

NEWS KIDS CAN TRUST

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR*



First News

Issue 951 £2.95 6 – 12 September 2024

2.6M READERS*



NEWS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT
INTERVIEWS PUZZLES COMPETITIONS

NATURE CRIME?

Should it be a crime to allow damage to the planet?

Tell us at first.news/polls

by editor in chief Nicky Cox MBE

GOVERNMENTS and big business leaders should be made criminals if they allow actions that damage the planet.

That's the finding of a survey of 18 G20 nations (some of the world's richest countries, including the UK) plus Austria, Denmark, Kenya, and Sweden.

Nearly three out of four (72%) of the 1,000 people who took part in the poll said it should be a criminal offence for governments or large businesses to approve actions that cause serious damage to nature and the climate.

The study was carried out for Earth4All and the Global Commons Alliance. It followed recent "ecocide" (destroying the environment) law changes in Belgium, Chile and France, with similar bills put forward in countries including Scotland, Brazil, Italy, Mexico, the Netherlands and Peru.



19
MAN'S 181 WORLD RECORDS TO BEAT HIS BROTHER!



INSIDE! BACK-TO-SCHOOL SPECIAL P11-18



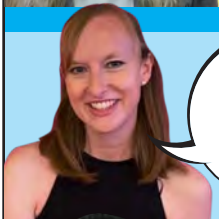
9
UNLIKELY ANIMAL BEST FRIENDS

* 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.

MEET THE TEAM



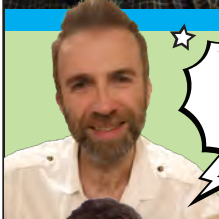
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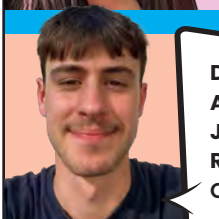
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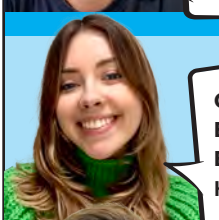
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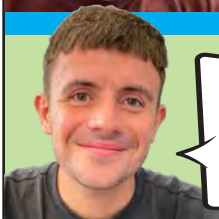
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School ratings scrapped



Ofsted's one-word ratings for schools in England, such as 'outstanding' or 'inadequate', are being stopped immediately. Schools will be inspected still, but reports will provide more detailed feedback about different areas, such as teaching quality and student behaviour. This change comes after the death of head teacher Ruth Perry in 2023, which was blamed on the stress caused by the old grading system. By September 2025, parents will start seeing new 'report cards' that will be much clearer about how schools are performing.

School uniform prices upset parents



Parents are upset over the high cost of branded school uniforms, which are more than twice as expensive as similar items from supermarkets. While a school sports polo with a badge costs around £11, a pair of plain polos can be bought for just £5 at Asda. Despite rules made in 2021 to cut costs, many schools still require several branded items. The Children's Society charity is pushing for fewer branded items, to ease the financial pressure on families, but some argue that branded uniforms are of better quality and last longer.

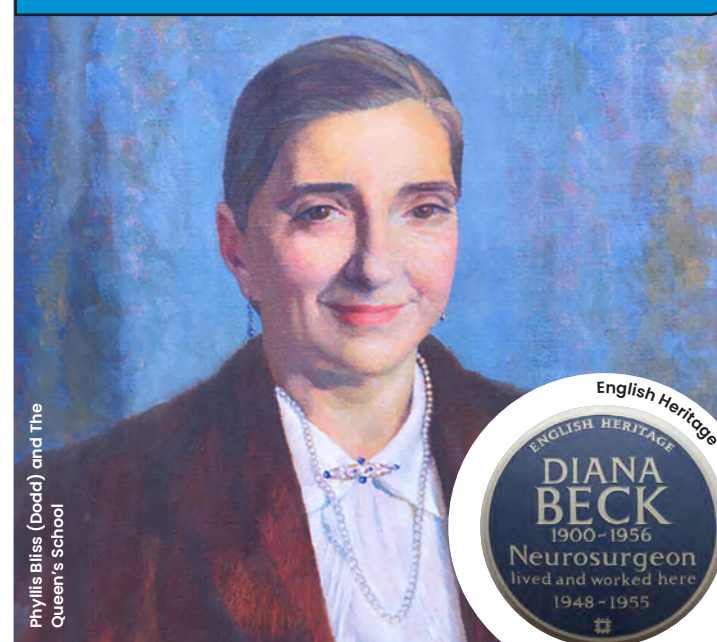
Oysters helping to clean up



The Solent, a busy waterway near Portsmouth, is getting help from oysters to tackle pollution. The Ministry of Defence and the British Marine Foundation are reintroducing 2,000 native European flat oysters to the area. Each one can filter around 200 litres of water a day, cleaning up chemicals and pollutants. They also form reefs that give shelter to marine life. When oysters build their shells, they trap carbon, helping to fight climate change. Experts say that, if this project succeeds, it could expand to other areas.

HAVE YOU

Britain's first female brain surgeon gets a blue plaque



English Heritage is putting up a special blue plaque to remember Diana Beck, Britain's first female neurosurgeon (brain surgeon). The sign will be on her old house in Marylebone, London, where she lived and worked. Beck was born in 1900 and was one of the first female neurosurgeons in the world. She even operated on AA Milne, the author of *Winnie the Pooh*, when he got sick in 1952. Dr Susan Skedd from English Heritage said: "At the time that Diana Beck chose to specialise in neurosurgery, it was a very new and revolutionary field of medicine. It seems most fitting that she should be commemorated at her home."

England's largest history and culture festival begins



England's largest festival of history and culture is back for another year. Heritage Open Days (from 6-15 September) give visitors the chance to see loads of hidden places and try out new experiences, all for free! Stories will be shared, traditions explored and history brought to life. Check out which places near you are taking part by going to [heritageopendays.org.uk](https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk).

An event at Crowland Abbey in Lincolnshire

HEARD?



Go to the *First News* app for daily news.

Shaun the Sheep leads charity jumper day



Save the Children

This year, Shaun the Sheep is encouraging kids and schools across the UK to join Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday 12 December. As the new 'Head of Wool,' Shaun aims to boost participation in this fun event. By wearing festive jumpers, students can raise money to help children worldwide. Schools can sign up online for a free pack with activities and ideas to make the day special. Save the Children hopes that Shaun's popularity will inspire many to support their cause and bring positive change. To find out how you can get involved, visit christmasjumperday.org.

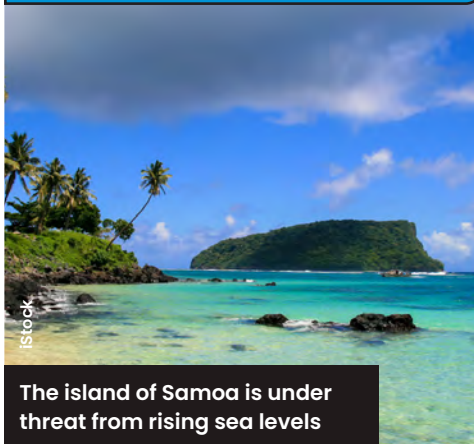
The Royal Mint unveils new Gruffalo coin



The Royal Mint

The Royal Mint is releasing a special 50p coin to celebrate 20 years of *The Gruffalo's Child*. This shiny new coin shows the little Gruffalo and the "mouse in the woods" from the story. The coins are collectables, so they cannot be spent in shops. Prices start at £12, while the gold version of the coin costs a whopping £99! Did you know that the *Gruffalo* books have been sold all over the world in more than 100 languages? The Royal Mint has also put other famous story characters on coins before, including Paddington Bear and Winnie the Pooh.

Pacific Ocean water levels rising



The island of Samoa is under threat from rising sea levels

The chief of the United Nations (UN) has warned that the Pacific Ocean islands are in big trouble. The sea has risen twice as fast there in the past 30 years than the global average. UN leader António Guterres said: "This is a crazy situation; rising seas are a crisis entirely of humanity's making." The issue is damaging crops, polluting drinking water, and ruining people's jobs. Last year, big storms and floods in the area killed more than 200 people and affected 25 million others. Experts warn that, if we don't act, these islands could see even more flooding in the future.

Sabrina Carpenter makes chart history



Sabrina Carpenter has smashed chart records! Her new album *Short n' Sweet* got to number one in the UK, selling 89,000 copies in its first week. At the same time, her song *Taste* is the top single, and she has two other songs in the top three spots. This makes the 25-year-old the youngest artist ever to have the best-selling album and single while also holding the top three positions on the singles chart. Only Ed Sheeran and Harry Styles have done it before.

Deep-sea explorers uncover hidden wonders



ROV Sebastian/Schmidt Ocean Institute

Scientists spotted 'flying spaghetti monsters' among other creatures

Scientists have found amazing sea creatures on an underwater mountain near Chile. Using an underwater robot, experts from the Schmidt Ocean Institute spotted a ghostly white octopus and strange 'flying spaghetti monsters'. These creatures live by an underwater mountain that rises nearly two miles (3.2km) from the ocean floor. The team also recorded the world's first live footage of a rare squid called *Promachoteuthis*. Over three trips, they explored 25 underwater mountains and found up to 170 new species.

New Barbie flip phone aims to cut young people's screen time

A new Barbie-themed phone has hit stores in the UK and Europe. Its makers say it's designed to help young people spend less time on their phones. The device is very basic, with no front camera, no social media and limited internet access. It's part of a growing trend where people want less 'digital impact' in their lives. The phone costs £100, which is more than similar basic phones.



HMD/Mattel

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CLEAN AIR FOR BLUE SKIES 7 SEPTEMBER

Highlights the health risks of air pollution and the importance of clean air for all.

INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY 8 SEPTEMBER

This year's day celebrates the way that improving literacy can promote peace and people understanding each other. Did you know that half of the world's population is bilingual (can speak two languages)?





ENDING SUMMER ON A BUMMER

UK kids rank lowest in happiness survey

All images: Getty

A NEW report has found that children's happiness is slowly falling across Europe – and UK children are the least happy of all.

The Children's Society based the findings of its *Good Childhood Report 2024* on a 2022 survey, which asked 15-year-olds in the UK and 26 other European countries to rate their life satisfaction out of ten.

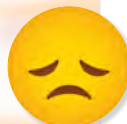
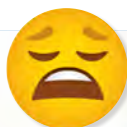
The average across the continent was 6.86 out of ten – but children in the UK were right at the bottom, rating theirs at 6.07.

25% A quarter of 15-year-olds in the UK rated their happiness at just four out of ten or below



So, what shall we do about this? Let us know!

What would YOU like to see happen to boost your happiness? It could be a change made by the government, your school, your local council, or someone else! Tell us at [first.news/happiness](https://www.first.news/happiness).



Are you satisfied?

The UK also had the most children saying that they had low life satisfaction, by rating it at four out of ten or below.

Girls and children from poorer backgrounds gave some of the lowest scores.

The report says: "Children deserve better... rising levels of poverty, concerns over young people's safety, the climate emergency and other stresses have put a strain on young people's lives and can prevent the experience of a happy and fulfilled childhood."

Kids in Romania gave the highest overall rating for life satisfaction, while just 6.7% of children in the Netherlands said they had low life satisfaction. It's said that the support and freedom that grown-ups give them make them among the happiest in the world.

LIFE SATISFACTION AMONG KIDS AGED 15

Scores out of ten

1 Romania	7.53
2 Finland	7.41
3 Croatia	7.37
4 Netherlands	7.29
5 Hungary	7.21
6 Denmark	7.19
7 Lithuania	7.14
8 Switzerland	7.06
9 Portugal	7.06
10 Bulgaria	7.04
11 Slovakia	7.02
12 Estonia	6.91
13 Sweden	6.91
14 Iceland	6.90
15 Spain	6.88
16 France	6.77
17 Latvia	6.76
18 Austria	6.69
19 Greece	6.62
20 Slovenia	6.61
21 Ireland	6.59
22 Czechia	6.56
23 Italy	6.53
24 Germany	6.51
25 Poland	6.26
26 Malta	6.24
27 UK	6.07

EDITOR'S COMMENT

THE story on this page which reports that British children are the least satisfied in Europe is sad.



Nicky Cox MBE

Do you agree with the findings? If so, what do you think would make life happier for you and your friends? Are there simple changes that can be made – perhaps in school, in your free time, in the area where you live or in the digital world? Or do you disagree and think that life is good?

At *First News*, we are really interested to hear what you think and we can help raise your voices to people in power who can make a difference. See the story (left) about how to get in touch.

And – keep smiling!



LEGO

THE Danish toymaker has decided to pay a little extra to create its products using renewable and recycled plastic. Even better, its chief executive, Niels Christiansen, says that the company will cover all the costs – so the pricier plastic won't mean that their sets become more expensive for customers to buy.

Matt O'Riley

THE midfielder's week began well when he signed for Premier League high-fliers Brighton from Celtic for £25m – but two days later, just six minutes into his debut for the club, he suffered a nasty ankle injury. It needed surgery so, unfortunately, he'll have to watch his new club from the sidelines for a while.



From jacket potatoes to potato jackets!



A PROJECT by design students in London to turn potatoes (yes, potatoes!) into clothes could transform the fashion industry.

They realised that the part of the potato plant that farmers usually throw away – the fibres in the stems at the top – could be blended into yarn.

This could make manufacturing clothes kinder to the planet. Around the world, farmers produce 150 million tonnes of

potato plant waste every year, and the fashion industry is under pressure to reduce its impact on the environment.

After university, the students started up a business called Fibe, which has now created the world's first potato thread, made of 25% potato and 75% cotton.

Fibe wants to start selling clothes made with potato thread in 2026... and to see if the same thing can be done with peas!

Government plan to stop badger culls

THE Government is planning to end the culling (organised killing) of badgers within the next five years.

Since 2013, 230,000 badgers and 278,000 cattle have been killed in order to control the spread of a disease called bovine tuberculosis (bTB), which affects cows. These culls cost the British people £100 million each year.

