

NEWS KIDS CAN TRUST

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR*



First News

Issue 952 £2.95 13 – 19 September 2024

2.6M READERS*



NEWS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT
INTERVIEWS PUZZLES COMPETITIONS



LOOK UP!



by editor in chief Nicky Cox MBE

EVERY week last year, 88 children were hurt when hit by cars while crossing UK streets.

Tragically, 26 of those children each week – nearly a whole class – were killed or received life-changing injuries.

There are a growing number of reports showing that being distracted by phones is linked to a number of pedestrian accidents.

That's why September is *First News*' Look Up! month, when we remind you of the importance of looking up, and putting your phone away, when walking across roads.

We want every school across Britain to hold our Look Up! assembly this September (see page 8). Show your teacher – it could save a friend.

Is your school holding a Look Up! assembly? (See p8)

Tell us at [first.news/polls](https://www.first.news/polls)

26 CHILDREN A WEEK – NEARLY A WHOLE CLASS – WERE KILLED OR SERIOUSLY INJURED ON UK ROADS LAST YEAR

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* 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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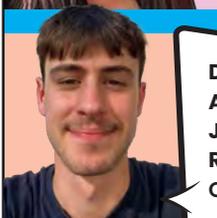
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Schools will struggle from lockdown impacts until the 2030s



A new report reveals that schools in England will continue to suffer from the impacts of the Covid-19 lockdowns until the mid-2030s. The Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) has said that the after-effects of the pandemic will affect schools in several waves. They believe different year groups will need different solutions for behaviour, learning and absence issues. Tim Oates, the author of the report, insists that support from parents, communities and the government is needed to help children get back on track.

Entries open for *Blue Peter's* Earthshot Competition



The competition is supported by Prince William

Blue Peter has launched the Earthshot Competition for young people who care about the environment. The contest invites UK residents aged five to 15 to submit creative ideas for a greener future in no more than 200 words. Entries should focus on one of five areas: climate, nature, air, oceans or waste reduction. Winners will receive a special orange *Blue Peter* badge, VIP filming opportunities and a certificate from Prince William. The competition will also give entrants the chance to be recognised by Prince William's prestigious Earthshot Prize, a global project addressing important environmental issues. The deadline is 28 October, and winners will be announced in 2025 on *Blue Peter*.

UK experiences coolest summer in nearly a decade



Figures from the Met Office reveal the UK has just had its chilliest summer since 2015. The average temperature was 14.37°C, which is cooler than usual. Scotland and Northern Ireland felt the cold most, while England was only slightly cooler than normal. Despite this, there were still some hot days, with Cambridge reaching a toasty 34.8°C in August. Interestingly, this summer would have been considered warm compared to temperatures from the 1960s to 1990s, showing how our climate is changing over time.

HAVE YOU

Half of children are using screens at the dinner table



New figures reveal that 49 per cent of British children play on phones and tablets at the dinner table. The report by pub chain Hungry Horse showed that more than a third of parents struggle to communicate with their children at mealtimes. It also showed that just 19 per cent of the 2,000 parents surveyed dined together daily, and more than seven per cent of parents and children never dine together at all. Family psychologist Emma Kenny said: "While technology has revolutionised [transformed] communication in some ways, it's made us lazier when it comes to face-to-face conversation. The risk of allowing this is that our children will lose out on important social and emotional skills."

Prime Minister and Idris Elba tackle knife crime



Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer hosted the actor and campaigner Idris Elba (Knuckles from *Sonic the Hedgehog 2* and 3) along with police and charities, at the first annual summit aimed at tackling knife crime nationwide. The Coalition to Tackle Knife Crime will involve campaigners, young people and community groups, as well as families of those affected by the crime. The government aims to halve the number of knife crimes taking place over the next ten years.

HEARD?



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

Deadly cassowary chick hatches in UK



A southern cassowary, one of the world's largest and deadliest birds, has hatched at Birdland in the Cotswolds. The park has been trying to breed the flightless birds for more than 25 years. Keeper Alistair Keen said: "Cassowaries have a reputation as one of the world's most dangerous birds and their size, speed and power combined with their dagger-like, 10cm claws mean we have to take looking after them extremely seriously." These birds are difficult to breed in captivity because of environmental and behavioural needs. The last one born in the UK was three years ago, so this birth is quite rare.

Natural History Museum's new mixed reality experience



London's Natural History Museum has launched *Visions of Nature*, a new mixed reality experience which transports visitors 100 years into the future. Audiences are taken into the year 2125 with special holographic animations, to see how humans' actions shape the planet. The museum's Dr Alex Burch said: "We hope that visitors to *Visions of Nature* leave with a greater confidence to discuss the type of future they'd like to build and are driven to be part of the response to the planetary emergency." It will be open from 24 October and FYI will be filming a report there.

Clever canines recall toy names, says study



A new study shows that some dogs can recall the names of their toys even after not seeing them for two years! Scientists found that these smart pups could pick out the right toy when asked, getting it correct up to 60 per cent of the time. However, this skill isn't common in all dogs, as the research suggests that dogs who are good at this have owners who spend lots of time playing with them. Shany Dror, first author of the study, said: "The more you invest in [play with] your dog, the more you will get back from the relationship." Experts think this discovery could help us understand how human language developed. The report was published in the journal *Biology Letters*.

New phone guidance for Northern Ireland schools



Northern Ireland's Education Minister Paul Givan has told schools to limit students' phone use during the day. This also includes during break times and lunch. Givan says phones can distract kids from learning. Many schools already have rules about phones and, in some schools, if a student uses their phone when they shouldn't, it might be taken away until the end of the day. Givan believes these rules will help students focus better on their lessons and enjoy phone-free breaks.

Castle becomes temporary school after flood damages classrooms



Students at Kenton Primary in Exeter have swapped their usual classrooms for a grand castle after their school was damaged by flooding last year. The Earl of Devon offered space in Powderham Castle, built in the 14th century, as a short-term solution. Pupils are said to be "thrilled" with their new learning environment, enjoying the castle's deer park and spacious grounds during break times. The castle classrooms will be used for one term before students move to temporary buildings. The government is working on replacing the previous old, flooded building with a new school for the pupils.

Smallest vacuum in the world!

A college student in India has broken the Guinness World Record for creating the world's smallest vacuum cleaner. Tapala Nadamuni spent around 20,000 rupees (£181) on the transformation using a refillable ballpoint pen and other items. The cleaner is just 0.65cm wide – that's less than the width of a pinkie fingernail! The 23-year-old finally regained the record after winning it in 2020 and losing it in 2022.



● JEANS FOR GENES WEEK 16–22 SEPTEMBER

This annual event helps to raise awareness and funds for those living with genetic conditions. Find out more at jeansforgenes.org.

● YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH DAY 19 SEPTEMBER

This year's theme is #ControlYourScroll. It's all about making sure you take charge of how your phone affects your mental health.





All images: Getty

SCHOOLKIDS NEED NATURE, SAYS WWF

A REPORT from the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) reveals that only a quarter of UK schools give pupils a daily chance to experience nature.

It says that children are missing out on the benefits that come from connecting with nature – including better mental health, less stress and better behaviour.

The *Schools for Nature* report finds that children in poorer parts of the UK are given less access to nature than those in richer areas.

What counts as 'experiencing nature'?

The WWF says this may be:

- Planned outdoor lessons
- Having access to nature on school grounds
- School trips, clubs or activities in natural settings



The likelihood of experiencing it also drops when you move from primary school to secondary school. In fact, 56% of secondary schools said they don't offer any outdoor learning to any pupils.

That's not to say they don't want to. After all, outdoor time is said to improve teachers' well-being, too!

Mr Bedford, a teacher at Hartford Manor Primary in Cheshire, has introduced more outdoor learning for his class. He said: "As a teacher, I see the vast potential the outdoors and nature has to offer in a broad and balanced curriculum."

The WWF wants schools to be supported in getting outdoors. Its UK CEO, Tanya Steele, said: "It doesn't have to cost the Earth. Bringing nature into the playground, even in small ways, can give pupils a chance to learn and connect with the natural world around them."

Would you like to spend more time at school outdoors?

Let us know at first.news/polls

In 2013, Fields was the first black British person to reach the North Pole!



Meet the new Chief Scout!

ADVENTURER and TV presenter Dwayne Fields has been named the UK's new Chief Scout!

Fields takes over from another TV star, Bear Grylls, and is the first person of colour to take the role. He was chosen for his good values and leadership skills.

Born in Jamaica, Fields moved to the UK when he was six and became a Cub Scout, learning new skills, meeting friends and exploring the outdoors. Now, he wants to inspire children from all backgrounds to join – as well as adult volunteers.

Fields said: "I want to show that the outdoors is a place for all of us to be at our best, that Scouts is truly open to all."

UN warning over cooking smoke



UNEP says it's more of a problem in Africa than in the UK

NOBODY likes it when their dinner gets burnt – but smoke from cooking can lead to more serious problems.

The UN's Environment Programme (UNEP) says that smoke caused by cooking at home on charcoal grills and wooden logs had a part to play in 3.1 million deaths in 2021.

Martina Otto, from UNEP, says: "Household air pollution is one of the world's greatest public health threats, and it's particularly harmful for children." This is because children breathe faster than grown-ups, and so inhale more toxins.

"The good news," says Otto, "is that cleaner cooking technology is plentiful, relatively inexpensive, and already helping to save lives." That cleaner tech includes electric cookers and stoves which use natural gas.

Switching to clean cookers can also protect the world's forests – over half the trees that are cut down globally are used for firewood and charcoal.

EDITOR'S COMMENT

THIS week's front page announces *First News'* annual Look Up! campaign.

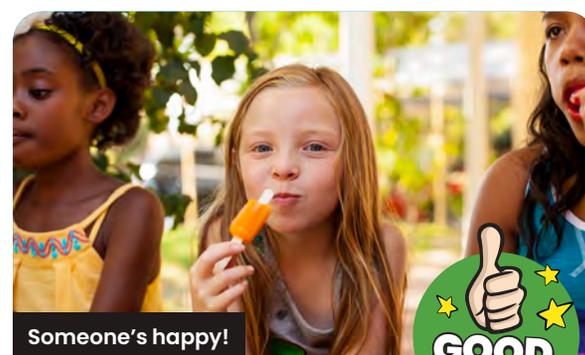
We want every young person to put away their phones when crossing roads. Distracted walking, especially when using a phone, increases the chances of accidents

Phones, whether used for texting, games, or social media, divert attention from what's around you, making it difficult to react to dangers in real-time. Distraction can lead to slower reaction times and not noticing cars, bikes and buses approaching from different directions.

We all need to remember to put away our phones, LOOK UP, look both ways and listen before crossing safely.



Nicky Cox MBE



Someone's happy!

Californian kids

CALIFORNIA is set to pass a law to cut down the amount of homework dished out by schools. It was written by a politician called Pilar Schiavo, whose nine-year-old daughter asked her to "ban homework" altogether. The Healthy Homework Act aims to reduce stress felt by both students and their families and to give them more free time.

Electric cars

CAR company Volvo was hoping only to sell electric cars (like the one below) from the year 2030.

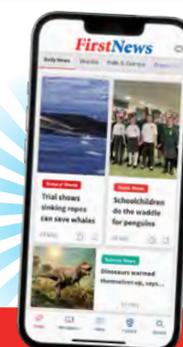
However, it's scrapped that plan. Volvo blames a drop-off in demand for them. But one of its big bosses, Jim Rowan, said: "We're resolute (strong) in our belief that our future is electric."



It's not all bad news, though... see why on page 22!

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.



VAPING HARMS FITNESS LEVELS



YOUNG PEOPLE who stay away from vapes are better at exercise, a new study suggests.

Dr Azmy Faisal, from Manchester Metropolitan University, found that those who do vape have similar levels of power to smokers. Not only does this support the idea that vaping is probably bad for us, it also challenges claims that it's much healthier than smoking.

How did the study work?

In the study, 60 people in their twenties were asked to use exercise bikes – 20 who don't vape or smoke, 20 who have vaped for at least two years, and 20 who have smoked for at least two years.

The results showed that those who neither vaped nor smoked could reach a higher average exercise power than those who did. Their blood vessels worked better, and their lungs were able to consume more oxygen.

In contrast, the vapers and smokers found it harder to breathe, and their muscles grew more tired, too.

