

NEWS KIDS CAN TRUST

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR\*



# First News



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## MUSIC MATTERS AS MUCH AS MATHS

SAYS SCHOOLS BOSS,  
EDUCATION SECRETARY  
BRIDGET PHILLIPSON

PLUS  
HER VIEWS ON  
ONLINE SAFETY,  
MISSING LESSONS  
FOR HOLIDAYS,  
AI, FREE SCHOOL  
MEALS, AND  
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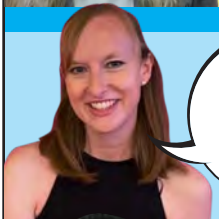
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## MEET THE TEAM



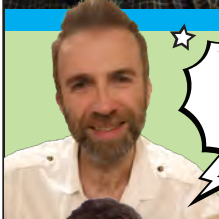
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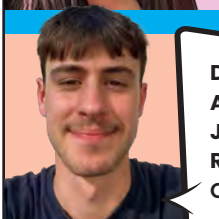
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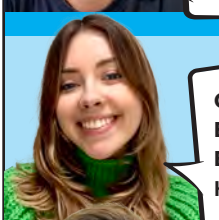
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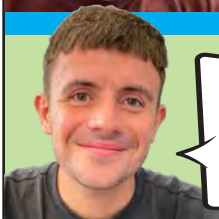
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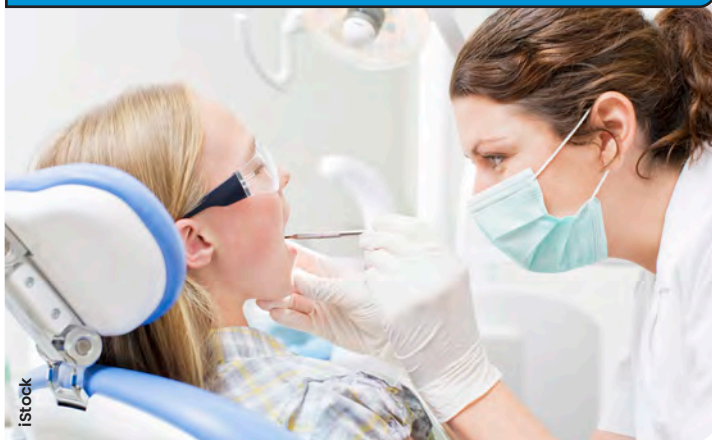


Creative Director  
Richard Robson



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Dan Jordan

### Urgent action needed on kids' tooth decay, says report



The government needs to do more in England to stop children's teeth from rotting, says a report by Child of the North and the Centre For Young Lives. The study suggests expanding the sugar tax to cover sugary milk drinks and stopping under-16s from buying energy drinks. Last year, there were more than 47,500 tooth removals in NHS hospitals for young people aged 0-19, and two thirds of these were because of tooth decay. Prime Minister Keir Starmer said he "couldn't believe" the figures and that the government will work towards improving things.

### Scottish schools embrace hair diversity in new guidance



New guidance encourages Scottish schools to create inclusive uniform rules that celebrate all hairstyles. The advice aims to prevent discrimination based on race, religion or disability. Schools are asked to be flexible about hairstyles linked to cultural identity or specific hair types. The guidance also suggests allowing head coverings for religious or medical reasons. Teachers will receive training to understand the importance of different hairstyles and to promote equality. The goal is to create a welcoming environment where all students feel comfortable.

### Schools to receive help to strengthen communities



The government has announced a new plan to help schools bring people together. It will give £15 million to fix damage from the recent riots and strengthen communities. The money can be used by councils to repair shops and buildings that were affected, but it could also pay for group activities that help young people from different backgrounds become friends. Experts say that schools are really important for this and think that teaching kids about getting along with others from a young age could prevent future problems. The government hopes this will make neighbourhoods happier and safer for everyone.

## HAVE YOU

### NHS urges parents to take young children for flu vaccinations



Doctors are asking parents to get their young kids vaccinated against the flu. The NHS wants two and three-year-olds to get the flu vaccine before winter, when flu starts to spread. Most kids can get a painless quick spray up their nose, unless their diet or religion means they can't have it, as it contains an ingredient that comes from pigs. The flu makes many people sick every year, and experts predict a surge in illnesses. Steve Russell from the NHS said: "I would urge everyone eligible to book their jabs when they become available, to protect themselves and people around them."

