NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR*

First News

NEWS KIDS CAN TRUST

2.6M READERS*

Issue 886 £2.85 9 – 15 June 2023

9

Watch news for kids with our partner

FYI

WEEKLY NEWS SHOW

at first.news/schfyi

NEWS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT INTERVIEWS PUZZLES COMPETITIONS

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE WORLD'S BIGGEST CHARITY FOOTBALL MATCH

19

Friendship tips and advice

12

Special report

Why are food prices still so high?

23

* Newspaper Awards 2023, Niche market Newspaper of the Year. *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.

River Wye unhealthy

The health rating of the River Wye, which runs between England and Wales, has been downgraded by Natural England because of a decline in wildlife. Natural England discovered that numbers of salmon, macrophytes (aquatic plants) and native crayfish have gone down. Campaigners say intensive farming and sewage pollution have caused algae blooms, which means wildlife doesn't get enough oxygen. They're calling for action to protect the river. Environment Secretary Thérèse Coffey held a meeting with environmental groups, farmers and politicians in Hereford to discuss the situation. The Government has pledged £1.2m to farmers in the Wye area to help them store waste and to expand a scheme that offers advice on reducing pollution.

Pothole protests

Potholes can be dangerous if you hit one when you're riding your bike, or they can damage cars when people drive over them. That's why one man is drawing attention to them – by turning them into works of art. Tim Webb has started filling potholes in his area with rubber ducks and other toys, as a way to get Bromley Council to take notice of them and, hopefully, fill them in.

More lessons on climate change needed

A new report by the British Science Association and the University of Plymouth has revealed that seven in ten 14 to 18-year-olds want to learn more about climate change at school. The research also showed that pupils were concerned that their school work right now leaves them feeling hopeless and unprepared to tackle climate change.

Earth in the "danger zone"

The planet has pushed past seven out of eight scientific safety limits for life. The study by the Earth Commission, an international group of scientists, was published in the journal *Nature*. It says Earth is heading into "the danger zone" for an overheating planet and for the wellbeing of the people living here.

Early weather warnings

The World Meteorological Organization has said its top priority now is making sure everyone on Earth is protected against hazardous weather by life-saving early warning systems by the end of 2027. Between 1970 and 2021, extreme weather, climate and water-related events caused 11,778 reported disasters around the world and just over two million deaths. Early warnings could help make events like this less deadly.

HAVE YOU

Hungry bear scoffs cupcakes

Workers at a bakery in America got a shock when a black bear came in and stole a load of cupcakes. The hungry animal sneaked into Taste by Spellbound's garage in Avon, Connecticut, when the staff were loading a delivery into their van. The bear managed to get through 60 cupcakes before staff were able to scare him away with a car. We bet he felt bear-y poorly after all of those cakes!

Secrets of the German 'Atlantis'

The mudflats where Rungholt was found

Archaeologists from Christian-Albrecht University have charted what they're calling the remains of "northern Atlantis", or the lost city of Rungholt, in the muddy flats of the Wadden Sea in Germany. They discovered the foundations of a large church, drainage channels and a harbour. Rungholt was discovered first in the 1920s by a farmer when the silt covering it was washed away by the tides. Atlantis is a fictional city that is said to have sunk beneath the waves.

Man robs store with videogame controller

The type of retro controller used

A man in South Carolina has been accused of robbing a shop using a fake pistol from Nintendo's *Duck Hunt* game, which he painted black. Police said David Joseph Dalesandro demanded cash and flashed the gun-shaped games controller, which was tucked into his waistband. Police officers arrested the robber in a nearby car park. He had stolen £240 from the Kwik Stop store in Sharon, while wearing a wig and a mask.

Coral reefs filled with diverse life

Coral reefs are among the most diverse ecosystems on Earth, but now scientists have claimed that there's the same diversity of bacteria in the world's coral reefs as there is known to exist on the whole planet. This means there are far more micro-organisms on Earth than we ever thought. The team estimated that there are 2.8 million species of micro-organism in Earth's coral reefs.

HEARD?

World Day Against Child Labour

It's World Day Against Child Labour on Monday (12 June). Child labour is when children are forced to do work that stops them having a childhood, going to school or harms them in any way – whether mentally or physically. This year's theme for the day is 'Social Justice for All. End Child Labour'. The aim is to raise awareness of child labour and stop it from happening.

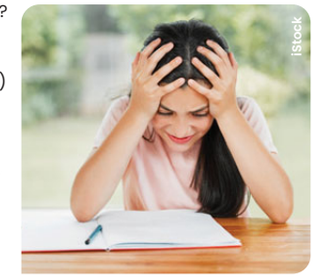
Over the last few years, conflicts, natural disasters and the Covid-19 pandemic have led to more families struggling and millions more children being forced into child labour. About 160 million children around the world are involved in child labour, which is nearly one in ten children. Around 72m of those children are in Africa and 62m are in Asia and the Pacific. The United Nations wants all children in the world to be protected by law against all forms of child labour.

Pigeon's Christmas tree home

A Yorkshire town's Christmas tree is still up because a pigeon has made a nest in its branches. Beverley Town Council has been told that workers can't remove the tree because it's against the law to damage the nest of a wild bird while it's in use. The bird is being checked regularly by East Riding of Yorkshire Council officials. The tree, which was supposed to come down five months ago, will be removed once the eggs have hatched and the chicks have grown enough to leave the nest.

Children's writing crisis

Do you like writing? New research by the National Literacy Trust (NLT) has revealed that only one in three young people aged 8 to 18 enjoy writing in their free time. Back in 2010 it was one in two. There are fears that this will have a bad effect on children's learning. The NLT also discovered that there's been a big rise in the number of 11 year olds leaving primary school without the writing skills they need to continue their education. The organisation says there's a link between writing for enjoyment and how well you do at school. Children who enjoy writing are seven times more likely to write above the expected level at school. The NLT's chief executive, Jonathan Douglas CBE, said: "Writing for enjoyment needs to be encouraged, protected and nurtured as a priority."



Poorer kids understand less about finances

THE UK's poorest children are less likely to understand about money, new research has found.

A study of 3,745 families from across the UK showed there is a "sizeable" gap in what children know about finances, depending on their social background. Those from wealthier backgrounds appeared to know more about how to manage their own money.

An expert team from University College London found that one of the biggest problems is that kids from disadvantaged backgrounds have fewer conversations about money with their parents or carers and are "less likely" to be shown how money 'works'.

Now the team is calling for primary school children to be taught more financial skills, such as how to look after your money and set up a bank account.

The findings were published in the *British Journal of Educational Studies*.

Phones banned for kids

Parents at eight schools in Ireland have come together to ban kids from having phones. The ban, in the town of Greystones, means that pupils can't have a phone at school, home or anywhere, until they start secondary school. The parents' association across the schools in County Wicklow says that not having phones until they're older will protect the young people's mental health and stop them from seeing unsuitable content. The total ban should mean no-one feels left out.

It's Healthy Eating Week

Put down those biscuits because 12-16 June is Healthy Eating Week. Run by the British Nutrition Foundation, this special week is about encouraging everyone to eat a more healthy diet. Schools can register for free activity packs and resources. Check out **nutrition.org.uk** for more info.

Brazilians get on their bikes

Nearly a year ago, cities around the world bid for up to £800,000 to build or expand new cycling and walking schemes. Now, cities in Brazil, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, New Zealand and Albania have been named as some of the winners. The top prize went to Fortaleza in Brazil, which is going to use the cash to build more than 110 miles of safe cycle routes. Officials there want to help more children and older people use bikes. Runners-up include Lisbon in Portugal, which wants to increase the diversity of those who cycle, and get more students on two wheels. Bogotá in Colombia is aiming to help young kids in a poor neighbourhood walk to and from school safely.

THE UK'S BEST FREE DAYS OUT REVEALED

iStock

THE top rated, free tourist attractions in the UK have been unveiled – and there are plenty of options to keep you busy this summer.

More than 7,000 people were asked about their experiences at more than 100 UK museums, galleries and historic attractions. Here are a few of the highest rated:

- **St Fagans National Museum of History, Cardiff:** an open-air historic museum with 40 buildings where you can see blacksmithing, pottery and weaving.
- **The National Railway Museum, York:** includes the fastest ever steam train, the Mallard, and the only bullet train outside of Japan.
- **The National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh:** see Celtic, Roman and Viking artefacts, including the Lewis chess pieces, as seen in the first *Harry Potter* film.
- **Durham Cathedral, Durham:** perched above the city and once described as the best cathedral on planet Earth.
- **Houses of Parliament, London:** guided tours do cost, but you can request a free, 75-minute guided tour – search for UK Parliament free guided tours.

Rory Boland, travel editor of consumer organisation *Which?*, who carried out the survey, said: "The cost of living crisis continues to be a strain on household budgets... Fortunately the UK has a number of fantastic museums, galleries and other attractions which offer free entry."

See the full list at **tinyurl.com/daysoutforfree**.

Send your name into space

NASA/JPL-Caltech

NASA is offering people the chance to add their name to a poem that will be sent to Jupiter in October 2024.

The American space agency will be stencilling names onto a microchip with a poem called *In Praise of Mystery: A Poem for Europa* by US poet Ada Limón. The poem is dedicated to NASA's Europa Clipper mission to Jupiter's moon Europa. The names and poem are part of the Message in a Bottle campaign and will travel billions of miles as part of a mission to investigate whether the ocean that is thought to lie beneath Europa's crust could support life.

Visit **go.nasa.gov/MessageInABottle** to find out more.

Should you recycle less?

iStock

PEOPLE in England are going to be asked to put less in their recycling bins, because it turns out loads of us are putting things in there that can't be recycled.

Government ministers want to crack down on what is being called 'wishcycling'. This is where people are putting things like crisp packets, used kitchen roll and coffee cups along with other items that can't be recycled in their recycling bins.

What local councils can recycle varies around the country, but putting rubbish that can't be recycled in these bins makes it harder to separate the real recycling out and sometimes even makes it impossible, so entire batches of recycling have to be thrown away.

The UK charity Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) says that 84% of UK households make recycling errors – and younger people are more likely to make a mistake. Top things that people think can be recycled but can't are kitchen roll, straws, crisp packets, greasy takeaway pizza boxes and mirrors. To find out what you can recycle in your area, see **www.recyclenow.com**.

Are the adults or children better at recycling in your house?

Let us know at **first.news/polls**

EDITOR'S COMMENT

Nicky Cox MBE

WE are big fans of Soccer Aid at *First News*.

Everyone's a winner. People have a great time watching, the celebrities get to live out their dream of being football stars, and children around the world benefit from the funds raised from the game by Unicef.

Could it be that football's coming home this time for England, against the Rest of the World team? England are without a win at Soccer Aid since 2018! The 2022 match was decided on penalties, which gave the Rest of the World team an overall lead of 6-5 wins since the first 2006 match. It could be time to even that up!

Brentford

GOOD WEEK

BRENTFORD FC have become the first club in the Premier League with a female coach. The club has hired former Leicester City women's manager Lydia Bedford as head coach of their under-18s side. Bedford's most recent role was as assistant coach at Arsenal's women's team. She has also managed England's women's sides at under-15, U16 and U17 level.

Getty

Hans Peter Doskozil

BAD WEEK

THE Austrian politician (below) was celebrating after being announced as the new leader of the country's Social Democratic Party. But his joy only lasted for two days, after officials noticed a "technical error" in the spreadsheet that had been used to record the votes. A recount showed that another man, Andreas Babler, had in fact won the vote.