Instead, the government is going to create an expert team called the Badger

Vaccinator Field Force. Their job will be to vaccinate badgers against bTB, to protect them and other animals against the disease.

The government will also carry out the first nationwide badger count since 2013, and step up its efforts to create a bTB vaccine for cows.

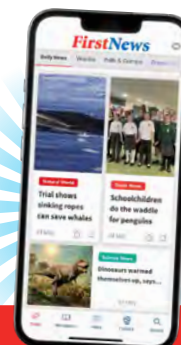
Government minister Daniel Zeichner says this will "end the badger cull... and stop the spread of this horrific disease."



Badger killings will stop in the next five years

CHECK OUT OUR NEW-LOOK APP!

We publish five new stories every day, exclusively on the *First News* app. You'll also find polls, puzzles, videos and digital versions of each issue. Find it now in your app store!



Ask your grown-up/bill-payer for your WEB ID to use the app.



VAX TO SCHOOL

Telly campaign to get protected for your return to class

A NEW campaign has launched to make sure your vaccinations are up to date as you return to school.

Adverts are appearing on TV, radio, social media and posters to encourage grown-ups to make sure that you're protected against spreadable diseases, like measles.

Dr Vanessa Saliba, from the UK Health Security Agency, said: "If unvaccinated, children are at risk of serious illness or life-long complications... it only takes one case [of measles] to get into a school or nursery where many children are unprotected for numbers to suddenly surge."

Learning lessons from last year

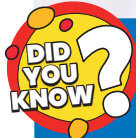
When children returned to school in autumn last year, there was a major outbreak of measles in Birmingham.

It triggered a push for parents to get their children protected. It worked, because there has been a rise in MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccinations.

But vaccination rates are still especially low in the Midlands, Northwest and London so, for the next five weeks, this year's new advertising campaign will be played more in those areas than anywhere else.

Across England, there have been almost 2,500 cases of measles since January, and half of those are in children aged between one and ten.

Dr Saliba said: "Parents should check their child's vaccinations Red Book to ensure they're up to date with MMR and all their vaccines. If unsure, contact your GP."



MEASLES usually causes cold-like symptoms, then a rash. It can be serious – it used to kill hundreds in the UK every year but, since the MMR vaccine began in 1988, it's never killed more than five in a year.

Head to [first.news/vaccines](https://www.first.news/vaccines) to read our special report about measles and vaccines.

The repair job has begun!



Boy, four, smashes 3,500-year-old jar

DID you stay out of trouble this summer? One boy had a 'smashing' time... he visited a museum and broke a 3,500-year-old jar!

The Hecht Museum in Israel proudly chooses to display its artefacts out in the open, rather than behind glass, to give the place a "special charm".

That backfired, though, when a four-year-old boy pulled at the Bronze Age relic to see what was inside, only for it to topple over and smash to bits.

The good news? He didn't get in trouble. The museum understood that it was an accident, and it invited the boy and his family back to see it get fully repaired, before it went back on display. Phew!

It's happened before...

In the summer holidays of 2020, two children were playing chase in the Museum of Glass in Shanghai, when they broke a £50,000 glass replica of the Disney castle, which had taken more than 500 hours to build!



A blooming rare flower!

THIS super-rare plant – the ghost orchid – has been found in Britain for the first time since 2009!

Richard Bate, a dentist and plant lover, found it after searching for more than 30 years. It's so rare that experts thought it had become extinct! Its location is being kept top secret to protect it from poachers.

The ghost orchid is unusual because it has no leaves, and gets its energy from underground fungi instead of sunlight.

It's only been seen a handful of times. In fact, there were no sightings at all for 72 years between 1910 and 1982!

The ghost orchid – so rare, it's scary!

Wildlife killed to feed starving country

NAMIBIA has made the difficult decision to kill over 700 wild animals, in order to feed its hungry people.

Elephants, hippos and zebras are among the animals that are being professionally hunted, with their meat delivered to the parts of the country that need it most.

The first 150 animals killed provided 57,000kg (57 tonnes) of meat to eat.

Why is this happening?

Namibia is four months into a famine, which has been triggered by a lack of rain and high temperatures. It's ruined crops and harvests, and over half the nation have been left without a reliable source of food.

It's hoped that killing the animals will also save water. Hundreds of elephants died naturally last year because there wasn't enough water to drink. As a result, they stray closer to towns and clash with local people.

Included in the plan are...



300
zebras



100
wildebeest



83
elephants



60
buffalo



30
hippos



WHEN a bald eagle was spotted slumped on the ground by visitors to Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in the USA, they feared for its health.

They alerted wildlife experts, who rushed it to a zoo for an X-ray. Luckily, it was found to be perfectly healthy – it was just "too fat to fly" because its belly was full of raccoon!

Even eagles have to let their dinner go down before they start playing again...



Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2024



© Jose Manuel Grandio, Wildlife Photographer of the Year



© Simon Stone, Wildlife Photographer of the Year



© Kingcho Zhu, Wildlife Photographer of the Year



© Lam Soon Tak, Wildlife Photographer of the Year



© William Fortescue, Wildlife Photographer of the Year



© Sasha Junack, Wildlife Photographer of the Year



© Thomas Vijayan, Wildlife Photographer of the Year

THE Wildlife Photographer of the Year awards turn 60 this year! To celebrate, the competition has released a selection of highly commended images for 2024. These include a soaring stoat, adorable owlets and a disappearing ice cap. The overall winners will be announced on 8 October. Wildlife Photographer of the Year is run by the Natural History Museum, London.



Yongzhou, China



A SUNBEAM shines majestically through a mountain cave at Yueyan National Forest Park.

Yerevan, Armenia



AFTER two years of work, a sculpture of Jesus is preparing to tower over the Armenian capital of Yerevan. The 33m-high (108ft) sculpture will sit on a 44m-high (144ft) pedestal atop Mount Hatis, which stands more than 2,500m (8,200ft) above sea level. In short, it's going to be tall!

Stagecoach Performing Arts

Advertisement feature

HOW THE PERFORMING ARTS BOOST YOUR CREATIVE COURAGE!



DID you know that singing, dancing and acting aren't just fun, they also boost your confidence, resilience, creativity and more?!

Stagecoach Performing Arts runs weekly classes for ages 4-18 where children and young people are given the opportunity to learn how to sing, dance and act, and enjoy the many benefits of the performing arts.

A few of these benefits include:

- Helping you make new friends and feel confident around others by working with your fellow Stagecoach students to create a performance piece
- Expanding your imagination as you create characters and learn how to tell a story through performance
- Improving your memory as you learn lyrics and lines
- Having loads of fun as you explore the performing arts in a safe and welcoming space with friendly teachers

Stagecoach's motto is **Creative Courage For Life** as the classes aim to help every student who joins find their courage!



Creative Courage®
For Life

There are Stagecoach schools across the UK, so ask a grown-up to search your local Stagecoach school at stagecoach.co.uk to find out what schools are near you!



BELFAST

Rise in racist crime

Race hate incidents are at an all-time high in Northern Ireland. Between July 2023 and June 2024, the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) say they recorded 1,411 racist incidents and 891 racist crimes. This is the highest figure since records began in 2004, with racist incidents 144 higher than the previous 12 months. Almost half of recorded race hate incidents and crimes were in Belfast. These stats follow the serious public violence this summer. Anti-immigration protests took place in Belfast and other parts of the UK, with thousands of people arrested.



A man outside his shop, which was attacked by anti-migrant protesters

JOHN O'GROATS

Mega charity cycle

A man who found out he had a brain tumour after falling off his bike is taking on a huge cycle ride for charity. Edward Cox, 52, was cycling in the Peak District in 2019 when he fell and hit his head. Scans to check for concussion showed a tumour that was later found to be glioblastoma, the most aggressive form of brain cancer. After battling back, Ed is taking on the 990-mile (1,600km) route from John O'Groats to Land's End. However, his illness means he struggles to read maps, so he's being joined by two friends to stop him getting lost! He's raised more than £6,500 for Brain Tumour Research so far, smashing his £5,000 target.



Ed Cox (middle) with cycling friends

WALES



Borrow, don't buy!

People are being encouraged to share items to save the planet for Zero Waste Week (2-6 September) and beyond. The Welsh government and Benthg Cymru have joined up to help people find their nearest 'library of things'. These are local hubs where people can borrow items they need, sharing things that are already in the area where they live. Benthg (pronounced 'ben-thig') means 'to borrow or lend', and it helps people to save money while not adding to household waste. This is better for the planet and is the goal of the nationwide campaign.

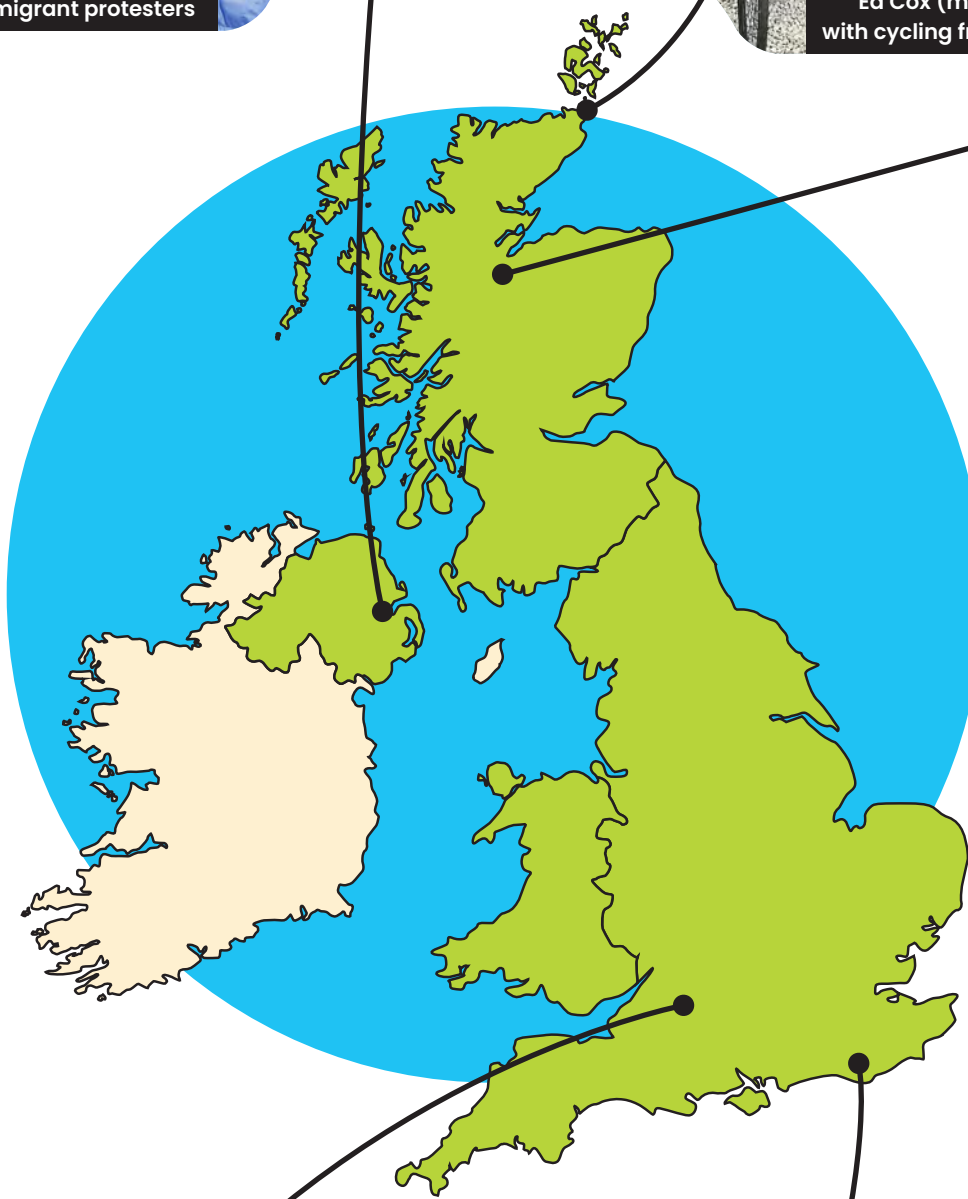
HIGHLANDS

Grouse growth

Restoring woods and wetlands has boosted black grouse numbers in the Highlands. The black grouse is one of the UK's most rapidly declining bird species, and on the Red List of conservation concern. It needs a wide range of habitats for feeding, nesting and caring for chicks. Habitat loss hasn't been kind to the species, but the birds' territory is being restored now thanks to rewinding in the Affric Highlands, near Inverness. Decline is slowing, and numbers are growing – the number of males recorded this year has been the highest in 17 years.



Grouse in the house



WILTSHIRE

Mural magic

A mural has been created to celebrate the beauty of wildflowers. The Calne Clean Up Crew wanted to brighten up a brick wall in Honeymead, Calne, and artist Sam Elliot signed up for the job. A few days later, the painted Wildflower Haven mural was complete. Two other murals recently popped up in Calne too. They were to commemorate the 250th anniversary of scientist Joseph Priestley's discovery of oxygen, which is what almost all living creatures breathe in to survive. He made the fascinating find while living in Calne.



The colourful creation

SUSSEX

Bear cat legacy lives on

Drusillas Park's rare bear cat has been frozen to ensure the future survival of its species. Penh was one of just three Cambodian binturong in European zoos, and passed away recently at the grand old age of 18. But his legacy will live on through cryogenic preservation. This is a freezing technique to help protect the genetics of rare and endangered species. To make this happen, the Sussex park has partnered with the charity Nature's SAFE (Saving Animals From Extinction). It will store Penh's cells and tissues in a protected state, making it a bittersweet farewell for the adorable animal.



Penh will be missed



SHARKS HUNT EACH OTHER!