### Generation Alpha are money smart, claims report



A new report from GoHenry, the children's money app, says that kids like you who were born after 2010 are becoming financial influencers in their families. These young people, known as Generation Alpha, greatly impact how their parents spend and save money. The study found that kids influence over a quarter of family spending, and 67% of them introduce their parents to new brands. Gen Alpha kids are also earning and saving more than ever before, with the biggest motivator being the ability to buy more items without depending on parents.



## HEARD?



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

### Too much screen time hurts kids' language skills



A new study shows that children in families who use screens a lot have weaker language skills. Scientists in Estonia looked at more than 400 children to see how screen time affects kids' vocabulary. They found that when parents use screens more, their children do too, which leads to poorer language development in children aged two and a half to four. The study in *Frontiers in Developmental Psychology* also found that videogames had the biggest negative effect on language skills. Researchers believe face-to-face talking with parents is crucial for young children to learn language efficiently.

### First News' Look Up! campaign begins



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. 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. 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 by going to [first.news/lookupteachers](https://first.news/lookupteachers).

### Could you be the next Harry, Hermione or Ron?



TV company HBO has started a casting call for young actors to star in a new TV adaptation of the *Harry Potter* book series. The studio is looking for children from the UK and Ireland to play the main characters of Harry Potter, Hermione Granger and Ron Weasley. Applicants have to be aged 9–11 in April 2025 and need to send two short videos: one with a poem or story (but not from *Harry Potter*) and another introducing themselves. The search welcomes kids from all backgrounds and races. The deadline to apply online is 31 October.

### Battle of Waterloo trench discovered



Archaeologists and veterans excavating the remains of horses killed in the battle

A team of veterans and archaeologists from the charity Waterloo Uncovered have made an amazing discovery at the site of the Battle of Waterloo, which took place in 1815. They discovered a trench at Mont-Saint-Jean farm in Belgium that soldiers used to bury their fallen comrades and horses in. The team uncovered human bones, horse remains, and even amputated limbs. This gives us a clearer picture of how tough it was for soldiers after the fighting ended. Professor Tony Pollard, who led the dig, explained how unique the find was and how it reveals that soldiers tried to be respectful even in terrible conditions.

### Tiny dinosaur uncovered in Japan

Scientists from Japan and Canada have found a new dinosaur species in Japan, smaller than an average dog! Named *Sasayamagnomus saegusai*, this plant-eater was only about 80cm long and weighed around 10kg (1.6 stone). It's related to the famous *Triceratops* but lived much earlier. The discovery, reported in *Papers in Palaeontology*, suggests these dinosaurs moved from Asia to North America about 110 million years ago. Scientists believe they likely crossed a land bridge connecting the continents when the Earth was much warmer, with forests even in the Arctic.



Carlleton University

### Schools see better results with diverse books, says report



A new report for the Lit In Colour campaign says schools should use more books that students can relate to, including stories by writers from different backgrounds. Famous children's author Malorie Blackman (above) thinks this will help more kids enjoy reading. She says it's important for students to see themselves in books they study. One school tried this by using Blackman's book *Boys Don't Cry*, and says its exam pass rate went up from 50% to 76%. Teachers said students were more interested when reading books by authors from various cultures.

#### ● WORLD CLEANUP DAY 20 SEPTEMBER

A global call to help build a cleaner, waste-free planet. Get involved at [worldcleanupday.org](https://worldcleanupday.org).

#### ● WORLD RHINO DAY 22 SEPTEMBER

Raises awareness and funds for the five species of rhinoceros around the world, all of which are under threat from illegal hunting for their horns.






**36.6%**

of Year 6 pupils are "overweight or living with obesity" – up from 33.2% ten years ago.

# TAKING TEMPTATION OFF THE TELLY

ONE year from now, it's unlikely you'll see any adverts for burgers or fries on TV unless you're still up past bedtime.

That's because the government has announced that, from October 2025, junk food adverts won't be allowed to be shown on TV until 9pm. It's also bringing in a total ban on junk food companies paying for online adverts.

As well as takeaways, crisps and chocolate, the ban could even apply to things like cereal, yoghurt and croissants, if the government doesn't think they're healthy enough.

The aim is to tackle rising childhood obesity in the UK. The most recent figures show that more than a third of

children are "overweight or living with obesity" when they leave primary school.

## Pressure on the NHS

The government's Health Minister, Andrew Gwynne, says that adverts influence what foods children prefer, and that obesity is putting strain on the nation's health service, the NHS.

A report this month said the NHS is in a "critical condition", with patients facing long waits for treatment. There are 109,000 children waiting more than a year for mental health support.