While the participants in this study were in their twenties, many children are also vaping – even though it's illegal for under-18s to buy them. A study this year found that nearly 8% of 11-17 year olds in the UK vape, and 20% have tried it.



What was the reaction?

"We're seeing more and more young people taking up [vaping] without knowing what the long-term consequences could be to their health... using these products could make them less fit and able to take part in exercise. We should be doing all we can to support children and young people to avoid or quit vaping." – Dr Filippos Filippidis, European Respiratory Society



Raccoon dog

Viruses found on fur farms

MORE THAN 100 different viruses have been detected in animals bred for their fur on Chinese farms.

An international team of scientists studied the organs of 461 animals, including foxes, raccoon dogs and mink, that had died from disease on fur farms.

They detected 125 different diseases, including 39 that carried a high risk of spreading to other animals – and that

could include humans.

The study was published in the science journal *Nature*. Its lead scientist, Edward Holmes, told Spain's *El País* newspaper: "All fur farms should be closed. They are one of the most likely places for the start of the next pandemic."

Raccoon dogs, mink, guinea pigs, rabbits and Arctic foxes were the biggest carriers of viruses that were of high risk to humans.

Grenfell Tower report published

A MAJOR new report into how and why the Grenfell Tower tragedy happened has been released.

In June 2017, a large fire at the West London tower block killed 72 people. The blaze spread quickly due to the building materials used in the cladding (insulation) of the tower.

Six years on, investigators have found that warnings about the safety of similar buildings in the UK had been ignored by politicians for decades. Construction companies were dishonest about the suitability of the building materials used, and the London Fire Brigade was also

unprepared for such a fire.

Relatives of the Grenfell victims want to see those responsible punished. The Met Police suggest that's unlikely to happen until 2027, but says it will do "everything we can to secure justice".

Prime Minister Keir Starmer said the report will be a "moment of change".

There are still 2,000 buildings across the UK that contain the same unsafe materials as Grenfell Tower did.

Mr Starmer said that the work to remove those materials is taking "far too long", and that it will be sped up.



Grenfell Tower in London



Footie minnows San Marino make history

TWENTY years... 140 games... 7,434 days... however you look at it, it's a VERY long time.

That's how long San Marino, the world's lowest-ranked men's national football team, had to wait between their first-ever win, and their second!

Nicko Sensoli scored the all-important goal in last week's 1-0 win over Liechtenstein in the UEFA Nations League. The 19-year-old wasn't even alive for his country's only other win, by the same scoreline, against the same opponents, in April 2004.

San Marino are more used to heavy defeats. They've lost 196 of the 206 games in their history, and England beat them 10-0 in 2021.

"I feel on top of the world!" Sensoli told FIFA. "We were in utter disbelief after the game; we continued the celebrations in the dressing room and then long into the night."

Read Braydon's column on page 28.

Where is San Marino?

it's a small patch of territory surrounded by Italy. It has a population of 33,000 and is about half the size of Manchester.



YOUR school has probably seen all sorts of sick notes to excuse pupils from PE – but few quite like this.

Bolton striker Victor Adeboyejo had to miss a match last week when he was injured by... an enormous sneeze!

It was so big that the 26-year-old hurt his back, and he had to go for a doctor's scan. His manager, Ian Evatt, told reporters: "Victor is a powerful boy, and even his sneezes are powerful!"



Warrington, UK



OUR very own animal columnist Aneeshwar Kunchala beams with his second Guinness World Records certificate! The nature lover has been declared the youngest male newspaper columnist in the world, to add to his title of youngest documentary presenter. He began writing his Animal of the Week column in *First News* in April 2023, when he was just eight years and 76 days old. Watch Aneeshwar's reaction to receiving the award on the *First News* app!

Bago, Myanmar



CUTENESS overload! A boy touches one of the rare, newborn elephant twins at Wingabaw Elephant Camp.

Fuzhou, China



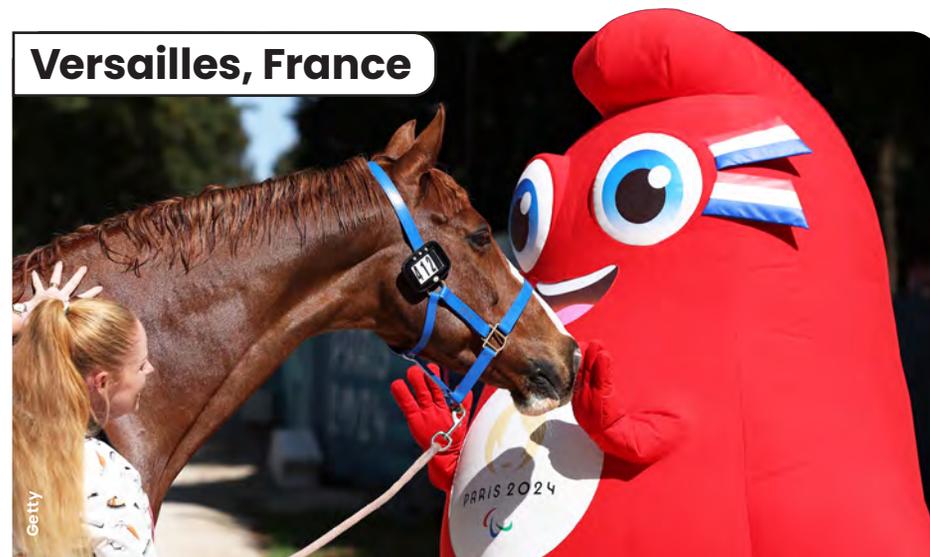
FIREFIGHTING drones put out a blaze during a drill in a tall building.

Venice, Italy



SOGGY shoes for these coffee drinkers in the famous St. Mark's Square. High tides are not unusual in Venice – the low city actually floods around 100 times a year in a phenomenon called *acqua alta*.

Versailles, France



"ARE you here to watch me?" A horse competing in dressage meets the Paralympic mascot, Phryges, at the Palace of Versailles.



Yanbian, China



Getty

MORE than 7,500 drones light up the sky to celebrate the 72nd anniversary of Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture, setting a new Guinness World Record.

Biellese Alps, Italy



The Donkey Sanctuary

DONKEYS dazzle in stripy socks, but it's not a fashion choice. They're worn to protect the animals from being bitten by insects in the summer and autumn months. These were some of the 180 pairs donated to The Donkey Sanctuary after an appeal for people to send in socks.

London, England



Getty

THE King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery fires a 41-gun royal salute to mark the second anniversary of King Charles III's accession to the throne. Charles became king on 8 September 2022.

Saint-Denis, France



Getty

FIREWORKS are set off on the roof of the Stade de France at the end of the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games Closing Ceremony.



We're calling on every school to hold a Look Up! assembly to warn you about the dangers of looking at your phone while crossing the road.

SEPTEMBER is *First News*' Look Up! month – our annual campaign to warn you of the dangers of crossing the road while looking at your phone. Every September, as you go back to school, we call on all schools to hold our assembly about the dangers of mobile phone distraction. Your teachers can get a free assembly pack with video – bottom right!

REAL DANGERS

Road accidents are one of the main causes of young people dying and there are worrying statistics showing that being distracted by phones – whether texting, gaming or on social media – is a common reason.

- The 2023 Government figures show that 4,577 pedestrians, aged 15 and under, were hurt on UK roads last year. That's 88 children every week!
- Tragically, 1,340 of those were either killed or left with serious, life-changing injuries. That's nearly four child pedestrians a day, or a class of 26 children every week!

DID YOU KNOW?

There's a name for people distracted by their phones: **SMOMBIES** (smartphones + zombies). Are you a SMOMBIE?



It's not just a UK problem.

"Every hour of every day, a teen is hit or killed while walking (in the US)," says Safe Kids Worldwide. That's why *First News* is asking everyone to put phones away when crossing the street.

– *Safe Kids Worldwide*

LOOK UP! QUOTE

- Government public health experts, who are working to reduce the number of child injuries on the roads, say the largest number of child pedestrian injuries take place between 8am and 9am and between 3pm and 7pm – clearly on the way to, or from, school.
- Further data shows that children aged 12 are the most likely to be involved in an accident, when many young people are travelling between school and home on their own for the first time.

THE FACTS

- While almost a third of Brits admitted to using their phone when crossing the road in 2021, research carried out by AXA insurance company found that 21% of 11-year-olds and 25% of 12-year-olds say that they have been distracted by a screen while crossing a road.
- Research carried out by Childwise revealed that 53% of children in the UK own a mobile phone by the age of seven.
- A study by the University of Lincoln found that nearly a third of road crossings made by secondary school pupils involved a phone or other device.

Look out for **Road Safety Week** between 17–23 November!

MAKE A PLEDGE TO LOOK UP!

It's important to always look up while crossing the road – do you pledge to do this?

Make your pledge at first.news/LookUp-pledge or scan the QR code below. This QR code should be scanned by a responsible adult.



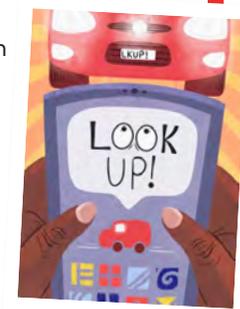
A LOOK UP! ASSEMBLY IN EVERY SCHOOL!

First News has created a free Look Up! assembly pack for every school so you remember to put down your phones.



In this pack, you'll also find a fun activity to design road safety posters to put up around your school. We'd love to see some of your creations! Send them to us at yournews@firstnews.co.uk and you could feature in the paper!

Teachers – for the assembly pack, head to first.news/lookupteachers





LAKE DISTRICT

Nature in the sky

Cumbria Wildlife Trust is aiming to build England's highest nature reserve. Skiddaw Forest in the Lake District includes 620 acres of temperate rainforest, which the Trust wants to restore. A temperate forest is a woodland with high rainfall and a damp climate. Work will also be done on thousands of other acres of land in need of restoration. The plan eventually is to allow people to explore this popular area, including Skiddaw's summit and its mouthwatering views. If extra funding is secured, the internationally important site for nature and geology will be protected forever.



Skiddaw's beautiful landscape

ORKNEY

Spot, spot, goose

Wildlife experts are asking people in Orkney and North East Scotland to look out for greylag geese with special GPS collars. The birds, which are considered at risk, come over from Iceland to spend winter in the UK. However, their population could be up to four-and-a-half times bigger than thought before. NatureScot and the Icelandic Institute of Natural History want to find out more about them, and the new locations where they may be spending the cold winters.



The geese have grey, numbered collars

WALES



Free meals for all

Wales has become the first UK nation to offer free school meals to all primary school pupils. The news was announced by the Welsh Government, which started the programme in 2021 to tackle child poverty. Since then, nearly 30 million meals have been served. Free school meals have been shown to have many benefits such as cutting health inequality and improving social skills at mealtimes. This new rollout means that 176,000 more kids will get a free school meal every day. First Minister Eluned Morgan said: "This is a momentous occasion for children here in Wales."

PLYMOUTH

4,500 vapes make sculpture

A seahorse has been stopping travellers in their tracks at Plymouth station. That's because it's not just any seahorse – it's a sculpture made out of the 4,500 disposable vapes collected last year. Clean Our Patch CIC are the city's litter-picking legends who created it. Their fight is to clean up streets and educate people about the problems of single-use vapes. The sculpture is named The Ballad of Lost Mary, referencing one of the many types of harmful vapes. The group's founders, Ash Samuels and El Clarke, said: "The hand rising up from the pile of vapes represents the constant struggle to... protect nature and in turn the planet."



GWPR

HAWORTH

Wonderful writers

Literature stars are coming to the Brontë Parsonage Museum to celebrate young people and creativity. The 2024 Brontë Festival of Women's Writing is back for its 13th edition and features fun talks and workshops to inspire young writers. The Brontë sisters wrote some of the most well-known novels of all time. Charlotte's *Jane Eyre* (1847), Emily's *Wuthering Heights* (1847), and Anne's *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* (1848) all came from an upbringing of engaging with books and poems. Writers coming to Haworth for the annual festival include former Children's Laureate Dame Jacqueline Wilson. The festival takes place from 20-22 September.