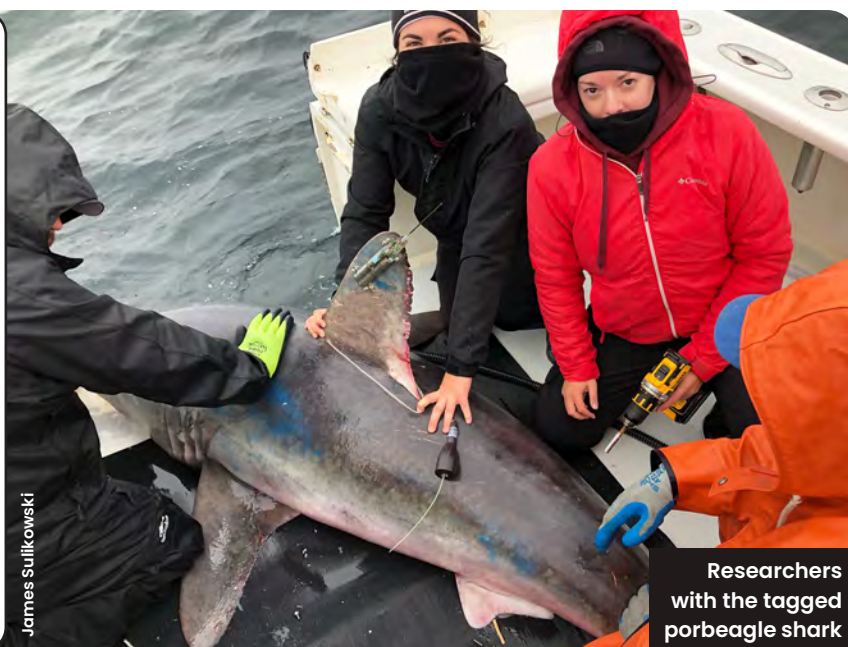
SCIENTISTS have found out that large sharks might be eating each other.

Researchers from the US discovered this when a tracking device from a pregnant porbeagle shark ended up in the stomach of a bigger shark.

They say it was swimming in the Atlantic Ocean when it was likely eaten by a great white or a mako shark – the first time a porbeagle has ever been recorded as prey.

Experts are concerned because porbeagle sharks are already in danger due to fishing and how long it takes them to have babies.

They say further research is needed to see how often this happens and how it affects porbeagle populations. The findings were published in the journal *Frontiers in Marine Science*.



James Sulikowski

Researchers with the tagged porbeagle shark



ANEESHWAR'S ANIMAL OF THE WEEK

WORLD RECORD HOLDER!

ANEESHWAR Kunchala is a nine-year-old wildlife campaigner and officially the world's youngest newspaper columnist! He shot to fame as a finalist on *Britain's Got Talent*. Now, he's presenting the documentary *Save Our Wildlife* from Sky Kids and Sky Zero. You can watch it at first.news/climatecrisis.

Aneeshwar's Animal of the Week is the...

STRIPED SKUNK



HABITAT:

They live in a variety of habitats, including woodlands, deserts, plains, and both urban and suburban areas.

FUN FACTS:

- Owls prey on them but aren't affected by the skunks' eye-watering musk (defensive scent), as they have no sense of smell.
- Before spraying their musk, some skunks stomp their feet and do handstands!

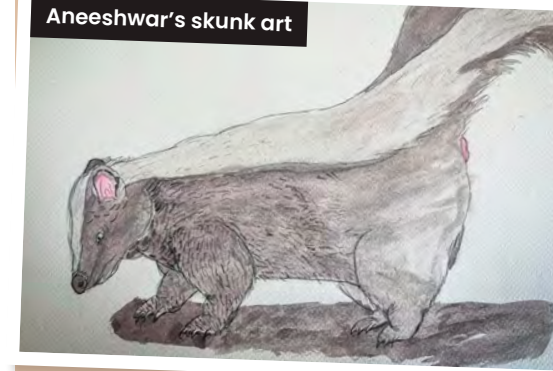
SPECIAL SUPERPOWER:

They can spray their musk up to 3m (10ft), and the smell can last for 14 to 21 days.

CONSERVATION STATUS:

Of least concern, says the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Aneeshwar's skunk art



We're asking you to send in photos of your own drawings or paintings of wildlife to add to an online gallery. Ask a parent, guardian or teacher to send in your photos by emailing them to yournews@firstnews.co.uk.

Calls for beavers to roam wild



THE Wildlife Trusts are calling for beavers to roam freely in England and Wales.

Beavers are great for the environment, helping prevent floods and boosting wildlife. But, right now, they're mostly stuck in enclosed patches of land.

The charity wants beavers to live in the wild again and have made a plan to bring them back safely. This could help fix wetlands and make rivers healthier.

They want the government to help farmers make space for beavers and support groups to manage them.

Rob Stoneman from the charity said: "Given the climate and nature crises, we need beavers back in the wild to give us a hand to resolve [fix] these challenges."

Unlikely animal friendships

SEPTEMBER is National Friendship Month, a chance to celebrate special friends. But we aren't the only ones with lifelong relationships, as animals can have them too! Check out these four unusual pairings from the animal kingdom:



Sharks and remora fish

Remora fish eat parasites and have suction discs on their heads to help them stick to others. Sharks are covered in parasites and are happy for the fish to eat them. So, it's a win-win!



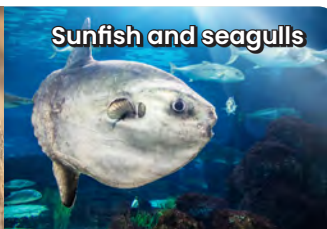
Tarantulas and frogs

Tiny dotted humming frogs, as small as human thumbs, have toxins that prevent tarantulas from eating them. They hop along behind the spiders and even live with them underground!



Coyotes and badgers

Despite their differences, these two animals share a love for rodents and hunt for them together. Badgers are great at finding underground dens, while coyotes can chase the prey down. Teamwork at its finest!



Sunfish and seagulls

Sunfish often catch parasites, which makes their skin itchy. So, they call for help by flapping their wings, and in swoop the seagulls! The birds happily peck off the parasites and enjoy their tasty snack.



FRANCE



Hidalgo wants the Olympics' "festive spirit" to stay

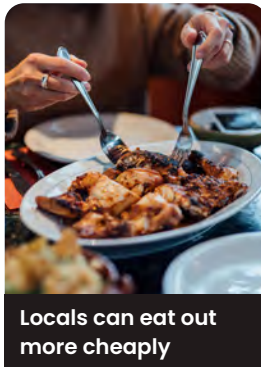
Will Eiffel Tower keep its rings?

We've all got that one neighbour who keeps their Christmas decorations up a little too long – but now the mayor of Paris, Anne Hidalgo, is giving that a sporty twist! On 26 July, just before the Olympic Games began, a set of giant, 30-tonne rings were installed on the famous Eiffel Tower. Mayor Hidalgo is a big fan of them, and has decided that they should stay on the landmark for good, although she plans to replace the logo with a lighter version. Some residents say that the rings should be taken down after the Paralympics are over and that the tower should be left alone, but Hidalgo said: "The decision is up to me... so yes, they will stay." She said that "the French have fallen in love with Paris again" this summer.

PORTUGAL

Foreigners forced to fork out more!

Some restaurants in Lisbon have begun charging tourists more for their food than local customers, the *Expresso* newspaper has found. Special menus are supplied for the city's residents – or, in some cases, better prices are whispered in their ears! At one spot, a steak costs £12.60 for visitors, but locals are offered a full meal, drink, dessert and coffee for £8.30. Elisabete, who works at a jewellery shop in Lisbon, said that it's because foreigners are paid more than Portuguese people – but lawyers say it's "extremely illegal" to treat people differently because of their nationality.



Locals can eat out more cheaply

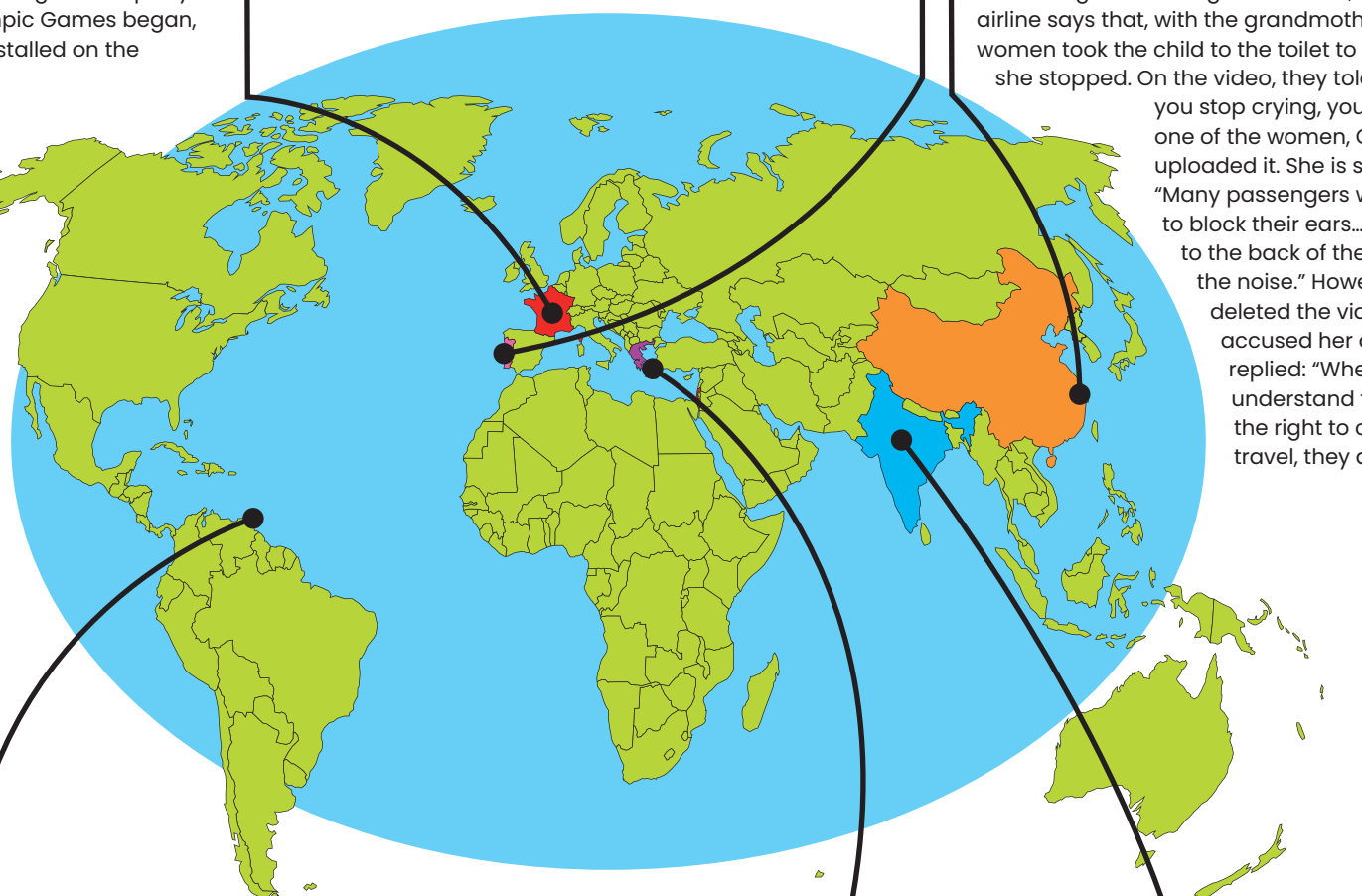
CHINA



It happened on a flight from Guiyang to Shanghai

Teary toddler locked in plane loo

A video posted on Chinese social media of two women locking a one-year-old in an airplane toilet has sparked anger in the country. The little girl was on a Juneyao Airlines flight with her grandmother, and was crying. The airline says that, with the grandmother's permission, the women took the child to the toilet to lock her inside until she stopped. On the video, they told the toddler: "If you stop crying, you can go out." It was one of the women, Gou Tingting, who uploaded it. She is said to have written: "Many passengers were using tissues to block their ears... some had moved to the back of the plane to escape the noise." However, she later deleted the video after viewers accused her of child abuse. One replied: "When will these people understand that babies have the right to cry and the right to travel, they are part of society!"



TRINIDAD & TOBAGO



Can you spot the three ships?

PM's plan to remove Columbus' ships from coat of arms

Trinidad and Tobago wants to remove pictures of three ships belonging to Christopher Columbus from its coat of arms. In a letter, dated 1493, the Italian explorer claimed that he "discovered" the islands, despite the fact that native people already lived there. The ships that Columbus used on his voyages also opened the door to slavery in the Caribbean. They will be replaced by images of the national musical instrument, the steelpan, in a plan announced by the prime minister, Keith Rowley.

GREECE

Dead fish stink out holiday hotspot

Hundreds of thousands of dead fish had to be scooped from the water in the tourist port city of Volos. They were freshwater fish, but were killed when floods swept them into the saltwater of the Pagasetic Gulf, which killed them immediately. Local businesses were spooked by the scale and stench of the dead fish, worried that it could drive their customers away. Authorities used diggers to fish them out before the pong drifted across to hotels and restaurants.



The flood of fish

INDIA

Shocking rise in lightning strikes



Lightning in Kolkata

A study has revealed a sharp rise in the number of deaths caused by lightning strikes. Between 2003 and 2020, the average number of people killed in each state every year rose from 38 to 61. The risk is greater in monsoon season, from June to September. It may be because India's population has increased to 1.4 billion, but researchers say that climate change is also to blame. Rising global temperatures has made lightning strikes "increasingly unpredictable". Many states now class lightning strikes as state disasters. That way, the families of those killed can be compensated for up to £3,600.



LET THE AUTUMN TERM BEGIN!

IT'S officially back-to-school season, and the start of an exciting new school year! To celebrate, we've pulled together some of our favourite books, shows and games for you to get stuck into!



What's in your school bag?

Can you find all of these items in the wordsearch? Tick them off as you go!