The government is working on a new ten-year plan to fix the health service.

**DID YOU KNOW?**
**63%**

Liverpool City council has banned junk food adverts from the city's billboards. One in three Year 6 children in Liverpool are overweight, and that figure rises to 63% of its adults.

Do junk food adverts make you feel hungry?

Let us know at [first.news/polls](https://first.news/polls)

## Butterfly emergency

BUTTERFLY sightings in the UK have reached a record low, in what a leading wildlife charity has called a "butterfly emergency".

The Big Butterfly Count 2024, run by Butterfly Conservation, has recorded the fewest butterflies since the project began in 2010.

More than 85,000 people, young and old, took part in the project this summer, counting the number of butterflies they saw in 15 minutes. In total:

- 143,241 counts were submitted
- 935,000 butterflies and moths were spotted – an average of seven per count.

That's a steep fall from last year's average of 12 butterflies per count. In fact, more than 9,000 of the counts reported seeing no butterflies at all.

Butterfly Conservation wants the UK to ban all butterfly-killing pesticides (substances that protect plants from insects). Dr Richard Fox, the charity's Head of Science, said: "Nature is sounding the alarm call. We must act now if we are to turn the tide on these rapid declines and protect species for future generations."

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## Phone ban for 35,000 pupils



What are your school's rules?

A GROUP that runs 42 schools across England has announced that it's going to stop its 35,000 pupils from touching smartphones during the school day.

The new ban began in eight of the Ormiston Academies Trust's (OAT) schools at the start of the new term, and it will go on to be introduced in its 34 other schools, too.

The OAT's chief executive, Tom Rees, thinks that phones have had a "catastrophic" impact on children's learning.

He said: "There's evidence that... even if your phone is in the same room – in your bag or pocket – your brain is leaking attention, still thinking about it, wondering if there's been a notification on it and what it might be. That's impacting young people's ability to learn."

Around 90% of Year 7 pupils in the UK own a mobile phone – but schools across Europe are getting tougher on them in order to protect kids' mental wellbeing.

The government's schools boss, Bridget Phillipson, says that she thinks the OAT's new rules are the right thing to do.

Read Phillipson's full interview on page 24.

## EDITOR'S COMMENT

IT was good to put your questions to the education secretary this week – she has the power to affect your school life (p24 and p25).

I was happy to hear her say that she thinks creative subjects like music, art and drama are just as important as things like maths and science. You can't help think that, in the AI world we are in now, human creativity can't ever truly be replaced. If you look at a picture created by AI, it just doesn't have the same soul as one you know has been painted with emotion by a human. That means I look at it differently, and feel differently, too. What do you think?



Nicky Cox MBE



Will he hit 1,000?

GOOD WEEK

## Cristiano Ronaldo

THE footy legend scored his 900th and 901st career goals in Portugal's wins over Croatia and Scotland. Then, his week got even better when he became the first person to ever hit one billion followers across all his social media channels (in case you were wondering, Taylor Swift is quite a bit behind, on about 600 million!).

## Apple

THE tech giant has been ordered to pay a whopping £11 billion in unpaid taxes to Ireland. Apple's headquarters for Europe, the Middle East and Africa are in Cork and, from 2003 to 2014, it was allowed to pay Ireland a tiny 0.005% of its yearly profit in tax. The European Court of Justice has ruled that this wasn't enough, and that it gave Apple an unfair advantage over its rivals.

Apple's Irish HQ



## 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.





# "A PERFECT WORLD!"

AN American billionaire has become the first non-professional astronaut to do a spacewalk (exit a vehicle while in space).

Jared Isaacman, aged 41, had paid for the SpaceX mission, which was named *Polaris Dawn*.

He blasted off with three other people – mission pilot Scott 'Kidd' Poteet and SpaceX engineers Anna Menon and Sarah Gillis.

At an altitude of 435 miles (700km) from the surface of the Earth – higher than anyone had ever spacewalked before – Isaacman squeezed through the hatch of the Dragon spacecraft and remarked: "It's gorgeous!"

The historic event was streamed live online and was cheered by the *Polaris Dawn* mission control crew at Cape Canaveral, Florida.

Gazing out, Isaacman said: "Back at home we all have a lot of work to do but, from here, Earth sure looks like a perfect world."

He then climbed back inside the spacecraft to let Gillis have a go, making her the first female amateur astronaut to spacewalk.