Brontë Parsonage Museum

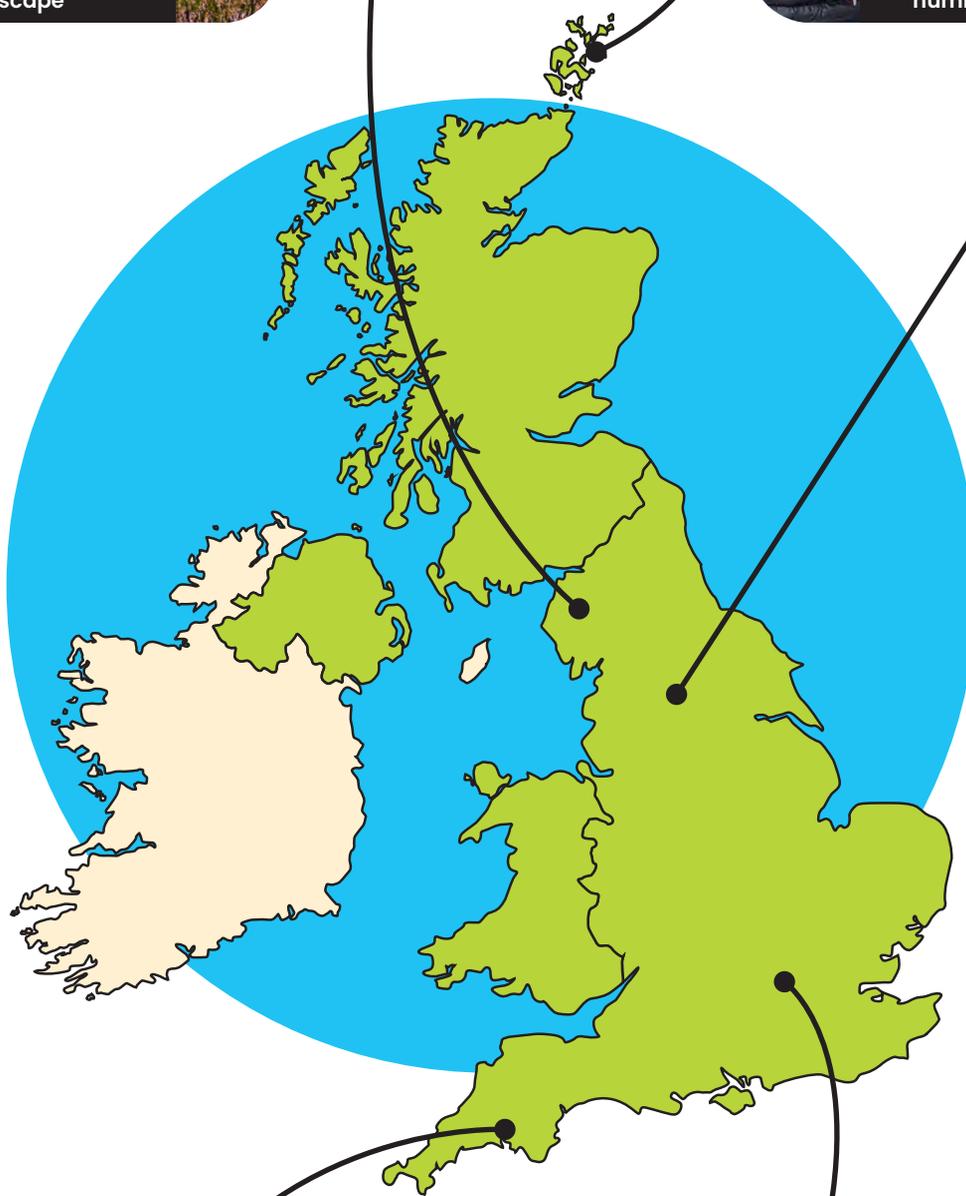
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Longest railway bridge

The high-speed train line HS2 is back on track after the completion of "the UK's longest railway bridge". The HS2 project will connect London and Birmingham with a high-speed rail line. Workers gathered at Colne Valley Viaduct as the final piece of the 2.1-mile (3.3km) bridge was put into place. Since 1887, the two-mile long Tay Bridge in Scotland had held the title of UK's longest railway bridge. The final segment of the HS2 bridge featured a plaque with the names of all the people who had helped make it happen. The railway tracks can begin to be installed now.

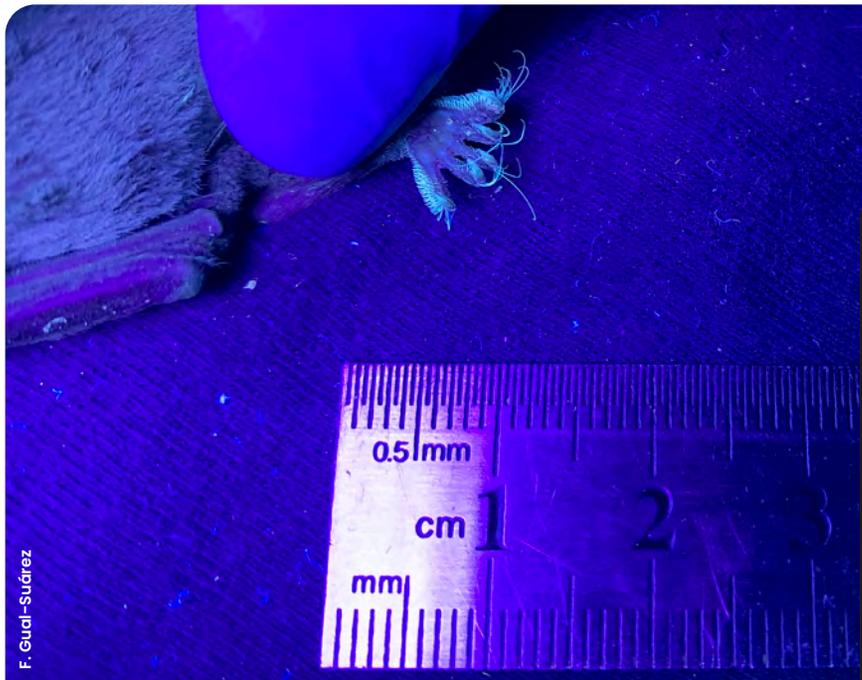


Workers gather as the HS2 bridge is completed – services are due to start between 2029 and 2033





MEXICAN BATS' GLOWING FEET!



SCIENTISTS have found that Mexican free-tailed bats have feet that glow under ultraviolet (UV) light.

The surprising discovery happened by accident when researchers were studying bat movement between roosts (shelters) near Mexico City.

The bats' toes have unique bristles that shine blue-green when UV light hits them.

Scientists think the bats might use this glow to communicate with each other in their dark, crowded colonies.

The findings were published in the journal *Mammalian Biology*.



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...

HARPY EAGLE



HABITAT:

Tropical rainforests of South and Central America.

FUN FACTS:

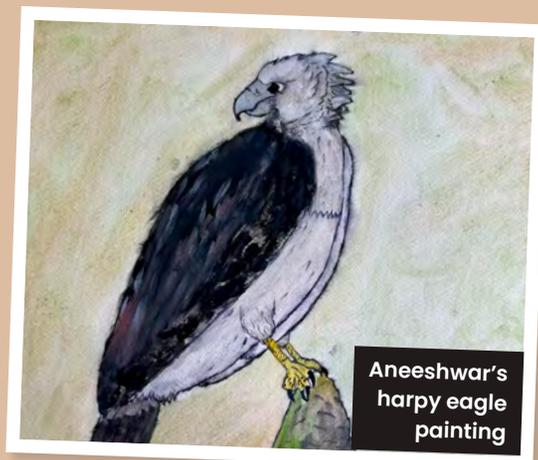
- Harpy eagles target mammals living in trees like sloths and monkeys.
- They can fly at speeds of 50mph in bursts to catch their prey.

SPECIAL SUPERPOWER:

Harpy eagles are the largest and strongest eagles in the world

CONSERVATION STATUS:

Vulnerable, says the International Union for Conservation of Nature.



Aneeshwar's harpy eagle painting

Pollution threatens soil health



SCIENTISTS have found that soil pollution is the biggest threat to creatures living underground.

Things like pesticides and heavy metals are causing huge problems for worms, insects and other small animals in the soil.

Dr Victoria Burton, co-author of the study from the Natural History Museum (NHM), said: "This is worrying, as there hasn't been a lot of research into the impacts of soil pollution, so its effects might be more widespread than we know."

This could be bad for growing food and keeping nature healthy.

Dr Burton is working with students from the NHM's National Education Nature Park to help them learn more about these hidden animals and feel inspired to uncover more.

Five new seabirds at risk

FIVE new seabird species have been added to the UK's red list of birds that need urgent conservation help.

The birds include the Arctic tern, known for its amazing long-distance flights, and the great skua, nicknamed the "sea pirate".

Others include the great black-backed gull, the common gull and Leach's storm petrel.

The list now has 10 out of 26 UK seabirds, and experts are worried that they are struggling due to climate change and lack of food.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is asking the government to take swift action to help the birds, calling it a "wake-up call".



The Arctic tern is among the seabirds at risk

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.

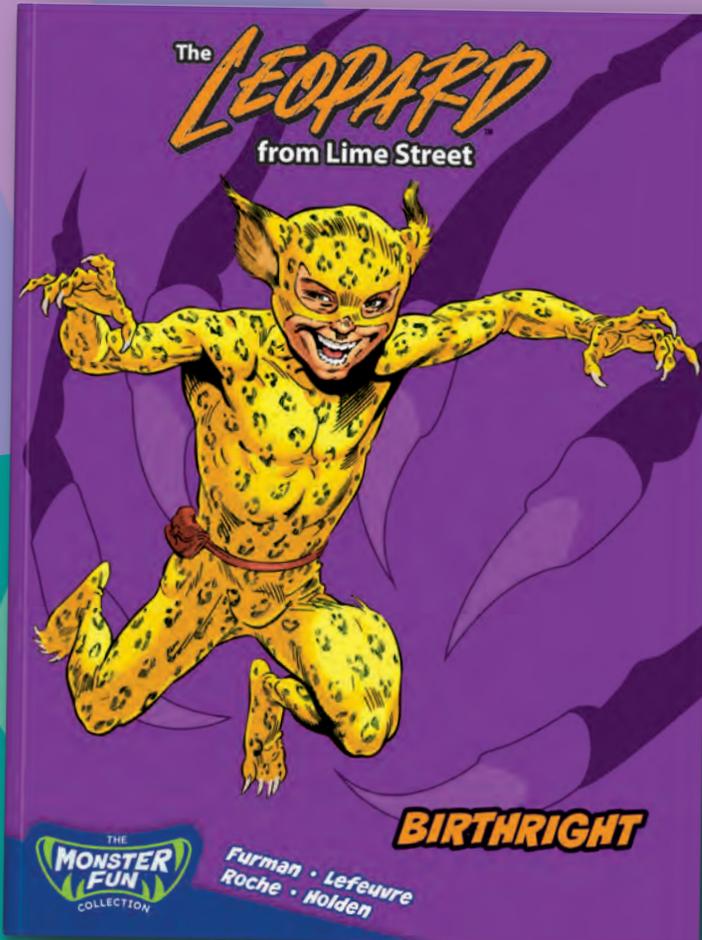


NEW BOOKS!

EPIC READING AWAITS IN THIS NEW SERIES OF GRAPHIC NOVELS!



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**Jamie Smart,
Bunny Vs Monkey**



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A CLUE TO THE MYSTERY OF PTEROSAUR FLIGHT

SOME well-preserved pterosaur bones have given scientists some clues about how these huge beasts might have flown.

Some experts think that the biggest pterosaurs wouldn't have been able to fly at all but, until now, we didn't really have much information to go on. That's partly because pterosaur bones are hollow, like those of modern birds, so they're never in as good a condition as other fossils.

"They are very fragile and are more likely to be found flattened like a pancake, if they are preserved at all," says Dr Kierstin Rosenbach, the lead author of the study in the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*.

Fortunately, two new fossils that were dug up in Jordan were so well preserved that the bones were still intact. One was of a large pterosaur with a 10m (33ft) wingspan, while the other was a species new to science that was about half the size. Both are thought to be somewhere between 66 and 72 million years old.

After scanning the bones, the researchers could see that the structure was similar to those of birds' bones. The larger specimen had bones very much like birds that soar high up in the sky, like vultures, while the smaller pterosaur's bones looked more like those of a bird that mostly flies by flapping its wings a lot.

Rosenbach thinks that the flapping flight probably came first, since that's the most common method in birds and bats, and even soaring birds need to flap a bit to gain some height.