Getty

DON'T MISS OUT!

Get *First News* online and delivered to your home every week, or recommend *First News* to a friend with our fantastic introductory offer of six weeks for free.

Visit first.news/freetrial

IT'S CLEAN AIR DAY

IT'S Clean Air Day on 15 June – the UK's largest air pollution campaign.

The day is to make people think about the quality of the air we breathe and how it affects our health.

Every year, air pollution causes up to 36,000 deaths in the UK. The World Health Organization and the UK Government now recognise that air pollution is the largest environmental health risk we face today.

Local government, schools, health workers, community groups and all of us are being asked to spread awareness of the issue by hosting events such as low emission walking tours, bike maintenance workshops, gardening activities and play streets for local primary schools. A play street is where neighbours agree to close their road to traffic for a while so that children can play outside.

Most people (90%) say they do at least one thing to help reduce outdoor air pollution.

There are also many more electric vehicle charging points and e-bikes on the roads now. But, what more can be done?

You can find out more at **actionforcleanair.org.uk**.

Kidnapped donkey found by police

A DONKEY who was stolen from her home in Hampshire has been found safe and well.

Three-month-old miniature donkey Moon had been missing for more than two weeks before police found her at an address in Buckinghamshire, almost 40 miles away.

There had been a huge search for Moon since she vanished from Miller's Ark Animals farm in May, with people sharing the story on social media and setting up a fundraising page.

Thankfully, the police received information about where the donkey was and were delighted when they found her in good health.

Little Moon has been returned home and reunited with her mum. Elizabeth Miller, 61, the owner of the farm, said: "We are absolutely delighted."

Schools ban Prime drinks

SCHOOLS often have lots of rules about what you can and can't bring in, and now it seems famous drink Prime is on the list of things that you can't take into some schools. But why?

Prime is a soft drink launched in the UK by YouTubers KSI and Logan Paul last summer. Although it's not an expensive drink to buy in the shops, it became very popular so quickly that people were buying it in stores like Asda and Aldi and selling it on for high prices. There was even an app created so people could track where they could buy Prime.

Some schools are banning the drink for several reasons. One is that it can be a distraction as it's seen as such a popular hard-to-get item. Another is that it can be expensive, and schools don't want pupils to feel pressured into spending lots of money on a drink. Back in February, Forest View Primary in Gloucester posted on its website that children should no longer bring the drinks into school. "Although there are no health risks to children associated with drinking Prime Hydration, the drink does contain a high level of electrolytes," the notice said. "Electrolytes aren't recommended for children unless they are unwell or at risk of dehydration. Another form of the drink, Prime Energy, contains around 200mg of caffeine for every 330ml and as a result is not recommended for children under the age of 18. As a result the school has taken the decision to ban all forms of the Prime drink. Children should therefore not bring it to school as part of their lunchtime drinks."

What do you think? Should Prime be banned in schools?

A CAT has just celebrated its 32nd birthday!

Lila Brissett from Norwich said her cat, Rosie, was born on 1 June 1991, which could mean she's the world's oldest living cat. Now, Lila has asked Guinness World Records to confirm it.

Fabulous feline Rosie celebrated her big birthday with a special salmon cake!

BBC wants its own TV remote button

THE BBC says TV remotes should come with a BBC on-demand iPlayer button, just like the Netflix one.

The UK's public broadcaster says it's only fair that there should be a button linking through to the streaming services offered by the BBC, ITV and Channel 4 as well.

There are concerns about traditional broadcasters losing viewers, because of big deals made by companies such as Netflix with TV manufacturers including LG, Samsung and Sony. Lots of these manufacturers build remotes with Netflix and Disney+ buttons that take people straight to the streaming services.

The BBC has also recommended ITVX and Channel 4's streaming services have a similar button. The BBC has put the case to the Government as part of a review of broadcasting in the UK.

Which buttons do you think should be on TV remotes?

Let us know at **first.news/polls**

Kyiv, Ukraine

All images: Getty

UKRAINIANS mark the Day of Remembrance of Children on 4 June. The day was founded in 2021 to coincide with the UN's International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression, and aims to remember all the children and young people who have died as a result of Russia's war against Ukraine.

New Delhi, India

CHILDREN look for waste at the Bhalswa landfill site on the eve of World Environment Day. The day is marked every year on 5 June to raise awareness of the environment and encourage people to protect it. The Bhalswa landfill site is 60m (200ft) high. It causes pollution and is a fire hazard.

New York, USA

A FULL moon sets behind the Statue of Liberty. The full moon in early June is known as a strawberry moon and marks the start of meteorological summer. June is considered the month when strawberries begin to ripen for picking.

Inner Mongolia, China

ASTRONAUT Zhang Lu waves after the crew of the Shenzhou-15 spacecraft return to Earth following their six-month mission to China's Tiangong space station. The official Chinese name for an astronaut is yǔhángyuán, meaning 'traveller of the universe'.

Sydney, Australia

A GIANT poo made from recycled plastic is displayed on Bondi Beach. The four-metre-high sculpture was created by a company called Better Packaging Co to draw attention to the amount of plastic that is dumped in the world's oceans every 30 seconds.

Bangkok, Thailand

PEOPLE carry a rainbow flag in a parade to kick off Bangkok Pride 2023. Tens of thousands of people came out to celebrate the LGBT+ community. June is Pride Month across the world.

Pokémon Trading Card Game

Scarlet & Violet – Paldea Evolved

COMMAND A ROUSING PERFORMANCE!

ENERGY surges as new powers awaken and perilous legends are revealed in this new Pokémon Trading Card Game (TCG) set!

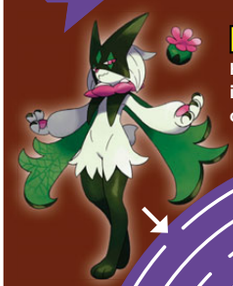
Meowscarada ex, Skeledirge ex and Quaquaval ex have evolved to take the stage with mesmerising magic, song and dance.

Forretress, Slowking and Dedenne shine as Tera Pokémon ex, while Chien-Pao ex, Ting-Lu ex and others bring daunting strengths. Do you have the courage to command them?

Even Pikachu joins the Pokémon ex party in the **Pokémon TCG: *Scarlet & Violet – Paldea Evolved* expansion!**

POKÉMON PUZZLE!

Help Meowscarada reach the Pokéball in this fun maze! Watch out, though, obstacles are in the way!



THE POKÉMON TRADING CARD GAME: SCARLET & VIOLET – PALDEA EVOLVED IS HERE!

MORE THAN 190 CARDS TO COLLECT!

BONUS CHALLENGE

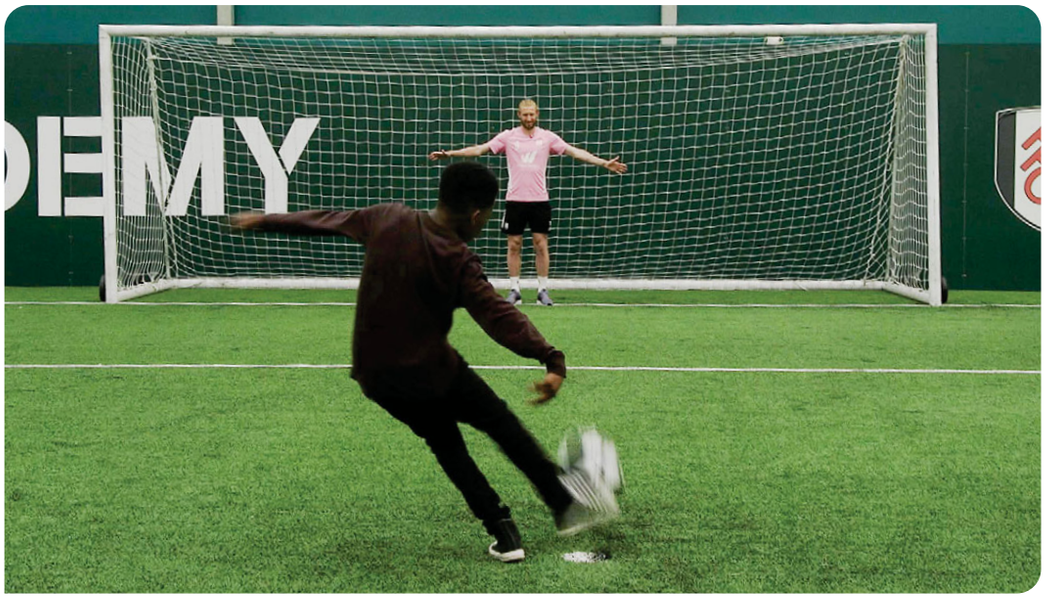
CAN YOU SPOT THE THREE STARTER POKÉMON HIDDEN ON THE PAGE?

MORE THAN 15 BRAND-NEW POKÉMON ex ADD A NEW TWIST TO THE GAME!

2023 Pokémon/Nintendo ©1995–2023 Nintendo / Creatures Inc / GAME FREAK Inc

The Pokémon Trading Card Game: *Scarlet & Violet – Paldea Evolved* set is OUT NOW!

TIM REAM TALKS MENTAL HEALTH



IN this week's *FYI*, Jeriah speaks to Tim Ream, the captain of Fulham FC and an ambassador for an initiative called Virtual Soccer Schools (VSS), which speaks to kids about mental health and helps them to deal with issues they may face through football. To learn more, make sure you watch this week's episode!

What does Virtual Soccer Schools do to help young people?

Through VSS, kids around the world can speak to Tim and other professional footballers about mental health. They are given the opportunity to ask players questions about how they manage things like anxiety, pressure and nerves.

Why does Tim support VSS?

In the episode, Tim tells Jeriah that he's learned a lot about mental health during his career in football, and how it can affect his abilities on the pitch. Tim says: "If my mental health is not in a good place then physically I'm going to feel sluggish. I'm not going to feel great and I've learned that it's important to talk about it. That's why it's important to talk about how you're feeling."

Tim says that, for him, the biggest mental challenges come when things are changing, like when he has a new manager.

"You sometimes think: 'Am I good enough? Can I do this?' Everybody thinks as a footballer that everything is just so perfect all the time, you know, that's never been the case."

What to do if you're struggling with your mental health

Tim says that the most important thing is to speak to somebody. "I've actually found that, while speaking to kids about my own experiences, I realised that there are a lot of things that I've kept and bottled inside that I probably shouldn't have!"

That's why it's important to check in with your friends and family members – it helps you to look after yourself and look after others, too. If you're feeling worried or anxious, remember that it's okay to talk about it! If you don't feel like you can speak to family or friends about an issue, you can contact Childline for free, confidential support and advice, 24 hours a day on **0800 11 11** or at **www.childline.org.uk**.

SET UP YOUR *FIRST NEWS FYI* NEWS CLUB!

START an *FYI* News Club and you could create your own report for *FYI*, and get your story featured in *First News*. It's easy to get involved: just ask your teacher to head to first.news/FYInewsclub to find out more about the *FYI* News Clubs.

Watch the show every week on the *First News* app, at first.news/schfyi, on Sky News and Sky Kids.

Watch this week's episode of BAFTA award-winning *FYI* by scanning this QR code, or online at first.news/schfyi.

WELCOME to the *FYI* page! *FYI* is our partner TV show, and is a BAFTA award-winning weekly news programme from Sky Kids.

