicles around you."

Check out more about Walk To School Week on page 12.



# VOTE FOR CHANGE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

**LOCAL** elections took place in many parts of the UK last week, but the focus was on the historic result in the elections for the Northern Ireland Assembly (parliament).

For the first time in Northern Ireland's 100-year history, a nationalist party has won the most seats in its parliament. Nationalists believe that Ireland and Northern Ireland should be one single country, whereas the north has been part of the UK since the end of 1921.

The winning party, Sinn Féin, now has 27 seats in the Assembly. The next biggest party, the Democratic Unionist Party, has 25. Unionists want Northern Ireland to stay in the UK. This difference of opinion has been the cause of much trouble over the last century, along with disagreements between Catholics and Protestants.

However, although there's been lots of talk about how a united Ireland may be a step closer, Sinn Féin's vice president, Michelle O'Neill, says that other things are more important right now.

"Today ushers in a new era which I believe presents us all with an opportunity to reimagine relationships in this society on the basis of fairness, on the basis of equality and the basis of social justice," she said, adding that her main aim is to "make politics work". Many people in the region want politicians to concentrate on the current cost of living crisis and healthcare, rather than argue over the future of the country.



Michelle O'Neill would expect to be named as First Minister of Northern Ireland, although complicated disagreements over the status of the country after Brexit mean that months of talks could be needed to find a way forward for the Northern Ireland Assembly

# TRESPASSERS WANT TO ROAM INSTEAD

**AROUND 200** people deliberately trespassed on the Duke of Somerset's land at the weekend, as part of a campaign for England to have a 'right to roam' on private land.

Unlike in Scotland, people in England don't have an automatic right to wander through woods and mosey across moorland. Huge chunks of England's countryside is in private hands and, although many landowners get Government

grants to manage their forests, the public doesn't have any right to walk on private estates.

The Scottish Outdoor Access Code allows people to walk, cycle or kayak on private land, within reason. You can't just walk through someone's garden or a field full of crops but, as long as you behave, you can pretty much go wherever you want in Scotland.

"Less room for pheasants! More room for peasants!" was one chant used by the protesters at the weekend, as much of the Duke of Somerset's land in Devon is used for organised shooting of birds such as pheasants.

One of the protesters, author and campaigner Guy Shrubsole, says that 92% of England's lands and waters are off limits. The Government did ask Lord Agnew to start a review of the issue and allow better access to the countryside, but it was stopped recently without any results given or suggestions being made.



A gamekeeper and participant collect birds from a shoot on private land

# EARTH COULD PASS WARMING LIMIT



**CLIMATE** experts say there's a 50/50 chance that one of the next five years will see the global temperature go over the 1.5°C limit that the planet is trying to avoid.

The Paris Agreement signed by world leaders aimed to stop temperatures rising more than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

"The 1.5°C figure is not some random statistic," said World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Secretary-General Professor Petteri Taalas. "It is rather an indicator of the point at which climate impacts will become increasingly harmful for people and indeed the entire planet."

In 2015, the chance of going over the 1.5°C limit was almost zero.

The world's food systems are a big contributor to climate change, and campaigners were trying to make the Government do something about that last week. Compassion In World Farming took a petition to 10 Downing Street, where the prime minister lives, to ask for laws that will help to lower the amount of meat and dairy that people consume.

The petition has also been sent to the leaders of the US, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, New Zealand, the EU, South Korea, China, South Africa and Japan.

Over in the Philippines, a government human rights panel has said that big companies can be responsible legally for the damage they do to the climate. Greenpeace said that world leaders should hold big polluters responsible for how their businesses are affecting climate change.



A protester calling for the temperature rise to be kept below 1.5°C

**WILDLIFE** experts at SeaWorld have racked up an incredible 40,000 animal rescues.

The organisation's first rescue operation in 1965 involved a beached porpoise. Since then, SeaWorld teams have helped all kinds of sick, injured or orphaned animals, from whales, dolphins, manatees and turtles, to birds and mammals such as sea otters.



A SeaWorld team helps a rescued manatee

# SOCIAL MEDIA BREAK IMPROVES MENTAL HEALTH

A NEW study from the University of Bath has found that going just one week without social media can have a positive effect on your mental health.

The study randomly picked 154 people, between the ages of 18 and 72, who said that they used social media every day, for an average of around eight hours a week.

Some were asked to stop using all social media for one week, while others were put into a 'control group' and could continue scrolling away. All of the participants were asked to report if they had any feelings of depression or anxiety.

The researchers found that those who had been asked to stop using social media for the week felt less depression and anxiety. They also saw big improvements to their overall wellbeing compared with those who continued to use social media.

Lead researcher from Bath's Department for Health, Dr Jeff Lambert, said: "Of course, social media is a part of life and for many people, it's



part of who they are.

"But if you are spending hours each week scrolling and you feel it is negatively impacting you, it could be worth cutting down on your usage to see if it helps."



# GET SET FOR EUROVISION

TOMORROW (14 May), the final of the Eurovision Song Contest takes place in Turin, Italy.

The UK's entry this year is singer-songwriter Sam Ryder (pictured) from Essex, who became a TikTok superstar in 2020. He is currently the most followed UK music artist on the app, with more than 12 million followers.

He'll be performing his song *Space Man*, and while we don't want to jinx it, it's thought that Sam might end up with a few more than the nul (zero) points that the UK scored in 2021!

However, Sam has got a lot of competition. BBC presenter Graham Norton has said that Italy could be a surprise winner, and end up taking home the trophy for the second year in a row.

Many viewers are likely to be rooting for Ukraine's entry, as a show of support to the country as it fights off the Russian invasion. As *First News* went to press, Ukraine was due to take part in the semi-final qualifier. They are represented by the Kalush Orchestra, a rap group who combine traditional Ukrainian folk music with hip-hop. Russia has been banned from entering the competition this year.



THE UK'S first full-sized self-driving buses have taken to the streets of Scotland.

Five buses from Stagecoach Scotland are completing their final road tests before passengers can use them in the summer.

We asked: Would you ride on a self-driving bus?

At the moment you're pretty split, with 52% against a self-driving bus ride, and 48% keen for the journey! Here are some of your best comments...

It would be risky at first, as underdeveloped buses might crash – but in a few years' time it would be exciting to ride one.

– ivansp2011

Probably, as long as they could ensure that the technology wouldn't glitch or something.

– sunnysmilz

I would ride a self-driving bus but not for a long journey as something could go wrong.

– launcher

Although self-driving vehicles seem to be the future, I don't know I'm ready to trust them yet!

– superdork

In my opinion, I wouldn't dare to go on. If my school was like five miles away and the bus had no driver, I would walk to school instead.

– max1234

I just don't think that technology is advanced enough for autonomous vehicles.

– bluecat18

Join in the conversation and vote at [first.news/polls](https://www.first.news/polls)



## DIARY DATES

### ● WORLD FAIR TRADE DAY 14 MAY

A day dedicated to celebrating Fair Trade – a movement that works to make sure producers in growing countries receive fair pay.



### ● WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK 16–20 MAY

Families are encouraged to walk, wheel, cycle and scoot for the whole week to highlight the many health benefits of being active and taking cars off the road (see p12).

PEMBROKESHIRE

● Dobby's grave could be moved

A grave dedicated to Dobby the house-elf from Harry Potter could be removed. The grave sits above Freshwater West beach in Pembrokeshire, where Dobby's death was filmed in Harry Potter And The Deathly Hallows. National Trust Wales is now asking people whether it should be removed or transferred to a different place. The question is part of a survey about Freshwater West, including parking and toilet facilities. Potter fans are known to visit the site and leave pebbles and socks in tribute to the much-loved character.



Twitter / @BenjSkj1ne16

CRUMLIN

● Houses demolished on most polluted street

All 23 homes on Britain's most polluted street outside of London have been demolished (knocked down). The houses in Hafodyrynys near Crumlin, South Wales, were said to be too dangerous for people to live in because of the high levels of air pollution caused by traffic. When it was discovered that the street was so polluted, Caerphilly council bought the homes and ordered for them to be ripped down. The demolition started in September 2021 and has been fully completed, leaving the street empty.