IT'S thought that the largest pterosaurs could have weighed as much as 250kg (quarter of a tonne), with a wingspan of up to 12m (39ft). The wandering albatross has the largest wingspan of any existing bird, and that's only 3.5m (11.5ft)!

WOW!



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PTEROSAUR species came in a wide range of sizes. The smallest were only about as big as a paper plane, while the biggest were the size of a fighter jet!

DID YOU KNOW?

Use screens before bed, but not while *in* bed

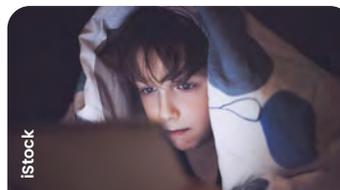
RESEARCHERS have studied the effect of screen use on kids' sleep, and found that using a device in bed for interactive games or tasks has the most harmful effect.

There's a lot of disagreement about how bad using screens before bed is, so a new study in *JAMA Pediatrics* tracked the sleep of 79 kids aged between 11 to 14, to try to learn more.

Cameras and wrist monitors were

used to track the kids' devices use and their sleep times, which showed that 99% of them used screens before going to bed, and more than half did after they got into bed.

The scientists found that using screens in the two hours before bedtime had no effect. However, using screens in bed reduced sleep times by enough that it could lead to health problems such as tiredness and poor concentration.



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Using screens in bed stopped kids from going to sleep for **half an hour** and reduced the amount of sleep they got

The effect was worse if devices were being used for interactive activities like **gaming** or if kids were using **multiple devices**



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A boy in China wearing a mask to protect himself from pollution

Wildfire pollution harming crops

WEATHER experts at the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) say that a "vicious cycle of climate change, wildfires and air pollution" is having an increasingly negative effect on people and the planet.

The organisation's latest *Air Quality and Climate Bulletin* has a focus on

AROUND eight million people around the world die every year due to the effects of air pollution, with 5m of those deaths caused by the burning of fossil fuels.

DID YOU KNOW?

the large number of wildfires that the world has had in recent years. Wildfires are made more severe by the effects of climate change.

Fires in the USA and Canada in 2023 released huge amounts of a type of pollution called PM_{2.5}, which is very bad for our lungs. But the report then talks about how PM_{2.5} also settles on crops, meaning they can't take in as much sunlight or regulate their water use properly, which leads to poorer harvests.

Some good news was that levels of PM_{2.5} in Europe were actually lower than normal, due to reductions in emissions from transport and industry.

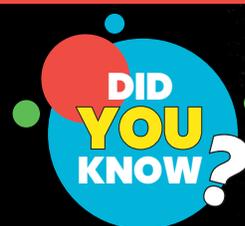
COOL FACTS CORNER



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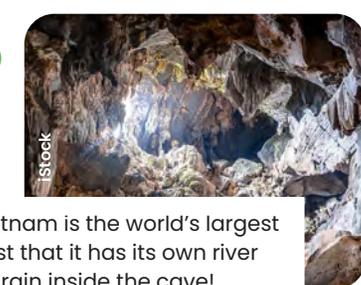
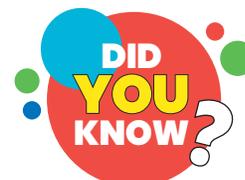
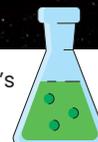


READY to wow your friends and family with some seriously fun facts?! Sergei Urban from TheDadLab shares his favourites...



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Saturn is the only planet in our solar system that's less dense than water. That means if you put it in a (very, very large) bathtub, it would float!



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Hang Son Doong in Vietnam is the world's largest natural cave. It's so vast that it has its own river and clouds, and it can rain inside the cave!

To give you an idea of how tiny an atom is, one bucket of water contains more atoms than there are buckets of water in the Atlantic Ocean!



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.



 **USA**



Are charging points driving an increase in sales?

Electric cars bring an unexpected bonus!

A study in California has shown that charging points for electric vehicles help to boost business for nearby shops. From January 2021 until June 2023, each shop gained, on average, an extra \$400 (£304) per year. It doesn't sound much, but it adds up to thousands more dollars being spent on a typical street. So, as well as helping the environment, electric vehicles help shop-owners, too! It could be that drivers grab a quick drink or snack while their vehicle charges up. Usually, the nearer the shop was to the charging point, the higher the rise in spending. Installing more charging points around the USA is seen as vital if switching to clean, green transport is to be a success. The findings were published in the journal *Nature Communications*.

 **CZECHIA**

Road named after Holocaust hero

An Englishman who saved the lives of hundreds of children during the Second World War has had a Czech street named after him. When Sir Nicholas Winton was 29, he helped 669 children, most of them Jewish, to escape Czechoslovakia after the Nazis invaded the country. Without his actions, it's likely that they would have been killed. To honour him, a new path under the tracks at Praha Bubny train station, in Prague, will be known as Nicholas Winton Street. Lady Milena Grenfell-Baines, one of the children he saved, said: "There's a big generation – thanks to him – alive today."



Sir Nicholas died in 2015, aged 106

 **ROMANIA**



MUSEO DE BUZAU

Amber looks like this



The old lady and the million-dollar doorstop

Once upon a time, a lady in Romania found a large rock in a stream. She took it home and decided to use it as a doorstop. Decades passed without her realising the true value of her find. When she died in 1991 the home passed to one of her relatives, who took a closer look at the rock, and thought it might be worth something. Now, the Spanish newspaper *El País* has reported that it's one of the largest amber nuggets in the world! It could be 70 million years old – which would mean it dates back to the time of the dinosaurs – and it's been valued at \$1 million (£760,000). It's being held in Romania's Provincial Museum of Buzau. Buzau County is known for its rich deposits of amber – fossilised tree resin, which sometimes contains the ancient remains of insects, feathers and animal hair.

 **PERU**



The Mashco Piro people

Loggers killed in clash with tribe

Two people from a logging company have been killed with arrows in a clash with a remote tribe in the Peruvian rainforest. Another was injured, and two more were missing when *First News* went to press. This summer, we reported that loggers, who clear trees in the rainforest, had strayed dangerously close to the territory of the Mashco Piro people. Caroline Pearce, director of the campaign group Survival International, said Peru's government shouldn't allow logging to happen there. She said: "This is a tragedy that was entirely avoidable. The government must... protect the Mashco Piro territory. If it doesn't, further tragedies are bound to happen."

 **GREECE**

Underwater village re-emerges!

The ruins of a Greek village that lay at the bottom of a lake for half a century have been revealed. The people of Kallo had to abandon their village so that it could be flooded to build a new dam in the 1980s. However, hot, dry conditions in the region have caused the lake's water to evaporate, exposing several of Kallo's 80 former homes, and even its old school. This summer, Greece experienced its hottest ever June and July. The prime minister, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, has asked the country to use water more carefully, saying: "We don't have the luxury to waste it."



This building lay underwater for 40 years!

 **NEW ZEALAND**

Coronation for new Māori queen

The Māori people – the indigenous (native) people of New Zealand – have crowned a new queen. Māori chiefs chose Kuini Ngā wai hono i te pō to take over after her dad, King Tuheitia, died last month, aged 69. In a grand ceremony, his body was sailed by river to his resting place on Mount Taupiri.



Kuini Ngā wai hono i te pō is the eighth Māori monarch

New Zealand is run by elected politicians, but the Māori people created a monarchy in the 19th century as a way to unite their different tribes and to protect their culture. The Māoris arrived in New Zealand 1,000 years ago – long before the British arrived and made it an overseas territory in 1840. The country gained independence from Britain in the 1940s.



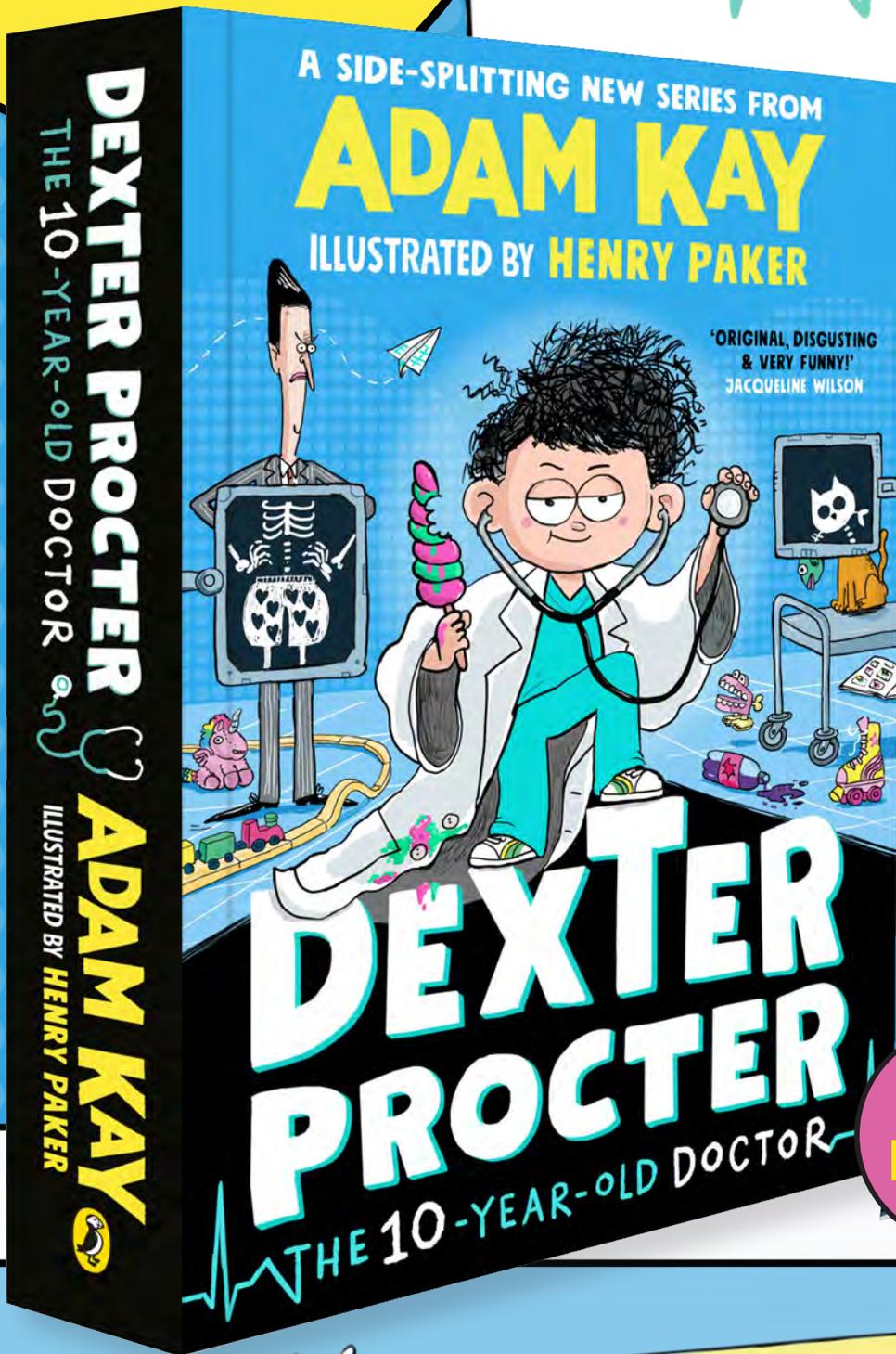
WIN!



DEXTER PROCTER

THE 10-YEAR-OLD DOCTOR

The hilarious new book from Adam Kay
the author of *Kay's Anatomy*



It was clear from the moment he was born

- He started speaking at four se
- By the age of five, he had 86 A-levels, from Afr
- Now aged ten, he's got his first job as

(but annoying)

Despite having a loving family and his best friends Rupi and Otto, Dexter ha is no different – grown-ups are always underestimating him and his jealous him fired. Meanwhile, there's a major problem at Dexter's old school: all terrible diarrhoea. Will Dexter be able to save his job, save the sch

WIN A COPY!

Three lucky *First News* readers will each win a copy of *Dexter Procter, The 10-Year-Old Doctor*. To enter, use your own big brain to answer this question:

What parts of your body are falling out and getting replaced when you're about ten?

- a) Teeth b) Tonsils c) Toenails

OUT NOW

"If laughter truly is the best medicine, book this hilarious appointment with Dr Procter immediately"
- David Baddiel

ARE YOU SMARTER THAN DEXTER?