- Pencils
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Notebook
- Calculator
- Textbook
- Water
- Snacks
- Folders
- Pencil case

i	d	a	c	d	p	x	t	l	e	z	e	o	i	x	j
g	h	z	d	t	e	x	t	b	o	o	k	b	r	y	w
r	u	l	e	r	r	o	y	b	m	e	f	m	o	o	z
m	g	m	l	x	k	h	x	v	n	v	q	n	a	o	y
w	e	f	y	m	o	c	a	l	c	u	l	a	t	o	r
p	n	o	e	g	g	v	q	w	b	v	a	s	m	v	l
l	r	l	b	p	e	n	c	i	l	s	k	e	r	j	a
a	o	d	a	m	k	y	n	h	v	c	s	f	k	t	k
l	c	e	p	g	e	q	b	i	a	a	m	f	x	o	h
u	q	r	i	r	h	e	q	n	c	u	t	h	o	e	g
r	r	s	y	r	x	t	s	l	w	w	a	b	d	i	q
u	x	e	j	u	r	i	u	d	g	e	c	r	e	v	
b	p	n	b	n	k	c	g	a	g	t	i	e	u	s	x
b	s	q	d	n	n	s	u	h	o	z	t	a	e	t	x
e	l	n	e	e	a	c	s	n	q	a	a	v	v	b	e
r	q	h	p	l	o	p	r	i	w	v	n	z	z	w	j

CHECK OUT OUR APP

Are you starting your first year of secondary school? Teacher Christian Foley answers some of your burning questions over on our First News app!

SCHOOL SILLY!
haha ha

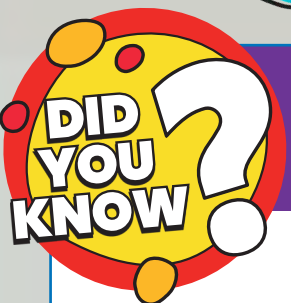
What does a snake learn in school?
Hisstory!





SCHOOL OF FUN!

EVERY school is unique – just take a look at these facts about schools from around the world and from fiction. What makes your school special?



FAST FACTS

1 Children in Finland don't formally start school until they're seven years old!

2 The King's School in Canterbury is thought to be the oldest in England, dating back to 597CE.



4 In Bangladesh, children often go to school on boats. This is because in monsoon season the country can suffer from flooding and stop people getting about, so school literally comes to them!

5 The beginning of the new school year in Russia falls on 1 September and is known as Knowledge Day.

6 In Germany, children are often given a Schultüte before they start school. This is a cone filled with things like stationery, sweets and toys.



3 The Bottle School in the Philippines is made out of (you guessed it!) recycled bottles – around 9,000 in total!



OUR FAVOURITE FICTIONAL SCHOOLS



Top of the list has to be Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, aka Harry Potter's stomping ground. It's filled with amazing magic, potions and spells (our fave – Expelliarmus!). What's not to love?!

Disney's original *High School Musical* introduced us to the super-cool East High School. It's home to one of the top basketball teams, the Wildcats, as well as an impressive performing arts club. You might know it now from *High School Musical: The Musical: The Series*. Jazz hands ready, people?!



We might be cheating with this one, but *Monsters University* deserves a top-five spot! It's the ultimate place for monsters to learn their best scaring skills and how to frighten humans! AHHHHH!

Crunchem Hall Primary School might not be somewhere we want to learn, but it's certainly the backdrop of a great story – *Matilda*! Besides Miss Trunchbull, there's lots to love including Miss Honey, Lavender and Bruce Bogtrotter.



Darrell and her friends have the best adventures at Malory Towers, a boarding school for girls in Cornwall. We'd love to explore the halls and enjoy a bit of mischief outside of the classroom!

SCHOOL SILLIES!

haha ha

What kind of school do surfers go to?
Boarding school!

haha ha

What did the buffalo say at school drop off?
Bi-son!

CHALLENGE!

Challenge your friends and family to see how many fictional schools you can name! Who'll think of the most?



CRASH COURSE IN COMMUNICATION!



SCHOOL is all about communicating – there’s no avoiding it, because it’s everywhere you turn!

You discuss ideas in class and chat with friends at break times, but communication is much more than just talking. You also produce written work for your teachers to read, draw diagrams in maths and science, and express

yourself through art and music, too.

Irish children’s author and designer Chris Haughton (right) is an expert on communication – in fact, he’s just written a book on it!

We spoke to him to find out about the earliest ways humans communicated, the obstacles that we face in communication today – and how we’ll all communicate in the future.



Daishu Ma

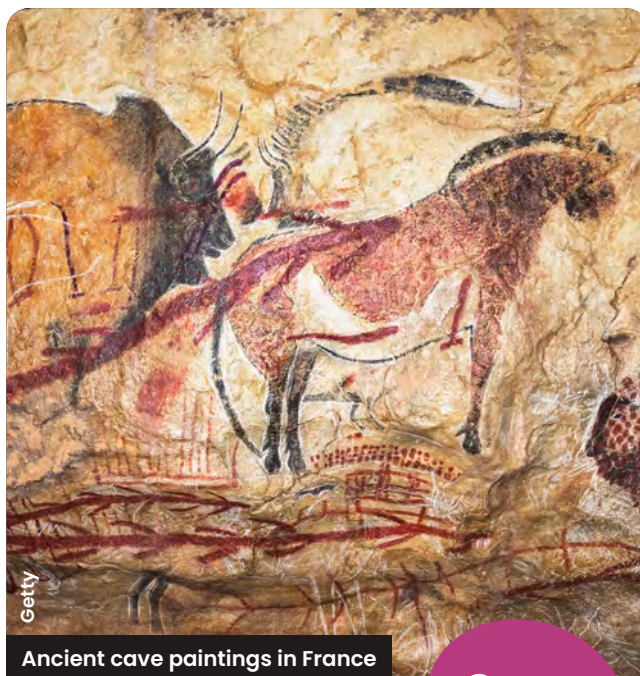
PAST

● **What was the very first form of human communication? Was it cave paintings?**

Language was probably the first communication, but nobody knows when that began. Paintings and drawings are the earliest visual communication. The oldest are from around 50,000 years ago. Many feature animals that were hunted – one theory is that they helped people remember which months to hunt which animals, but nobody knows for sure.

● **One ancient form of communication that’s still alive and well today is storytelling! Did you discover any cool ancient stories and myths while researching your book?**

I’m fascinated by the goddess Inanna. She appears in some of the oldest written stories, about 5,000 years ago. She was the most important god for the people of Uruk, the world’s first city. She was the god of love, but also war – she fell in love, but this made her jealous, so that’s how she embodies these two opposites. She was represented by the dove, and later, a red rose. We use these two symbols today to represent peace and romance, so she’s still with us today.



Ancient cave paintings in France



Language is just one way that cultures communicate differently

PRESENT

● **Chris, you used to live in Nepal – a totally different culture! Did you have to change the way that you communicated at all?**

I learned a bit of Nepali... and it’s sometimes similar to Irish! In Irish, the numbers one to four are a haon, a dó, a trí, a ceathair. In Nepali, they’re ek, dui, tin, char. When spoken, it’s almost identical! If I couldn’t communicate, I could mostly work things out by pointing and smiling.

● **In some parts of the world, information is controlled and restricted. How does that affect people who live there?**

In every country the media is restricted in different ways, and, yes, some are more restrictive than others. Our information is not usually completely censored, but it’s

restricted in other ways that are harder to see. Wherever there’s information there is disinformation. There’s always a temptation to distract or persuade the public. That’s true of all societies and cultures.

● **What new challenges are there in the way that we communicate in the UK?**

Perhaps most worrying is the collection of our personal data by companies and governments. Since 2001, a programme known as Five Eyes gave the US, UK and other governments the ability to gather data on civilians worldwide. Their international network can collect the content of emails, phone calls, internet searches and even listen through our microphones when the device is turned off. This data gives our governments a greater surveillance ability than any country has ever had. These powers were never debated or even known about by the public until they were leaked by a whistle-blower called Edward Snowden.



Will we even still read books in the future?

FUTURE

● **Chris, you once created a virtual reality (VR) experience. What was that like? Do you think VR will become a common type of communication?**

As a visual artist, I’m so excited by the potential. It was so great to walk around a world I created, and interact with it! VR is very interesting but I think augmented reality [the real world, but with computer-generated bits added in] has more possibilities. I’m excited to explore more. They have the potential to surprise us with how they’ll be used.

● **What does the future hold for books? Will they survive, as technology continues to develop?**

I believe books are one of the most important information tools we have. Many of the other sources of information, like mass media and social media, rely on big budgets and advertising. Almost every single national paper, TV channel and social media platform is ultimately owned by a billionaire. Books, by contrast, can be published by tiny publishers. If they’re good, they’ll sell by word of mouth. If small independent booksellers, teachers and librarians get behind a book, it can compete with any other media. That allows them to introduce new ideas into society. Long live books!

Chris’ tips to beat **FAKE NEWS**

QUESTION SOURCES

Always check the source of the information, and think about who’s writing it and why it’s being written.

ANALYSE CONTENT

Look out for over-the-top headlines, lack of evidence, or emotional trickery. What words are being used, and why?

CROSS-CHECKING

Compare information from multiple sources. If there’s a war, the news from both sides is always biased. Seek out the news from both sides, and from media in other countries that aren’t involved in the conflict, for a clearer picture of what’s really going on.



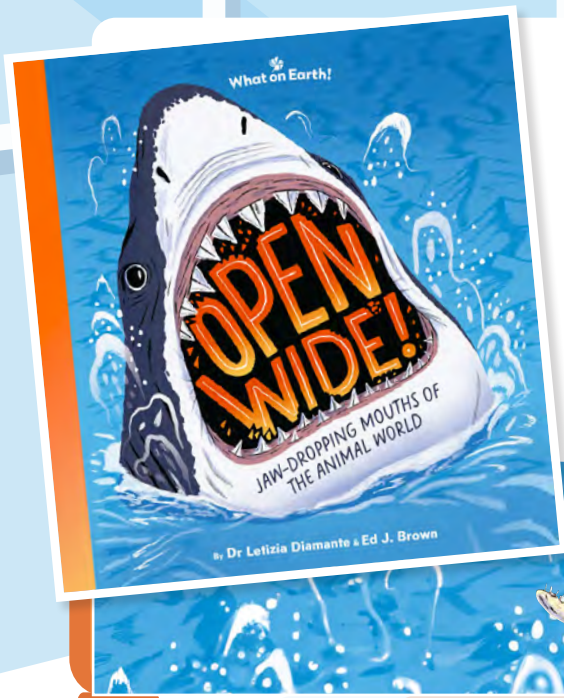
BACK-TO-SCHOOL BOOK LIST!

THE bells have rung for back to school and we've all returned to class, so it's a great time to grab a new book for break times, bus journeys and after-school chilling!

To help you choose one (or two, or three!), we've put together this nifty list of new releases from a bunch of amazing authors.

There's something for everyone, from amazing animals and real-life money tips to fantasy worlds and splendidly silly stories!

We think every one is worth a go – so be sure to enter our competition to win all eight!

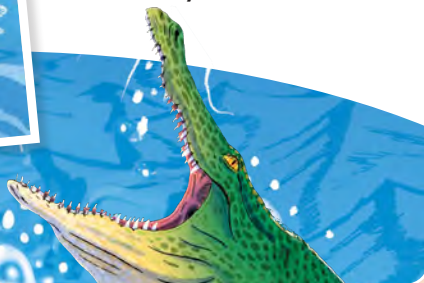


Open Wide!

by Dr Letizia Diamante and Ed J Brown

Chomp your way through pages of facts about the most astonishing mouths, sharpest teeth, stretchiest cheeks and stickiest tongues in the animal kingdom. It's stuffed with super illustrations, too!

Published by What on Earth!



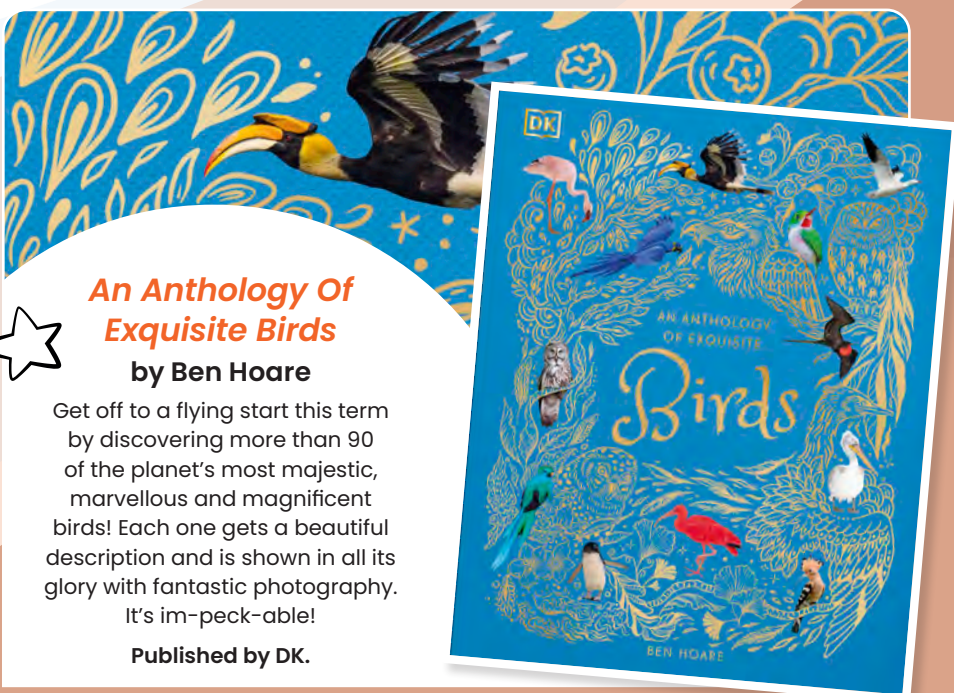
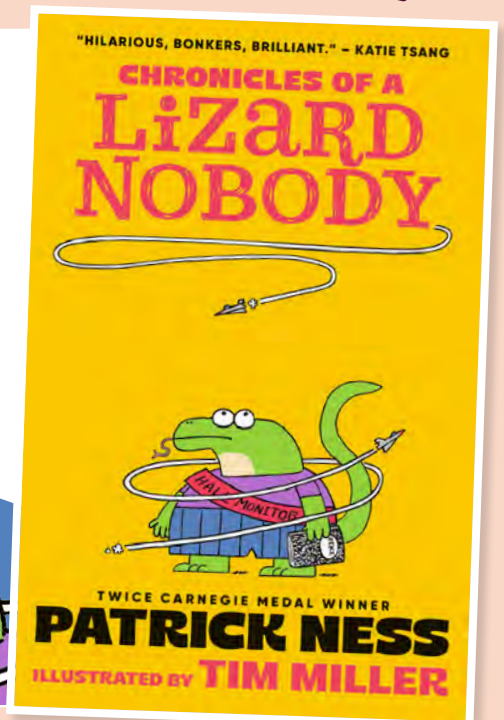
Chronicles Of A Lizard Nobody

by Patrick Ness

In a chaotic school of animals, lizard pals Zeke and Daniel are made hall monitors by Principal Wombat! It's up to them to keep arrogant lions, excitable seals and super-relaxed pandas in check.