The houses in Hafodyrynys that were pulled down

SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE

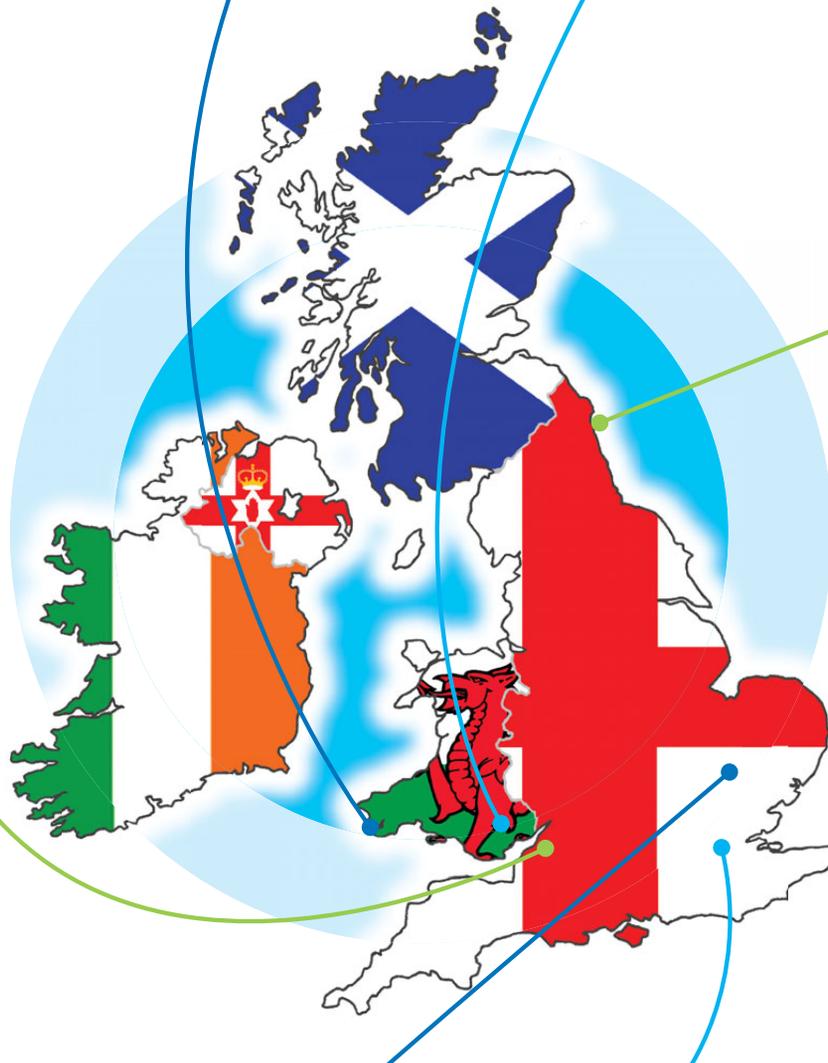
● Cows cause chaos in village

A group of cows caused havoc in the village of Chipping Sodbury, when they escaped from their field. The cows were caught running around the streets and past houses, with some locals reporting damage to cars and gardens. Police had to be called to help round up the herd and return them to safety. It took all night to get the cheeky cows under control.

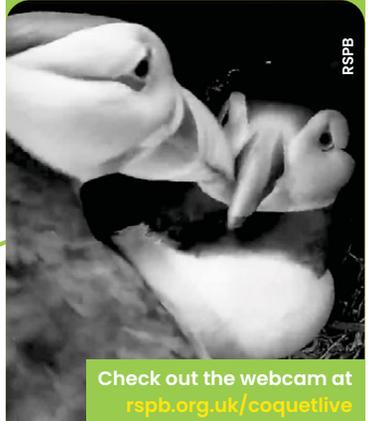
Moo-ve along!



Getty



NORTHUMBERLAND



RSPB

Check out the webcam at [rspb.org.uk/coquetlive](https://rspb.org.uk/coquetlive)

● Live webcam from a puffin's nest!

A brand-new webcam in a puffin's nest has gone live for everyone to see. The nest is inside a puffin burrow on the RSPB's Coquet Island, a seabird sanctuary off the coast of Northumberland. Through the camera, people can spy puffin parents taking it in turns to sit on their egg until it hatches (which is expected to be around 31 May). Once hatched, the parents will continue to take care of their chick until it is able to fly. The live camera is one of four on the island that shows the fascinating lives of seabirds. It will stay on until the puffins leave in July/August.

CAMBRIDGE

● Students win Design Museum competition

A team of Year 10 students from Cambourne Village College has been crowned the winners of Design Ventura, a competition run by the Design Museum for school pupils in Years 9-11. The students designed a product called Eco Seed, which floats on water, encouraging seeds to germinate (grow)



Richards Heald Photography

and allowing people to see the life cycle of the plant. The Eco Seed will be made and sold in the Design Museum Shop, with all profits going to the charity Rainforest Concern. The ten shortlisted schools will also have their work on display at the Design Museum in London until 26 June 2022.

LONDON

● London Zoo to celebrate 'Zoobilee'

ZSL London Zoo is set to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a special Zoobilee Festival this May half term. The zoo will host a new outdoor picture gallery to celebrate its royal patron and look at the zoo's interesting royal history dating back to 1829! Visitors not only will get to learn about the Queen's trips to the famous attraction, but they'll also discover more about the kings and queens of the animal kingdom, alongside a series of themed activities.



ZSL London Zoo

Princess Elizabeth (now the Queen) visiting the penguins in 1939

# MARS MISSION DELAYED AGAIN



Getty

**RUSSIA'S invasion of Ukraine has set back Europe's mission to find life on Mars by several years.**

Back in March, we reported that the European Space Agency (ESA) voted to suspend the joint ExoMars mission with the Russians because of the war in Ukraine. A British-built rover named Rosalind Franklin (pictured) was due to lift off later this year on a Russian rocket, and then placed on Mars by a Russian landing mechanism.

It was thought that the joint mission could be delayed by one or two years at most, but now it's delayed until 2026 at the earliest – and possibly 2028. That's very bad news for space exploration and science in general, because the mission hoped to find evidence of past life on the Red Planet.

David Parker, ESA's director of human and robotic exploration, told Sky News that the agency's 22 member states, including the UK, could continue the mission with another partner, or attempt to reach Mars alone. He said: "If we are going to do it, we need to be sure we are going to succeed. What we may do is talk to NASA to see if there are contributions

they can make."

NASA, the American space agency, has its own separate missions to explore Mars. But it could help the ESA out by providing the rockets and landing devices that the Russians were due to supply.

NASA was the ESA's first partner in the ExoMars mission, but pulled out in 2012, after budget cuts by the government. Russia stepped in to replace NASA's role, but the original mission launch date of 2018 was pushed back, and then plans were delayed again by the Covid-19 pandemic.

To make things even more complicated, opportunities to launch Mars missions only occur every 26 months, when Earth and the Red Planet align.

Rosalind Franklin, which was built in Stevenage, will be the first rover to drill two metres below the Martian surface to collect soil samples. When it eventually does arrive at Mars, it will land in what scientists think might have been an ancient ocean.

# PIG HEART DEATH CLUE



University of Maryland

**THE first human to receive a genetically-modified pig heart transplant may have died because the heart contained a virus.**

A very poorly American man, David Bennett, made history earlier this year when he received a pig heart. It was the first time the operation had been carried out, and it seemed to have worked well. Mr Bennett was sitting up in bed a few days after the surgery, and the heart pumped blood normally.

Sadly, he died two months later and scientists now think they may now know why.

The heart contained a type of pig virus that might have led to Mr Bennett's death and stopped the heart from working for longer.

The development has surprised scientists, because the pig used in the experiment was raised especially to provide organs, and was meant to be completely free of viruses. The specific type of virus found in Mr Bennett's donor heart is not believed to be able to infect human cells. But it does seem to have caused a reaction that damaged the heart, and therefore the patient. The virus can



David Bennett, Jr.

be detected with more accurate testing.

Although it's very sad that Mr Bennett (left) didn't live longer, his transplant was more successful than other early efforts. The first human-to-human heart patient, in 1967, lived for only 18 days.

# SPLASHDOWN!

**THIS is the SpaceX Crew Dragon Endurance spacecraft, soon after it splashed down in the Gulf of Mexico.**

The craft landed off the coast of Tampa, Florida, last Friday, with NASA astronauts Raja Chari, Kayla Barron, Tom Marshburn, and European Space Agency astronaut Matthias Maurer aboard. They had spent 177 days aboard the International Space Station (ISS).

Operations on the ISS are also under threat due to the war in Ukraine (see article above). The boss of Russia's space agency, Roscosmos, recently said that he would give NASA a year's notice before pulling out of joint projects. The ISS launched in 1998 and is a joint operation between the USA, Russia, Canada, Japan and the ESA.



NASA/Aubrey Gemignani

SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

This report is from the Science Museum in London

**BORN on 12 May 1820, Florence Nightingale is well known for her pioneering ideas.**



Getty

As a nurse, she championed improving the cleanliness of military hospitals, which saved countless lives. However, you may not know that Nightingale studied mathematics and her devotion to statistics played a huge role in her medical career. During the Crimean War, she collected data to warn politicians and army officials about the scale of hospital hygiene problems.

Once she returned home, Nightingale developed a new statistical diagram for non-mathematicians to understand – similar to what is now known as a pie chart. Today, we're used to seeing statistics presented using graphics, but at the time, this approach was revolutionary. After her findings were published, this became a common way of showcasing complex data in 19th century Britain.



● **Saving the vaquita porpoise**

Scientists say that the world's smallest cetacean (dolphin, porpoise or whale species) and rarest marine mammal, the vaquita porpoise, can be saved – even though there are thought to be fewer than ten left in the wild.