Can YOU unscramble these medical words?
Answers are at the end of the page

But NO cheating!

Probably not, let's face it.

See if you can beat the time it took me: 0.0004 seconds.

1. OHSPIATL

2. VEINACC

3. SUNER



DEXTER PROCTOR

by Adam Kay

that Dexter was different.

conds old.
kaans to Zoology.
a doctor.

An unpleasant, incompetent man who has the most appalling body odour.

is never found it easy to fit in. And his new job colleague Dr. Drake is constantly trying to get the teachers have been struck down with cool and find his place in the world?

Why would you ask them? They haven't read it yet.



Email your answer to Puffin@uk.penguin.com with 'Adam Kay competition' as the subject line. The closing date is 4 October.

Postal address for entries: Lottie Halstead, Penguin Random House, One Embassy Gardens, 8 Viaduct Gardens, London SW11 7BW

For full T&Cs, see page 20.

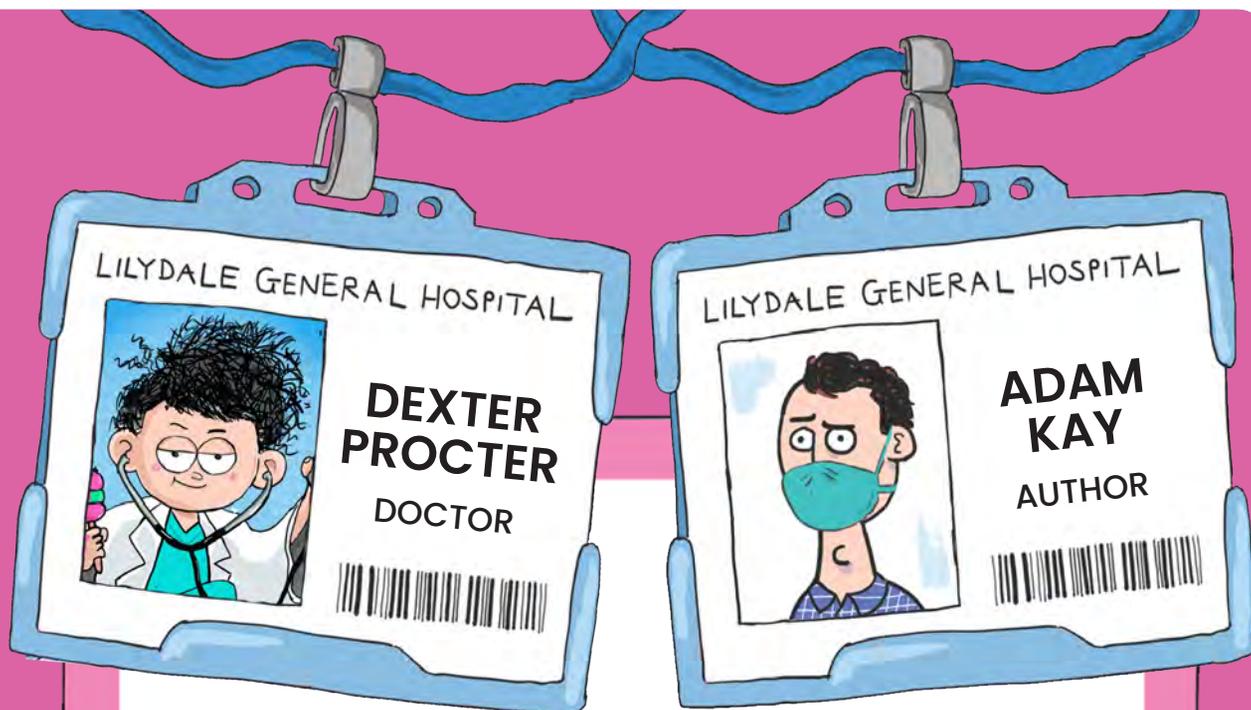
"Original, very funny and ultra-informative"
- Jacqueline Wilson



4. ANABDGES

5. GERRUSY

6. JURINY



MEET THE AUTHOR

Dexter Procter interviews Adam Kay, author of *Dexter Procter The 10-Year-Old Doctor*

● Was it a huge honour to write my official biography? (Please bear in mind that if you don't say "yes" then I'll tell everyone about what happened in that swimming pool at school when you were nine.)

Err, yes then.

● Thank you. In that case I won't mention that you pooped in it. Next question – any idea why they got you to write it? I wanted Philip Pullman.

I imagine he was a lot more expensive than me. I think it's probably because I used to be a doctor myself, and I've written some funny books in the past, such as *Kay's Anatomy*.

● Hang on, was that book supposed to be funny? I thought it was about as amusing as a week-long bout of diarrhoea. I notice that you had to get someone else to do the illustrations. What was it like working with Henry Paker? (Liz Pichon does all her own illustrations. Just saying.)

It was very fun indeed and the illustrations are amazing – Henry is brilliant and hilarious.

● Well, I'm glad one of you is. Who's your favourite author?

I have always really loved Jacqueline Wilson's writing. And to make it even better, she called my new book "original, disgusting and ultra-informative".

● She must have skimmed it. Right, why don't you tell everyone about me then? Try to use the word 'genius' a lot.

Dexter Procter was a genius baby who started speaking at the age of four seconds. Then he became a genius toddler who had 86 A-levels by the age of five. And by ten, he was working as the world's youngest ever doctor at Lilydale General Hospital. Because he's a genius. Is that enough?

● Almost. Who's your favourite character in the book? Apart from me, of course.

I'd say it's one of the other doctors at Lilydale Hospital, called Edwin Drake.

● Excuse me?! Dr Drake is a diabolical disaster of a doctor (reminds me of someone else, come to think of it). And finally, why do you think non-geniuses out there might relate to this book?

Because as well as being funny and silly and slightly disgusting, it's about finding your place in the world and accepting that it's okay to be different.

Thank you very much. I'd like to say it's been a pleasure interviewing you. (I'd like to, but that would be a total lie.)





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WELCOME to the video hub for *First News*! It's your best stop for factual videos you can trust. You can catch all the latest news stories from *FYI*, our Sky Kids partner news show presented for Sky News by kids, for kids. Learn about important topics with *FYI Investigates*, get homework help from the I Don't Get It explainers, watch our mental health films with Dr Alex George, and get up to date with the latest climate news in our science videos. Plus, there's much more to watch at first.news/TV.

EXPLORE OUR *FYI* SERIES

There are lots of *FYI* shows to watch on *First News* TV – find out more about some of them here!



WEEKLY NEWS SHOW

Watch the weekly news show, ready on *First News* TV every Saturday morning. You can catch up on the top news from the week in one handy place. The show is presented by brilliant young presenters – Thomas, Maya, Braydon, Scarlett, Jeriah and Iara.

QUICK NEWS

There's also lots to check out throughout the week, with our daily Quick News stories. Find out about crazy stories with OMG videos and test your detective skills with Fake News or Fact clips. Or, you can catch up on all the latest news in bite-sized chunks!



INVESTIGATES

Check out *FYI Investigates* for documentaries on issues you really care about, such as gaming addiction, living with a disability and vaping. And, there are more coming soon.



I DON'T GET IT

Don't get it? Well, you soon will with our series of I Don't Get It explainer videos on sooo many subjects – from fast fashion, to riots, to natural disasters, to weather, to refugees, to space and more.



...and more at [First News](https://first.news/TV) TV



Watch it at first.news/TV or scan the QR code!

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MENTAL HEALTH WITH DR ALEX

Dr Alex George presents a series of films, supported by the government, dedicated to mental health and well-being, exploring ways to deal with ups and downs in everyday life.



CLIMATE CRISIS

There's a whole section of videos dedicated to the climate crisis and ways to help our environment on *First News* TV. Find out about some of them here...



A brand new climate change series on FN TV! In this Science Museum Group six-part series we learn about how science and technology are helping to tackle climate change. You can also read about the episodes in each issue (p23 this week).



Watch the Save Our Wildlife series presented by Aneeshwar – whose column features on our Natural World page each week! This series looks at action we need to take on the climate to protect animals.



In this series, six children from six continents set out to explore solutions to the huge problems facing our planet. Young people investigate radical ideas that could offer some hope to the survival of our world.



AN EPIC SWIM FOR OCTOPUSES



HOW passionate are you about animals? Lily is a huge supporter of helping the world's octopuses. So much so, she decided to complete an epic 2km swim in the Atlantic Ocean - that's like swimming 80 lengths of your local pool without stopping! Check out the full report at [first.news/TV-quicknews](https://www.first.news/TV-quicknews).

● **Why does Lily love octopuses?**

Lily discovered all about octopuses after being set a task in school. She quickly realised they were her favourite animal, telling us: "Octopuses have some super cool abilities! For example, they can camouflage themselves, and they have nine brains and three hearts!"

● **Why does she want to help them?**

While doing some research, Lily found out about plans to build the world's first octopus farm in Spain's Canary Islands. The farm would rear around a million octopuses every year for people to eat. Lily said: "Octopuses like hanging out alone so being stuck in small tanks with other octopuses might make them aggressive, poorly and could even result in them eating each other."

● **What challenge did Lily set herself?**

Lily decided she wanted to take action against octopuses being kept in this way, so she came up with an idea to raise awareness and funds. She set herself the goal to

swim 2km of the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Portugal! Lily had to train for three months prior to the swim, and make sure she was used to all sorts of conditions that she might face in the ocean such as waves, currents and tides.

● **How did Lily feel when she'd completed her epic swim?**

Apart from being a little tired, Lily said she had "so much fun"! She also managed to raise over a whopping £9,000 for the animal charity Compassion in World Farming.

● **How did the company hoping to set up the octopus farm reply?**

The Spanish company, Nueva Pescanova, said that as wild octopus numbers are falling sharply, their plans will increase future octopus populations and that best practices will be adopted in their farming.

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



Octopuses are very intelligent creatures



Lily (in the pink cap) swims in the Atlantic with her support team

Plans to build the world's first octopus farm have been met with lots of opposition, with many scientists worried about the animals' welfare. What do you think about the plans?



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Start a **First News FYI News Club** at your school 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/TV](https://www.first.news/TV), or on Sky News and Sky Kids.

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WATCH MORE ON FYI

sky news

9-YEAR-OLD'S EPIC SWIM FOR OCTOPUSES

FYI FOR YOUR INFO

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

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KEEP DANCING!

STRICTLY'S BACK

GET those jazz hands at the ready and bust out the sequins, as our favourite dance show EVER is back on the box! Yes, folks, it's officially time for *Strictly Come Dancing*! Here are our ones to watch this year.



● **Tasha Ghouri**
The reality TV star and campaigner (Tasha raises awareness for the deaf community) already has some dance experience and loves to put on the glitz and glamour. She's also got a lot of social media followers! We're sure to see her sparkle on the dancefloor!



● **JB Gill**
Aside from being a friend of *First News*, JB is part of a huge boy band called JLS and already knows some pretty smooth moves! We're sure he's going to impress the judges from the get-go!



● **Sarah Hadland**
This actress is a little pocket rocket, with tons of energy and enthusiasm. She's also very funny! We think she'll come to life in the ballroom and be a hit with viewers!



● **Jamie Borthwick**
Jamie won the 2023 *Strictly Come Dancing* Christmas special, which means we've already got good vibes about how he'll do. We can see the *EastEnders* star making it all the way to the final again and, possibly, scooping a second glitterball win!



● **Tom Dean MBE**
We loved that Tom let slip that he was on *Strictly* while competing at this year's Olympics. The three-time Olympic swimming champion clearly has a competitive streak and doesn't let the pressure get to him. We think he's going to be a force to be reckoned with!

Strictly Come Dancing launches on the BBC and BBC iPlayer from 14 September



● **The Boy and the Heron gets digital release**

The Boy and The Heron, the biggest Studio Ghibli film ever in the UK, is available to rent and buy on digital from 16 September. The film made over £5m at the UK box office, and won an Academy Award, BAFTA and Golden Globe for Best Animated Feature.



● **Young people celebrated at Youth Proms**

More than 1,500 talented young musicians will perform at the Royal Albert Hall between 27-28 November as part of the Music for Youth Proms 2024. Ensembles, bands and choirs will take part, performing a range of different music styles. This year, there's also a special Thank Your Music Teacher campaign. Find out how to get involved at mfy.org.uk.