What could go wrong...?

Published by Walker Books.



An Anthology Of Exquisite Birds

by Ben Hoare

Get off to a flying start this term by discovering more than 90 of the planet's most majestic, marvellous and magnificent birds! Each one gets a beautiful description and is shown in all its glory with fantastic photography. It's im-peck-able!

Published by DK.



Skandar and the Chaos Trials

by AF Steadman

In the third book in this epic fantasy series, Skandar and his friends must complete a series of terrifying trials across the Island. Their friendships and their bonds with their ferocious unicorns will be pushed to the limit – only the strongest will make it!

Published by Simon & Schuster.





Life in the Wild
by Lizzie Daly

Lizzie Daly is a wildlife TV presenter and conservationist who travels the world to witness animals in their natural environment. In this book, she shares ten jaw-dropping animal stories, from sharks and seabirds to bears and big cats, to see what they can teach us about our special world.

Published by DK.

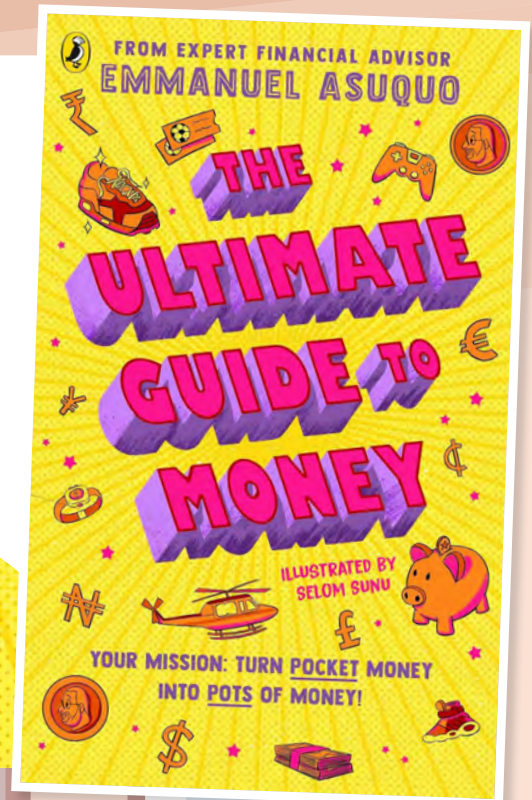
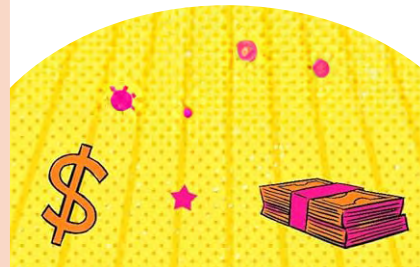


The Ultimate Guide To Money

by Emmanuel Asuquo

This fun guide to all things money is written by an actual financial advisor! It tells you things you might not learn at school, helps you to manage your pocket money and (ssh...!) even explains how to turn £1 into £1,000,000!

Published by Puffin.



Code Name Foxtrot
by Anton Du Beke

With the world at war, twins Harry and Rosie are evacuated from London to live on the stormy Lancashire coast. There, they throw themselves into the local dance show – and discover their new home is hiding some huge secrets!

Published by Puffin.



The Twits Next Door
by Greg James
and Chris Smith

A hilarious new story inspired by Roald Dahl's classic tale *The Twits*. A horribly nice family called the Lovelies move in next door, with their lively ten-year-old twins! How far will the Twits go to get rid of their new neighbours?

Published by Puffin.



WIN! ALL THE BOOKS ON THIS PAGE!

WE'RE giving away all eight of these books to a lucky *First News* reader, to begin the new school year with a bang! For your chance to win, just answer this question:

Which book series is famous for its unicorns?
a) *Skandar* b) *Horrid Henry* c) *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*



**ENTER NOW!
MARK YOUR ENTRY EIGHT BOOKS**

first.news/comps or see page 17. The closing date is 20 September.



NATURE VS CLIMATE CHANGE

HOW CAN NATURE HELP US TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE?

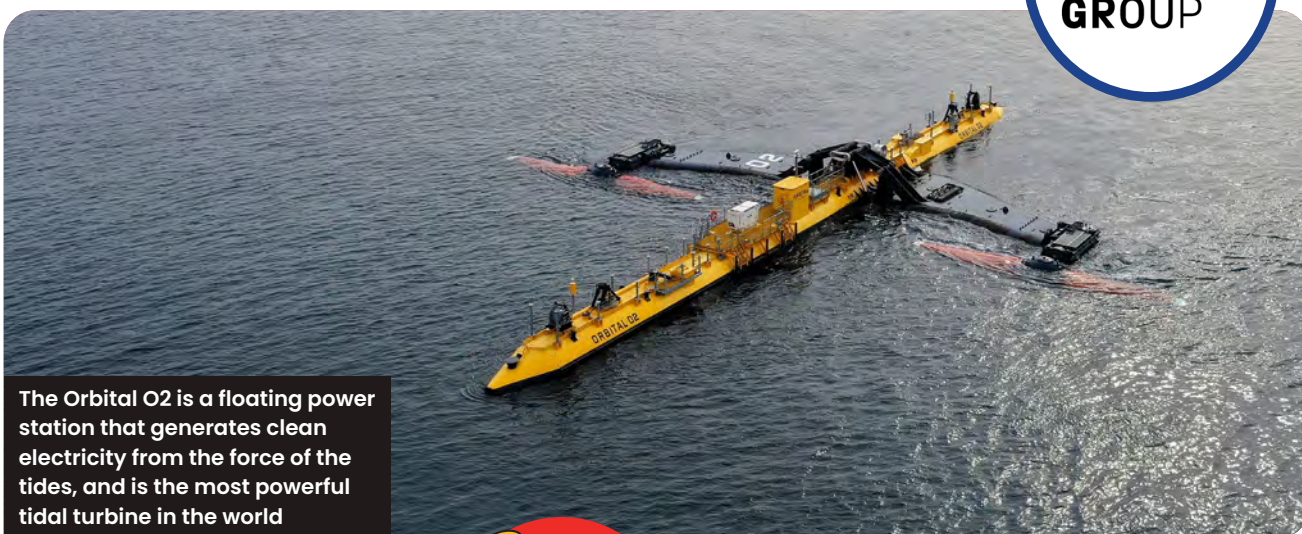
IN the first of a six-part series of climate change films from the Science Museum Group, FYI presenters Scarlett and Jeriah take a look at how wind and tidal power are helping to give us green electricity from nature. Each week we'll be featuring different stories of how science and tech can help us to win the battle against climate change. To see the film and find out more, go to [first.news/science-museum-nature](https://www.first.news/science-museum-nature).



Before the Industrial Revolution began in the late 1700s, life was very different for everybody. So how did things change when we learned how to use fossil fuels, and what has that meant for the world?

What was the Industrial Revolution?

In the UK, the Industrial Revolution began in the late 1700s, when the country changed from being a place where people farmed and made things by hand, to one where scientific advances allowed machines to do a lot of the work. New sources of power, such as coal, steam engines and electricity were brought in, iron and steel were used more, and factories were developed that allowed machines and people to work together to produce goods more quickly.



The Orbital O2 is a floating power station that generates clean electricity from the force of the tides, and is the most powerful tidal turbine in the world



A weaving shed in a Lancashire cotton mill

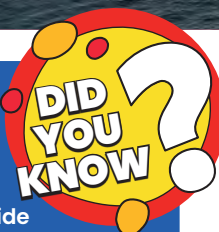
What effects did it have?

Society changed hugely, as people learned new skills, cities sprang up around factories, and travel was made easier and faster thanks to steam trains and steam ships, then cars and planes later on.



Steam trains and cars revolutionised the way that people got around, but only by using the fossil fuels that are causing climate change

ALTHOUGH we mostly hear about carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane (CH₄) as the two main greenhouse gases, the one with the potential to cause most harm is sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆). These gases are given a rating for their global warming potential (GWP) – for CO₂ it's one, compared to 28 for CH₄ and around 22,000 for SF₆. However, annual emissions of SF₆ in the UK have dropped by 67% since 1995.

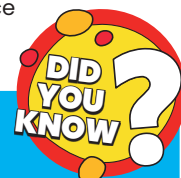


How did that change the climate?

Burning fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas releases large amounts of carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the atmosphere. This acts as a 'greenhouse gas' and traps heat around our planet, warming it up slowly. This has led to more extreme temperature and weather, and more serious droughts and floods.

What are we doing to fix the climate change that's occurred since we started burning fossil fuels?

In this video, Jeriah goes to visit a windfarm to find out how they work and how they're providing electricity without releasing greenhouse gases. Scarlett also looks at ways we're using tidal power to produce clean electricity in a different way.



AT the start of the Industrial Revolution in 1800, the population of the Earth was around one billion, but it's now an incredible eight billion. Last year, India overtook China to have the biggest population in the world – over 1.4bn, which is more than 21 times as many people as there are in the whole of the UK!



Jeriah visits a windfarm



WIND turbines work thanks to the discoveries made in the 1800s by the genius scientist Michael Faraday. Although Faraday revolutionised science, he had hardly any proper education. He was the son of a blacksmith, and was sent to work for a bookseller when he was just 14. He taught himself by reading every book on science in the bookshop!

WATCH THE FILM

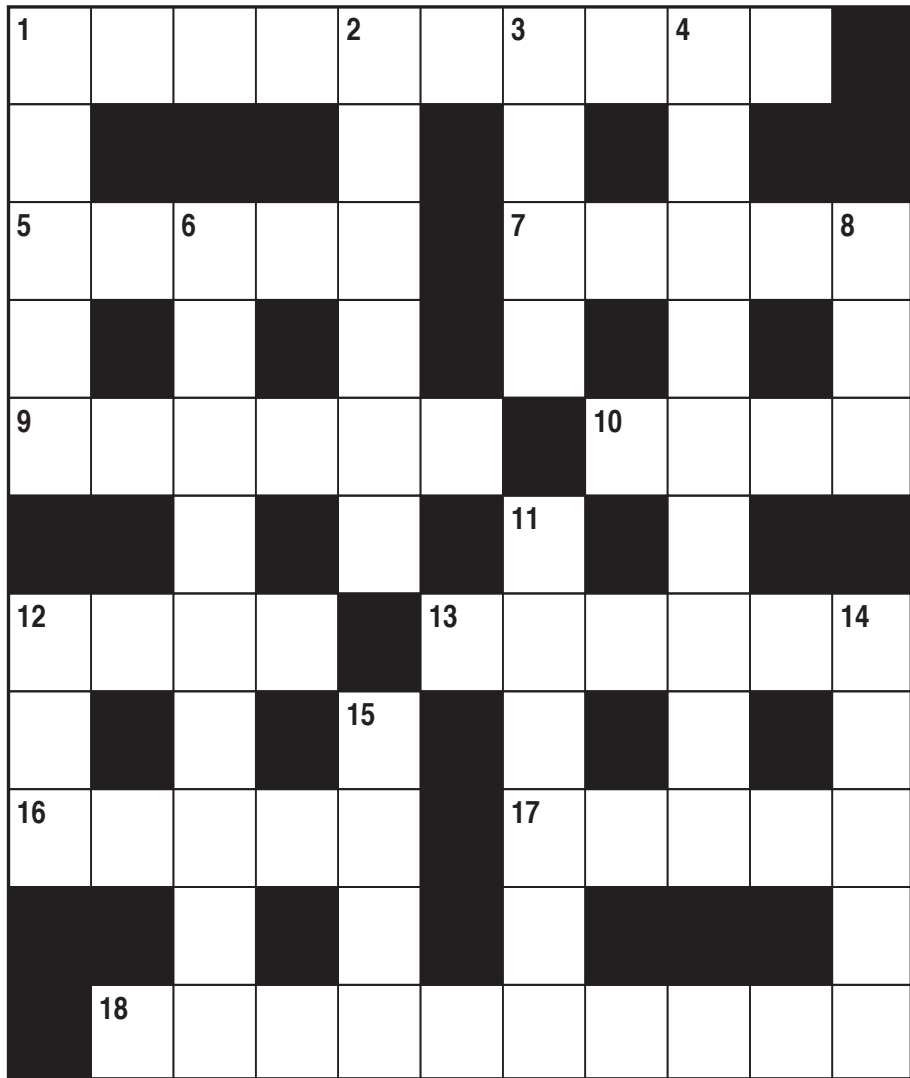


Go to [first.news/science-museum-nature](https://www.first.news/science-museum-nature) to watch the full film, or just scan the QR code!
This QR code should be scanned by a responsible adult.



CROSSWORD

CAN you solve our crossword puzzle using the clues below?