SpaceX is owned by the world's richest man, Elon Musk. Both he and Isaacman want to expand space travel so that more people can visit space, but it's incredibly expensive right now.



Getty

SpaceX/X

Isaacman's moment of history

The mission also tested futuristic new SpaceX spacesuits, which are a lot thinner than the ones astronauts usually wear

Left to right: Menon, Gillis, Poteet and Isaacman



## Cops stop second Trump shooting



It's a tight race between Trump and Harris to become the next US president

**POLICE in Florida foiled a second suspected attempt to kill Donald Trump.**

It happened at the Trump International Golf Club in Florida. Secret Service agents spotted the rifle belonging to the gunman, Ryan Routh, poking from the bushes while Trump was playing on a nearby hole.

They fired their weapons at Routh, so he dropped his rifle and fled in a car, but officers arrested him on the motorway.

Trump was whisked to safety, and he reassured his fans: "I am safe and well."

In July, another gunman shot at him during a campaign speech.

**Trump's wild week**

The incident brought to an end an eventful week for Trump.

It began with a live TV debate against Kamala Harris, his opponent in the race to be the next president of the USA. The show was watched by 67 million people.

During the debate, Trump spread fake news about immigrants eating people's pets in Springfield, Ohio.

"They're eating the dogs! They're eating the cats!" he said. Days later, he stood by his false remarks – even though local police and politicians said it's not true. The lie had serious consequences though, with three schools having to be shut because of violent threats against immigrants.

Trump also said he wouldn't have any more TV debates with Harris because he "won" last week's, and Harris only wants to do a second one because she lost. Polls show it was probably the other way round!



Taylor Swift says she'll be voting for Kamala Harris in the election. In response, Trump posted: "I HATE TAYLOR SWIFT!"

## It's the Queen! (Do you Doubt it...?)

**A NEW statue of the late Queen Elizabeth II has been criticised, with some saying it looks more like Mrs Doubtfire!**

The bronze tribute to Britain's longest-reigning monarch, by a local artist, was unveiled at Antrim Castle Gardens in Northern Ireland, ahead of the second anniversary of

her death.

However, it attracted harsh comments online, with some calling it "ridiculous", "dreadful" and "blooming awful".

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council accepted that art can spark lots of opinions, but it insisted the statue has had a "generally positive response".



Queen Elizabeth II

Mrs Doubtfire



A boy lays flowers for fallen Ukrainian soldiers last month

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

...but fighting continues around the world

**THIS Saturday (21 September) is the International Day of Peace – a United Nations (UN) day that calls on all of us to overcome our differences.**

This year's day marks 25 years since the UN signed an agreement on what was needed to create a "culture of peace" around the world – things like respect for life, human rights, a good education and an understanding of each other.

**Fighting around the world**

The day also calls for any violence around the world to pause for 24 hours.

Today, there are more than 25 active cases of conflict (fighting) and instability around the world. Some nations are experiencing civil war, with different sides fighting for control of their country, while other countries are fighting with each other.

Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, and the two countries have been at war ever since.

Last week, Prime Minister Keir Starmer flew to the USA to discuss the war with US President Joe Biden. Mr Starmer told reporters: "Russia started this conflict. Russia illegally invaded Ukraine. Russia can end this conflict straight away."



Now, that's bad breath!

**PIGS have been hiding a cheeky secret – they can breathe through their bottoms!**

Now, the Japanese scientists who made the discovery in 2021 have been honoured in a wacky annual awards show, the Ig Nobels.