With reports from across the globe, explainers, debates and in-depth reporting, *FYI* covers everything, and puts your questions to everyone, from world leaders to pop and film stars!

You can catch *FYI* on Sky News on a Saturday and Sunday, and on the First News Education website, where schools can also get resources. You can watch the show at first.news/educationtv.

IT'S PRIDE MONTH!

YOU'LL have probably seen the rainbow flag popping up as people, places and companies show their support for LGBT+ people.

LGBT stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender. Other letters, or a plus, can be added to represent different groups of people. Lesbians are women who are attracted to other women, while gay men are attracted to other men, and bisexuals like both sexes. To be transgender is to feel like you were born into the wrong body. For example, you may have been born with male body parts, but inside you feel certain you are a female.

Throughout Pride month, celebrations will be held across the UK to remind ourselves and each other that we are all different – and that's what makes us amazing! Pride events are a chance for people from all sorts of identities to celebrate their differences and to campaign for equal rights.

LGBT rights have come a long way over the past 50 years but, in some countries, it's still considered illegal to be in a same-sex relationship, and being gay can be punished with a long prison sentence, or even death.

Here in the UK, it was only a few years ago that same-sex couples were given the same rights as male and female couples. And hate crime – where someone is abused or assaulted just because of who they are – still happens.

That's why this month is so important! Whatever your sexuality or background, everyone deserves to be treated equally.

Watch *FYI*'s I Don't Get It episode on LGBT+ people and pride at first.news/IDGILGBT

NORTHERN IRELAND

Pine martens on the rise

The number of pine martens in Northern Ireland has almost doubled since 2017, says a new report by Ulster Wildlife. A survey carried out in 2022 used cameras to track pine martens, red squirrels and grey squirrels across 218 woodlands. The results showed that pine martens could be found in almost double the number of sites compared to a survey in 2017, and they could be spotted throughout all six counties in Northern Ireland. Pine martens are part of the stoat and weasel family, and are incredibly rare in the UK. People are being asked to look out for the creatures to help protect them.

RSPCA

SCOTLAND

iStock

Wildfire could be largest recorded in UK

A huge wildfire that broke out near Cannich in the Scottish Highlands last month could be the largest recorded in the UK. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) said the fire had burned through a 30 square mile (80km^2) area of woodland. It took firefighters several days to get the fire under control and two of the team were injured in the process. SFRS group commander Jamie Thrower said helicopters were useful in stopping the fire spreading, but the dry weather had proved a challenge. Experts are now looking at satellite data to help confirm if it is the largest on record. The biggest until now was 20 square miles (53km^2), in the far north of Scotland.

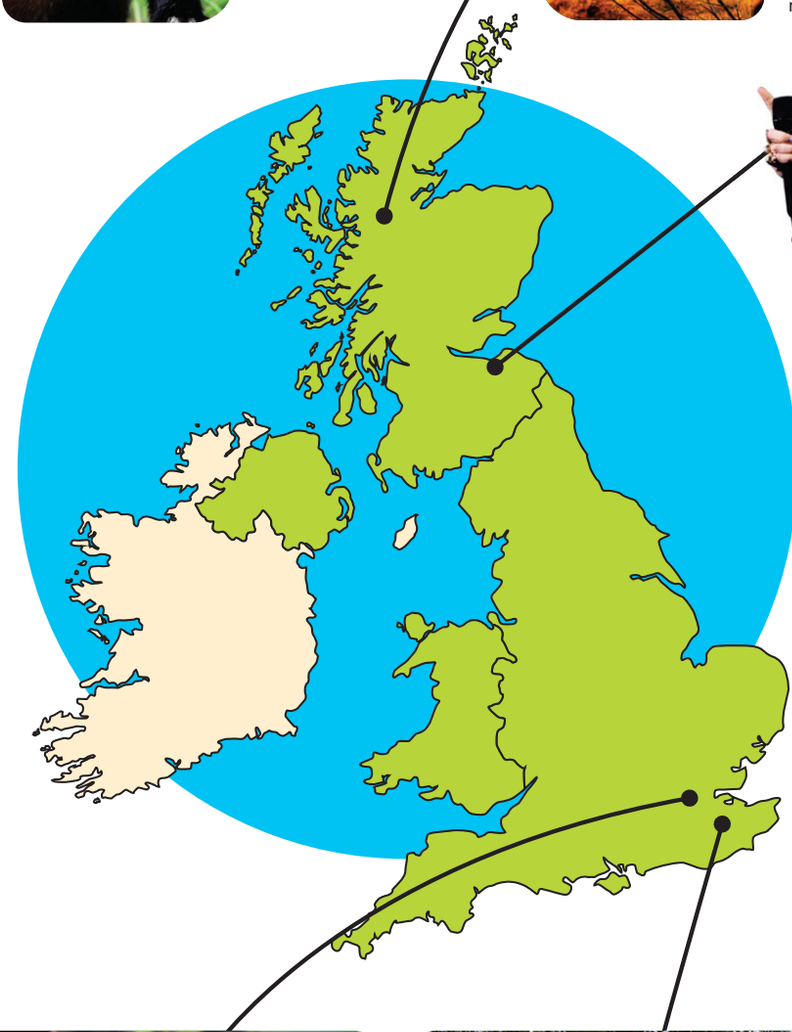
UK

Nicky Cox

British astronaut Tim Peake

Space agency rocket goes on tour

A huge replica space rocket has started touring the UK in a bid to inspire more young people to work in the space industry. The 22m-long (72ft) rocket has already visited Southampton and is now heading to Swansea, Leicester, Bradford, Belfast, Aberdeen, Newcastle, Hull, Great Yarmouth and Hastings. The UK Space Agency's Space for Everyone tour will also give people the chance to enjoy hands-on experiences and expert space talks. British astronaut Tim Peake said: "I hope this activity sparks an interest in the future generations who will take our space sector to new heights." Check out more at **spaceperson.co.uk/rocket-tour**.



EDINBURGH

Getty

Harry Styles sets new stadium record

Harry Styles has broken the record for Scotland's biggest-selling stadium show. More than 65,000 fans packed the famous Murrayfield stadium to watch Harry's Love on Tour show last week. He broke a record set by his former band, One Direction, who had 64,000 fans watch them at Murrayfield in 2014. Harry is back in the UK performing at Wembley Stadium in London from 13-17 June, before heading over to Cardiff from 20-21 June. Are you going to see him?

LONDON

Rare flower blooms for first time in the UK

A tiny, rare Florida ghost orchid has flowered in the UK for the first time. The orchid bud was on display at the Chelsea Flower Show, before being donated to the Princess of Wales Conservatory at Kew Gardens where you can see it now. The plant began its life as a seed that was germinated in a lab at the University of Florida. Several universities and botanic gardens in the USA have worked together to help increase the numbers of the orchids. The species is recorded as endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Plants.

Kew Gardens

Facebook/World Custard Pie Championship

Ready, set, throw!

MAIDSTONE

The World Custard Pie Championship is here!

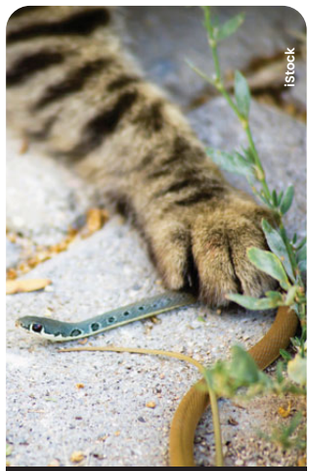
Pie-throwing teams are heading to Kent to do battle in the World Custard Pie Championship tomorrow (Saturday 10 June). The unusual competition has been taking place since 1967, as a way to raise funds for Coxheath Village Hall. It's now so popular that it attracts competitors from around the world, with teams travelling from as far away as Japan! You can find out more about the history of the event by going to **tinyurl.com/custardchamps**.

A SAFER WAY TO CONTROL STRAYS

SCIENTISTS have invented a single jab for female cats that can stop them having babies, which could help to solve the problems created by millions of stray cats.

The new vaccine was created by scientists at medical research centres and a zoo in the US. Writing in *Nature Communications*, they say that there are 600 million cats on the planet and that an incredible 480m of them are strays.

Although scientists disagree on the size of the problem, many experts blame cats for falling populations of birds, reptiles, amphibians and small mammals. A 2013 study claimed that cats in the US kill up to four billion birds every year, and up to 22.3 billion mammals, including squirrels, voles and rabbits.



A cat 'playing' with a wild snake

The Australian government says that cats have led to the extinction of 25 native mammal species and threaten the existence of a further 100 species.

The main way of controlling strays is by capturing them and neutering them, which involves surgery to make sure they can't have babies. However, this is expensive and time-consuming, so a jab would be quicker and allow people to neuter many more cats.

The scientists trialled their jab with three cats and tested them for two years afterwards. They say that none of the cats got pregnant and had no health problems, so the jab could be a safe way of reducing the world's huge stray population.

Gigantic space spout

THE James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) has spotted a huge jet of water vapour coming from Saturn's moon Enceladus – and it's about 20 times the size of the moon itself!

The tiny moon is only around 313 miles (504km) across – you can see it here pictured to scale next to the UK. But the enormous plume of water spouting from it is more than 6,000 miles (9,656km) long, which is about the distance from London to Cape Town in South Africa!

Although Enceladus is covered in ice, below that it has a salty ocean that stretches all the way round the moon, which is why NASA describes it as being "one of the most exciting scientific targets in our solar system in the search for life beyond Earth". The JWST is more powerful than any previous space telescope, so it will be sure to reveal more about Enceladus in the coming years.

This report is from the Science Museum in London

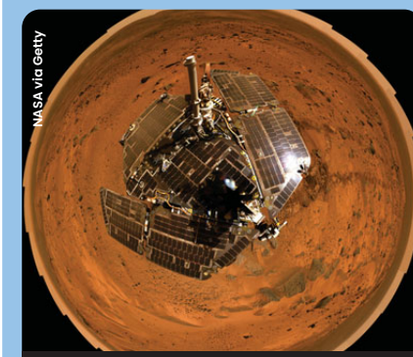
SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

ON 10 June 2003, a rover called Spirit was making its way to Mars.

NASA had realised that Mars would be closer to Earth that summer than it had been in thousands of years, and decided to use this opportunity to explore the Red Planet.

The planet-exploring vehicle was looking for clues to whether there had ever been enough water on Mars to host life. Spirit was meant to spend 90 days collecting information and pictures to send back to Earth: it far outlived its expectations by sending data for the next six years!

Thanks to Spirit, we know now that Mars was once much wetter than it is today, and it helped scientists better understand the Martian wind.



A 360° panoramic selfie taken by Spirit on the surface of Mars. It was created from hundreds of individual photos

Complete your own laugh-out-loud diary entry, inspired by WHAT'S NEW HARPER DREW?

DATE: _____

TODAY . . .

Write about something that happened today – anything at all!

IMAGINE IF . . .

What could have happened next to make today REALLY funny? Maybe someone reacted really dramatically, or a bird pooed on someone's head!

Illustrations by Aleksei Bitskoff

COLLECT THEM ALL!

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE SERIES!

This QR code should be scanned by a responsible adult.

BEING A GOOD FRIEND

All images: iStock

GREAT friends can be hard to find. So it's important to know that we're getting it right in our friendships. It's not always easy, especially at school. The NSPCC's Childline service had more than 8,000 counselling sessions about friendship last year – more than 1,250 of these were with children under 11.