ACROSS

- 1 All the words you know (10)
- 5 Stinging insects (5)
- 7 Exhaust gases from a car (5)
- 9 A person in charge (6)
- 10 Small; tiny (4)
- 12 Roald _____ : children's author (4)
- 13 Stick of wax that burns (6)
- 16 E.g. gold or iron (5)
- 17 Broke open suddenly (5)
- 18 Book of words and meanings (10)

DOWN

- 1 A letter such as 'a' or 'e' (5)
- 2 Container used to carry things in (6)
- 3 A room or space directly under the roof of a house (4)
- 4 Amount left over (9)
- 6 Pasta made in long, thin strings (9)
- 8 Travel over snow on runners (3)
- 11 Pandas eat this plant (6)
- 12 Structure that stops water flowing (3)
- 14 Way into a place (5)
- 15 Having a level surface (4)

Sudoku

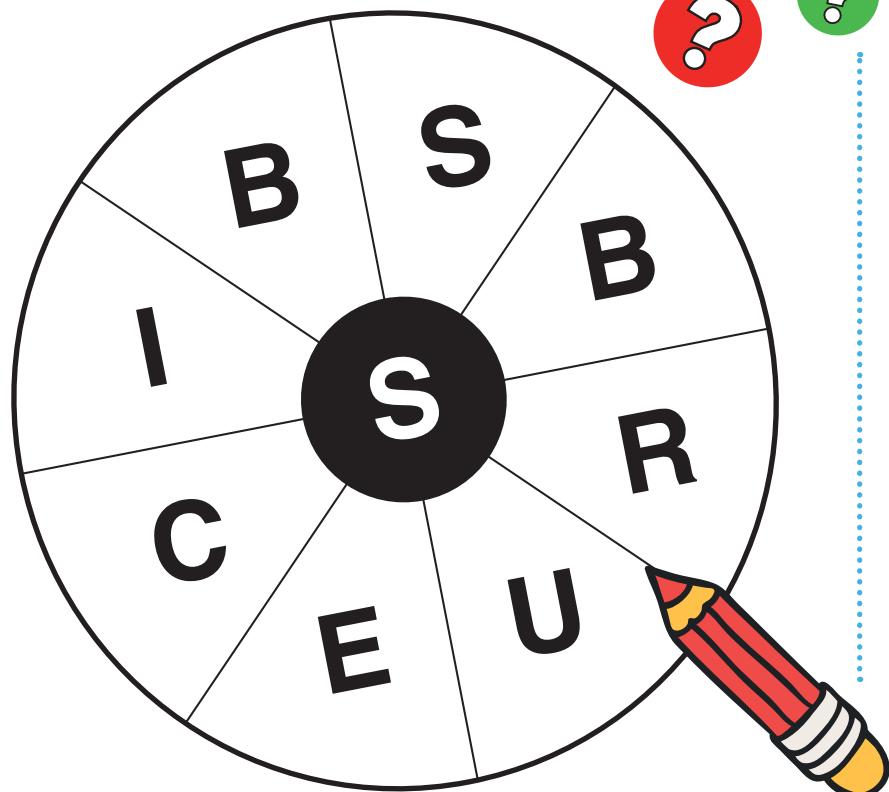
CAN you complete our sudoku puzzle, filling in the numbers one to nine?

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

COMPETITIONS: To enter, email us at win@firstnews.co.uk putting 'competition name' (e.g. Holiday), in the subject box. Please include your parent or guardian's name, address and phone number. *First News* competitions are only open to those aged 15 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 selected at random from all those with the correct answer. No purchase necessary. *First News* will not enter into any correspondence. All winners will be notified accordingly. If you are a winner, your details will be securely passed on to the person who is providing the prize so they can post it out to you. If you are contacted but don't reply within 28 days, we may offer the prize to another entrant. No cash alternative for any prizes will be offered. The winner may be required to partake in media activity relating to the competition. Your personal data will be held for a maximum of 12 months after the competition and then destroyed. It will not be used for any other purpose unless you have given us permission. If you would like your data deleted before this, please do get in touch with us. You have the right to complain to the ICO if you believe there is a problem with the way your data has been handled.

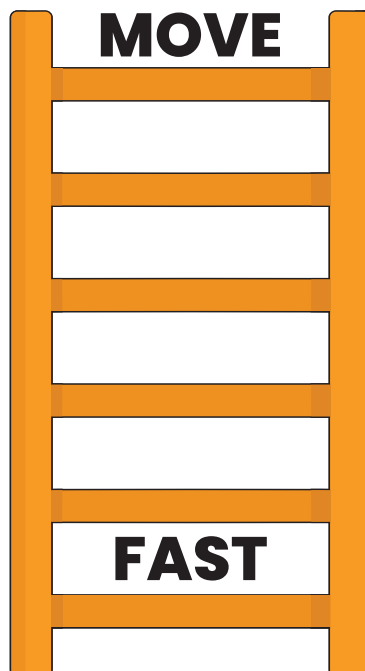
Word wheel

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.



ISSUE 950 ANSWERS:

Word wheel: glimmered.

Word ladder: dogs, bogs, boss, bass, bars, bark.

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

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



Enjoying the puzzles? See the *First News* app for more fun, quizzes and games! This QR code should be scanned by a responsible adult.

BIRTHDAY WITH BEYBLADE X

ベイブレードエックス



THIS year, the popular toy line BEYBLADE turns 25! To celebrate, Hasbro are launching the fourth generation of the franchise: BEYBLADE X.

This new generation is a mix of the first three Beyblades – but now, fans can take their skills to the next level and compete in digital battles with the new BEYBLADE X app. All players need to do is scan the code on their top to begin a virtual battle with other Bladers worldwide.

BEYBLADE X also introduces the X-Celerator Rail gear feature, boosting tops into high-speed, explosive battles.

This year, BEYBLADE X will showcase a new animated cartoon series and exclusive experience for fans of the toys. Beyblades are available at Smyths and Amazon, and will roll out in other retailers throughout the year.

So assemble your stadium and tops, load your launcher, and 3... 2... 1... let it rip!

BEYBLADE X XTREME BATTLE SET

THE BEYBLADE X Xtreme Battle Set is the perfect starter set, packed with everything you need to begin your quest for Beymastery!

The Xtreme Beystadium arena and two BEYBLADE X right-spin tops feature the X-Celerator Gear

System to level up your game. When the gear of the top connects with the rail of the stadium, it can super-accelerate into an Xtreme Dash, rocketing it around the Battle Zone for breathtaking bursts and colossal crashes!



Includes all you need to play:

- Xtreme Beystadium
- Two right-spinning tops
- Two launchers with ripcords

BEYBLADE X STARTER PACK SET ASSORTMENT

EXPERIENCE the next gen of BEYBLADE stadiums, launchers and tops: BEYBLADE X, with starter packs including one top and launcher*.

Launch right into battle, or swap the blade, ratchet and bit with those of other BEYBLADE X tops** to create your own unsurpassable Bey.

BEYBLADE X features the X-Celerator Gear System – when the gear of a BEYBLADE X top hits the rail of the Beystadium arena, it super-accelerates into an Xtreme Dash, rocketing around in epic bursts!



Bladers launch their tops into fierce clashes with their rivals, scoring points with each clash. The first player to score four points wins.

*Beystadium required, sold separately **sold separately

FIVE MINUTES WITH...

YOHEI BANDO

SENIOR BEYBLADE PRODUCT DEVELOPER



■ How would you describe Beyblade?

'Customisable, battle-oriented, spinning top.' That's been the concept since Beyblade was introduced 25 years ago, and it's still the core of the product.

■ What top tips do you have for Beyblade beginners?

There are two key tips for winning battles. Firstly, you need to understand the basic type match-ups of Beyblade, and to use parts that can take advantage against your opponent. Secondly, the spin speed is important – hold the launcher horizontally, grip it firmly, and pull the ripcord fast and smooth to launch the Bey.

■ Which aspect of Beyblade do you enjoy developing the most?

The most enjoyable and challenging part is finding a balance between design and performance, and perfecting that in a single product. When a product is completed, after overcoming these challenges, nothing can match that feeling of accomplishment!

■ What'd be your dream Beyblade product to create?

I dream of developing a Beyblade with an 'evolution feature', so that it grows and adapts uniquely to the fighting style of its owner as it's used more and more.





GIGANTIC DREAMCATCHER

Guinness World Records

A CANADIAN man has broken a Guinness World Record by creating the biggest dreamcatcher ever.

Dale Williams, from Ontario, built the giant dreamcatcher to bring the record back from Europe to the land where they originated. It's 12.93 metres wide (42ft 5in) and weighs around 907kg.

Williams used thousands of feet of rope, willow, ash and other materials to make it.

The dreamcatcher is now on display in his community, where Williams hopes it will provide protection and positive energy.



Shop lobster returned to the ocean



AN unusual orange lobster named Clementine was discovered at a New York supermarket in the seafood section beside the brown lobsters.

Staff noticed its unique colour, which occurs in only one out of 30 million lobsters.

Clementine was offered first to an aquarium but, instead, was taken in by animal protection group Humane Long Island for rehabilitation.

The lobster was later released safely back into the sea.

David broke his first record juggling blindfolded



Sibling rivalry helps break 181 records!

DAVID Rush, from Idaho, USA, is the proud holder of 181 Guinness World Records, making him one of the top record-setters in the world.

He says he achieved this thanks to being super competitive with his two older brothers since they were young – known as sibling rivalry.

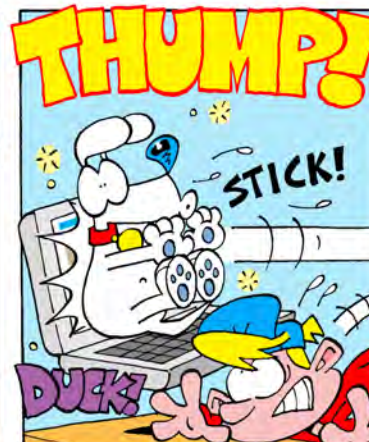
After years of losing to them, he finally beat one in a swimming race. "I'd grown taller than him, and it was the first time I'd ever beaten him at something," he said.

Rush broke his first record in 2015 by juggling blindfolded.

Now, he holds records in unique feats like catching marshmallows and balancing toilet rolls.



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer





MTV VIDEO MUSIC AWARDS

MILLIONS of people are set to tune into the MTV Video Music Awards (VMAs) on 11 September, with some of the world's biggest stars up for awards! Here's what you need to know...

● Superstar performances

Benson Boone, Sabrina Carpenter and Camila Cabello are among the performers taking to the stage at New York's UBS Arena. Megan Thee Stallion is on hosting duties.

● Top nominations

Taylor Swift has received the most nominations this year, with ten nods! Post Malone has scooped nine, while Sabrina Carpenter has six. Ariana Grande, Camila Cabello, Teddy Swims and Olivia Rodrigo have all been nominated too.

All pics: Getty



Tay Tay has received the most nominations at this year's VMAs

● Katy's big honour!

Katy Perry is being awarded the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award (otherwise known as the Lifetime Achievement Award). In celebration, Katy will perform a medley of her biggest hits. We're hoping to hear *Firework*!

● Charitable cause

The ceremony will mark the 23rd anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks that took place in New York in 2001. Money raised will go to 9/11 Day, which organises the 11 September National Day of Service and Remembrance, and Tuesday's Children, which helps the families of 9/11 victims.

The 2024 MTV Video Music Awards take place on 11 September at 8pm New York time.



Katy Perry



Post Malone

SONIC'S NEW ENEMY UNVEILED!



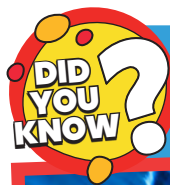
Shadow

A NEW trailer for the upcoming *Sonic the Hedgehog 3* movie has been released, revealing Sonic's latest rival, Shadow the Hedgehog.

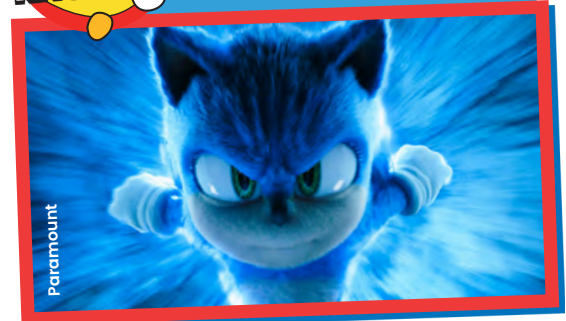
Paramount announced that famous actor Keanu Reeves will be voicing Shadow.

Many actors from the earlier Sonic films will return, including Ben Schwartz as Sonic and Jim Carrey as the bad guy, Dr Robotnik.

The movie will explore new parts of Sonic's world, which comes from the popular videogames developed in Japan.



SONIC'S blue-coloured fur is said to represent peace, trust and being cool!



Paramount

Sonic the Hedgehog 3 will be out in cinemas in December



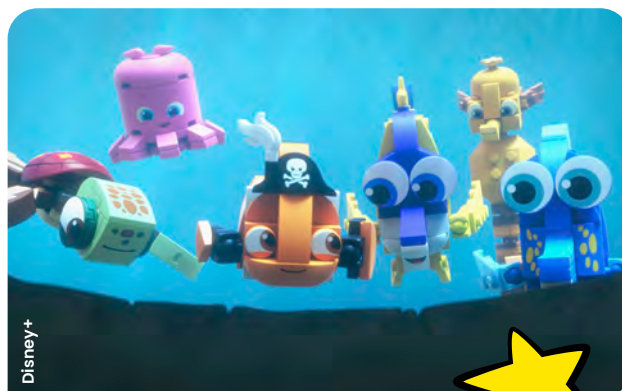
Getty

● Stars honoured at National Television Awards!

Some of our favourite TV shows and stars are up for gongs at the National Television Awards on 11 September. The likes of *Strictly*, *The Masked Singer* and *Britain's Got Talent* have been nominated. The glitzy ceremony, hosted by Joel Dommett (above), takes place at London's O₂.

● New LEGO Pixar: BrickToons series launches!

Disney+ has launched an exciting new series of shorts featuring classic Pixar characters. *LEGO Pixar: BrickToons* gives fans the chance to sing along with Miguel in the Land of the Dead, take an epic field trip with Nemo, Marlin and Dory, and join Mater as he prepares Lightning McQueen for his next big race! Check it out now.