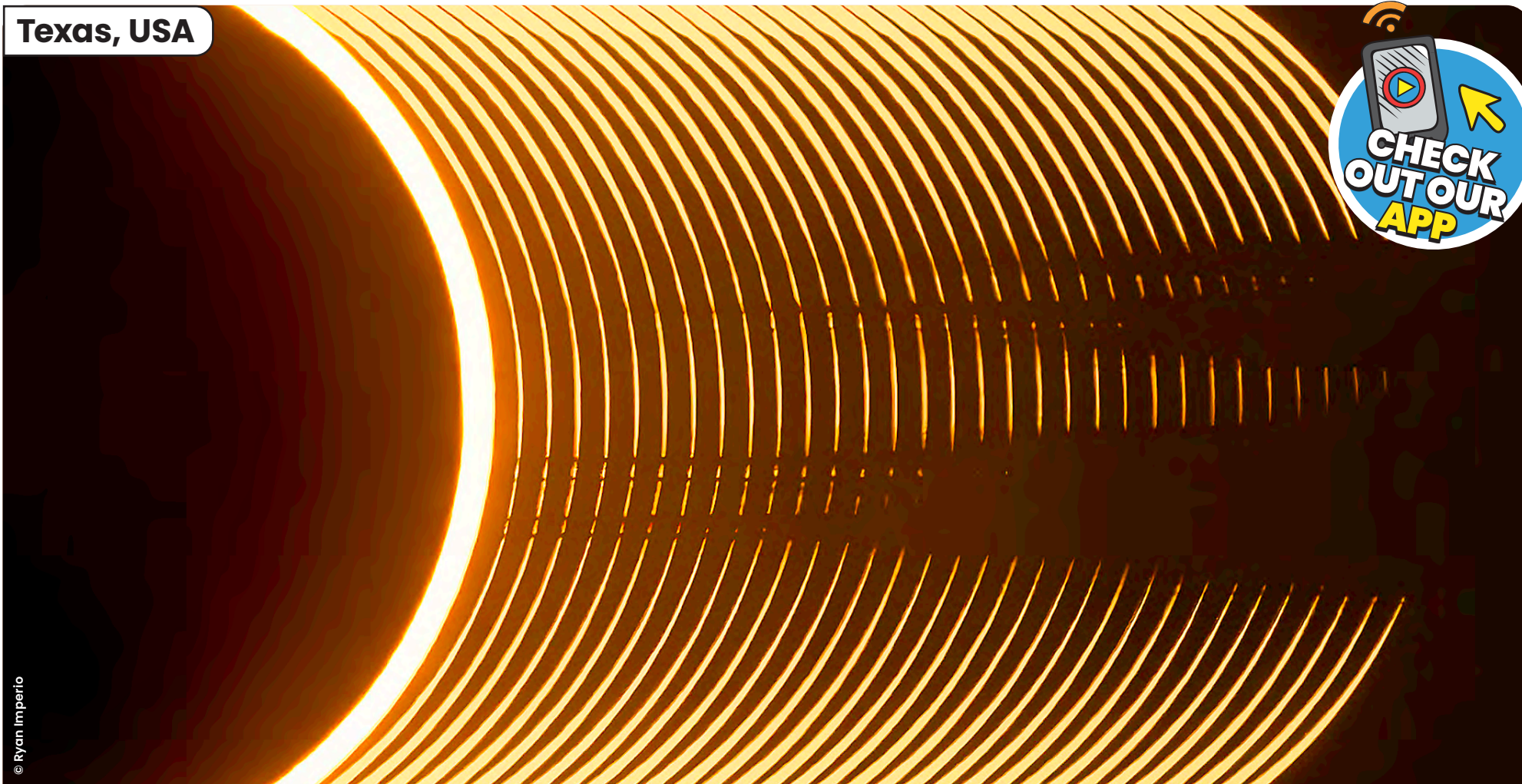
Every year, the show celebrates weird research that "first makes people laugh, then makes them think."

Other bits of bonkers research to bag an award this year included a study into whether human hair tends to swirl counter-clockwise if you're on the south side of the equator, and whether cows produce as much milk if they're being surprised by popping paper bags.





## Texas, USA



© Ryan Imperio

RYAN Imperio has been named the 16th Astronomy Photographer of the Year. His *Distorted Shadows Of The Moon's Surface Created By An Annular Eclipse* shows 33 images captured over ten seconds. The rings show Bailey's beads, formed when sunlight shines through the moon's valleys and craters. They are only visible at the beginning or end of an eclipse. An annular eclipse is when the moon passes between the Earth and the sun, but doesn't completely cover the sun's disc. Check out some of the runners-up on the *First News* app!

## Cambourne, UK



THERE'S a pretty big buzz in the air... This giant wasp's nest was found in an attic and donated to the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire. The trust hopes that it shows people how skilled wasps are. They may be annoying at times, but they help to remove pests from our crops and kill plant-munching caterpillars.

## Barranquilla, Colombia



A COLOMBIAN fan roars during the FIFA World Cup 2026 qualifier against Argentina.

## Hanoi, Vietnam



A MAN removes trash from a partially-submerged peach tree field after Vietnam was hit by heavy rains. Typhoon Yagi has been Asia's strongest storm this year.