We asked *First News* readers if you had any friendship concerns you needed advice about, and lots of you got in touch with us to talk about your worries. If any other readers feel like they need to talk to someone, Childline is here for you both online and on the phone.

"My friends argue over who gets to play with me – what should I do?"

RAV4, nine

It's great to hear your friends value your time – it sounds like they care about you a lot. They might be feeling insecure about the other one's relationship with you. Communicating with them about this is key, so express how you feel when they argue. As long as you are being respectful and valuing your friends, you are being a good friend.

"My friends can be rude, but I think that's fine as long they don't say anything personal. I'm more worried about the so-called 'cool kids' who laugh at me. It feels horrible, and I don't want anyone else to experience that."

Zakcurios, 12

It's important for friends to treat each other with respect. If their behaviour is upsetting, explain to them how it affects you. They may not realise they are being rude. However, laughing at someone is a form of bullying. If you or someone else experiences this, it's a good idea to confide in a trusted adult.

"What do I do when my friend blames me for something I didn't do?"

MimiSisi, ten

It can be upsetting when you're accused of something you didn't do. You could discuss the situation, as your friend may be blaming you by mistake. You could also ask a trusted adult for help. If your friend is doing this intentionally, this could be a form of bullying, which might mean you don't want to be friends any more.

"My best friend doesn't want to do anything without me, and now she's started copying my clothes. I don't like it."

Molly, eight

Healthy friendships are about feeling okay when you're not with the other person. It might help to tell your friend that you would still like to be friends with them, but would like to spend time with other people or alone. You could also mention how you feel when you see them wearing the same clothes as you.

"My friends keep hugging me, and it makes me uncomfortable. What do I do?"

Jingxi, eight

It sounds as though your friends really care about you, but may struggle to understand that they're upsetting you. You might want to say you understand they care about you, and hugging you is their way of telling you this, but that you prefer to express yourself in different ways.

"Why do I argue with my friends sometimes?"

Felix, 11

After an argument with a friend, it's normal to feel sad, angry or confused. It can help to give each other space to calm down, and then whenever you're ready, talk to your friend about the argument, expressing how you feel. Consider apologising if you think you have said something to upset them.

TODAY (9 June), the NSPCC is celebrating Childhood Day.

It's the charity's annual fundraising day, when thousands of people across the UK come together to do their bit for children. Lots of fun events are going on, with many schools taking part in the Childhood Day Mile.

Schools up and down the country are getting involved, with children walking, running, space-hoppering and dancing their mile to help fundraise. All funds raised will go to the NSPCC to help support its vital work in helping to protect children and young people. Individuals are also getting involved with the mile in fun and creative ways.

Children and young people can contact Childline for free, confidential support and advice, 24 hours a day on 0800 11 11 or at www.childline.org.uk.

We talk to...

CRESSIDA COWELL

20 years of *How To Train Your Dragon*

IT'S been two decades since the first book to feature the adventures of Hiccup Horrendous Haddock the Third and his tiny dragon Toothless were published – and since then, the series has become a worldwide phenomenon! We caught up with author Cressida Cowell, who shared how she feels about the series all these years later.

It's the 20th anniversary of *How To Train Your Dragon* – how mad does that feel?

It's completely mad! It felt like just yesterday that I wrote the book! It went by in the blink of an eye. I drew the first picture for it when I'd just had a baby, so it's actually the 20th anniversary of it being published, but of me actually writing it, it's been nearly 25 years!

Do you remember when you first got your inspiration for the book?

I grew up in London in a house without a garden. But every year from when I was a baby, me and my family would be dropped off on an uninhabited island off the west coast of Scotland, and then be picked up again two weeks later. There was nothing on the island! Scotland was the first place the Vikings invaded but the last place they left. Real Vikings lived on that island and Vikings believed dragons really existed, so the series was inspired by that island and Viking Scotland.

Did you ever imagine the books would be as popular as they are now?

No, I was just pleased to have my book published, as you would be! Even once we'd sold it to DreamWorks [who made the movie] I didn't think they were going to make it – it took them about six or seven years. Then things just gathered speed, and here we are! Now I'm meeting teachers and booksellers who remember it from when they were young. I feel so old!

Do you have a favourite character?

That's so difficult! I love all the characters, even the baddies! I suppose, I've got to say Hiccup. I've got a real affection for Hiccup. I admire the way Hiccup makes decisions – and he's an inventor and he stands up for what he believes in. I hope I try and do that!

Do you write and illustrate at the same time, or does one come first?

If I'm creating a new character, I always illustrate them first to get a sense of who they are. I illustrate with pencil, and the feeling of it on the paper really allows you to get into the emotion of the character. Pencil is often the first thing we use when we're little; it's our first drawing tool so it almost takes you back to being a child when you use it.

Is it hard to let someone else illustrate your books?

My picture books are illustrated by the wonderful Neal Layton. He illustrates them beautifully, and it's quite interesting because you get a surprise when someone else is illustrating it and it's not you. In a small way, it's a bit like having a movie made!

Speaking of the movies, how much involvement do you have with them?

DreamWorks asked me at the beginning if I wanted to write a screenplay and I said no. I always wanted to be a book writer, and I want to get children reading. That's why I write for children and not adults, because I want to get children reading instead of watching telly. It's a fight, but it's so important that we get children reading, not just because it makes you more intelligent and creative and empathetic, but also just because it is under such threat. For me, it's so much about that!

Do you think creativity needs to be taught more in schools?

I'm all about emphasising creativity. The creative industries make over 100 billion pounds for this country and we export more books than any other country in the world. We want to encourage creative doctors, scientists and politicians. We need to encourage children's creativity.

Are you always thinking of new ideas for stories?

I'm full of new ideas. I'm really interested in the world and I think children are too. They're naturally curious. I try to be like that too.

What's your favourite thing about speaking at festivals or schools?

I just absolutely love it! I love meeting children. Children are the most creative people in the world because they don't know the rules yet. I really missed meeting people in the pandemic. When children say: "I wasn't into reading before I read your books," or something like that, it's such an amazing thing. It makes my day!

Cressida Cowell will be appearing at Barnes Children's Literature Festival from 24-25 June. For more information and tickets, please visit www.barneskidslitfest.org.

***How to Train Your Dragon 20th Anniversary Edition* with new short story, by Cressida Cowell, Hodder Children's Books, £12.99**

Recommended reads

in partnership with Peters

***First News* is super excited to team up with children's book specialists Peters, whose librarians will be hand-picking five books to recommend to our readers each week!**

MORE DRAGONS!

IF the 20 years of *How To Train Your Dragon* celebrations have you in the mood for more stories of fire-breathing beasts, look no further than this list of books that feature these magical creatures!

***The Red Red Dragon* by Lynne Reid Banks, illustrated by Kristina Kister**

A dragon learns about friendship when he meets a young girl called Lou in this humorous and warm-hearted story.

***Fireblood: The First Flight* by Sam Stewart, illustrated by Keith Robinson**

Siblings Finn and Tula set out to rescue their kidnapped father and save the world from destruction after discovering they have dragon magic in their blood.

***City of Dragons: The Awakening Storm* by Jaimal Yogis, illustrated by Vivian Truong**

Grace and her school friends must protect a newly hatched dragon from evil forces in Hong Kong. Perfect for fans of graphic novels.

***The Book of Mythical Beasts and Magical Creatures* by Stephen Krensky, illustrated by Pham Quang Phuc**

Bold illustrations depict supernatural animals from myths, legends and folklore around the world, from the Bigfoot of North America to the nine-tailed fox of Japan.

***Do Not Disturb The Dragons* by Michelle Robinson, illustrated by Sharon Davey**

Princess Grace and her sister Princess Portia enter the year's biggest tournament and go from ladies-in-waiting to knights-in-action in this enjoyable read.

The Montana State Capitol

Getty

WORD CHECK

Constitution – a rulebook used as a guide for how a country should be run and what rights the people have. The USA has a written constitution, but the UK's is spread across lots of documents and court judgements.

USA

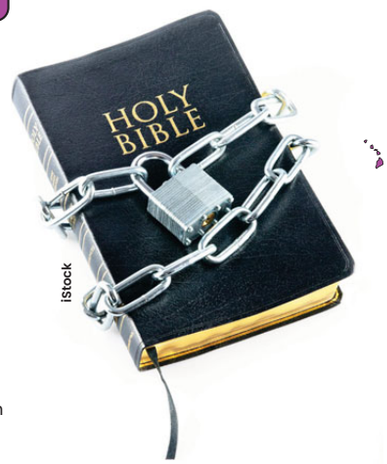
Kids take state to court to challenge climate policies

Sixteen young people are taking their local government to court over its fossil fuel policies. The group, aged between 2 and 18, are being represented by lawyers from the environmental group Our Children's Trust in what will be the first children's climate trial in the US. They're asking the Montana state government to stop promoting coal, gas and oil development. They say they're already feeling the consequences of climate change, with smoke from worsening wildfires choking the air they breathe. The state has said that the young people are using "emotional appeals" about the dangers of climate change, and should have challenged specific laws instead. Phil Gregory, a lawyer working for the group, said that the state government's support for fossil fuels was against the state's **constitution**, which says that the government "shall maintain and improve a clean and healthful environment in Montana for present and all future generations". The trial is due to start on 12 June and is expected to last two weeks.

USA

"Violent" *Bible* banned by schools

School officials in the US state of Utah have removed the *Bible* from primary and middle schools, after a parent complained it contains "vulgarity [rudeness] and violence". Last year, Utah's state government passed a law that banned "indecent" books from school libraries. Most of the books that have since been removed are about LGBT+ issues, race and identity. The number of attempts to ban or restrict books across the US in 2022 was the highest in the last 20 years, the American Library Association has said.



iStock

FRANCE

Champs-Élysées transformed into enormous classroom

Almost 1,400 people have taken part in a huge spelling contest on the famous Champs-Élysées avenue in Paris, as part of a record-breaking attempt. The event, called the Grande Dictée des Champs, consisted of three rounds, during which a text was read out aloud and contestants were asked to write everything down without making any mistakes. The first two rounds were based on short stories and the third was a text about rugby. Some of the spelling was tricky, and a ten-year-old who took part in the contest described it as "impossible". His father, who also took part, said that it put him "in a state of stress and worry". The first round of the competition was officially recognised by Guinness World Records as the largest dictation competition ever.

Getty

UGANDA

UN criticises new anti-gay

The United Nations human rights chief, Volke the Ugandan parliament's new anti-gay law Anti-Homosexuality Act, "among the worst o world". He said that the new law could lead t division. Under the strict new rules, anyone "c have a same-sex relationship faces seven y a life sentence for a gay sexual relationship. a gay wedding could lead to ten years in pri leader, President Yoweri Museveni, has previ gay people of making Uganda more unstab

INDIA

Investigation into deadly train crash begins

An official investigation has begun following a devastating crash involving three trains in the eastern state of Odisha that killed at least 275 people and injured more than 1,200. It's India's worst train crash in more than 20 years. The exact cause of the crash isn't clear, but it's thought a passenger train collided with a stationary freight train due to a signalling failure. The impact sent carriages across the tracks, which were hit by a second passenger train travelling in the opposite direction. More than 200 ambulances and hundreds of rescuers joined people from nearby villages in the rescue operation.