It was thought that there aren't enough of the creatures left for the species to recover. Now, scientists say that the creatures could in fact be saved, if gillnet fishing is immediately stopped in the Gulf of California, where the vaquita is found.

Gillnet fishing is banned in the region, but the ban isn't always enforced. Gillnets have been known to kill many species other than fish, including dolphins and turtles.

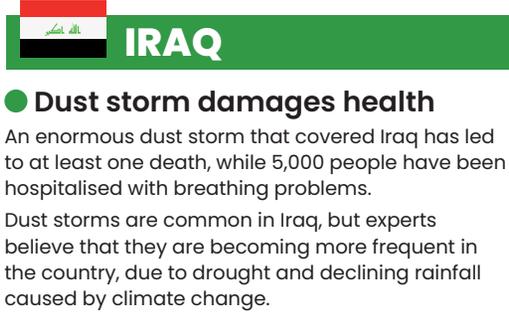


● **Havana hotel explosion**

At least 40 people have been killed and another 74 people have been injured by an explosion caused by a gas leak in Cuba's capital, Havana.

The explosion tore off the front wall of the Hotel Saratoga, where repairs were taking place. It's thought that it was during these repairs that an accident took place that caused the gas leak and explosion.

Speaking from the Calixto García hospital, where people injured by the blast were being treated, Cuban president Miguel Díaz-Canel said: "In no case was it a bomb or an attack, it's just a very unfortunate accident."



● **Dust storm damages health**

An enormous dust storm that covered Iraq has led to at least one death, while 5,000 people have been hospitalised with breathing problems.

Dust storms are common in Iraq, but experts believe that they are becoming more frequent in the country, due to drought and declining rainfall caused by climate change.



A woman wears a burqa in Kabul

● **Punished for being a woman**

The Taliban has said that women in Afghanistan should only leave their homes if they have to, and that they must cover their face if they are in public.

The new rule was issued as a 'formal directive', which means that if women are found to have broken it, their male relatives will be punished.

When the Taliban took over the country in August last year, it said that women's rights wouldn't be targeted.

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, which is working to help the people in the country, said that the announcement was "deeply concerning".

It said that it would "immediately" request a meeting with Taliban authorities.



● **Deforestation record broken**

Deforestation in April reached record levels, data from the Brazilian government has shown.

In the first 29 days of April, there was 1,012.5 square km (390 square miles) of deforestation – an area around two-thirds the size of London.

The record amount of deforestation seen in April is the third monthly record this year, after new highs were recorded in January and February.

Marcio Astrini, head of Brazil's Climate Observatory group, said that the cause of the record was Brazil's president, Jair Bolsonaro. Deforestation in the country has soared since he took power in 2019.

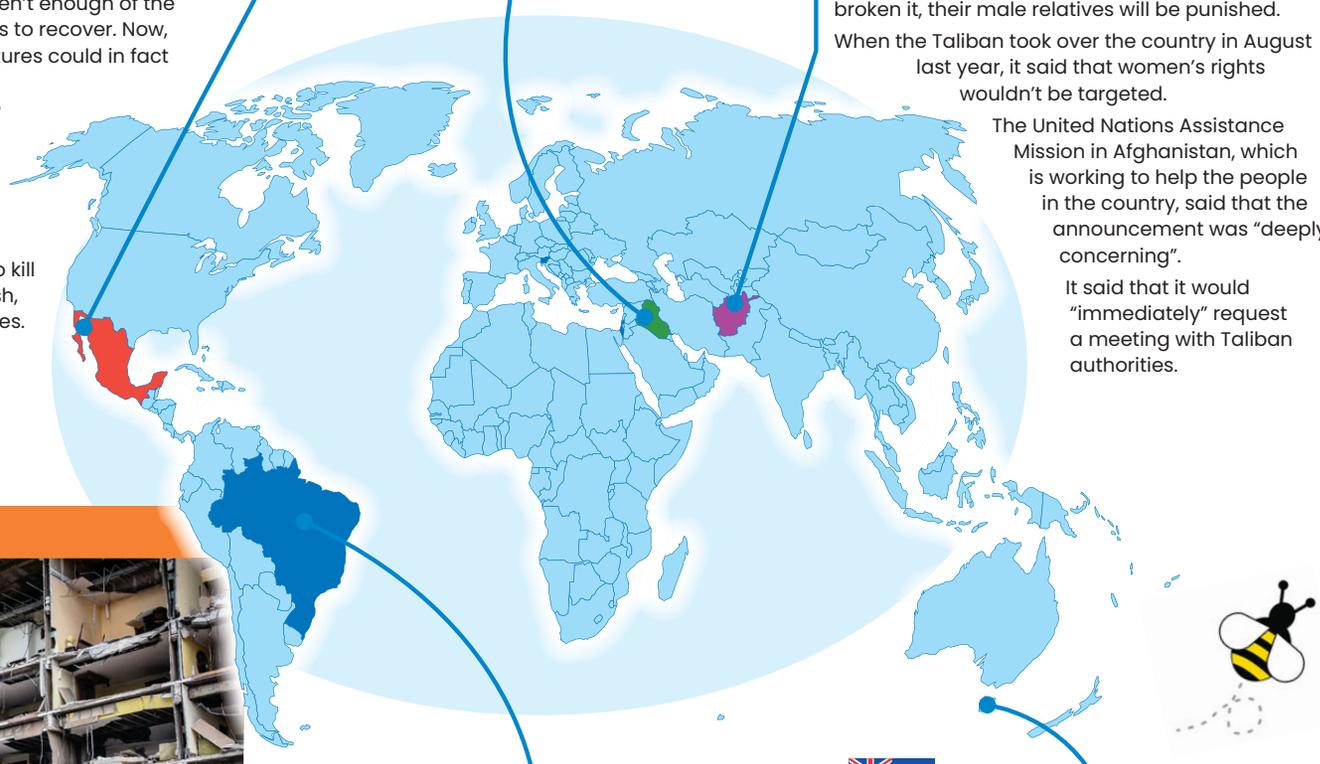


● **Tasmania goes carbon negative**

Scientists have discovered that the Australian island of Tasmania is carbon negative – meaning that it is removing more carbon from the atmosphere than it is producing.

It's one of the first parts of the world to have been recognised as being carbon negative.

The researchers, from Australian National University and Griffith University, said that a big reduction in logging of native forests (only containing trees and plants naturally found on the island) was the reason for the island's carbon negative status.



First News has teamed up with **sky kids** show **FYI** and the **BFI** to bring you a series of big conversations on big issues for you to watch at home or at school, called **Kidversation**. In this episode, **FYI** heads to Israel and the Palestinian territory, torn apart by decades of conflict.

**FYI**  
**KIDVERSATION**

# ISRAEL AND PALESTINE



FYI presenter Maya talks to Ibraheem and Talia at a resort next to the Dead Sea

**FYI**, the Sky Kids weekly news show, brings you the big conversations on the big issues. For this episode, **FYI** reporter Maya talks to children on both sides of a conflict that has been going on for decades. The children are willing to not only talk to Maya, but each other. As peace talks among the adults fade away, can the next generation find a shared desire for peace?

## Why are Israelis and Palestinians fighting?

For decades, Israel and Palestine have been locked in an ongoing conflict. It is over land. Both sides claim a small region of the Middle East to be their rightful homeland.

Both Israeli and Palestinian authorities say that the land belongs to them. In 1967, what became known as the Six-Day War led to Israel taking over the majority of the region.

Over time, many millions of Palestinians have been forced off their land and out of their homes. The United Nations says that the land taken over by Israel is "illegally occupied territory", but Israel says the land is "disputed" and that its presence there is not illegal.



## Maya meets Talia and Ibraheem

"In this Kidversation, I'm not just here to learn more about the conflict," says Maya.

"Ibraheem and Talia have agreed to meet each other to get a better understanding of their lives on both sides of the wall."

First, she meets Talia in Tel Aviv: "On my first day in Israel, my immediate thoughts are – this doesn't feel like a conflict zone."

Maya explains: "Talia and her family took part in a project run by a charity called the Parents Circle – Families Forum, which brings together Palestinian and Israeli families to get a better understanding of each other."

Maya tells us how, thanks to the forum, Talia "formed

a friendship with a Palestinian called Ibraheem. A year later, and they've agreed to meet again." Next, Maya heads to the West Bank, where Talia's Palestinian friend Ibraheem lives.

She tells us that it, and the security wall that surrounds the area, is far away – 47 miles (75.6km) away from Tel Aviv.

"The barrier has been condemned as illegal in an international court," says Maya. "But Israel says it has a right to defend itself. Before the wall was built, Palestinian bomb attacks were common."

"Ibraheem lives in an area that is officially a refugee camp. Many Palestinians who live here were forced out of their homes by Israelis who took control of their land."

Ibraheem tells Maya about his cousin, who was killed by soldiers.