## WALES

### Hay on tour

Hay Festival Education is taking talented writers into Welsh secondary schools this November. The cultural charity has unveiled its Scribblers Cymraeg 2024 programme, with the aim of inspiring kids to get creative with the Welsh language. Poet Aneurin Iwan Rhys will host the 13th edition of the tour, to engage the next generation in storytelling and conversation. Free workshops for Year 7-9 pupils will take place at Swansea University, Aberystwyth University, Cardiff University, Bangor University and Wrexham University. The tour runs from 4-8 November. Schools can sign up by going to [tinyurl.com/scribblerswales](https://tinyurl.com/scribblerswales).



Adam Tatton-Reid

## EDINBURGH

### Let there be light

Edinburgh Castle will be seen in a whole new light this winter, to celebrate 900 years of history. Castle of Light returns for its fifth year with all-new light and sound installations to brighten up the winter evenings. Visitors will even be able to “fire” Mons Meg, a huge six-tonne cannon that was once used in battle. The colourful displays run for seven weeks, on select dates from Friday 22 November 2024 to Saturday 4 January 2025. A special British Sign Language (BSL) night will take place on 8 December, too.



Edinburgh Castle

## PEMBROKESHIRE



### Pebble-pinching plea

Taking souvenir pebbles from a beach could have more consequences than you realise! Visitors who have pocketed some from Saundersfoot in Pembrokeshire are being asked to return them, due to fears of future coastal erosion. The stones, which were first introduced to the area in the 1970s, act as a form of sea defence. But, as the climate warms and sea levels continue to rise, fewer pebbles mean less protection for homes on the seafront and beyond. Erosion (wearing away) has always affected the UK's coasts, but climate change is speeding it up.

## WEST MIDLANDS

### Sister swap success

A rhino swap between safari parks has allowed two sisters to meet each other for the first time. Bonnie, a Southern white rhino, left Woburn Safari Park for a new home at West Midlands Safari Park. Another rhino making the switch the other way meant that a family connection could be made, as Bonnie finally met her sister Ailsa. The pair had a short pushing match before they went off to share some hay. The swap was part of a breeding programme for the rare species.



West Midlands Safari Park

First encounter

## DORCHESTER ON THAMES

### Pooh village?!

Plans to rename an Oxfordshire village after Winnie-the-Pooh have baffled residents. A letter posted through the doors of people in Dorchester on Thames laid out plans to rename it “Pooh Village”. The mystery writer also plans to turn Dorchester into “the UK’s answer to Disneyland”, claiming the village was currently sitting on a “huge honeypot”. The area has a history with the honey-loving bear, as the World Poohsticks Championships used to be held there. The game involves competitors throwing wooden sticks into the river and watching them race. However, it’s likely that this letter was just a ‘spoohf’!