Pita Limjaroenrat waves to crowds at Bangkok Pride

THAILAND

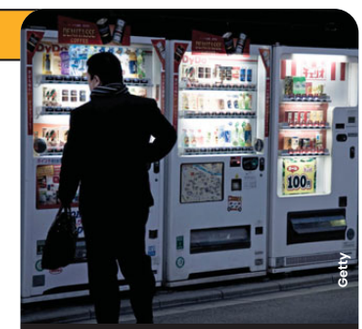
Next PM at Pride

Pita Limjaroenrat, who is likely to become the next prime minister of Thailand, joined an LGBT+ Pride parade in Bangkok last week. There, he pledged to pass laws that would ensure equal rights for all couples, regardless of gender. Limjaroenrat is the leader of the Move Forward Party, which won the most seats in May's election. The party received more votes than any other, beating the army-backed party that has ruled for nearly ten years. Thailand has one of Asia's most open LGBT+ communities, but activists say that the laws still treat LGBT+ people and same-sex couples worse than straight people. Officials say that more than 50,000 people joined this year's Pride parade in Bangkok – double last year's numbers.

JAPAN

Vending machines to offer free food if earthquake hits

Vending machines in the city of Ako, on Japan's south coast, have been placed in an area that experts say is at risk of being hit by a major natural disaster. If the city suffers an earthquake or typhoon, the machines will automatically unlock, offering bottles and cans of soft drinks, along with emergency food items, to those who need it. The rest of the time, the machine will charge people for items. Earthquake experts say that the region faces a 'megaquake' within the next few decades. They say that there's a 50% chance of it happening within the next 20 years, and a 90% chance of it happening within the next 40 years.



There is thought to be around one vending machine for every 25 to 30 people in Japan

AUSTRALIA

New plans to protect marine animals

The Australian government has announced plans to ban 'gillnet' fishing, which uses a type of fishing net that traps fish, like mackerel, by the gills. The nets can be up to 1km long, and have been known to entangle, injure and kill endangered species. The ban will come into force in the area around the Great Barrier Reef by 2027, creating new net-free zones to better protect marine species under threat. Australia's environment minister, Tanya Plibersek, said that the plan would help to save the dugongs, turtles, dolphins and protected shark species that are being injured and killed by gillnet fishing on the reef.

y law

er Türk, has called
, called the
f its kind in the
o violence and
attempting" to
ears in prison, or
Simply going to
son. Uganda's
ously accused
le.

A protest against the new Anti-Homosexuality Bill

A dugong

TED TALK WITH GUS

Victoria Howard and Apple TV+

Gus with his on-screen dad, Ted Lasso

WE caught up with Gus Turner, who plays Henry Lasso, the son of everyone's fave TV footie manager, Ted Lasso, for a quick Q&A!

Hi Gus! So, give us the lowdown. How old are you and where do you come from?
Hello! I am 11 years old and I live in London. I moved to the UK after living in New York City until I was four. I was born there and am still really connected with my American side.

What's it like being in a hugely popular TV show?
It is really great. I never thought I would see myself on a television screen. I still do all the ordinary things, like hang out with my friends and play football (and it is football not soccer). Though people have just started recognising me on the street, which is wild.

Is it weird seeing yourself on TV?
I'm getting more used to it. It's strange because Henry is a bit like me but not entirely like me, so it's like watching a twin or something.

Do you have lots of fun?
One funny moment was when I ran into Nick Mohammed [who plays Nathan Shelley], who I hadn't met before. I was so excited to see him and said: "You're my favourite character on the show!" and he said: "You're MY favourite character on the show!" He's a really nice guy, and very funny too.

Have you always wanted to be an actor?
My drama teacher told me I should think about acting professionally. Now I'd like to be an actor when I'm older, too. I want to go to college in the US but after that, who knows? I'd love to be a late-night TV show host – that would be really cool.

What's your favourite thing about acting?
I like going through scenes and trying different things. Like on *Ted Lasso*, Jason [who plays Ted] and I will talk about a scene before we shoot it, which is always interesting. I also like having my own trailer and trying on different costumes. Hot chocolate always being available is also really handy.

Apparently you can sing as well, is that true?
It is. I recently had a part in a cool workshop for a West End musical where I had to sing. My voice was so worn out after that, it hurt just to speak. There were a lot of very high notes!

What's your dream job?
Just something with other kids. Making friends is one of the reasons I continue to do acting. But *Stranger Things* would be sooooo cool.

Tell us a cool fact about yourself.
I can name and describe all the flags of the world. Go ahead and test me!

Getty

Wednesday star Jenna Ortega has lined up her next spooky role

JENNA Ortega has bagged another role that should appeal to fans of ghoulish goings-on.

The actor, famous for playing the role of Wednesday Addams in the hit Netflix show *Wednesday*, has signed up to star in the sequel to cult '80s movie *Beetlejuice*. The original film was about a couple of ghosts who tried to scare away the new people living in their house, by conjuring up a devious spirit called Beetlejuice. Jenna is playing the role of the daughter of Lydia Deetz, who was part of the family who bought the haunted house in the first movie, and who can see ghosts.

Beetlejuice 2 is currently filming in London and is due out in September 2024.

OMG! RiRi makes the rich list!

RIHANNA is among a group of celebs who made it onto the list of America's top 100 richest, self-made women. American business magazine *Forbes* reported that Taylor Swift and Beyoncé also made the cut, with Rihanna nabbing the highest spot for a female musician at No20. RiRi's fortune is estimated at a cool $1.4 billion (£1.13 billion).

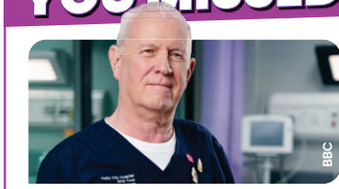
Getty

Getty

SHEER-AN DELIGHT!

ED Sheeran's been doing his bit for a Florida community when he surprised kids at Middleton High and Blake High. Ed popped along to band practice at both schools, much to the delight of the students. Not only that, he donated several guitars to their music rooms and gave them all tickets to his sold-out gig too. What a guy!

PSSST! IN CASE YOU MISSED IT!



BBC

1 AFTER 37 years and nearly 900 episodes, Derek Thompson, who plays Charlie Fairhead in *Casualty*, is hanging up his scrubs for the last time. The actor, who featured in the first episode in 1986, has decided it's time to call it quits. It's not tissues at the ready quite yet, as his exit won't be until later next year. Phew!

Getty

2 ARIANA'S been one busy woman. Not only has she been filming emotional scenes for her role as Glinda the Good Witch, for Hollywood's adaptation of *Wicked*, she's just secured investment for her award-winning r.e.m. beauty brand. That will allow the singer to expand the product line, and continue its global expansion. What's more, the range is also PETA-approved, confirming it doesn't test on animals anywhere in the world and can now feature in PETA's Beauty Without Bunnies database.

3 FANS of the hit Netflix show *Heartstopper* won't have long to wait for season two, as it's just been announced it'll hit our screens this August. Catch up with Nick (Kit Connor) and the crew as they navigate exams, a prom and a class trip to Paris.

Getty

BAFTA YOUNG GAME DESIGNERS 2023

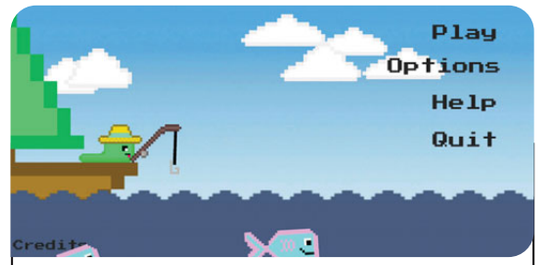
THE 44 finalists of this year's BAFTA Young Game Designers (YGD) competition have been revealed, and their games are an awesome showcase of talent and creativity!

Since 2010, the BAFTA YGD competition has invited young people to think about and make their own videogames.

The competition is divided into two awards with two age categories for each. There's the YGD Game Concept Award (ages 10-14 and ages 15-18), which rewards the most original and best thought-out game idea, and the YGD Game Making Award (ages 10-14 and ages 15-18).

Julian Tanca's game, *Potato Ninjas vs Coconuts 2* is a funny 2D shooter, where you have to take on pirates and avoid that one volcano! On the BAFTA YGD competition, Julian said: "There's just so much you could do with a game isn't there? You could customise every last aspect of it."

Those who take part in the competition receive advice from games industry experts on what they need to think about in order to make their games and ideas as good as possible.



Tommy from Marlesford, has made a game called *Gloop Fishing*. You play as a little slime creature called Gloop, and have to catch different types of fish – we think it looks delightful!

The winners of this year's competition will be featured in the Power Up exhibition at the Science Museum, where they'll be shown alongside some of the very best videogames and consoles from the past 50 years!

Sophie from Bath's game concept is called *The Screen is Completely Black*. Players would have to use the sounds of the vibrations coming from the controller to escape a dark labyrinth containing a Minotaur. Sophie said she wanted her concept to be easy for blind and deaf players to enjoy.

The finalists of this year's competition have come up with some truly brilliant ideas for games! With 44 to celebrate, we've only got the space to feature a few here, but you can check out all the games and their creators at **ygd.bafta.org**.

How to watch this year's event

The BAFTA YGD awards will be given out in an online ceremony by actor and comedian Inel Tomlinson, who also hosted the ceremony last year. If you want to watch, the awards will be streamed on the BAFTA Kids & Teens YouTube channel on Thursday 22 June.

"This is the future of the British games industry, and I am honoured to be able to usher through their ideas for the wider world to one day experience!"

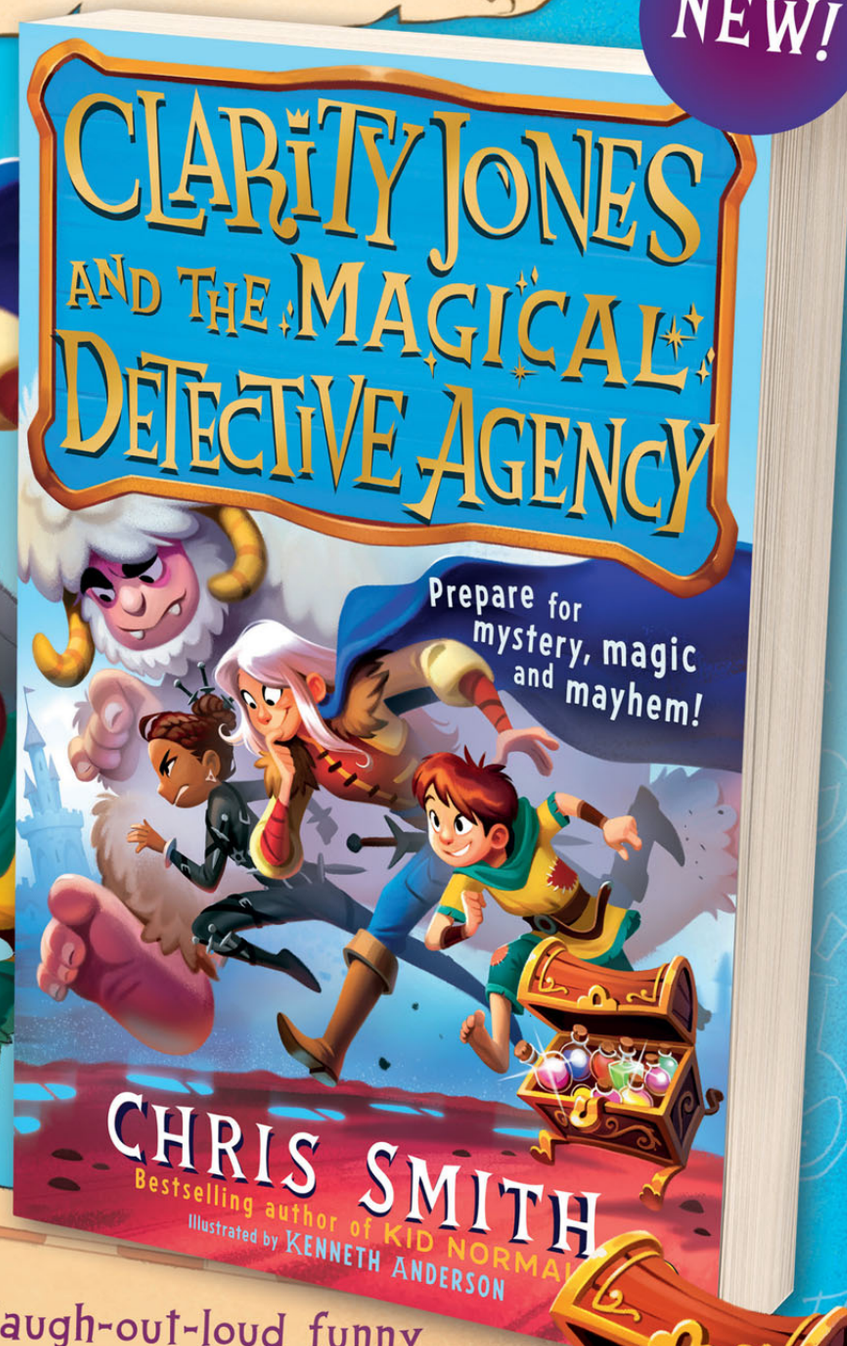
Inel Tomlinson, host of this year's BAFTA YGD award ceremony