● **A Minecraft Movie is coming!**

Listen up, *Minecraft* fans – a brand new movie based on the hit video game is coming to cinemas next April! *A Minecraft Movie* will follow four misfits who find themselves struggling with ordinary problems when they are suddenly pulled through a mysterious portal into the Overworld. Will they be able to get back home? The movie's set to feature big names including Jason Momoa and Jack Black!





SEPTEMBER'S BIGGEST GAMES

OUR Game Zone is back, and we couldn't have picked a better time for it! September is always jam-packed with new game releases and this year is no different. So, as the nights draw in and it starts getting colder, here are three games we can't wait to check out!

Disney Epic Mickey: Rebrushed



**OUT 24
SEPTEMBER**

This fresh remake of the 2010 game *Disney Epic Mickey* sends everyone's favourite mouse on another epic journey. Armed with paint and Mickey's Magic Brush, you must take him through Wasteland, a world of forgotten Disney characters. Classic Disney characters Oswald the Lucky Rabbit and Yen Sid are just a couple of the encounters you'll have on your way to collecting virtual pins and unlocking new levels in Wasteland. Can you save the realm with just the stroke of a brush?

Disney Epic Mickey: Rebrushed is out on PC, PS4/5, Xbox One, XSX/S and Nintendo Switch.

The Legend of Zelda: Echoes of Wisdom



**OUT 26
SEPTEMBER**

The story continues for Princess Zelda who, with new powers, is tasked to save the Hyrule kingdom from a mysterious entity. As the name suggests, Zelda must learn "echoes" – exact copies of items discovered throughout the game – to help her tackle the many puzzles that stand in her way, and find people who have been taken from the kingdom. It's also the first Zelda game where Zelda is fully playable through the entire story. You won't be alone, though – a fairy called Tri will help you learn the art of creating echoes. You can even create echoes of enemies you've just defeated to fight on your side!

The Legend of Zelda: Echoes of Wisdom is available on Nintendo Switch.

EA Sports FC 25



**OUT 27
SEPTEMBER**

The world's most popular football game is back and, with England and Real Madrid star Jude Bellingham on the cover, it's set to be the biggest edition yet. Possibly the biggest addition to *EA Sports FC 25* (formerly *FIFA*) is tactics programmed by a brand new system called FC IQ, giving you more control over your players. There are also new game modes, including Rush, a fast-paced five-a-side battle. More than 19,000 players are ready to be utilised from more than 700 teams, in over 120 stadiums and 30 leagues.

EA Sports FC 25 is out on PC, PS5, PS4, Xbox Series X and S, Xbox One and Nintendo Switch. You can get it a week early by buying the Ultimate Edition.

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DAILY NEWS

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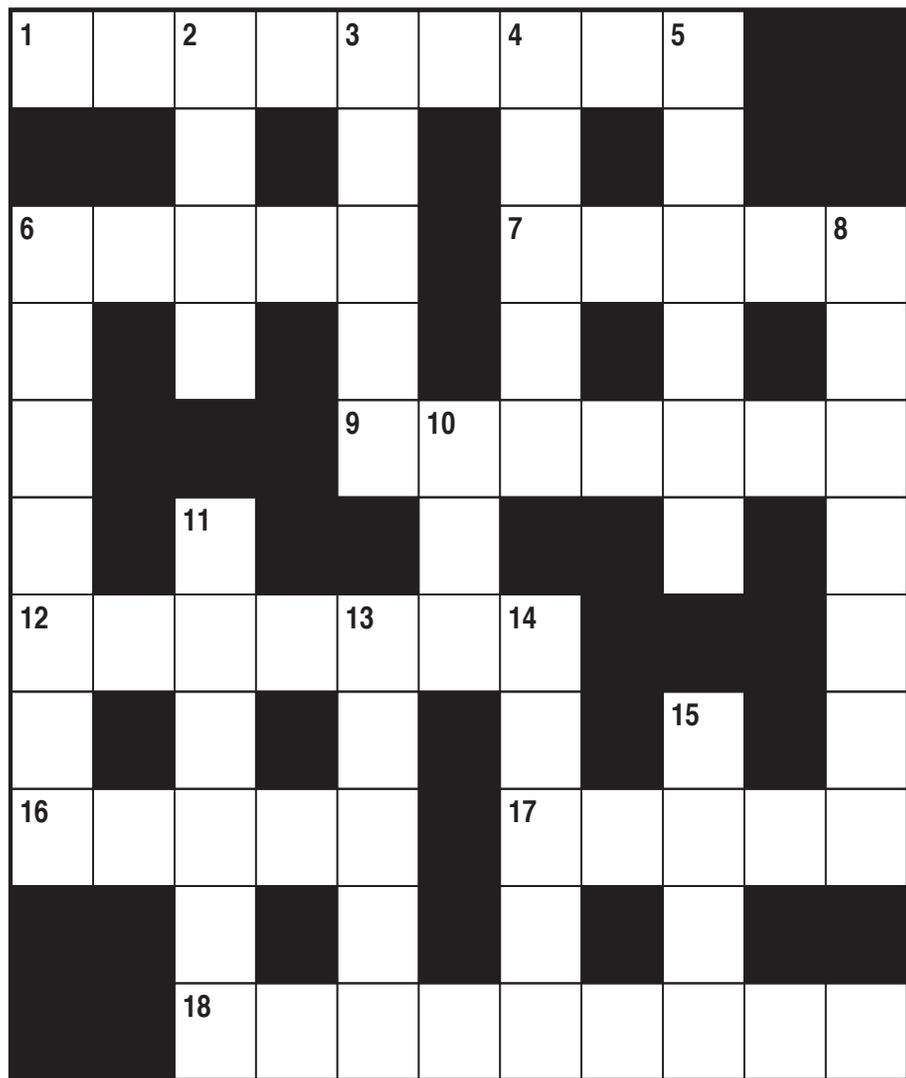
VIDEOS

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CROSSWORD

CAN you solve our crossword puzzle using the clues below?



ACROSS

- 1 E.g. Einstein or Newton (9)
- 6 Water vapour (5)
- 7 Gets paid (a salary) (5)
- 9 Total absence of sound (7)
- 12 Try to do something (7)
- 16 Come or go into a place (5)
- 17 Prepared for (5)
- 18 Very (9)

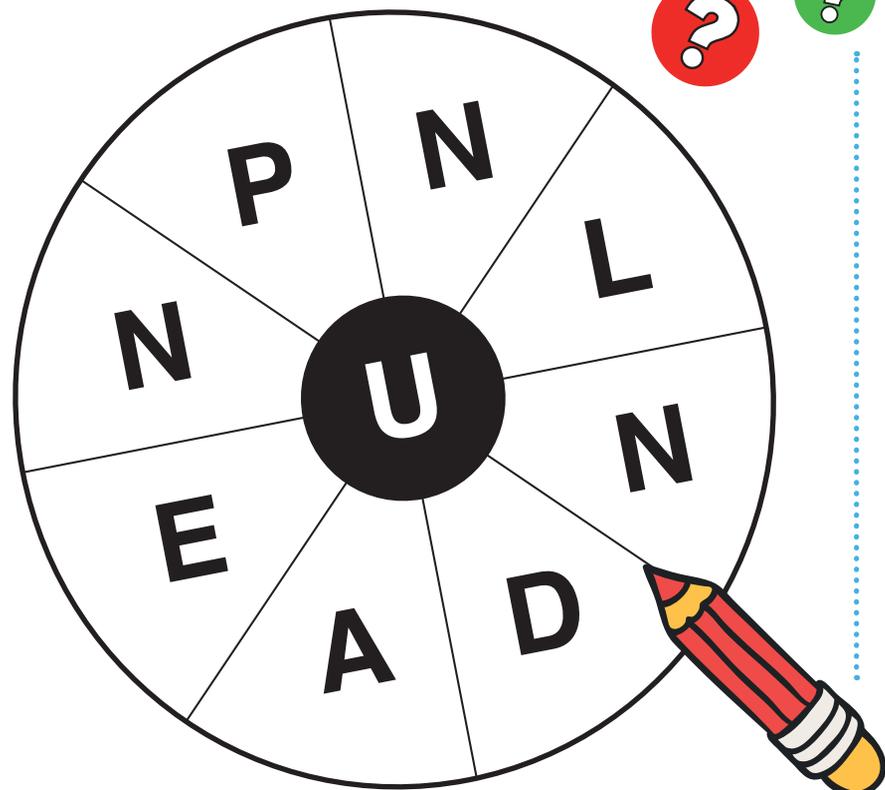
DOWN

- 2 Time (anagram) (4)
- 3 Titles (5)
- 4 Perfect or excellent (5)
- 5 Where the King sits on formal occasions (6)
- 6 Part of a hot dog (7)
- 8 Background on a theatre stage (7)
- 10 Mischievous legendary creature (3)
- 11 Sculpture (6)
- 13 Deserve (5)
- 14 A number (5)
- 15 Stop sleeping (4)



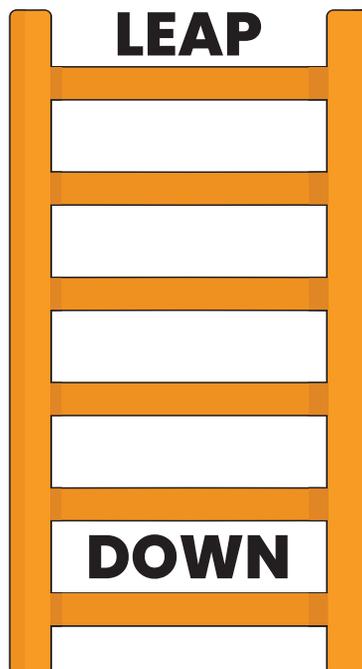
Word wheel

SEE how many words of three or more letters you can make, using the middle letter in each one. And can you find the word that uses all the letters?



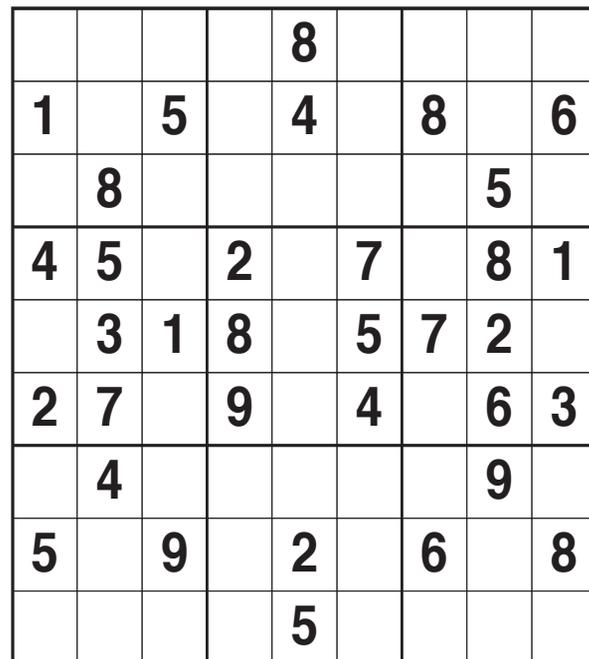
Word ladder

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



Sudoku

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

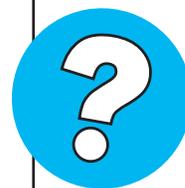
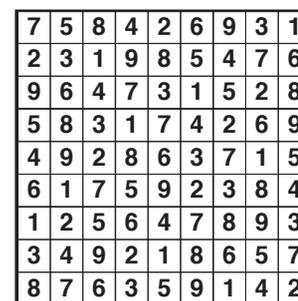
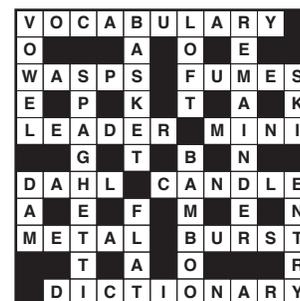


COMPETITIONS: To enter, email us at win@firstnews.co.uk putting 'competition name' (e.g. Holiday), in the subject box. Please include your parent or guardian's name, address and phone number. *First News* competitions are only open to those aged 15 and under and residents of the UK & Republic of Ireland, 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 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.

ISSUE 951 ANSWERS:

Word wheel: subscribe.

Word ladder: move, love, lose, lost, last, fast.