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## LONDON

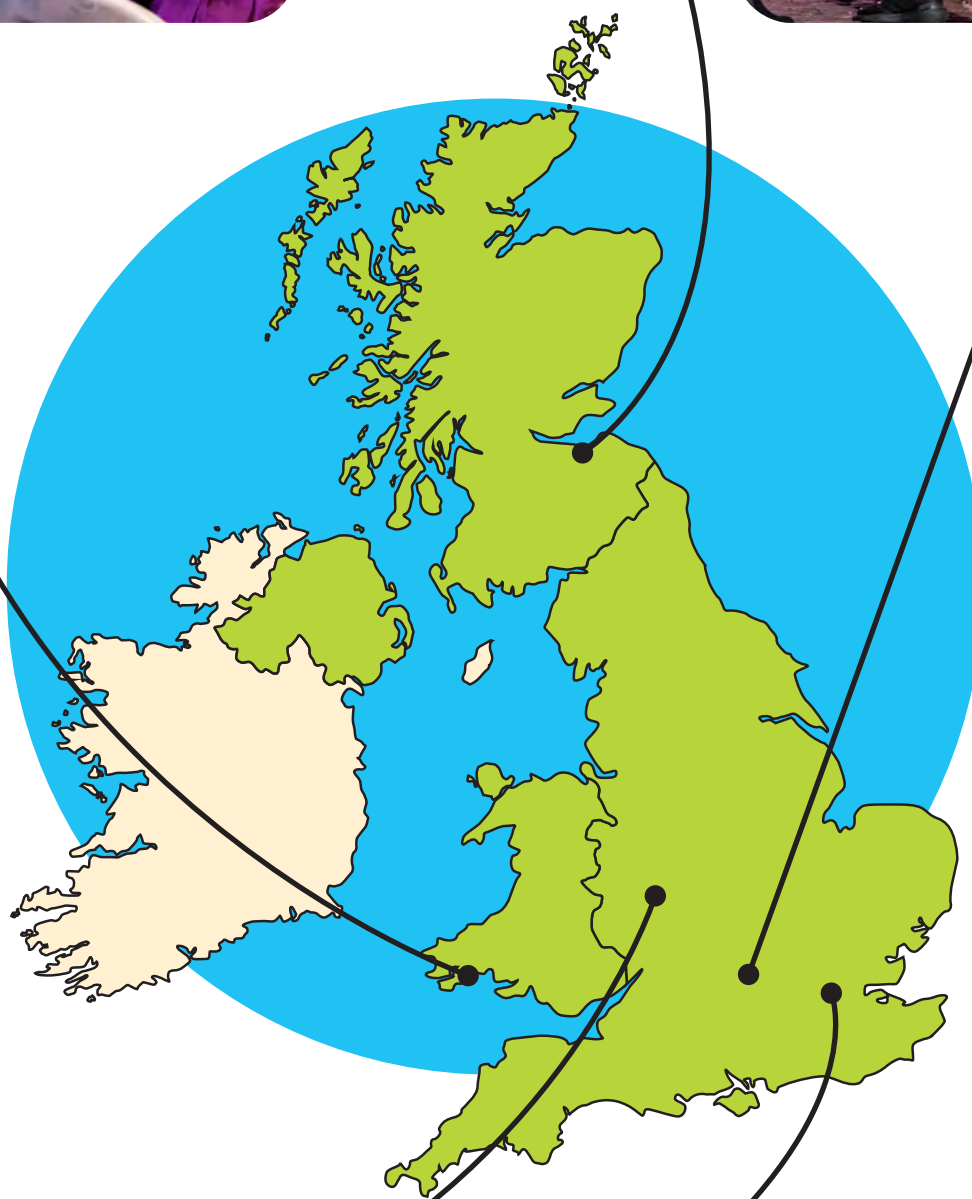
### Olympian’s joy of play

Decathlon and charity ParkPlay have teamed up to provide hours of free activities for families across the UK. Following a bumper summer of sport, including the success of the Paris Olympics, former British Olympian Jo Jennings attended a session in Southall to show her support. This is one of the 60 places providing play to more than 8,000 people across the UK every Saturday from 10am. Activities include football, cricket and touch rugby, which are inclusive to all ages and abilities. Find out more and sign up to ParkPlay at [park-play.com](https://park-play.com).



Decathlon/ParkPlay

Inset: Jo Jennings







# COMFORTING CAT CROWNED!

A SPECIAL cat named Marley has been named Cats Protection's National Cat of the Year 2024, for helping women who have been hurt.

Seven-year-old Marley lives in a safe house in London where he helps the women feel better by sitting with them.

He knows when someone needs a friend and will put his paw on their leg to show he cares.

The people who look after Marley say he understands the women's pain because he had a hard life, too.

Karen Anstiss, head of the safe house, said: "Before he went into rescue, I think he had a hard time. So, he recognises our guests' trauma because he has suffered too."

She added: "He has this incredible gift of empathy and has assisted many, many women along the road to recovery."

The winning feline was awarded a trophy and a £200 pet store voucher.



Cats Protection

Marley won the National Cat of the Year award 2024 for all the lives he changed

## Hen harriers thrive in Cumbria



Mark Thomas (rspb-images.com)

AN RSPB nature reserve in Cumbria has seen a record number of hen harrier chicks fledge, which is when they have developed wing feathers large enough to fly.

Eight birds left their nests at Geltsdale, the highest count since the 1990s.

Two pairs of birds each raised four chicks, with one pair breeding for the second year in a row.

Staff and volunteers worked day and night to protect the nests, using special night-vision equipment to ensure the birds were not disturbed.

The RSPB's Mike Shurmer says it "gives us hope for the coming years" but noted that hen harrier numbers are still low in England.

Scientists are tracking some of the young birds to learn about their movements.

## Mini monkey born at UK zoo

DRUSILLAS Park in Sussex is celebrating the arrival of a pygmy marmoset, the world's smallest monkey!

The newborn baby was about the size of a thumb and has been jumping around independently before returning to mum Rosie for food and cuddles.

The species is listed as vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. The zoo hasn't had a pygmy marmoset baby in over ten years, but keepers are hoping there are more to come.

Visitors can now see the baby in its habitat at the park, which it shares with sloths and tortoises.

The zoo is asking people to suggest names for the tiny newcomer on the zoo's Facebook page.



Drusillas



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](http://first.news/climatecrisis).