ADVERTISEMENT

Hilarious fantasy adventures
from the incredible imagination of

CHRIS SMITH

NEW!



CRESSIDA COWELL
meets
ROBIN STEVENS
with a dash of
PIXAR gold

'A laugh-out-loud funny
and exciting adventure!'
CRESSIDA COWELL
on *Frankie Best Hates Quests*

'Never, ever eliminate
the impossible.'
CLARITY JONES

THE WORLD'S BIGGEST CHARITY FOOTBALL GAME

THIS Sunday, 11 June, more than 74,000 fans will be at Manchester United's Old Trafford ground for Soccer Aid for UNICEF, the world's biggest charity football match, when England takes on the Soccer Aid World XI FC.

The charity football game has raised more than £75 million for UNICEF since 2006. The money raised this year could help UNICEF protect children from disease and malnutrition, keep them safe in times of crisis and get them back to school.

You can watch the game on ITV, STV and ITVX at 6:30pm on Sunday, presented by Dermot O'Leary and Alex Scott. We've been talking to them and this is what they said.

You're returning to host Soccer Aid for UNICEF, so what makes the show so special?

Dermot: It's a great show. The centrepiece is always incredible skill, great stories and great heart. It's like watching more than a football match in many ways – Lee Mack has proved that in the last few years. Everyone who comes to watch the match has a great time, the atmosphere in the stadium is incredible. But it's so much more than just 90 minutes of football. At its heart is a charity that we champion. We want people to watch it and have a good time and there's almost like a payoff for that, where we ask people to put their hand in their pockets if they can, so that we can raise a lot of money for this incredible charity.

Alex: It's special because so many people come together and have a good time. But on the day, we all know what it goes towards and I've seen it first-hand. It's incredible to be part of something that will help vulnerable kids all over the world.

Would you ever lace up your football boots and take a place on the pitch?

Dermot: It's interesting; around 2010, maybe. But now the standard is getting really good. We used to say in the second half of the match, it's celebrity goalies so just take a shot from 30 yards, it might go in. Whereas now, the celebrity goalies are actually pretty good. So I'm not sure if I'd play. Part of me would love to. Then again, when I'm on the pitch and you see how far the corner flag is to the goal, you think: "I'm not sure I can actually kick it that far! It's a really long way." Some of the celebrity players now are really super good.

Alex: I will only lace up my boots if Maya Jama is lacing up her boots and we can see her on the Soccer Aid pitch! This is the agreement that we both made, I think, at last year's game. I'm just so happy that we get a lot of Lionesses every year. We're getting more and more females involved and Jill Scott is going to smash it as England captain this year.

We're back in Manchester this year. What makes Old Trafford so special?

Dermot: I say this through gritted teeth (as an Arsenal fan) – Manchester United are one of our biggest clubs and I love stadiums that have a bit of history, and Old Trafford has that. And it has a sense of history for Soccer Aid for UNICEF now too, as we've played the match there many times. But I do also love it when we move around; I love going to different stadiums and visiting different towns. I'd love to take Soccer Aid on the road a little more. Home and away matches would be brilliant.

Will you be reflecting on your time with UNICEF last year when presenting this year's show?

Alex: I always reflect on my time with UNICEF, not just when I'm doing a show. My trip to Namibia was something special and everyone that I met there, and what I saw, was so humbling and so fulfilling. When we get to present the show again this year, it's like a big celebration to know that all the money raised goes to help so many people, and that's the special part about it.

The captains

- Jill Scott is the new England captain
- Usain Bolt returns as the Soccer Aid World XI captain

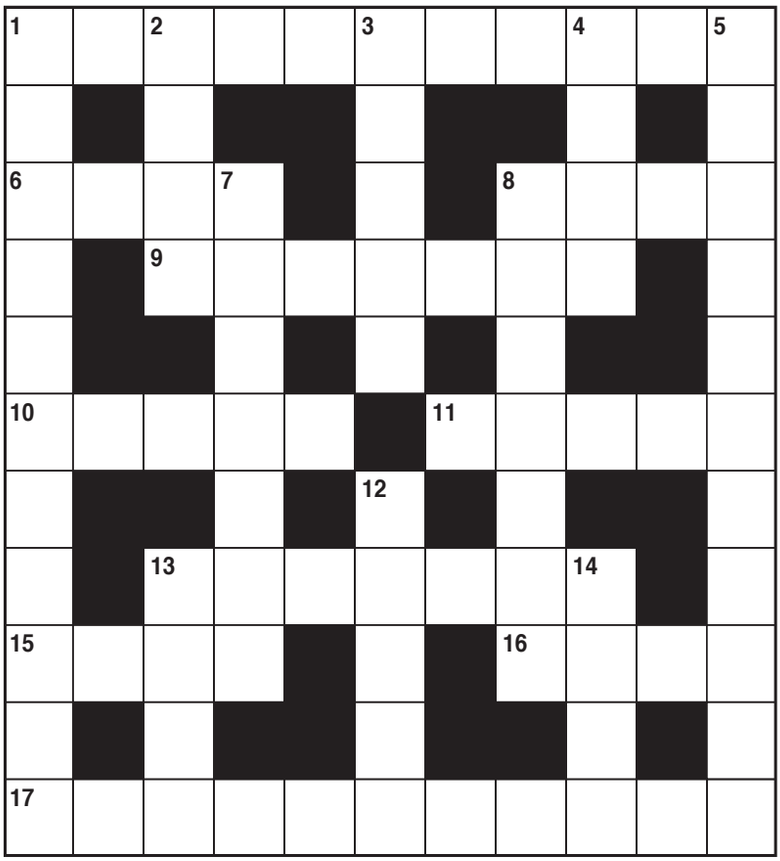
England's captain Jill Scott

"The Euros, The Jungle and now Soccer Aid for UNICEF – it's the holy trinity! I've won two of them, so just need Soccer Aid now to complete 'The Treble'! I think of all three, this might be the one I'm most nervous about, though – just look at the names involved! Support this amazing cause and cheer us on!"

The game will air live and exclusive on ITV, STV and ITVX at 6:30pm on Sunday 11 June

CROSSWORD

CAN you complete our crossword puzzle using the clues below?



ACROSS

1 Overemphasised (11)
6 ____ Ora: singer (4)
8 Still; not emotional (4)
9 Songbird with a forked tail (7)
10 Long search (5)
11 Book of maps (5)
13 Feeling (7)
15 Object flown at the beach (4)
16 Molten rock from a volcano (4)
17 William _____ : playwright (11)

DOWN

1 These cause the ground to shake (11)
2 Small insects that live in a colony (4)
3 Opposite of late (5)
4 Melt (of snow) (4)
5 Show (11)
7 Brilliant (7)
8 Manage; direct or supervise (7)
12 Objects; times (anagram) (5)
13 Volcano in Sicily (4)
14 A US organisation that explores space (abbreviation) (4)

SUDOKU

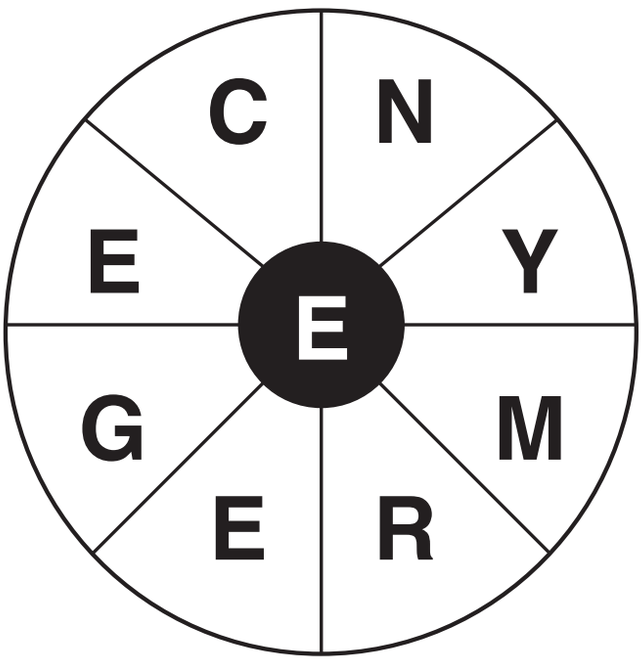
CAN you complete our sudoku puzzle, filling in the numbers one to nine?

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

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.

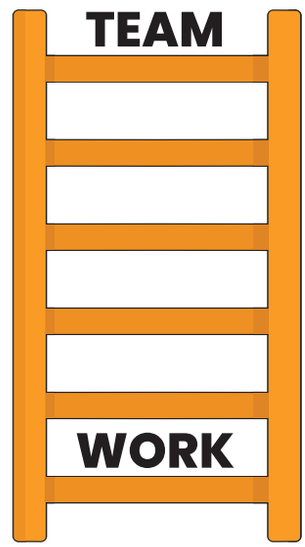
WORD WHEEL

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.



LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS:

Word Wheel: Companion.

Word Ladder: Word, cord, core, care, case.

Spot the Difference: 1) Strap on shoe missing, 2) Bracelet on right arm missing, 3) Window added on left hand side building, 4) Extra light on car, 5) Postbox has grown.

What on Earth?: A) Toaster, B) Kettle, C) Colander/food strainer, D) Saucepan, E) Cutlery, F) Mug.

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

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

CAN you spot the five changes we've made to this huge *Transformers* statue of Maximal leader Optimus Primal? The new *Transformers: Rise of the Beasts* movie is in cinemas now!

Getty

WHAT ON EARTH?

CAN you identify all these things that you might find at the beach?

All pics: iStock

SUPER SNIFFER DOGS

MEET the dogs sniffing out crayfish in Devon to protect local wildlife.