"Ibraheem's cousin is one of hundreds of children to be killed throwing rocks at soldiers," says Maya. "The Israeli army says while it's regrettable that children are shot, it's necessary for soldiers to protect their own lives."

Join in the discussion and set up an **FYI News Club** in your school! Ask your teacher to go to [first.news/fyinewsclub](https://www.firstnews.com/fyinewsclub) to find out more about the **FYI News Clubs**.



## Ibraheem's answer

Ahead of his meeting with Talia, Ibraheem tells Maya how he thinks things could change.

"If you want to change the situation, first of all, we should understand."

"Others are also human just like us, so we should talk to them, listen to their opinions, know what's the problem, what's the core to all the hatred?"

"And that's what I think. And that's my own opinion. But that's what I think the solution is."



## Talia's hopes

In the Kidversation between Talia and Ibraheem, they talk about what each of them wants to see happen, and how they feel the conflict affects them.

Talia tells Ibraheem: "When we all stop attacking each other, you will have freedom and we will have freedom."

"I don't know if we will live together. I don't know. It might be that we're in different countries. I don't mind. I don't care how it's going to be, but I want freedom."

She tells Maya that the meeting is "the beginning of everything. We're understanding that we are humans before we are enemies."



Kids – you can watch the full Kidversation at [first.news/kidversation](https://www.firstnews.com/kidversation)

Teachers/parents – you can watch the film alongside our tie-in award-winning educational resources at [first.news/EducationTV](https://www.firstnews.com/educationtv)

# WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK



DID you know it's Walk to School Week from 16–20 May? Families across the UK will ditch their cars for the week and take to the streets to discover the benefits of being active and outside. Less traffic on the road also means less air pollution, so it's a win-win for everyone!

## TELL ME MORE

Walk to School Week is organised by the charity Living Streets, as part of its National Walking Month campaign each May.

Families are encouraged to walk, wheel, cycle, scoot or 'Park and Stride' for the whole week, to see the big differences that come from small steps. This includes feeling healthier and happier, as well as seeing fewer cars outside the school gates.



## EVERYONE CAN TAKE PART

Living Streets wants everyone to be able to take part in Walk to School Week, including pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. Travelling by wheelchair or mobility scooter is encouraged too. Every car off the road or parked a little further away from the school gates helps to reduce congestion and air pollution, and improves road safety. However, this still might not be possible for everyone. Pupils who aren't able to join the walking challenge can become Walk to School Week ambassadors instead and help their teacher with the events to earn their own badge at the end of the week.



You can walk, wheel, cycle or scoot!

## THIS YEAR'S THEME

This year's challenge is called #PowerUp and features videogame-inspired designs to encourage young people to travel sustainably to school. Each day of the week, the #PowerUp challenge will take you through five levels: 'Team Up', 'Defeat Danger', 'Boost Health', 'Save the Planet' and 'Lead the Way'. These daily missions will help you to learn all about issues such as road safety and the physical, mental and environmental benefits of walking or taking different modes of transport. Daily reward stickers and special reward badges are up for grabs at the end of the week for those who travelled actively every day.



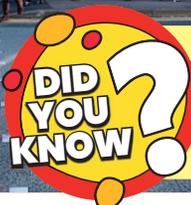
Learning about road safety and the benefits of regular activity

## SIGN ME UP!

Last year, a record number of over 350,000 pupils across the UK took part in Walk to School Week, with this year looking to be bigger than ever! You can join in too. There's also Walk to School Week classroom packs, containing resources for up to 30 pupils, which are available for your teachers to order now.

Stephen Edwards, the chief executive of Living Streets, said: "We can't wait to have more families enjoying the fresh air, freedom, friendship and fun that walking to school brings this Walk to School Week."

For more information on Walk to School Week and to get your classroom packs, visit [livingstreets.org.uk/wtsw](http://livingstreets.org.uk/wtsw).



Children are recommended to have at least 60 minutes of physical activity per day!

## LOOK UP! ROAD SAFETY RESOURCES

Remember if you're walking to school to stay safe! If you'd like to see our new Look Up! road safety assembly packs, just go to [first.news/LookUpTeachers](http://first.news/LookUpTeachers).



# THE BIG PICTURE

Getty

**AS well as all the human refugees, lots of pets and other animals have had to be helped to escape the war in Ukraine too.**

This brown bear is happily scratching away at a tree in its new home at the Four Paws Bear Sanctuary Damazhyr near Lviv, in the west of Ukraine. This one and six other bears were taken from a sanctuary near the capital, Kyiv, which has seen lots of fighting during the war.

# BARRY LOSER IS TEN!



© Jim Smith

THIS year the hilarious *Barry Loser* book series is celebrating its tenth anniversary. To mark this big birthday, and to celebrate the release of the first ever *Barry Loser* graphic novel, author and illustrator Jim Smith has shared this handy guide to drawing your own Barry Loser.

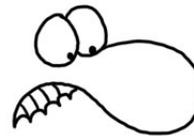


"Hello, I'm Jim Smith, author and illustrator of the *Barry Loser* books, which are ten years old this year! To celebrate, Barry is appearing in his first ever full-colour graphic novel – out this month! I had so much fun making this book, and I hope you enjoy learning how to draw Barry. There are more draw-alongs in the book, which I encourage you to rush out and buy immediately. But then I would, wouldn't I? Oh, and here's my top tip for aspiring artists and writers – **DON'T GIVE UP**. Because most people stop drawing and writing once they get older, but the ones who don't – and who stick at it because they love doing it so much – they're the ones who get really, really good!"

**1.** Draw two eyes, one slightly overlapping the other.



**2.** Now draw a ginormous nose and add the mouth with that weird bumpy bottom lip, like he's biting it with his teeth.



**3.** Add his hair – it's basically lots of brackets. Same with his ear – a big bracket with a small one inside it.



**4.** Complete his head by drawing a big upside-down bracket.



**5.** Barry's body is just this little square hanging off his massive head.



**6.** Zipper and hoodie time. Look how small that hoodie is – it'd never fit over his head.



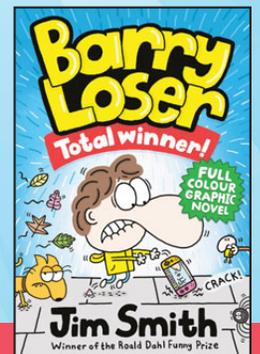
**7.** Two sticking-out arms. Three fingers on each.



**8.** Legs, shoes, and pebble to trip over. Plus a bit of shading on the ground.



**9.** Finally, colour him in.



*Barry Loser: Total Winner!* is out now

# THIS WEEK

**1** Dick and Dom are heading off on tour to celebrate the 20th anniversary of their most popular show! *The Dick and Dom in Da Bungalow 20th Anniversary Tour* kicks off on 22 September in Newcastle and members of the audience will absolutely be encouraged to shout "Bogies!" at the top of their voices. Tickets are on sale now.



**2** Football legend Peter Crouch has joined the judging panel of ITV's *The Masked Dancer*. The star will join Jonathan Ross, Oti Mabuse and Davina McCall as they try to figure out which 12 celebrities are dancing in the elaborate disguises. Joel Dommett will return as the host of the bonkers dance-off when it returns to ITV soon.

**3** *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness* has just hit cinemas and is already the number one film at the box office in the UK and Ireland. The film sees the return of Wanda Maximoff/Scarlet Witch, who has to join forces with Doctor Strange in order to beat a mysterious new enemy. It's a time-travelling, multiverse-jumping spectacular!



# PICS OF THE WEEK



CHIP and Dale were heroes, legends, Rescue Rangers – but that was in the '80s. Once their TV show was cancelled, these heroes had to live normal lives. Until now.

In 2022 Chip and Dale are living quietly among humans and other animated characters in Los Angeles. Chip is a salesman and Dale has had a CGI makeover and is desperate to find fame again. The former best friends haven't spoken in years but, when a former cast-mate goes missing, the once-great duo must reunite and put their detective skills to the test in order to find their pal. This brand-new live-action/CGI animated film isn't a remake, it's a comeback!



*Chip 'n Dale: Rescue Rangers* premieres 20 May on Disney+

# TOP TELLY WINNERS



THE British Academy Television Awards (BAFTAs) took place in London this week, with some of our favourite TV stars picking up the big awards.

*Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway* won the award for Best Entertainment Programme, making it the fourth time they've won this category.

*Strictly Come Dancing* winners Giovanni Pernice and Rose Ayling-Ellis (below) picked up the award for Must-See Moment for their silent dance to *Symphony* during the last series of the show. Presenter Rochelle Humes introduced them



to the stage using British Sign Language (BSL) as she presented the award. Rose said: "It's a very special moment for us because hopefully it showed how powerful TV can be."

The actor has been deaf since birth and has helped raise awareness about the deaf community with her appearance on the show.

Other winners included *The Chase*, *The Earthshot Prize* and *Gogglebox*.