Disney+



Getty

● Star-studded cast announced for the Magic Faraway Tree film

A new film based on Enid Blyton's beloved book series *The Magic Faraway Tree* is in the works, with some big names attached. Rebecca Ferguson (above), known for her roles in movies like *The Greatest Showman*, will play the scary headmistress Dame Snap, alongside Andrew Garfield and Claire Foy.



IN NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE!

STRICTLY COME DANCING



SECOND HAND SEPTEMBER



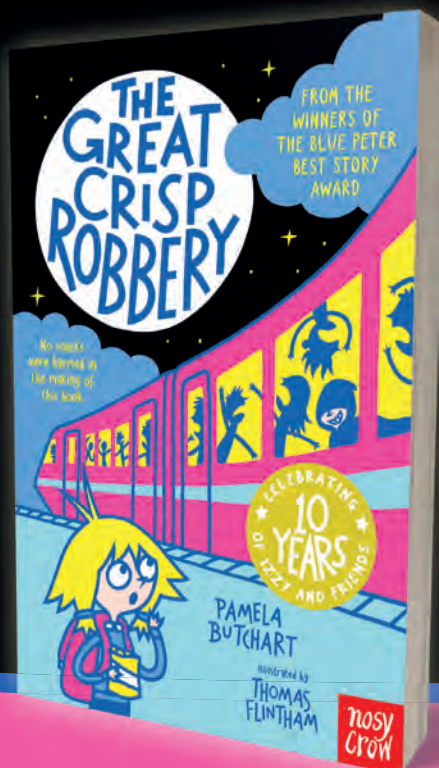
LOOK UP! ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN



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with a little extra **CRUNCH!**



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New in the **HILARIOUS** series by
PAMELA BUTCHART
Illustrated by
THOMAS FLINTHAM



* **DISCLAIMER:** No snacks were harmed in the making of this book! *



MMM, MOULD!

COULD IT SAVE THE PLANET AND MAKE OUR DINNERS MORE EXCITING?

VAYU Hill-Maini started life as a chef then trained as a chemist, but now he's using all of his skills to try to reduce the enormous amount of food that goes to waste every year.

A great report in *Nature Microbiology* has revealed some of the work that Hill-Maini and his colleagues have been doing to take food waste and turn it back into food.

The main way he's been doing that is by studying **mould** produced by a fungus called *Neurospora intermedia*, which is used in Indonesia to make a food called oncom. Hill-Maini thinks that oncom is the only human food that's **fermented** by *Neurospora*, but he aims to change that.

Moulds are produced by fungi, and some can be harmful, such as the mould that grows on stale bread or other foods. However, some moulds can be very useful and even make things tastier, such as the ones you see in blue cheeses like Stilton.

Oncom is generally made using soya pulp (known as okara), which is the dregs left over after soya beans have been used to make tofu or soya milk. Okara can go off easily so it often goes to waste, although a lot of it is used in animal feed.

"This food is a beautiful example of how we can take waste, ferment it and make human food from it," said Hill-Maini when he was first introduced to the joys of oncom. "So let's learn from this example, study this process in detail, and maybe there's broader lessons we can draw about how to tackle the general challenge of food waste."

Hill-Maini has been working with Andrew Luzmore, a chef for Blue Hill at Stone Barns, a Michelin

two-star restaurant (see below) in New York in the US. They've been experimenting with growing *Neurospora* on other leftovers, including bits of crops or the pulp left over from when oat milk is made.

In the *Nature Microbiology* report, the scientists look at the detailed chemical changes that took place when *Neurospora* was grown on 30 different types of plant waste. They say that the information they got "could guide the creation of delicious and nutritious foods from diverse by-products in the near future."

"This study serves as another reminder that everyday foods may hold clues to addressing global challenges in sustainability and highlights the importance of preserving and characterising these traditions in the face of rapid global change".



There are two main types of oncom – red (pictured) or black. Other less common types can be made from peanut or coconut waste



The mould that grows on bread and other foods is very harmful and can cause serious health problems. Even a few spots of mould on the outside of a loaf mean that the fungus has grown into the bread and it isn't safe to eat

If you allow *Neurospora* mould to grow on rice bread then fry it, it's said to smell and taste like a toasted cheese sandwich!

MOULD: the dusty-looking spores produced by some fungi, which act like the seeds of plants and help the fungi to spread. Not all fungi produce mould, such as the underground fungi that sprout mushrooms above ground.

FERMENTED: something is said to have been fermented when micro-organisms, such as bacteria or fungi, produce a chemical change in a food. Well-known examples of fermentation include yeast being used to make bread rise or to produce beer and other boozy drinks by turning sugars into alcohol.



An okara burger that was fermented with *Neurospora* mould for a few days then cooked by Hill-Maini and served with a cashew cream sauce, baked yams and a cherry tomato and cucumber salad



The original *Michelin Guide* from 1900



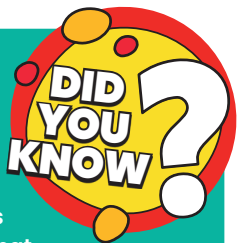
BEING awarded one, two or three Michelin Stars is seen as a huge honour for posh restaurants around the world. The *Michelin Guide* was published first in France in 1900, giving motorists maps, car maintenance tips and lists of garages, hotels and restaurants. If you think the name Michelin sounds like the famous tyre company, that's because they're the same people – the *Guide* was only published to increase demand for cars and, therefore, tyres!



In the USA, around a third of food is wasted

Globally, half of the greenhouse gas emissions from the food system come from food that's wasted

SOME of the foods we eat are already made using mould, including vinegar, soy sauce and cheeses such as Stilton, which are made using a *Penicillium* fungi related to the ones that produce the antibiotic penicillin. Plus mushrooms and Quorn are other examples of fungi that are already eaten across the world.

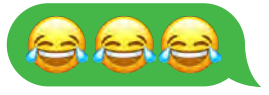
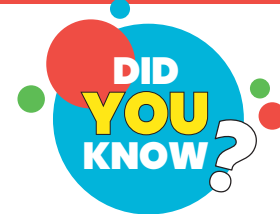


COOL FACTS CORNER



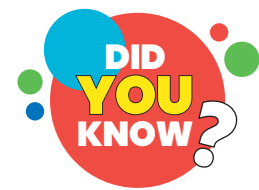
@TheDadLab

READY to wow your friends and family with some seriously fun facts?! Sergei Urban from TheDadLab shares his favourites...



555!

...in Thailand, the number 555 is often texted to show that something is funny (it's the same as saying 'lol')? This is because, in Thai, five is pronounced as 'ha', meaning that 555 can be said aloud as 'ha ha ha'!



...tiny organisms called plankton that float in our oceans produce at least half of all the oxygen on Earth?

You've heard of Iron Man but, if there was a superhero named Steel Man, he'd be much stronger! Steel is around 1,000 times stronger than iron in its purest form.



Scan the QR code or see thedadlab.com/facts to read more amazing facts or to share your own!

This QR code should be scanned by a responsible adult. Please be aware of age restrictions on social media sites.



SUPERHERO TRI CELEBRATES DISABILITY IN SPORT

THE Paralympic Games have been in full swing for the past week, showcasing some incredible talent. Here in the UK, *FYI* went to the Superhero Tri to celebrate inspirational young disabled people taking part in an inclusive sporting event. You can watch the full report with Maya at [first.news/schfyi-quicknews](https://www.first.news/schfyi-quicknews).



What is the Superhero Tri?

A triathlon is a sporting event that combines swimming, running and cycling. The Superhero Tri is an inclusive triathlon that aims to get as many young people involved and enjoying sport as possible. Participants are able to take part in as much or as little as they feel comfortable, and all in their own way. Superhero outfits are also strongly encouraged!

Meet Carmela

Carmela is one of the impressive young people at the Superhero Tri. She runs a successful social media account that shows people what it's like to live with muscular dystrophy. On the day, she helped to lead a big group warm-up with Clare Balding!

Carmela: "The atmosphere here today has been amazing. Everyone's motivated, everyone's cheering, they're all in their outfits – a great atmosphere overall!"

Increasing inclusive sporting events

The event was set up by Sophia Warner, who has a

disability herself, and competed at the 2012 Paralympics in London. She was inspired to start the event to create a level playing field for everyone with or without a disability to do sport for fun.

Carmela: "There definitely aren't enough events [for disabled people]. Sometimes if disabled people want to do a sport, like cycling, they just reject them because they think they can't do it. But there's always a way or some mechanic to help them and make them achieve their dreams!"

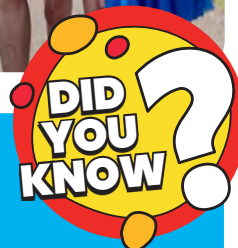
Henry participates in his brother's memory

Henry was taking part in the Superhero Tri in memory of his brother Toby. Toby had a condition called ALD (adrenoleukodystrophy) but he died earlier this year.

Henry: "It feels amazing to be able to do something for him that I'm going to remember forever. Everyone gets to have fun and forget their troubles."

You can watch this video and lots more short *FYI* clips by going to [first.news/schfyi-quicknews](https://www.first.news/schfyi-quicknews).

Henry participates in memory of his brother Toby



RESEARCH shows that disabled people are much less likely to participate in sport.

Key facts:

- One in four people in the UK have some kind of disability.
- Three-quarters (76%) of disabled people would like to be more active.
- Just four in ten disabled people feel they have the opportunity to be as active as they want to be.



Carmela chats to Maya about inclusive sport



SET UP A FIRST NEWS FYI NEWS CLUB AT YOUR SCHOOL!

START a *First News FYI News Club* and you could create your own report for *FYI*, and have your story featured in *First News*. It's easy to get involved, just ask your teacher to head to [first.news/FYInewsclub](https://www.first.news/FYInewsclub) to find out more. You can watch the full show every week on the *First News* app, at [first.news/schfyi](https://www.first.news/schfyi), or on Sky News and Sky Kids. This QR code should be scanned by a responsible adult.



WATCH MORE ON FYI



Watch the full video from *FYI* to find out more. Scan the QR code here!

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HELLO! I'm Kaya, the leader of the *First News FYI News Club*.

It's back-to-school time for everyone, which means lots more of your exciting adventures to report on in *Your News*. These pages are for you to share with us all of your exciting updates and achievements.

Get in touch for the chance to have your stories featured here. You can get a trusted adult to contact us via email at yournews@firstnews.co.uk.

OFFICIAL PLAY TESTER AT BRISTOL ZOO



Meet play tester Charlie!

CHARLIE recently had the chance to become one of 20 lucky testers of the new adventure playground at Bristol Zoo Project. Here's what he had to say about landing this dream job.

by Charlie Stokes

I was thrilled when I heard the news that I had been selected out of 10,000 applicants to be an official Play Tester for the new Explorers Basecamp at Bristol Zoo Project in South Gloucestershire.

Once we arrived, everyone was given a wristband that had 'Play Tester 2024' on it. Very quickly we all walked through to the Basecamp, where we were given a countdown to enter.

Everyone ran in enthusiastically onto all the amazing play equipment. There are two zip wires, two trampolines, a roundabout and a swing that seats four people, which you can stand up on or sit down on. The best part is the impressive main wooden structure, which you can climb up inside and come back down on a twirling slide.

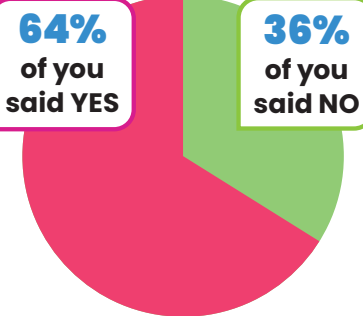
During the visit I was given the opportunity to have a video camera placed on my head to film me going down the slide, adding to the excitement of the day.

I was delighted to be given this opportunity and I have returned to Explorers Basecamp twice since. It's that good!

THIS WEEK'S POLL!

We asked you:

Would you like to use AI textbooks?



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Vote at first.news/polls

Setting up a new football team!

DAISY and her family have been fundraising to set up a new under-eights football team at Coventry Sphinx FC. Football really helps her to channel her energy and she loves being on the pitch!

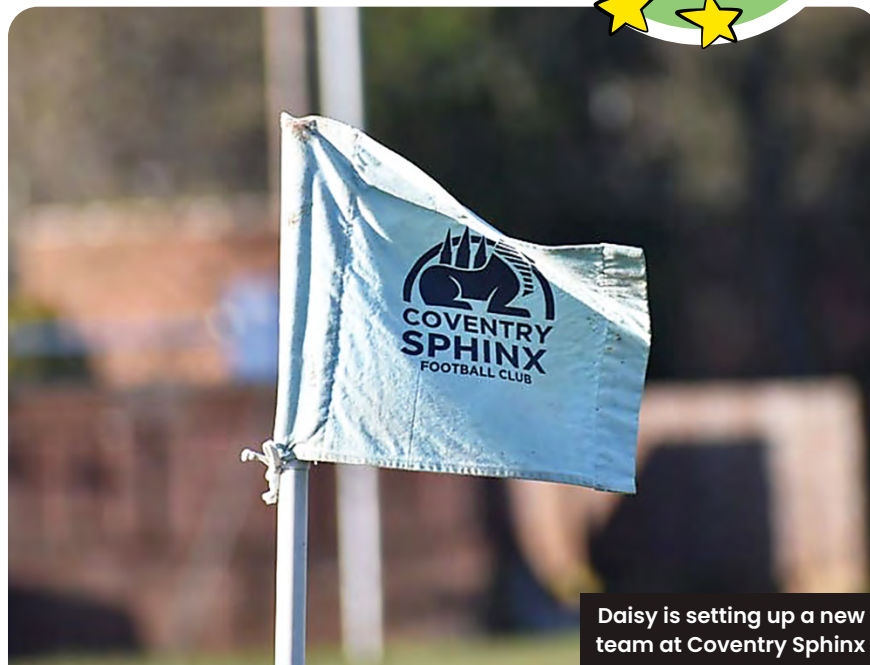
by Daisy, aged seven

My name's Daisy and I'm seven. I have ADHD which means I can't sit still and get distracted easily. I'm also adopted, which means I can find things hard – sometimes I get upset or angry.