South West Water is using highly-trained conservation detection dogs River and Sid to find an invasive species that's causing havoc for wildlife in UK lakes and rivers – the American signal crayfish.

American signal crayfish were introduced to the UK in the 1970s, but they're having a negative impact on local wildlife, as they eat a wide range of invertebrates and small fish and carry crayfish plague, which kills the native white-clawed crayfish.

To help keep numbers down, South West Water teamed up with Sequor Ecology Detection Dogs. Sid, the black Labrador, and River, the cocker spaniel, have been trained to sniff out the crayfish, which shelter among rocks, tree roots and in burrows along river banks. They alert their handlers to the presence of crayfish, then qualified ecologists identify the creatures and set up traps. So far, 6,000 of the invasive crayfish have been caught.

Sid (left) and River with their handlers

Koala homes at risk

CONSERVATIONISTS in Australia have warned that more than 40,000 hectares of land that includes koala habitat has been marked for potential logging.

Work carried out by North East Forest Alliance shows that the forested area in New South Wales (NSW) includes areas of nationally important koala habitat.

The threat status for koalas in New South Wales and Queensland was upgraded to endangered in 2022 following bushfires and land clearing. It's feared that without help, koalas could be extinct in NSW by 2050.

There's growing pressure on the NSW government to stop logging native forests after the government in the state of Victoria announced it would end logging in its native forests in December.

A spokesperson for the NSW Forestry Corporation said its operations go through detailed planning processes including ecological surveys and mapping to identify and protect environmental features. They also said that lots of habitat and feed trees are protected specifically for koalas and that a new tree is planted for every tree harvested.

Amazing ants

A NEW study has found that desert ants make mounds to help them find their way around the flat Sahara desert.

Desert ants are famous for their navigational skills and often travel long distances to collect food.

A study by the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology in Germany looked into just how these ants find their way around in the vast Sahara desert. Experts discovered that the ants built structures of differing heights, but without the mounds, ants often didn't make it home. This showed that they used them as landmarks, so when they went out foraging for food, they could find their way back to their nest.

ANEESHWAR Kunchala is an eight-year-old wildlife campaigner. He shot to fame as a finalist in *Britain's Got Talent* and has appeared on *America's Got Talent: All-Stars*, too. He even has a Guinness World Record for being the world's youngest documentary presenter! Aged seven, Aneeshwar presented the Sky Kids documentary *COP27: Six Ways To Save Our Planet*. Head to first.news/sixways to watch it now.

Aneeshwar's Animal of the Week is...

THE DIPPER

HABITAT:
Along fast-flowing rivers.

FUN FACTS:
- It's the national bird of Norway, where it's known as the white-throated dipper.
- The dipper is the only aquatic songbird in the UK.
- The birds have extremely well oxygenated blood that allows them to remain underwater for around 30 seconds.

SPECIAL SUPERPOWER:
Dippers can walk along the bottom of flowing river and streams.

CONSERVATION STATUS:
The IUCN Red List says the dipper is of least concern, although the European population has dropped by around 8% in ten years.

A dipper, as painted by Aneeshwar

WHY AREN'T FOOD BILLS SHRINKING?

YOU may have heard adults complaining about how the food shop is still expensive, and they're right – food prices are actually 19% higher than they were a year ago. That means if your shop was £50 last year, this year it would be nearly £60 for exactly the same things. But why are prices still so high and why aren't they coming down?

All images: iStock

We're paying more money for less food

Real concerns

Although inflation (the rate that prices increase) has started to slow down and energy prices have begun to drop, food prices are still really high and it's affecting millions of families. Figures from food bank charity The Trussell Trust revealed that they gave out almost three million food parcels between April 2022 and March 2023 to people in need. More than one million of those parcels were for children. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is so worried about the high prices of food that he held an emergency summit at his home in Downing Street to discuss the problem.

Pay more, get less

The Office for National Statistics says that people have been buying fewer items but spending more money. The amount of items sold in April was 3% lower than the same time last year, but the amount actually spent by shoppers was up by 4.7%. So although our food shops are costing more, we're walking out of the supermarket with way less food than we used to get for our money.

How the war in Ukraine affects food prices

Russia's invasion of Ukraine did drive up prices of food like grains and vegetables oils. This is because lots of the grain used in the UK is grown in Ukraine. But there are other factors affecting the cost of our food too, and a big one is the high cost of energy. A lot of energy is used in the production and transportation of food, so it's started costing companies more money to make and sell the food we eat. Those costs then get passed on to the customers. The increase in the minimum wage (the amount workers are paid), bad weather affecting harvests, and Brexit (with the move out of the EU leaving the UK with a shortage of workers) have also played a part in the rising costs of our food.

Are supermarkets cashing in?

Some people are worried that as shops are charging so much more for food, they must be making huge profits. But that's not entirely true. Supermarkets used to aim for around 5p of profit from each £1 of goods they sold. But last year Tesco only made around 4p per £1 and for Sainsbury's it was closer to 3p. Sainsbury's boss Simon Roberts says stores have spent money to avoid passing all of the rising costs on to their customers.

Will costs come down?

There is some good news. The rate of wholesale inflation that food retailers face is starting to slow. This should eventually filter down to lower price rises on shelves, but it can take some time. However, experts feel that although some items may get cheaper, a return to pre-pandemic food costs is unlikely.

Save money on your food

There are a few ways you can save money. Firstly, only buy exactly what you need. Check out any bargains in the reduced section, and make sure to use your freezer to keep food fresh for longer. For some great tips and recipes to help reduce food waste, see tinyurl.com/BBCfoodwaste.

HELLO! I'm Milly, the *First News FYI* News Club leader. These pages are your place in *First News* to share anything you like with other *First News* readers. This can include what's going on where you live, what you think about what's happening in the news, as well as sharing your funniest moments, biggest achievements and even your pets!

If you'd like to feature on this page, just get your teacher to set up a *First News FYI* News Club at your school. You'll also get opportunities to take part in our weekly news show from Sky Kids, *FYI*! Just head to **first.news/fyinewsclub** or scan the QR code below.

THE GOLDEN HINDE

NEWS Club members Uma and Lucas went aboard the Golden Hinde for its 50th anniversary and have written a report about the ship for *First News*.

Uma and Lucas on the Golden Hinde

by Uma and Lucas

We went to visit the Golden Hinde, based in London Bridge. The ship, currently celebrating 50 years, is a replica of the original, which is famous for sailing the world in 1579.

We were amazed at all the facts we were given, including that all 100 crew members (apart from Sir Francis Drake) slept on the gun deck with the animals and cannons!

Exploring deck by deck, we were impressed at how big the ship was inside, compared to how it looked when we first arrived.

One of us even got to sit in Francis Drake's chair in the Great Cabin, where only the highest ranking crew members met.

We really enjoyed being shown around the ship. Despite the fact that there was a lot of scaffolding, the ship was magnificent from the inside.

The ship is open for the public to explore, and no booking is needed. We recommend you go and take a look or even take part in one of their sleepovers!

News Club of the Week!

Old Bexley News Club Crew in action!

OLD Bexley Primary School News Club don't just read *First News* and watch *FYI*, they also create their own news programme!

They love being part of the News Club as they can be real-life reporters. They research activities and events happening in school as well as write scripts, take photos and film, both in front of and behind the camera. The team enjoy working together to celebrate their school community in their termly news programme.

WE WANT TO HEAR WHAT YOUR NEWS CLUB HAS BEEN UP TO

Pets corner

SNAPPED

***FIRST NEWS* reader Fin wanted to share a photo of him and his ever-so-cute cockapoo pooch, Coco!**

DID YOU KNOW?

A COCKAPOO is a crossbreed, bred from a cocker spaniel and a poodle.

Do you have a pet you'd like to share a photo of? Just get a parent/guardian to send it in via email to newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk

YOUR TOP TIPS FOR BEING EMPATHETIC!

WE asked you to send in your top tips for being a more empathetic person ahead of Empathy Day, which was on 8 June.

Having empathy is when you understand or feel what another person is experiencing by putting yourself in their shoes. Knowing that people are struggling, and wanting to help, is an empathic act, and each year Empathy Day celebrates how we can use empathy to create a better world.

YOU SAID...

If I wanted someone to be empathic to me, I would really like a hug and get some fresh air to calm me – *Freya*

Listen to what your friends and family are saying and think about how they are feeling – *RAV4*

If a friend is sad, you could come up to them and ask something like "Are you okay?" because that might just make them feel better – *Angler8*

Share your feelings so other people can understand what you are feeling more easily – *Charlotte*

FIRST NEWS READER SURVEY

THERE'S no-one more important than you, our *First News* readers, and that's why we'd love to know what you think of the paper and how we can make it even better. Have your say and take part in our reader survey by taking part in the survey online at first.news/RS2023. Share your thoughts and be in with a chance of winning a £100 gift voucher! The closing date is 23 June 2023.

Take part at first.news/RS2023

Have your say in how you want *First News* to be!

Our first music festival

COUSINS Tess, Cleo and Mason went to their first music festival, In It Together. They wanted to tell their fellow *First News* readers all about it!

Cleo, Tess and Mason showing the festival some love!

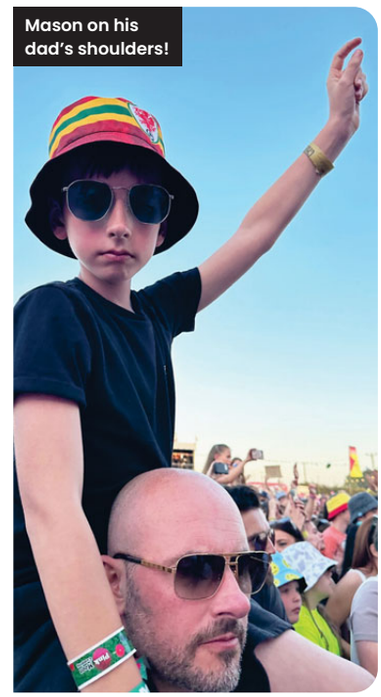
by Tess

I had never been to a festival before, so I wasn't sure what to expect. When we first arrived, we saw our glamping tent. It was amazing and big.

There was so much to do at the festival and so many food options. I had a slushie, toastie, loaded fries, pizza and ice cream!

I went on two rides, the dodgems and the Sizzler, which spins round and round.

The music was amazing. My favourite was Anne-Marie. I still can't believe I was so close to her. The weather was so sunny and hot. I loved being out in the fresh air, experiencing new things with my family. It was so fun I wish I can do it again. I give it ten out of ten.



Mason on his dad's shoulders!

by Cleo and Mason

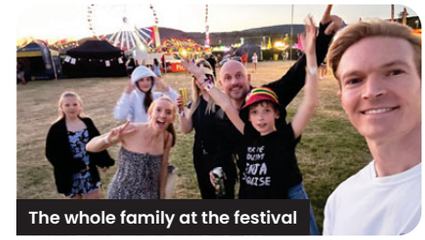
We were really excited about the camping and all the different bands and singers! It was so much fun when we got there.

There were loads of rides and so many food places – our favourite was the smashed burgers and the katsu curry noodles!

We sat on the hill on our blanket and listened to all the music in the sun. We loved The Vamps, who were amazing, and we sang at the top of our voices to Anne-Marie. Mum loved James Bay, The Kooks and the garage tent. I even got a fist pump off Tom Zanetti.

There were so many other kids and there was even a special area just for us. We had our picture taken with Elsa and Captain America.