# ANT AND DEC WANT YOUR QUESTIONS!

TO celebrate the release of their new book, *Propa Happy*, and the launch of their Pass The Positivity campaign with the NSPCC, we'll be chatting to Ant and Dec – who want to answer your questions! If you have a burning question for the duo, just send it to us and we'll choose some to quiz the pair with. You'll be able to read the interview in *First News* later this month.

Email your questions to [newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk).

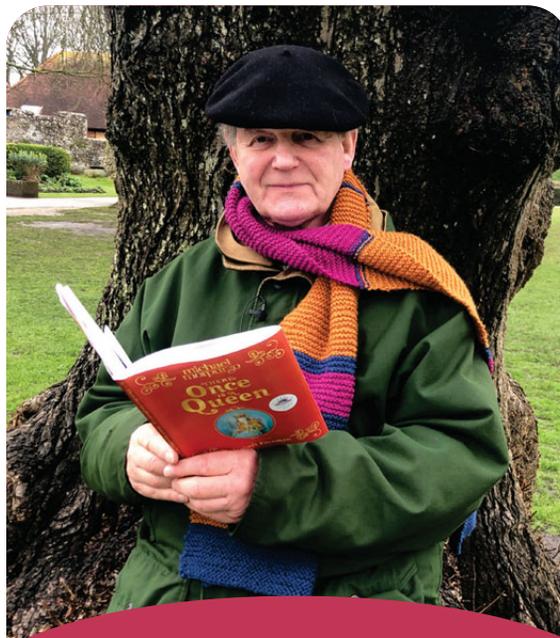


● **There Once Is A Queen is a lovely idea. How did it come about?**

I was approached by the people running the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Pageant and they said they wanted a story that would weave its way through the Pageant; a way to join together some of the events that are happening so that it felt as if it were all part of the same story. Then I asked the question: "What does this extraordinary woman mean to me?" It was a good question to ask because the truth is, even though I'm slightly younger than she is, all my life she has been this presence; she's been there. She's been on every banknote, on every coin; her face is as familiar to us as any member of our family. It's extraordinary in your life to have someone who is constant – it's so reassuring. My story is about a child who goes out one day with her daddy and plants an oak tree. Then, she finds after a while, that it's the place she most likes to be. She can be alone there. It's really a fairy tale of a girl who just wants to be a girl and eventually finds herself becoming a queen. All through her life, while she's doing what she's doing, she returns to this oak tree – and that's the place where she can be herself. Unlike most fairy tales, however, it's got an ending where the princess becomes old. It's the life of someone who makes up her mind that she's there for a good reason, because people matter and she's going to do what she can to make their lives better.

● **You've met the Queen a number of times, so what's she really like?**

She's your granny! That's what's wonderful about her. Now she's really become the nation's granny. I've been lucky enough to have her around all my life. If you think about how many trees she's planted in her life, it's hardly surprising that I have her planting a tree in my story. We've also been able to see her through her difficult times. You know, we had to stand and watch her when Windsor Castle was burning [in 1992] and sitting there on her own when her husband had died. I think there are moments where people remember she is just a human being. She may be 'the Queen', but she's a human being and she's done an amazing job. She's been a constant in a turbulent [rough or stormy] – and an evermore turbulent – century. That's why I got involved. Writing the book has been enjoyable and a huge challenge. And at the moment we absolutely need her; this Pageant and the celebration are very important. I think it's going to reflect what people all over the country feel about her; it's a wonderful opportunity to celebrate a wonderful life.



# "THE QUEEN IS THE NATION'S GRANNY"

MICHAEL Morpurgo's new book has been written especially to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Pageant this summer. He told us how he got involved and what the Queen means to him.

● **Has a copy of the book been sent to Her Majesty?**

Well, I think she must've liked it or I don't think the book would've happened. My feeling is that she, or the people who work alongside her, think it's okay, otherwise I should be locked up in the Tower of London by now! I hope she likes it; I like the idea of her reading on one of the days of her Jubilee in bed, quietly. It's very good that she feels good about the Platinum Jubilee as well.

● **As this a fairy-tale story, what are some of your favourite fairy tales?**

This one is now! I've retold one or two fairy tales. I've retold *Beauty and the Beast*; I've always liked that one. I like fairy tales that have a connection to the real world, so that you live half in a world of reality, fear and anxiety, but then joy as well. I rather like that with *Beauty and the Beast*. *Cinderella* I think everyone likes, simply because it's a wonderful love story. The great thing about the Queen's story is it's got everything in it and because it's the story of our lives, really.

● **If you could give one piece of advice to young budding writers right now, what would it be?**

The one piece of advice I think everyone leaves out will sound very strange. It's not to write at all; it's to live an interesting life. Meet people. Go places. Fill your life with interesting people and interesting things. Find out what it is you care about and maybe make some little notes; not a big diary, just little notes. Perhaps a couple of lines on the most interesting thing that happens every day? I think it's important that you don't focus on writing a best-seller right now; you can't become JK Rowling tomorrow. You have to live your life; to find out all you can. And then at some point, read lots of books – all sorts of books. Get used to the way other people use words; how they paint the pictures with their words. Bit by bit, you're putting together the real life you want to write about and finding your own voice.



There Once Is A Queen by Michael Morpurgo is out now





# FREE-ROAMING RETURNS

**CHICKENS** in the UK are once again allowed to roam freely, after restrictions to keep them inside were relaxed.

In November 2021 the UK Government ordered owners to keep their chickens, ducks, geese and turkeys inside, to protect them from the UK's largest outbreak of avian influenza. Also known as bird flu, the disease is carried by wild birds. Farmers are pleased that they can let their birds outside again, but they have been warned to keep an eye out for any signs of the disease,

which can wipe out entire flocks. Because chickens have been kept inside for so long, farmers have had to stop labelling their eggs as free-range. Instead they have been labelled as "barn eggs". Now the rules have been relaxed and chickens are once again allowed outside, we should start to see the return of free-range eggs to the supermarket shelves.

# RARE FALCONS FOUND



**RESEARCHERS** in Africa have found a surprise population of Taita falcons, Africa's rarest falcon species.

The team from BirdLife South Africa, the Wildlife Conservation Society, and the Peregrine Fund found 37 Taita falcons in an area of forest that isn't part of the birds' usual range. They were found living in rocky outcrops in Mozambique's Niassa Special Reserve after the team used helicopters to survey the area.

Researchers now want the woodlands around the nesting sites to be offered extra protection, in a bid to help the species live in peace. The Taita falcon is only found in small groups across a few parts of Africa and is listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.



A Taita falcon

# IT'S TWINS!



**TWIN** red-bellied lemurs have been born at Chester Zoo.

The babies were born to parents Aina and Frej. The tiny twins were spotted by keepers just moments after they were born, snuggled into mum Aina's fur. At the moment they weigh less than 70 grams each and will spend the next six months clinging to mum while they grow and mature.

The red-bellied lemur is one of the rarest primates in the world. In the wild, like all lemur species, they can only be found on the island of Madagascar. In recent years the population of these primates has fallen by 30% and now worldwide conservation efforts are being made to help protect the species.



# PEAS FOR BEES



Ground-nesting birds, including threatened species like lapwing and skylark, breed more successfully in peas than other crops and Birds Eye has an active programme to help protect them.

BIRDS EYE is giving you the chance to win wildflower seed balls when you buy packs of Birds Eye Peas or Petits Pois\*, so you can help biodiversity in your own green spaces.

There will be almost **TEN BILLION** people in the world by 2050 – that's a lot of mouths for the planet to feed!

Animals use up more of the Earth's natural resources to grow than vegetables, so to keep us and the planet healthy we should be making twice as much space on our plates for veg – but not just any veg.

**Did you know that not all vegetables are grown the same way?**

Farmers can choose how they farm their land, from how much water they use, to the types of machinery they run, to the plants they grow.

If the farmer doesn't think of the environmental impact of how they farm, they risk destroying **biodiversity**.



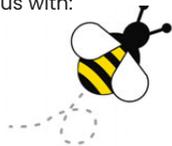
**\*Find out more at [www.birdseye.co.uk/peasforbees](http://www.birdseye.co.uk/peasforbees)**

## What is biodiversity?

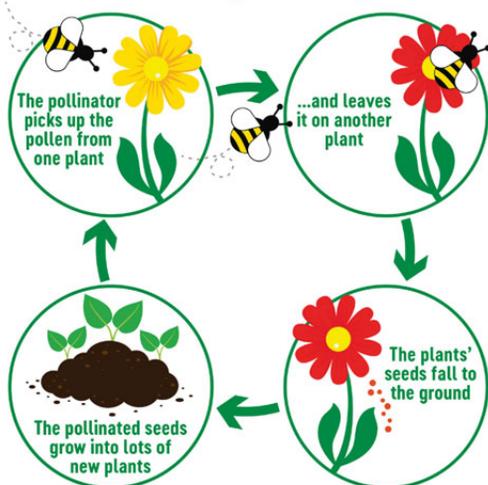
Biodiversity is short for 'biological diversity' – it's the name given to all the different animals and plants that support life on Earth and that help us fight climate change by providing us with:

- Clean air
- Fresh water
- Good quality soil
- Crop pollination

For the planet to produce enough food for the growing population we need to protect biodiversity.