I love playtime at school. I watched the Lionesses win the Euros and saw women like me with lots of energy, and decided I want to be one of them.

My forever mum and dad found an under-eights football team for me. I use all my energy on kicking the ball, and it can help if I get angry or upset too.

I'm going to be eight soon but my friends will be nine. They're moving to an under-nines team, but I can't play for them and there'll be nothing for me. My dad knows how important football is to me, so he's setting up a new under-eights team. I want to be a Lioness and win the Euros too!



Daisy is setting up a new team at Coventry Sphinx



Join the News Club!

You'll get amazing opportunities to get involved, and to have your school's name featured here in *First News*. Just get your teacher to head to first.news/fyinewsclub to find out more.



FUNDRAISING FOR GAZA CRISIS

Omer has been raising funds with his family to help people in need



OMER has been raising money to help people in Gaza who have suffered from the ongoing conflict. He's been designing jumpers and shirts that he sold to those in his local community and across the country.

For more information on the Israel-Gaza conflict, head to firstnews.co.uk/israelgaza.

by Omer Olcer

We created Progressive Effort in early March 2024 during Ramadan, an Islamic month where Muslims dedicate their four weeks to fasting, praying and donating.

Our mission was to make a physical change through fundraising, as people in Gaza urgently required humanitarian aid. Moreover, we wanted to express the story of the Palestinian plight through garments and combined both motives into one project, which has turned out to be very successful with the help of our community and generous donors across the globe.

Our most frequent question was how the money we collected reached the Palestinians safely, so we partnered with Islamic Relief, who can get into Gaza and have provided £19.5 million of aid since October 2023.



Twits afternoon tea



THEO had the chance to dive into the world of Roald Dahl's *The Twits* at a special afternoon tea in London. Read more to find out about his fun day out!

by Theo

I went to the London Marriott Hotel County Hall for my first ever afternoon tea, inspired by Roald Dahl's *The Twits*!

It was so much fun! The room was decorated with pictures of the Twits, the Muggle-Wumps and the Roly-Poly birds from the book. All the flowers were in tins of sticky glue and there was a grisly beard you could try on to look just like Mr Twit.

When we sat down, the first thing we were given was a little pie that had fake bird's feet poking out! It was really tasty.

The waiter then brought over lots of different foods. There were sandwiches, scones and cakes, which were all themed on the Twits. There were even prank scones, with some being made from Marmite! Thankfully I love Marmite, but my dad hates it, so it was funny waiting to see which one he'd pick!

I was given a fun activity book to do while we were there and got to take loads of photos, so I'd definitely recommend it if you're in London.

WIN! THE ENTIRE IZZY BOOK SERIES

JOIN Izzy and friends for hilarious adventures where everything that happens always leads to off-the-scale drama!

Written by Pamela Butchart and filled with illustrations by Thomas Flintham, this popular series has won multiple awards, including a Laugh Out Loud Book Award and *Blue Peter* Book Award.

To celebrate ten years of the series, we're giving away a bundle of 14 books that will keep you chuckling well into the new school year – as well as an Izzy poster, bookmark and badge!

All you have to do is answer this question:

Who writes the Izzy book series?

a) Jenny Smithies b) Pamela Butchart c) Sara Stone



ENTER NOW!
MARK YOUR ENTRY IZZY

firstnews.comps or see page 17. The closing date is 20 September.

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 Taste is the chart-topping song for which American singer?

2 Trinidad and Tobago wants its coat of arms to be rid of ships belonging to which Italian explorer?



3 What is the name of this rare bear cat whose legacy will live on?



4 Which animated TV character is Save the Children's 'Head of Wool' this Christmas?

5 True or false: around a third of food is wasted in the USA?

6 Remora fish are unlikely friends with which sea predators?



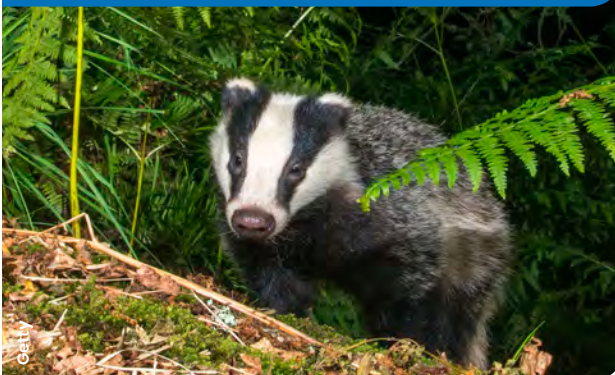
7 What is Sonic's newest rival called?

8 Which British star was part of the longest match in US Open history?



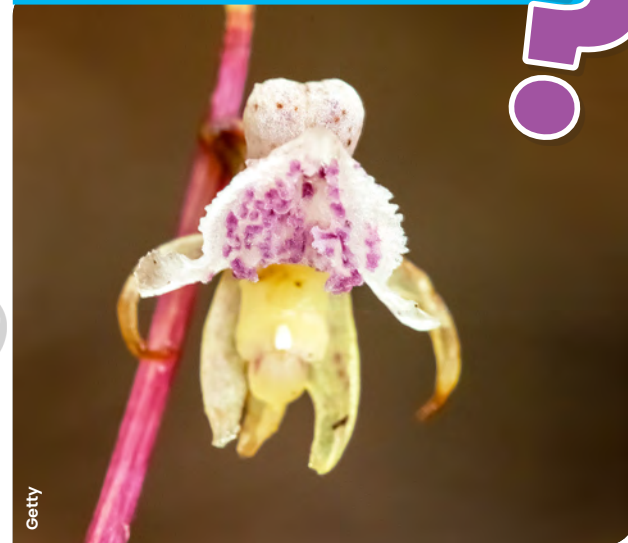
9 What device has Barbie launched to help kids cut down on screen time?

10 The government wants to stop the culling of this animal. What is it?



11 16-year-old Farhan Ahmed broke a legendary record in which sport?

12 What is this super-rare plant called?



13 Matt O'Riley has had an unfortunate start to life at which Premier League club?



14 Which Portuguese city has started charging tourists higher prices for food?

15 How many Guinness World Records does David Rush hold?



- Answers:**
1 Sabrina Carpenter 2 Christopher Columbus 3 Penh 4 Shaun the Sheep 5 True 6 Sharks 7 Shadow the Hedgehog 8 Dan Evans 9 A flip phone 10 Badger 11 Cricket 12 The ghost orchid 13 Brighton 14 Lisbon 15 181 records



A RECORD BREAKER AT 16



Ahmed in action for the England under-19 team earlier this year

SURREY bowler Farhan Ahmed is just 16 years old, but managed to beat a cricketing record that had stood for 159 years!

After taking ten wickets in a draw against Nottinghamshire, he became the youngest player ever in England to take ten wickets in a first-class cricket match. He took the record from the legendary WG Grace, who was regarded as the greatest player in the game at the time he was playing.

Ahmed was 16 years and 192 days old, beating Grace's record by 148 days.

British runner Elliot Giles smashed the world road mile record on Sunday, winning a race in Düsseldorf, Germany, in 3min 51.3sec. It was more than three seconds faster than the previous best, which was only set earlier this year by Emmanuel Wanyonyi.

Five hours and 35 minutes is how long it took Britain's Dan Evans to beat Karen Khachanov at the US Open, making it the longest match in the tournament's history. It broke a record from 1992 by nine minutes.



Star batsman Joe Root equalled and then broke Sir Alastair Cook's record of 33 centuries for England, with a century in each innings of a victory over Sri Lanka. It's the first time in 20 years that a player has scored two centuries in the same game at Lord's. Root's 34th century came in his 145th Test match. Four other players from around the world have 34 centuries as well, with only five players having ever scored more. Indian icon Sachin Tendulkar is way out in front with 51.

"I've run out of words for that young man, to be honest." Former England captain Nasser Hussain talking about Joe Root.



Team GB's Evie Richards missed out on a medal in Paris at the Olympics, but she didn't have to wait long for glory, becoming world champion at the Mountain Bike World Championships in Andorra. The 27-year-old won the short track cross-country title. "I really can't believe it! I wanted to win so badly," she said. "I just had to keep believing in myself today."

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DAILY NEWS

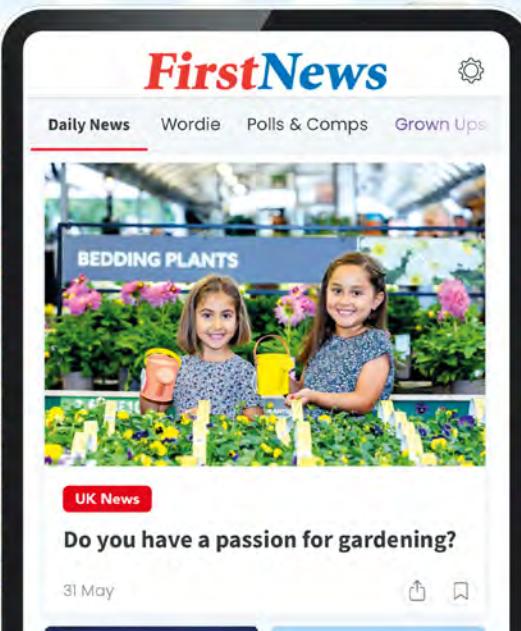
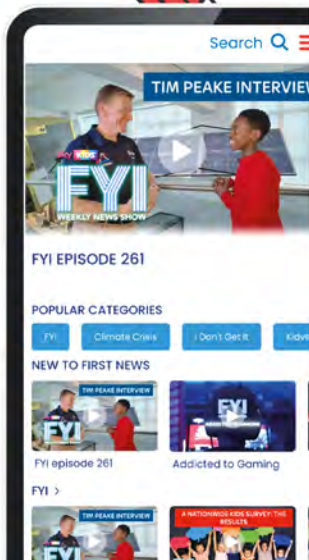
PLAY FUN GAMES

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“IT MEANS SO MUCH”

Hannah Cockroft celebrates winning the 100m title yet again

HANNAH Cockroft provided more evidence that she’s one of the greatest Paralympians of all time, winning the T34 100m title for the fourth Games in a row!

The wheelchair racer was streets ahead of her rivals, finishing in 16.8sec, with her team-mate Karé Adenegan crossing the line 1.19sec later to take silver.

“I honestly didn’t know if I’d win it today... It means so much to hold on for a fourth Paralympics, not a lot of people do that.” Hannah Cockroft



Cyclist Jaco van Gass won gold in the individual pursuit and team sprint, just a week after he was run over by a car in Paris! He was checking out the course for the road races when a car pulled out in front of him, sending him flying over the bonnet. But he’s a pretty tough guy – the reason he’s a Paralympian is because he was a soldier in Afghanistan when he was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade. The blast collapsed his lung and punctured some of his organs, broke his leg and knee, and led to the loss of his left forearm. He needed 11 operations to get back on his feet again, but has since won four Paralympic golds!

“I was heartbroken, I literally thought this could be my Paralympics done.” Jaco van Gass talking about his accident on the streets of Paris.



Two historic medals had been won by the Refugee Paralympic Team after the first week of the Games. The team’s first ever medal was a bronze won by Zakia Khudadadi in the women’s taekwondo, which was soon followed by another bronze in the men’s 400m for blind sprinter Guillaume Junior Atangana.

“I wrote my name in history. The message I have for all refugees in the world is to believe in yourself! I want to show the world that being blind doesn’t mean your life is over; you can still do great things.” Guillaume Junior Atangana.

2 MEDALS

WOW!

were won by archer Jodie Grinham, including gold in the mixed team compound final, despite being seven months pregnant! “The emotion was just a wave and it was like being a child at Christmas and getting your favourite toy,” she said after winning gold with Nathan Macqueen.



GB dominated the first few days of the swimming events in Paris, with a flood of gold medals. Poppy Maskill, William Ellard, Tully Kearney and Maisie Summers-Newton all won two golds. For Summers-Newton (above), it’s the second Games in a row that she’s won two golds.



Bly Twomey, 14, became GB’s youngest ever Paralympic table tennis medallist after winning bronze with Floss Pickard in the WD14 doubles.

Braydon’s on the ball



THE FYI presenter takes us through his pick of the week’s top footie action.

Man City and Liverpool continued their perfect starts to the season at the weekend, with impressive victories for both teams from tough away fixtures. For City, Erling Haaland continued his early season form with yet another hat-trick in City’s 3-1 win at West Ham, while Liverpool dominated Man United at Old Trafford to take the points back to Merseyside after a 3-0 win. For United fans it already looks like yet another season of disappointment, with their team showing the same traits and characteristics as last season, and the pressure will continue to mount on manager Erik ten Hag as the fans begin to run out of patience with him and the team.



Sinisterra (right) gave Bournemouth fans something to celebrate

Everton thought they’d secured a much-needed win when they led Bournemouth by two goals on 87min, but the Cherries had other ideas and pulled off the most incredible comeback. Goals on 87 and 92min put them level, before they shocked Goodison Park with a dramatic winner from Luis Sinisterra in the 96th minute. Joy for Bournemouth but despair again for Everton, who had played well up until conceding the first goal. They’ll hope to take some positives from the overall performance, rather than the result.

Elsewhere, Ipswich took their first point in the league in a draw with Fulham. Special mention to Liam Delap, with a screamer to open the scoring for Ipswich. His goals will be key to any hopes of his team staying up at the end of the season.

The Declan Rice incident takes **Centre Stage**, with the football world split on whether he deserved to get sent off or not for a second yellow in the game against Brighton. For me, I think it was harsh, and perhaps Brighton’s Joël Veltman, who had a big part in the incident, was lucky not to receive a card himself. With Arsenal leading 1-0 at that point, the game turned on that decision, with Brighton taking a point in a 1-1 draw. Brighton moved up to third, just behind City and Liverpool.

Braydon’s Player of the Week: Liverpool’s Luis Díaz. Always a threat.

Braydon’s Team of the Week: Bournemouth. What a comeback!

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Issue 951 | £2.95