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



SPECTACULAR

★ WORLD RECORDS! ★

THE new Guinness World Records 2025 book is out and includes more than 2,000 mind-blowing records from around the world. Check out some of the most amazing achievements from the book:



LARGEST ELECTRIC TOOTHBRUSH!

THE largest electric toothbrush measures a whopping 2.008m (6ft 7 inches) and was created by Ruth Amos and Shawn Brown from the UK.

The pair run a YouTube channel called Kids Invent Stuff, which brings children's ideas to life. The giant toothbrush idea was given by 11-year-old George, who it has been named after. It took five days to create and since then they've been using it to brush things, chop things and even trim tree branches!



MOST SQUISHMALLOW!

SABRINA Dausman, aged 27 from Illinois, USA, has 1,528 Squishmallows and counting!

After six years of collecting the plushie toys, she now has the largest collection in the world. Sabrina has loved collecting things her whole life, especially stuffed animals. Her favourite Squishmallow is Sam because it looks just like her childhood dog Luca. She says Luca was her best friend, so having a Squishmallow that looks similar makes her feel like Luca is still with her.



LARGEST (TEENAGE) HANDS AND FEET

SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD Eric Kilburn Jr from Michigan, USA, holds the record for having the largest hands and feet on a teenager.

His feet measure 34.30cm (13.50 inches) and he wears a size 23 shoe. He also hasn't had a pair of gloves fit him for years as his hands measure an enormous 23.20cm (9.13 inches)! Eric gave advice to anyone with different physical features, saying: "It is okay to stand out. It can be hard to deal with people staring or asking questions at times, but it gives you more opportunity to meet really great people."



MOST 540 BACKSIDE SKATEBOARD TRICKS IN ONE MINUTE

THE record for the most 540 backside skateboard tricks was broken by nine-year-old Ema Kawakami from Japan.

The skilled youngster performed an amazing eight 540 backside tricks on his skateboard in just one minute. A 540 backside trick means the board spins in the air one and a half times. Ema's performance was recorded on the set of Lo Show Dei Record, in Milan, Italy, on 13 February 2024.

Itsy-bitsy Beetlejuice



FAMOUS micro-artist David A Lindon and his daughter Abigail have created a miniature Beetlejuice in the eye of a needle to celebrate the new *Beetlejuice Beetlejuice* film.

Each detail was carefully thought out, and David used a fly's antenna to individually place the white teeth into Beetlejuice's mouth.

One of the most challenging elements was knotting the tiny tie, and the whole project took the father and daughter duo four months to complete.

ha
ha
ha

JOKE
OF THE
WEEK



What do
dinosaurs clean
their teeth with?
With flossils!

Paper Boy!

Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer





Nicola lives on an amazing farm in real life!



FALL IN LOVE WITH AUTUMN!

SUMMER'S gone... but TV farmer and author Nicola Baker doesn't mind!

Her new story, *Rescuing Ruby*, is set in autumn – and it's Nicola's favourite time of year. "For me, there's nothing better than when the nights get darker, the weather's crisp and cold, you pop your bobble hat on and kick through the leaves!" she tells *First News*.

Rescuing Ruby is the second book in Nicola's heart-warming farm adventure series. The first book, *Finding Hope* – about a city girl called Ava who has to adjust to farm life – was released earlier this year.

In book two, autumn arrives on Whistledown Farm. One day, Ava comes to the rescue of

a tawny owl called Ruby. The sweet story is inspired by a special, real-life encounter from Nicola's childhood.

"I've always been fascinated with owls," she says. "When I was younger, I was in my room and heard a gentle tapping on my window... I pulled back the curtain and came face to face with a tawny owl! It's something I've never forgotten, and became the inspiration for Ava finding and helping Ruby the tawny owl. I even included the windowsill meeting in the book, too!"

Nicola's meeting with a tawny owl lasted just a few, magical minutes... but what will come of Ava and Ruby's new-found friendship?

***Rescuing Ruby* by Nicola Baker is out now.**

Meet the author

Ross Montgomery, author of *I Am Rebel*

● **What were you like as a kid?**

I think anyone who remembers me then would say that I was pretty odd!

● **What was your favourite school subject?**

English, obviously.

● **What snack do you love when you're writing?**

I have an unhealthy obsession with Marmite.

● **What do you do outside of writing?**

I love walking and, my absolute favourite, exploring!

● **What's your best-ever memory?**

Successfully catching a ball in rounders for the first time ever, aged 17.

● **Tell us a cool fact about yourself!**

I once fainted in front of the Queen (right). It was cooler than that sounds.

● **Describe *I Am Rebel* in three words.**

Thrilling heartfelt adventure!

● **Can you tell us about the main character?**

Rebel is a very, very good dog, who loves his owner Tom more than anything. He also loves tummy rubs.

● **What was the hardest part of writing it?**

I honestly loved writing this one – but I had to completely rewrite the final battle scene four times!

● **Would you like to live in the place your book is set?**

When I wrote the book, I was thinking a lot about the Scottish highlands – anywhere there would be perfect, they're stunning!

***I Am Rebel* by Ross Montgomery is out now.**



BIGGEST FIBS EVER TOLD!

LET'S PLAY A QUICK GAME OF FACT OR FIB!
Which of these are true, and which are false?

1. SPANISH EXPLORER FERDINAND MAGELLAN SAILED AROUND THE WORLD

2. FRENCH EMPEROR NAPOLEON BONAPARTE WAS REALLY SHORT

3. THE VIKINGS WORE HELMETS WITH HORNS ON TOP



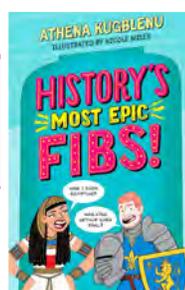
READY for the answer?

Even though a lot of people believe them to be true, all three are big fat fibs!

They're just three myths that are proven to be false in *History's Most Epic Fibs*, a clever new book by Athena Kugblenu (left). She's a comedian, podcaster and writer who has helped to create episodes of the CBBC show *Horrible Histories* – so she knows her stuff!

In a real treat for fans of that show, Athena picks apart some of the biggest fake news from history, and spills the beans on the ACTUAL truth.

***History's Most Epic Fibs* by Athena Kugblenu, illustrated by Nicole Miles, is out now.**



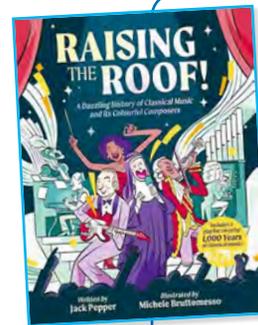
Recommended reads

in partnership with Peters



Show time

WITH the return of *The Voice UK* and *Strictly Come Dancing* to the TV, we've picked books all about performing and put them centre-stage as this week's recommended reads. We give them a ten!

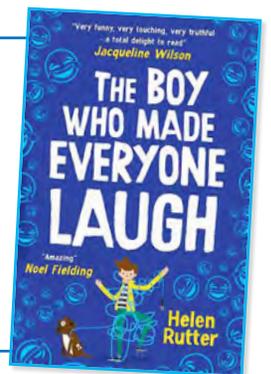


***Raising the Roof* by Jack Pepper, illustrated by Michele Bruttomesso**

Discover the dazzling world of classical tunes and awesome orchestras! Listen along as you read with the book's special playlist covering 1,000 years of music.

***The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh* by Helen Rutter**

Billy dreams of being a stand-up comedian, but he thinks he has one big problem: his stammer. Can he realise that his dream is still possible?

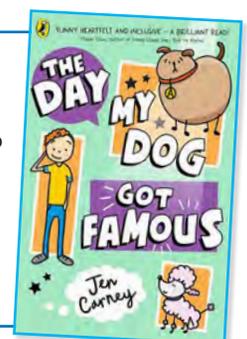


***A Drop of Golden Sun* by Kate Saunders**

Join child actor Jenny for a life-changing summer as she stars in (and saves!) a Hollywood movie inspired by *The Sound of Music*.

***The Day My Dog Got Famous* by Jen Carney**

Ferris Foster is determined to one-up his nemesis Destiny Dean and her famous pooch! Unfortunately, his dog Aldo is as talented as a teaspoon...



***The Spectaculars* by Jodie Garnish**

Follow Harper as she's whisked into the Wondria, where magical performers are gifted powers from the stars. Do you have what it takes to be a Spectacular?



HOW CAN OUR HOMES HELP TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE?

A modular (or 'flat-pack') home being built in a factory

IN the second of a six-part series of climate change films from the Science Museum Group, *FYI* presenters Scarlett and Jeriah find out how researchers are building homes that are energy efficient and better for the planet. 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-homes.

Around 17% of the UK's carbon emissions come from heating our homes, but lots of this warmth is wasted because our homes aren't as energy-efficient as they are in other countries. But lots of experts are working on ways of making sure new homes are much better, as well as figuring out the best way to insulate older houses.

● What's the problem?

Heating homes uses energy, usually from gas or electricity. In the UK, many homes are still powered by burning gas, which is one of the fossil fuels that is responsible for climate change. Unfortunately, most of our homes waste lots of energy when the heat leaks outside.

● Why are our homes so leaky?

On the whole, the UK's homes are the oldest in Europe. This is mostly because the Industrial Revolution began here, and the rapid changes in society led to large numbers of homes being built in cities and towns to house the workers that were needed. In some parts of the UK, more than 45% of the houses were built before 1919. Many older houses were built cheaply and quickly, when building standards weren't as good as they are now.

● What can we do about these old houses?

In the film, Jeriah visits Salford University, where they're testing houses inside huge temperature-controlled warehouses, where they can simulate the very worst British weather. This is allowing experts to work out the best ways of keeping heat inside older houses, such as adding insulation to the outside walls that's like "wrapping the whole house in a blanket".



The researchers in Salford can even make it snow to test their new houses!

● What about new homes?

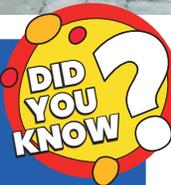
There are lots of ways that new homes keep the heat in better, from more airtight doors and windows, to better wall insulation. There are also carbon emissions from building homes, and these are being lowered by putting together some homes from pre-built sections, "like LEGO for adults".



New homes will be heated via electric heat pumps, so these units will be very common outside new homes

SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

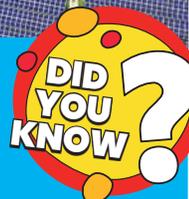
THERE are around 28.4 million homes in the UK, which are responsible for around 23% of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions. Between 1990 and 2022, the UK built 25% more homes, but reduced emissions from housing by 16.5%.



FROM 2025, any new homes built in the UK will have to match up to rules set by the government called the Future Homes Standard. This aims to make sure that any new houses produce 75–80% less carbon emissions than those built under rules right now.



SOLAR panels still produce energy even in the drab British winters. The National Grid says that in February 2022, solar power provided more than 20% of the UK's electricity.



Most homes built after 1930 have a cavity wall – an air gap between the outside and inside of the house – that helps keep heat in. Insulating the cavity traps even more heat, but around 5.1 million homes in the UK with a cavity wall don't have insulation in it

WATCH THE FILM



Go to first.news/science-museum-homes to watch the full film, or just scan the QR code!

This QR code should be scanned by a responsible adult.



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

Next month is Black History Month and we want to hear from you. What inspirational black figures would you like to recognise in the paper? How will you be celebrating black history and culture? Let us know to have the chance to be featured in the newspaper!

You can get a trusted adult to contact us via email at yournews@firstnews.co.uk.

SEVEN YEARS OF OUTSTANDING ATTENDANCE



Marco received an award



MEET Marco, a student from the Devonshire Hill Primary School, who achieved something amazing! He didn't miss a single day of school in seven years. Find out more from Marco about his commitment to his education and why it's so important to be in school.

by Marco, aged 11

My name is Marco, I am eleven and I attended The Devonshire Hill Primary School in Haringey from September 2017 until July 2024. Year 6 graduation offered a very big surprise as my headteacher, Ms D'Abreu, called my name to present me with a very special award. I was the first student in the school to be recognised for never being absent during seven years of education.

This achievement is so important to me and I hope it inspires other children. Going to school every day helps us to learn new things, to maintain friendships, to develop routine and discipline. My favourite subjects are English, science and geography. I also love football, reading books and playing computer games.

It makes me so happy that my success has been acknowledged by the Mayor of London and his Children and Young Londoners team, as well as Haringey's Director of Children's Services – Ann Graham. I still can't believe that I was awarded a football signed by Mason Mount. This made my day.