**Bees and butterflies are essential for biodiversity because they are pollinators. They pollinate plants so the seeds can grow into new plants.**



## Sustainable farming

Farming sustainably doesn't destroy biodiversity but replenishes it and protects the food chain for generations to come. It can include:

- Delaying cutting hedges so birds can feed from them for longer.
- Growing flowers in the grass borders of fields for the bees and butterflies to feed from.
- Enriching the soil by 'rotating' crops so that a field doesn't always grow the same vegetable.
- Planting cover crops that cover the soil but aren't for harvesting, to improve the soil.



## How you can help biodiversity

- 1** Grow native plants that attract pollinating insects.
- 2** If you have a garden, leave a small area to grow 'wild' for insects, birds, and small mammals to enjoy.
- 3** Check the food you buy is sustainably sourced by looking at the product's website or on the pack.



There are **ten bees** hiding in this week's **First News!** Can you find them all?

This one doesn't count!

**BirdsEye**



# FORTNITE RETURNS TO APPLE DEVICES (SORT OF!)



**AFTER** Apple, which makes the iPhone, and Epic Games, the company behind *Fortnite* (PEGI 12), fell out in 2020, Apple blocked *Fortnite* from being played on its devices. Now, a clever workaround from Xbox maker Microsoft has changed that.

Microsoft's Xbox Cloud Gaming website can be accessed on iOS, iPad, Android phones and tablets, and Windows PC for free through a normal web browser.

Using it, you can play games that are being hosted on a computer somewhere else, by

streaming the game through a web browser – sort of like watching a TV show on Netflix.

It requires a good internet connection, but otherwise, it's just like playing the game as you normally would.

Microsoft announced that it had partnered with Epic Games to bring *Fortnite* to the service, and that it would be free to everyone, as long as they had a Microsoft account.

Microsoft also said that it planned to bring other free-to-play games to the service, which could be a big deal.

Through Xbox Cloud Gaming, any device with a web browser – like Google Chrome – would be able to play free-to-play titles, making them much more accessible to gamers.



# THE QUEEN'S GOLDEN WII GOES ON SALE

**A GOLD-PLATED** Nintendo Wii, created in 2009 and sent to the Queen to promote the launch of *Big Family Games*, has been put up for auction.

The console sadly never made it into the Queen's hands, and was quickly sent back by Buckingham Palace to THQ. The games company created the one-of-a-kind console by covering it in 24-carat (pure) gold.

That hasn't stopped it from becoming quite the collector's item, and the bidding was at \$3,250 (£2,600) earlier this week.

Perhaps Her Majesty will snap up the long-lost golden Wii, as a Platinum Jubilee treat to herself!



## WIN! A YEAR'S SUPPLY OF SCHOLASTIC BOOKS

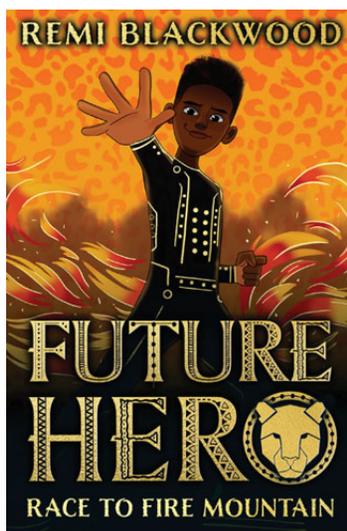
**DESTINY** is calling! This first book in a major new series – *FUTURE HERO* – features high-octane adventure, with high-tech gadgets and fantasy creatures!

When Jarell discovers that the world he is obsessed with doodling is actually real, he is launched into an incredible quest.

Ulfrika, the land of his ancestors, is in trouble and he is the hero they need. With the help of brave and wise-cracking Kimisi, Jarell must stop the evil Ikala. The future of Ulfrika depends on it...

In his adventures in *Race to Fire Mountain*, Jarell comes across lots of magical animals, such as the Were-Hyenas and the Painted Wolves. We want YOU to design an animal! The winner will have their animal included in a *Future Hero* book AND win a year's supply of Scholastic books!

Send your animal designs to [win@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:win@firstnews.co.uk), putting **Hero** in the subject box.



### ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY HERO

[firstnews.co.uk/competitions](http://firstnews.co.uk/competitions) or see page 23. The closing date is 26 May 2022.

## WIN! A FAMILY CAMPING TICKET TO THE GREAT ESTATE FESTIVAL



**THE** summer is made for festival season and *The Great Estate* festival is the perfect garden fête to celebrate it in style.

Bursting at the seams with live music and quality entertainment, this is an award-winning, boutique festival for all ages, with cabaret shows, participatory workshops, magical trails, gorgeous glamping and a flair for the extraordinary.

#### Expect the unexpected!

Nestled within the prestigious grounds of the Scorrier Estate, *The Great Estate* festival runs from 2-5 June 2022, and to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the festival is attempting to beat the world record for the most people wearing paper crowns.

There are still more acts and headliners to be announced, but whilst they're leaving us excited with anticipation, we've got a family weekend camping ticket up for grabs.

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

- Where is the Scorrier Estate?  
 a) Somerset b) Yorkshire c) Cornwall



For more information, see [www.greatestatefestival.co.uk](http://www.greatestatefestival.co.uk)

### ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY GREAT

[firstnews.co.uk/competitions](http://firstnews.co.uk/competitions) or see page 23. The closing date is 26 May 2022.

# TOP OF THE DOGS

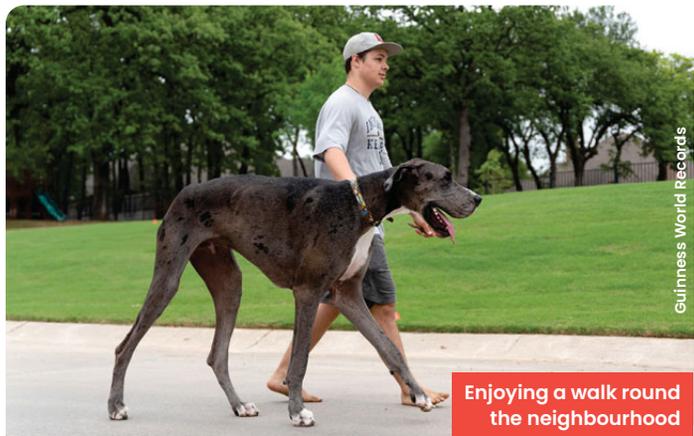
**ZEUS** the Great Dane has been crowned the tallest dog in the world!

The giant pooch from Texas, USA measures an impressive 1.046 metres (3ft 5.18in) – and he’s only two years old!

Zeus’ mum, Brittany Davis, said she’d always wanted an American Great Dane and couldn’t believe it when her brother gave the family one as a gift. She added: “At first, we were nervous about



Zeus with his owner Brittany



Enjoying a walk round the neighbourhood

having such a large dog, but we fell in love with him and here we are!”

Zeus shares his home with three miniature Australian shepherds, as well as a cat. His owners say he gets on particularly well with pup Zeb, despite the big height difference.

The cool canine also loves nothing more than sleeping by the window, going on walks and visiting local farmers’ markets, where he’s become a bit of a celebrity!

# ROBOT CHEF CAN CHEW AND TASTE!

**A ROBOT** chef has been taught how to chew and taste food while it’s cooking up a feast, thanks to researchers at Cambridge University.

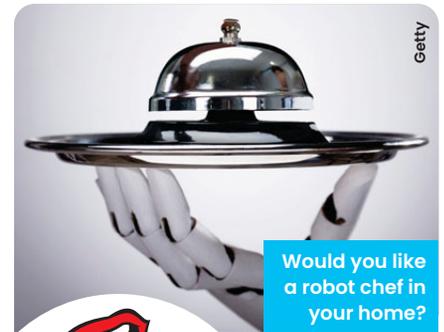
The clever chef has been designed to react like a human and identify if food tastes good or needs more flavouring.

The robot successfully made an omelette based on feedback from humans. The robot ‘tasted’ eggs and tomato as it cooked them to make the perfect dish.

The researchers now hope to improve the robot so it can taste different types of food, including more sweet or oily items. In the future, robots could be preparing meals for humans and helping out in the home.

Dr Arsen Abdulali, from Cambridge University’s Department of Engineering, said: “We want the robots to understand the concept [idea] of taste, which will make them better cooks.”

The results were reported in the journal *Frontiers in Robotics and AI*.



Would you like a robot chef in your home?