See you again next year In It Together festival – we can't wait!



The whole family at the festival

FirstNews Quiz

THE answers to all these questions can be found in the pages of this issue. Why not set yourself, or your friends and family, a time challenge to see who can get the highest score in the quickest time? See how well you did by checking the answers at the bottom.

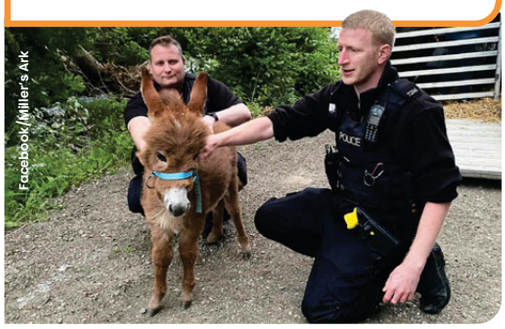
1 When does Soccer Aid kick off?

2 Which country is going to build more than 110 miles of protected cycle routes?

3 Which planet will NASA be sending a poem to in October 2024?

NASA/JPL-Caltech

4 What is the name of the kidnapped donkey that has been rescued by police?


Facebook/Miller's Ark

5 What does 'yǔhángyuán', the official Chinese name for an astronaut, mean?

6 Where was the World Custard Pie Championship held?

Facebook/World Custard Pie Championship

7 Who is the captain of Fulham FC?

8 The James Webb Space Telescope has spotted a huge jet of water vapour coming from which of Saturn's moons?

9 How many years is it since *How To Train Your Dragon* was published?

10 Which Paris avenue hosted a huge spelling contest?

11 Who plays Henry in the hit TV series *Ted Lasso*?

12 Which awards ceremony will be hosted by actor and comedian Inel Tomlinson?

Getty

13 What animal escaped from Newquay Zoo?

14 Which food bank charity gave out almost three million food parcels between April 2022 and March 2023?

15 Which team did Barcelona beat to win the Women's Champions League final?

Getty

Answers:
1 11 June **2** Brazil **3** Jupiter **4** Moon **5** Traveller of the universe **6** Maidstone **7** Tim Ream **8** Enceladus **9** 20 **10** Champs-Élysées **11** Gus Turner **12** BAFTA Young Game Designers **13** A red panda **14** The Trussell Trust **15** Wolfsburg

First News team details available at **www.firstnews.co.uk/team**. For editorial enquiries, contact **newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk** or **(020) 3195 2000**. For home subscription enquiries, email **subscriptions@firstnews.co.uk** or call **0330 333 0186**. For school subscription enquiries, email **FirstNews@escosubs.co.uk** or call **(01371) 851 898**. Web: **www.firstnews.co.uk**. All material in this newspaper is © 2023 First Group Enterprises Ltd and cannot be used without written permission. *First News* is published by First Group Enterprises Ltd, 58 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 0AS. Printed by Reach Printing Services, St Albans Rd, Watford WD24 7RG. Distributed by Marketforce (UK) Ltd, 3rd floor, 161 Marsh Wall, London, E14 9AP. Tel: 0330 390 6555.

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** for more information about our environmental commitments.

VENICE GOES BRIGHT GREEN

LOCALS were confused when a section of Venice's famous Grand Canal turned fluorescent green, but authorities have worked out the cause.

The mysterious patch of bright green water, which attracted a lot of media attention, was caused by a non-toxic chemical that's usually used in underwater building work to help identify leaks. No-one really knows how the chemical, called fluorescein, ended up in the canal. But government environment officials in Venice said that because of the amount of the chemical used, it was unlikely to have been an accident.

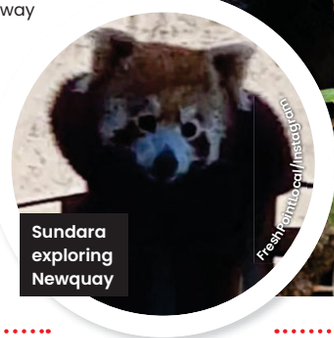
So far, nobody has owned up to dyeing the canal.

Panda on the run

RESIDENTS in Newquay, Cornwall, got a surprise when an escaped red panda was spotted exploring the town's streets.

Sundara the red panda escaped from Newquay Zoo and was found around half a mile away by staff at a local greengrocer called FreshPoint. They managed to secure her in a safe courtyard, even feeding her an apple, while they waited for help. Devon & Cornwall Police soon arrived, as did zoo staff, who took her home. The cute cub had only arrived at the zoo a few weeks ago.

The WWF says that there are fewer than 10,000 red pandas left in the wild. The species is listed as endangered on the IUCN Red List.



Sundara exploring Newquay

Students try to sell school

A GROUP of pupils in America tried to find a buyer for their school by putting it up for sale on a property website.

Students at Meade High School in Maryland put the school on property site Zillow for around £34,000. The cheeky description of the school said it smelt like rubbish and that "all 15 bathrooms come with sewage issues".

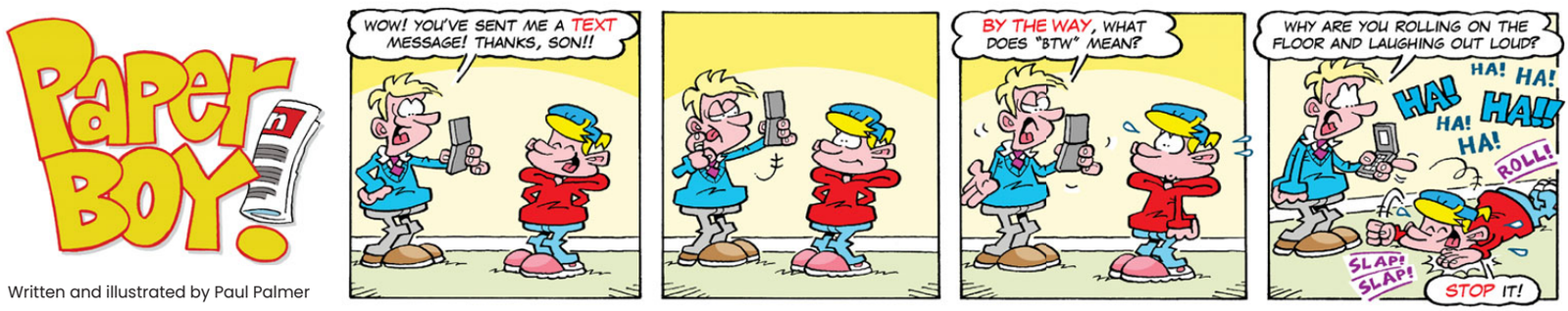
The property details were quickly taken down. Luckily for the students, local school district officials found the prank funny!

Reservoir drained for lost phone

A GOVERNMENT official in India demanded an entire reservoir be drained after he dropped his new phone in it.

More than two million litres of water were pumped from the Kherkatta dam in the search for Rajesh Vishwas' phone, which he claimed contained sensitive government information.

However, when the phone was eventually found, it wouldn't turn on. The official, who was taking a selfie when he dropped his phone, has been suspended after he was criticised for wasting water resources while much of India is suffering from drought.



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer

THE QUEENS OF EUROPE

Barcelona lift the Champions League trophy

BARCELONA pulled off an extraordinary comeback to win the Women's Champions League at the weekend, topping off a great season that also saw them win the Spanish league title.

Things weren't looking so good for Barça when they went behind after just three minutes, with their German opponents Wolfsburg scoring a second after 37mins to go 2-0 up. However, everything changed within two minutes, shortly after half-time, thanks to two goals from Patri Guijarro that made it 2-2.

Barça's Swedish star Fridolina Rolfö made it 3-2 after 70mins, and although it was a really scrappy goal compared to the quality of the other four, Barça didn't care about that.

It's Barça's second Champions League win, which puts them level with Wolfsburg. Only two sides have won more than two: Frankfurt have done it four times, while the mighty Lyon are way out in front with eight.

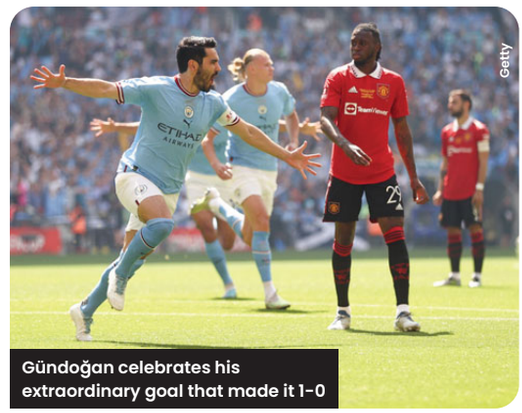
City one game away from the treble

AFTER beating their Manchester rivals in the FA Cup final at the weekend, Man City are just one game away from a rare treble that's only been achieved by seven teams in Europe.

City's İlkay Gündoğan scored the fastest ever goal in an FA Cup final – just 12 seconds after kick-off – to put City ahead, but United equalised with a controversial penalty. A second goal for Gündoğan made it 2-1 and gave City a deserved win, which means the league champions will win the treble if they beat Inter Milan in the Champions League final tomorrow night (Saturday 10 June).

"It's the exam we have to pass," said City midfielder Rodri.

The only British teams to win the treble of league, cup and Champions League (or European Cup as it used to be known) are Celtic in 1966/67 and Man United in 1998/99.



Gündoğan celebrates his extraordinary goal that made it 1-0

Footie round-up

⚽ Man City's two strikes in the FA Cup final saw them reach 150 goals in all competitions. It's only the fourth time that an English top-flight club has scored as many. The other three times it was done was by Man City, Man City and Man City! Their best total was 169 in 2018/19.

⚽ Although it's not quite the same as the treble City are going for, Celtic finished their season with a treble of the league and both domestic cups, after beating Inverness Caledonian Thistle 3-1 in the Scottish Cup final. Caley Thistle are a division below Celtic, so the result wasn't a huge surprise.

⚽ Royal Antwerp won the Belgian league on the last day of the season, in one of the most dramatic ways imaginable. Three clubs could win the league and all three were on target for the title across the afternoon, until Toby Alderweireld scored in the 94th minute to snatch a draw and give Antwerp their first league title in 66 years.

⚽ Roma coach José Mourinho was charged for using "insulting or abusive language" towards an official. He had a go at ref Anthony Taylor after Roma lost the Europa League final. Both teams are also in trouble for their fans' behaviour, such as the Roma fans who threatened Taylor and his family at the airport.

5 athletes in history have won a world title at under-18, under-20 and senior level, and set a world record in the same event. Faith Kipyegon became the fifth this week, after knocking more than a second off the 1,500m world record. The Kenyan star has also won two Olympic golds and was already regarded by many as the greatest 1,500m runner of all time. The other four athletes to share her achievement are Usain Bolt (100m), Mondo Duplantis and Yelena Isinbayeva (both pole vault), and Kevin Mayer (decathlon).

1 leg of the European Para-triathlon Championship was cancelled for safety reasons, so it became a duathlon instead, with just running and cycling. The change of plan didn't phase GB's Claire Cashmore though, who took the gold medal and retained her title.

2 doubles players were disqualified from the third round of the French Open. Miyu Kato (below) lobbed a ball towards a ballgirl, but it hit her shoulder, leaving the girl in tears. Lots of people think the decision was harsh on Kato and her partner Aldila Sutjiadi. Many have also said their opponents, Marie Bouzková and Sara Sorribes Tormo, were unsporting because they protested to the umpire to try to force him to take action.

Issue 886 | £2.85