My seven years at Devonshire Hill were very good. I want to thank all of the staff for the hard work they do.

Meet Gladiator Steel!

JUNIOR journalist Sophie recently had the chance to ask Zack George aka Gladiator Steel some questions. He is one of the latest gladiators in the new series of the hit TV show *Gladiators*! Zack has also launched a new initiative for schools called Zactiv, which is helping to boost children's confidence.

by Sophie Cole

● Why did you become a Gladiator?

I became a Gladiator because I wanted to inspire and motivate the nation into getting healthier and fitter. Becoming a Gladiator has allowed me to do that and it means I can reach a wide audience with this important message.

● Why did you choose the name Steel?

I chose the name Steel because steel is strong, tough and unbreakable and that's exactly what my character is.

● How strong are you? Are you the strongest Gladiator?

My strength as a Gladiator is that I am an all-rounder so I can go on any game and perform well in any of the events. I wouldn't say that I am the outright strongest Gladiator in terms of lifting weight, because someone like Giant is a lot bigger, but my strength is being the all-round Gladiator.

● What would you say to children who want to be more active?

For children who want to get active I would say things like playing a sport, going for walks and joining in with basic fitness movements within your family would be the best way to start, as you don't want to be in the gym doing weights until you're a little bit older.

● What has been your biggest challenge in your journey to become a Gladiator?

My biggest challenge in becoming a Gladiator was all the way back when I was younger. I used to be overweight, have low confidence and low self-esteem. My biggest challenge was



Matt Meiling

Zack George is also known as the Gladiator Steel!

Meet Sophie

sorting out my nutrition and making sure I was eating the right things, as well as getting into health and fitness. Making the first step is challenging when you are wanting to make a change and adopt a healthier lifestyle.

THIS WEEK'S POLL!

We asked 1,645 of you:

Would you eat food grown in human poo?

29% of you said YES

71% of you said NO

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Vote at first.news/polls



Join our 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/fynewsclub to find out more.



Favourite moments from Wilderness festival



The twins enjoyed their time exploring the festival

IN THE summer, budding junior journalist Maya had the chance to go to Wilderness festival in Oxfordshire. The festival has lots of great things for families and children to explore. She reports back for *First News* – read all about it here!

by Maya, aged eight

In the summer I went to the Wilderness festival with my twin sister Ruby and my parents.

This is our third time here and we have such a good time. The weather is always nice and there is lots of music that we love to dance to. This year we really liked Alison Goldfrapp, her outfit was

beautiful. We always wear ear defenders though because the music can get quite loud.

My favourite part of all is the family field. There are lots of fun things to do. This is where I got my face painted with glitter, there's a magic show and storytelling. I enjoyed the Orchestra of Objects, where we could play music with all sorts of strange things. There is a fairground too with a helter-skelter.

Lots of people dress up in costumes. Some are amazing and very silly, but everybody is happy and relaxed. The food is great too. My favourite was the chocolate bubble waffles. Maybe we'll see you there next year.



Alison Goldfrapp performed at Wilderness

IN NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE!



NATIONAL CAT AWARDS WINNERS!

EXCITING CREATIVE WRITING COMP!



ADAM KAY INTERVIEW



DON'T MISS IT!

"Amazingly magical and wickedly funny!"
First News

David Walliams AWFUL AUNTIE LIVE ON STAGE!



FABULOUS FAMILY FUN!

A THRILLING ADVENTURE COMING TO YOUR THEATRE!

See reviews, photos and show trailer at awfulauntielive.com

SECOND HAND SEPTEMBER

OXFAM'S Second Hand September is back this month, making it the perfect time to think about the way we shop and how we can all do more to help the planet.



Watch our FYI film on fast fashion at first.news/idgi

● **The facts**

In the UK, we buy more clothes per person than in any other country in Europe! Around 300,000 tonnes of clothing end up in household bins every year, with around 20% going to landfill and 80% incinerated (burnt). Synthetic fibres can take hundreds of years to break down and, when they're sent to landfill or burnt, they can release harmful microfibres into the environment.

Some of this unwanted clothing is sent to low-income countries for recycling or resale in second-hand markets. However, many of these clothes also end up being dumped in landfill, creating a waste crisis on the other side of the world.

● **What is sustainable fashion?**

Sustainable fashion is about creating and using clothes in ways that are better for the environment and the people making them. There are lots of ways to make fashion more sustainable, from rethinking how clothes are produced, to repairing and reworking, and shopping second hand.

● **What is 'fast fashion'?**

Fast fashion is when clothes are made very quickly and cheaply to keep up with trends. Lots and lots of these

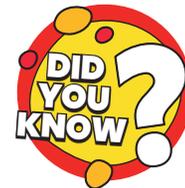


Shop pre-loved items and donate your unwanted things to charity shops

clothes are produced, which means a high cost to the planet, due to the large amounts of water, materials and energy used by the clothing industry. Fast fashion often also means low wages and poor working conditions for those making the clothes.

THE IMPACT ON PEOPLE AND THE PLANET

- Buying one pair of second-hand jeans and a T-shirt could save the equivalent of **20,000 bottles of water!**
- When a new pair of jeans is made, an estimated **16.2kg of CO₂** is emitted – the same as driving more than **58 miles (93km) in a car!**
- The average person now buys **60%** more clothing than they did 15 years ago. In the UK, we buy more clothes per person than any other country in Europe.
- **10%** of global carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions are caused by the clothing industry.
- UK consumers send **6,461 tonnes** of clothing a week to landfill. That's **more than three times** the weight of the London Eye!



What is climate justice?

WHILE the climate crisis is affecting us all, it's hitting some communities harder than others.

People facing poverty in the world's lowest-income countries are the ones who suffer the most. They often don't have access to the support needed to



Lots of unwanted clothes end up in landfill



Everyone is encouraged to recycle and reuse

survive and recover from extreme weather, such as having clean water during a drought, or house insurance to help rebuild their homes after they've been destroyed by floods. It's not fair that our ability to cope with the climate crisis is based on where we live, what resources we have available, and what part of society we belong to. Second Hand September aims to put a stop to that and encourage more people to think about where their clothes come from and how they can make more out of them, instead of just throwing them out when we don't want them any more.

Every year the fashion industry uses enough water to fill **37 million** Olympic sized swimming pools

SECOND HAND SEPTEMBER

"I love that, with shopping second hand, you can find something completely unique, which no-one else has, that you can customise and also feel really good about wearing, knowing the money has gone to a good cause and you're giving those clothes a second chance of life."



– TV presenter and actor Cat Deeley, Oxfam's Second Hand September campaign ambassador

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 After their classroom flooded, what type of building did students in Exeter end up having school lessons in?



2 Dwayne Fields takes over from Bear Grylls as the UK's new what?



Getty

3 How many Guinness World Records does our very own Aneeshwar now hold?



Guinness World Records

4 The Māori people are native to which country: Australia or New Zealand?

5 The UK's longest railway bridge has been built for which high-speed line?



6 Reality TV star Tasha Ghouri is one to watch on which returning dance show?



BBC

7 Where did ParalympicsGB finish in the final Paris medal table?



8 Which Italian city, pictured, faces floods every year?



Getty

9 What is the only planet in our solar system that would float in a (very, very large) bathtub?



10 Which actor joined the prime minister to help tackle knife crime?



Getty

11 How many seabird species have been added to a UK list of birds that need help?

12 How many harmful vapes make up this unique sculpture?



GWR

13 What is the name of this London tower block at the centre of a new report?



Getty

14 What is the name of the new Blue Peter competition for kids who care about the environment?



15 San Marino's football team picked up their first win in how many years?



F50c Official Instagram

- Answers:**
1 A castle 2 Chief Scout 3 Two 4 New Zealand 5 HS2
6 Strictly Come Dancing 7 Second 8 Venice 9 Saturn
10 Idris Elba 11 Five 12 4,500 13 Grenfell Tower
14 Earthshot Competition 15 20 years

“MOST SPECTACULAR PARALYMPICS EVER”



Cyclist **Sarah Storey** (left) already went into these Games as Britain’s most decorated Paralympian ever, but she expanded her medal collection further with two golds in Paris. Storey has now won 30 medals overall, including 19 golds. She made her Paralympic debut in 1992 and won 16 medals in swimming before switching to cycling in 2008.



Britain’s **Alfie Hewett** (above, right) and **Gordon Reid** won gold in the wheelchair tennis men’s doubles competition. It was an especially sweet victory as the pair had previously lost the doubles finals at both Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020. This year’s win gave Reid a fifth Paralympic medal. Hewett went on to lose the men’s singles final to Japan’s Tokito Oda.



France’s blind football team thrilled a packed arena at the Eiffel Tower when they beat Argentina 3-2 on penalties to take gold. Blind football teams are made up of four outfield players and one goalkeeper. All outfield players, who are blind, wear eye masks. The ball makes a noise that helps players follow it. As a result, spectators must stay silent while watching the game, until a goal is scored.

Iona Winniffrith, aged 13, became Britain’s youngest Paralympic medallist this century when she won silver in the women’s SB7 100m breaststroke. Scan the QR code below to watch an *FYI* report about the youngest member of the ParalympicsGB squad.
*This QR code should be scanned by a responsible adult.

MEET BRITAIN'S YOUNGEST PARALYMPIAN

FYI
FOR YOUR INFO

THE record-breaking Paralympic Games ended with a massive dance party at the Stade de France in Paris at the closing ceremony last weekend.

The president of the International Paralympic Committee, Andrew Parsons, described them as the “most spectacular Paralympic Games ever”. History was made this year by a record number of competing countries (169) and the highest ever combined ticket sales for the Olympics and Paralympics (12 million).

On this page we highlight a few of the stand-out stars and stats from the 12 days of elite para sports.

The final medal table

				TOTAL
1 China	94	76	50	220
2 GB	49	44	31	124
3 USA	36	42	27	105
4 Netherlands	27	17	12	56
5 Brazil	25	26	38	89

117

of the 215 British athletes in Paris won medals at the Games, as ParalympicsGB scooped 49 golds and 124 medals overall. That’s the same as their overall medal total from Tokyo 2020, but with 8 more golds.

3

ParalympicsGB athletes won 5 medals each, making them the most successful members of the 2024 team. Swimmer Poppy Maskill (right), aged 19, took 3 golds and 2 silvers. Wheelchair racer Sammi Kinghorn won 1 gold and 4 silvers, while swimmer Alice Tai got 2 golds, 1 silver and 2 bronze medals.



3

gold medals were won by Cuban sprinter Omara Durand Elias. The partially sighted athlete and her guide, Yuniur Kindelan, won the women’s 100m, 200m and 400m in the T12 category. It’s the third Games in a row that Durand has won the triple. She retired after this year’s Paralympics, having won a career total of 11 golds.

Braydon’s on the ball



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

With the Premier League action taking a break for international football, **Centre Stage** this week comes from a most unlikely country. Surrounded by Italy, San Marino has a population of just 33,000, which – to give you an idea of size – is roughly half the size of Manchester. Many of the players are part-time and combine their football with regular jobs, so it was incredible to see them secure their first win in just over 20 years and 140 games with a goal from 19-year-old Nicko Sensoli. The statistics are incredible and Sensoli cemented his place in the country’s history with the goal in the 53rd minute which gave them a 1-0 victory over Liechtenstein, and a first win since April 2004! Some of you may remember they were hammered 10-0 by England in a World Cup qualifier back in November 2021. Amazing scenes and a rare chance to celebrate a well overdue win for them. Brilliant!



The international break also gives our lower-league teams a chance to take the spotlight, and it was Wrexham that, again, caught the eye in League One as they push for more success and back-to-back promotion. Although it’s very early in the season, Wrexham already look strong and with their Hollywood backing (they’re owned by actors Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney), it seems that they’re well on the way in writing their own football fairytale. A 3-0 win over Shrewsbury sees them on top of League One and unbeaten in the first five games.

The good news is that the international break was only a short one, and the Premier League is back on Saturday. There is a full set of fixtures starting with Southampton vs Man United in the early kick-off, but look out for the North London derby when Spurs take on Arsenal in the top game of the weekend on Sunday afternoon.

Braydon’s Player of the Week: Nicko Sensoli, San Marino’s new national hero.

Braydon’s Team of the Week: San Marino, one game unbeaten, forget about the last 140 now!

Watch my weekly video on the *First News* app.

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