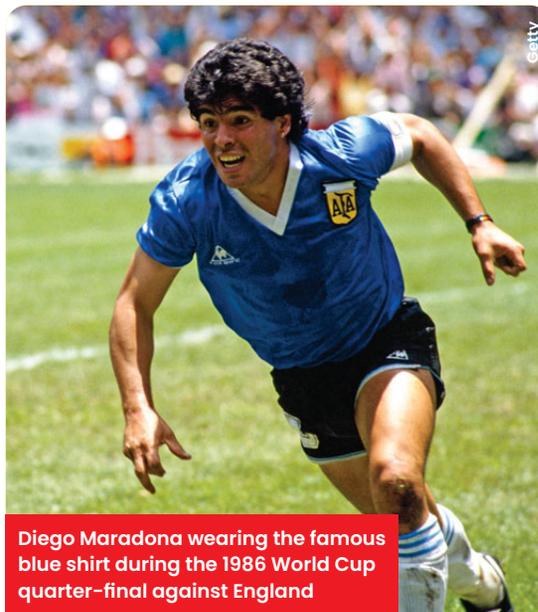
# WHAT A WIN!



**A SHIRT** worn by famous footballer Diego Maradona has sold for a record-breaking £7.1 million at auction.

The shirt was worn by Argentinian legend Maradona when he helped to knock England out of the 1986 World Cup. Maradona scored two goals in the quarter-final, including an opening handball goal which he later described as “a little with the head of Maradona and a little with the hand of God”. Argentina eventually went on to win the tournament.

The iconic football shirt has belonged to England midfielder Steve Hodge for the past 35 years, after the duo swapped tops after the match. It’s now been bought by an unknown buyer for a whopping £7,142,500. That makes it the most expensive item of sports memorabilia ever sold at auction!



Diego Maradona wearing the famous blue shirt during the 1986 World Cup quarter-final against England

**JOKE OF THE WEEK**

haha ha

What did the fisherman say to the magician?  
Pick a cod, any cod!

# Paper Boy!

Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer



# WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?

## PHOTO FUN

### FAMILY TREE MAGNETIC PHOTO FRAMES

**IWANTONEOFTHOSE.COM £6.99**



This fun set includes 15 frames for you to fill with the gorgeous faces of your nearest and dearest, in order to build your personal family tree. The magnetic frames can be stuck to the fridge, and each frame has space to write a caption and the name of the person in the photo with the included dry-wipe marker.

### PHOTO MOBILE

**THEPRESENTFINDER.CO.UK £6.99**

Bring the art gallery into your home with this silver photo mobile. You'll no longer have to choose which photos to put out because there's not enough shelf space. The mobile includes clips to show off ten of your most memorable pictures.



### PHOTO BOOTH FRAME AND PROPS

**AMAZON.CO.UK £11.99**

This set from Hocadon is great for a party or just to brighten up your day. You can have loads of fun with this inflatable photo frame, with 33 props to choose from, including glasses, hats, and funny beards.



\*All prices correct at time of printing

## WIN! A SPANISH LANGUAGE COURSE



WE'VE teamed up with Instituto Cervantes Manchester to offer three readers a chance to win the best Spanish course in the country. Speak to the locals on your summer holidays with these fantastic courses!



Whether you're keen to learn a new language or need some extra help with your Spanish studies, Instituto Cervantes has courses that can cater for all.

After the 'Find Your Level' session, start practising real communication in the classroom with the help of native Spanish-speaking teachers and see just how much you can progress with the right support.

Either learning enough Spanish to greatly enjoy a one-off summer holiday or becoming completely immersed in another culture, Instituto Cervantes truly has something for everyone!

For the chance to win one of these fantastic Spanish courses for children (aged 7-14), just answer this question:



What is two in Spanish?  
a) Diez b) Cinco c) Dos

For more information, see [manchester.cervantes.es](http://manchester.cervantes.es)

## ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY SPAIN

[firstnews.co.uk/competitions](http://firstnews.co.uk/competitions) or see page 23. The closing date is 26 May 2022.

## WIN! MIND-BLOWING MAGIC BUNDLES

Marvin's Magic



MARVIN'S Magic is recognised as the brand leader and number one for magic worldwide. It is proud to have won many accolades, has the best-selling magic sets and largest following of young magicians anywhere!

Magic is normally based on dexterity, skill and many years of practice, but with Marvin's Magic, budding magicians can perform similar sensational effects in no time. It's professional magic made easy!

Reflecting the trends and attitudes of streetwise magicians of today, Marvin's Magic Mind-Blowing Magic will inspire aspiring magicians.

This streetwise selection of Marvin's Mind-Blowing Magic is guaranteed to amaze and impress, anytime, anywhere!

Eight lucky readers will win all three Marvin's Magic Mind-Blowing Magic sets: Amazing Tricks & Stunts, Incredible Card Tricks and Miraculous Mind-Reading Tricks. Each will entertain, mystify and baffle audiences!

For a chance to win, just answer this question:

Which of these is a well-known magic trick?  
a) Haunted key b) Haunted shoe c) Haunted rose



For more fun and magic, visit [www.marvinsmagic.com](http://www.marvinsmagic.com)

## ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY MIND

[firstnews.co.uk/competitions](http://firstnews.co.uk/competitions) or see page 23. The closing date is 26 May 2022.

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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.

We package First News in a mixture of compostable wrapper, paper wrapper, cardboard wraps and boxes, depending on the order size.

See [www.firstnews.co.uk/about-first-news](http://www.firstnews.co.uk/about-first-news) for more information about our environmental commitments.

# WIN! A SLINKY ORIGINAL



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

Did you know that Slinky is 75?! Send in your answers, because to celebrate we're giving five winners a bundle of Slinkys to share with their friends! Each winner will get five Slinky Originals so they can have a Slinky challenge with four mates.

Available from Amazon.co.uk.

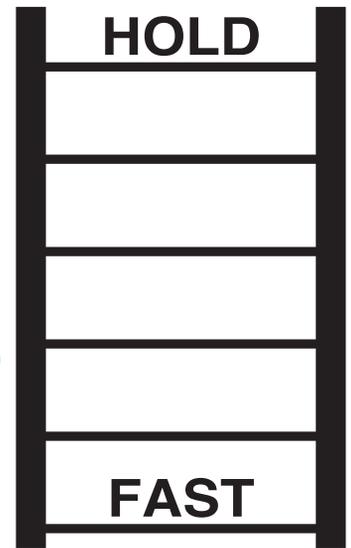
	2			9			8	
	5		3		4		2	
		7		8		4		
1		5	8		6	2		4
		6				8		
8		2	4		7	5		9
		1		2		7		
	6		7		1		5	
	7			6			4	

## 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?

# 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

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										

**ACROSS**

- 1 Popular now (of clothes) (11)
- 6 *Finding \_\_\_\_\_*: film about a clownfish (4)
- 8 A famous female opera singer (4)
- 9 Breed of dog (7)
- 10 Circular (5)
- 11 Laces (anag) (5)
- 13 A person in general (7)
- 15 Hero (4)
- 16 Silly (4)
- 17 Moved goods from one place to another (11)

**DOWN**

- 1 Mark left when you touch something (11)
- 2 Mathematical problems (4)
- 3 Opposite of closes (5)
- 4 Heat water in a kettle (4)
- 5 Overemphasised (11)
- 7 What you think about something (7)
- 8 Go down (7)
- 12 Go over again (5)
- 13 Plant that produces a type of bean (4)
- 14 Compass point (4)





# Why, hello there!

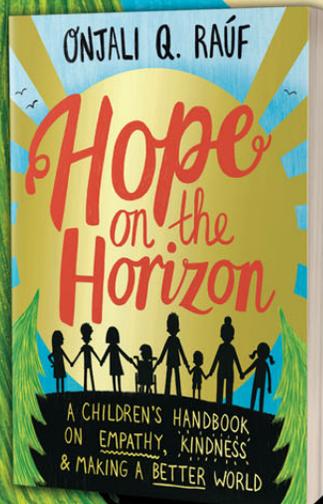
## YOU'RE RATHER WONDERFUL, AREN'T YOU?

I bet you're a thinker too and you use all the fizzing wires in your brain to wonder and worry about what we can do to make the world a better place. Well, you're in luck. You can start right now - just answer these three simple questions!

1. What causes make you feel super fired up and passionate when you think about them?

2. If you could change one thing about the world, right this second, what would it be?

3. What's one thing you can do at home right now, to make a positive change in your life?



So why am I asking you all these questions?  
Well, my new book is about hope, change and making a difference. Let's dive in and learn everything we can about kindness, empathy, friendship and fighting for things that matter!

ONTALI Q. RAUF

**Hope is on the Horizon: YOU JUST HAVE TO FIND IT.**

A handbook of hope from the bestselling author of *THE BOY AT THE BACK OF THE CLASS*

# REAL-WORLD BRIGHTSTORM TWINS

by Tom and Lucy

**WE love the *Brightstorm* series of books by Vashti Hardy because we are boy/girl twins and the main characters, Arthur and Maudie, are too.**

Just like us, they look out for each other, care about each other, encourage each other, and even tease each other. Each understands what the other is thinking and feeling without even asking.

We first met Vashti Hardy when she came to our school for an author visit in 2019. It was great to hear about where she gets her ideas, including survival tips from Bear Grylls!

Her stories are such exciting adventures set in amazing places with incredible characters, including thought-wolves who communicate through thoughts.

We were thrilled when Vashti dedicated *Darkwhispers*, the second book, to us and called us "real-world Brightstorm twinnies". Now we're so excited to read the third book, *Firesong*, but are a bit sad that the adventures have come to an end so soon.

We wish the *Brightstorm* twins could go on forever.



Real-world Brightstorm twins



# YOUNG DRUMMER

by Sam Bickmore

**I STARTED playing drums when I was six years old. I love music and really enjoy being able to play along to songs.**

I have just passed the highest level in the Trinity College. The songs on the Trinity syllabus made me enjoy different types of music and I realised that I love rock music.

I created a YouTube channel called Sam Beat7 and posted videos of new songs I learned. I started entering local music festivals and won medals and trophies for my drumming, which encouraged me to keep playing.

I took my first grade in 2019 and recently passed my grade eight at the age of ten.

I felt really proud of myself when I passed with a distinction, as I'm one of the youngest ever to achieve this for my age!

My drum heroes are Nicko McBrain, Tré Cool, Taylor Hawkins, Dave Grohl and Camille Phillips. I love playing live and my dream is to play in my own rock band, in front of loads of people in a huge stadium!

Lots of my friends now want to play the drums and I hope I can inspire others to play too.



Sam

# FIRST NEWS VISIT

by Eliza, Ella, Joey and Leo

**LAST Thursday, 6SB at Martin Primary School got an amazing surprise from the *First News* editorial team, when they came to our school and we met a couple of their staff.**

They set us a challenge by giving us eight stories that could potentially be the front page of the newspaper and that would be released that week.

We were sorted into groups of 4-6 and many of us had a heated discussion about which stories we thought should be on the front page or on the 'teasers'.

These ranged from a gorilla's 65th birthday to a 12-year-old boy who

raised a quarter of a million pounds for Ukrainian refugees.

They then asked us to look at their online exclusive website for schools. After we had logged in, we tested a new edition they wanted to try out.

We felt very privileged to take part in this fascinating experience.

Incredibly, the students in our class were some of the first people in the world to read that week's newspaper!



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



Write in to let us know what you've been up to! Have you been getting creative? Been for a great day out? Raised money for charity? Whatever it is, we love hearing about your adventures, so why not share your experiences with *First News* readers?

Email your report (and any pictures you want to share) to [yournews@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:yournews@firstnews.co.uk).

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



**SUBSCRIBE FOR SCHOOL – FIND OUT MORE AT [SCHOOLS.FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK](http://SCHOOLS.FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK)  
CALL: (020) 3195 7256 EMAIL: [SCHOOLS@FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK](mailto:SCHOOLS@FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK)**

# YOUR READS!

## THE WIZARD IN MY SHED SIMON FARNABY

THIS is a strange and funny book with lots of crazy characters. The three main ones are Rose, Merdyn and Bubbles the guinea pig.

It is a hilarious story about a wizard called Merdyn who gets banished from the Dark Ages to modern times by his archenemy. He is very proud to be a warlock and thinks: "wizards be woolly-hearted fools."

Rose is an ordinary girl who travels back in time and has to cope with a wizard who doesn't even know what a car is!

Bubbles is Rose's pet guinea pig. He is rude, bossy and a bit of a coward. He hates Merdyn, maybe because the first time they met, Merdyn tried to eat him!

I loved this book because it has lots of funny events. For example, Merdyn thinks a toilet is a bowl of drinking water and he mistakes a plane for an enormous bird.

The amazing illustrations are by Claire Powell.

I think this book is brilliant and I would definitely give it five out of five!

Reviewed by  
Rose Hannah,  
aged eight



# WALES AND SCOTLAND SAY NO TO JUBILEE BOOKS

A CHILDREN'S book, written to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee, will no longer go out to every state primary school pupil, after the Welsh and Scottish Governments said that the book was too focused on England.

The decision came after more details about the book were released. The Welsh Government said that it felt the book didn't address the histories of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland enough.

Schools in Scotland and Wales will now need to request copies of the book, should they want them.

The book tells the story of Isabella, who visits her great-grandmother and finds out about the highlights of Queen Elizabeth II's 70-year reign, the lives of famous Commonwealth figures, and how the UK came together.

The book has cost the UK £12 million. We asked if you thought that all British kids should get the book about the Queen, and nearly three quarters (74%) of you said that the money would have been better spent on something else.



## WE WANT YOUR BOOK REVIEWS!



We'll need you to write around 125 words on a book you've been reading, along with your name, age and, if you like, a picture of yourself (with your parents' permission). Please send your reviews to [bookreviews@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:bookreviews@firstnews.co.uk) and we'll do our best to get it in an upcoming issue of *First News*!

## SPACETALK *Advertisement feature*

# Meet the school-friendly smartwatch

Enjoy no distractions with School Mode on Spacetalk smartwatches. No apps, no social media and no worries for your teachers.

When school is over, Spacetalk turns the phone functions back on so you can always safely contact your parents while travelling home or to after-school activities.

So next time teachers confiscate smartphones and other devices, just flick your wrist and show them it's on School Mode.

School Mode means no distractions



Did you know School Mode on Spacetalk smartwatches turns your device into an ordinary wristwatch?



Check out [www.spacetalkwatch.co.uk](http://www.spacetalkwatch.co.uk) to learn more about School Mode and our other amazing smartwatch features.

 SPACETALK

# SPORT IN PICTURES



Arsenal's Eddie Nketiah leaps over Leeds goalkeeper Illan Meslier during their Premier League match. The Gunners won 2-1 thanks to a brace from Nketiah. They remain in fourth spot, while the defeat sent Leeds into the relegation zone. Watford and Norwich have already been relegated



Minami Katsu of Japan hits her tee shot on the 17th hole during the third round of the World Ladies Championship Salonpas Cup



Fulham players celebrate winning the Championship, which gives them automatic promotion to the Premier League. Striker Aleksandar Mitrović scored 43 goals this season, more than anyone has managed in that division since the 1950s



Players from the Pittsburgh Penguins and New York Rangers clash during their Stanley Cup play-off match in the NHL



Spanish teenager Carlos Alcaraz strikes the ball during the final of the Madrid Open. The 19-year-old beat Alexander Zverev 6-3, 6-1 to win the trophy



**CHELSEA have won the Women's Super League title for a third year in a row.**

The Blues beat Manchester United 4-2 to secure the trophy and become the first team in WSL history to win it in three back-to-back seasons. It's also Chelsea's sixth title overall.

Arsenal finished the season just a point behind the champions, and with a better goal difference. It's a third season in a row without a trophy for Arsenal, who last won the WSL in 2019.

In a dramatic final match of the season, Manchester United took the lead, only for Chelsea to equalise five minutes later. Then, just seven minutes after, Ella Toone's strike put the Red Devils in front once again.

Knowing that a win would give them the title, Chelsea came out in the second half and scored within seconds to equalise the game. Sam Kerr (right) scored the first of two brilliant volleys to make it 2-2, before Guro Reiten gave the Blues the lead for the first time in the match, and Kerr's second sealed the win. The Australian forward also finished the season as the top scorer in the WSL, with 20 goals.

Chelsea boss Emma Hayes has led the team to all their WSL titles, and won the FIFA coach of the year award earlier this year.

But the season isn't over yet for Chelsea: they face Manchester City in the FA Cup final this Sunday (15 May).



**ONS Jabeur has become the first African woman ever to win a WTA 1000 event.**

The Tunisian tennis player, who is currently ranked number seven in the world, beat Jessica Pegula of the USA 7-5, 0-6, 6-2 in the final of the Madrid Open in Spain.

The WTA 1000 is a series of top tennis tournaments for female players. The Madrid Open is one of those tournaments.

Jabeur has now won two career titles, after winning the Birmingham Classic last year. She is also the first Arab player – male or female – to get into the world's top ten. After her historic victory, Jabeur said: "I honestly still can't believe it. I went through a rollercoaster of emotions during the past few days. I'm very happy and trying to realise that I won today!"

**10**.67 seconds was Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce's winning time in the 100m at the Kip Keino Classic in Kenya. That's the fastest women's 100m result so far this year. The Jamaican sprinter, who has won eight Olympic medals, finished the race a tiny bit short of her personal best time of 10.60sec.



**19** points separate Ferrari's Charles Leclerc in first from Red Bull's Max Verstappen in second at the top of the Formula 1 driver standings. Verstappen (below) won the Miami Grand Prix, ahead of Leclerc and his Ferrari team-mate Carlos Sainz in third. Leclerc has a total of 104 points, with Verstappen on 85.



**2** races were won by Jamie Chadwick in the opening two rounds of the W Series in Miami. The reigning champion, who now drives for new team Jenner Racing, finished first ahead of Marta Garcia in last Saturday's race, and Nerea Martí the day after. Chadwick has been on the podium in every race since round two last season!