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

## INDIAN RHINO



iStock

### HABITAT:

Also known as the greater one-horned rhino, it lives in the tropical and subtropical grasslands and shrublands of India and Nepal.

### FUN FACTS:

- Its scientific name is *Rhinoceros unicornis*, which refers to its one large horn.
- A group of rhinos is called a 'crash'.

### SPECIAL SUPERPOWER:

Because of their extremely thick, armour-like skin, they have no natural predators.

### CONSERVATION STATUS:

Vulnerable, says the International Union for Conservation of Nature. It's thought there are only 4,000 of these rhinos left in the wild.



Aneeshwar's one-horned rhino art

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





# HOW CAN WE MAKE TRAVEL GREENER?

IN the third of a six-part series of climate change films from the Science Museum Group, *FYI* presenters Scarlett and Jeriah find out how transport is affecting the planet. Each week we'll be featuring different stories about 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-travel](https://www.first.news/science-museum-travel).



Transport is responsible for about a quarter of the globe's energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, which are causing our planet to get hotter. The use of cars, buses, trucks and motorbikes all contribute to the problem.

● **So, what's going on?**

Lots of the vehicles we use every day rely on petrol and diesel to run, which means they have a large carbon footprint. They also produce different types of pollution, which can be harmful to the environment and to humans.

● **What's an internal combustion engine?**

Most cars are powered in much the same way with a very clever invention called the internal combustion engine. In the petrol version, the fuel is fed into a cylinder and mixed with air. The mixture is then squeezed into a small space by a piston and ignited by a spark. This controlled explosion pushes the piston back down, providing the power to turn the car's wheels. The gases produced, including CO<sub>2</sub>, are then pushed out of the engine and down the car's exhaust pipe. This process happens over and over very quickly, with all the waste gases being released into the air.

● **What's the solution?**

The only practical way to avoid producing these greenhouse gas emissions is to ditch the internal combustion engine completely. For instance, by replacing it with an electric engine that produces no exhaust gases when operating. Electric cars aren't a new idea,



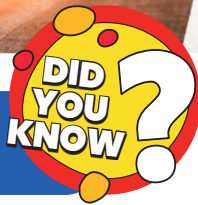
Electric vehicles need to be charged at special charging points



Flying is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions



AROUND three-quarters of trains in the UK are now electric.



with the first being designed nearly 200 years ago, but they are now seen as one of the most important ways to tackle global heating. The challenge is for scientists and engineers to find practical ways to charge so many electric cars, especially for the many people who don't have their own driveway or garage.

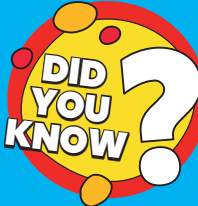
● **What about planes?**

Planes are one of the biggest transport polluters. Almost all planes use fossil fuels, particularly kerosene, which comes from oil. Taking just one long-distance flight can create more emissions per passenger than anything else you might do in a whole year! So to combat climate change, we need to reduce the number of flights, alongside finding greener ways to power aircraft. Electric planes are much harder to make than cars, though.

● **What's the issue?**

The batteries! They're too heavy and don't last long enough to power planes for long journeys. Technology is developing quickly, but it's not there yet. Some airlines are turning to other low-carbon solutions instead, to replace kerosene. Scientists are also looking into other technology, such as hydrogen-powered aircraft.

IN November 2023, a Virgin Atlantic passenger jet became the world's first to fly from London to New York using 100% sustainable aviation fuel. The bio-fuel was a mixture of waste fats and plant sugars.



THE UK and many other countries plan to stop the sale of new cars and vans that use fossil fuels in the next decade, to be largely replaced by electric vehicles.



The Ford Model T was first built in 1908 and was the first car cheap enough for ordinary people to buy. More than 15 million were sold!

**WATCH THE FILM**

HOW CAN WE MAKE TRAVEL GREENER?

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





# DORITOS FOOD DYE TURNS MOUSE SKIN SEE-THROUGH!

RESEARCHERS in America were able to see a living mouse's insides after applying a food dye to its skin.

The yellow food colouring, which is called tartrazine, is found in many foods, including Doritos crisps.

A team of scientists at Stanford University in the USA rubbed a mixture of tartrazine and water on the skin of a mouse. This allowed them to see through the skin to all the internal organs, including the brain.

As soon as the special mixture was washed off, the skin returned to its normal state and they couldn't see inside the body any more. Professor Guosong Hong, who worked on the research, called it a "stunning result".

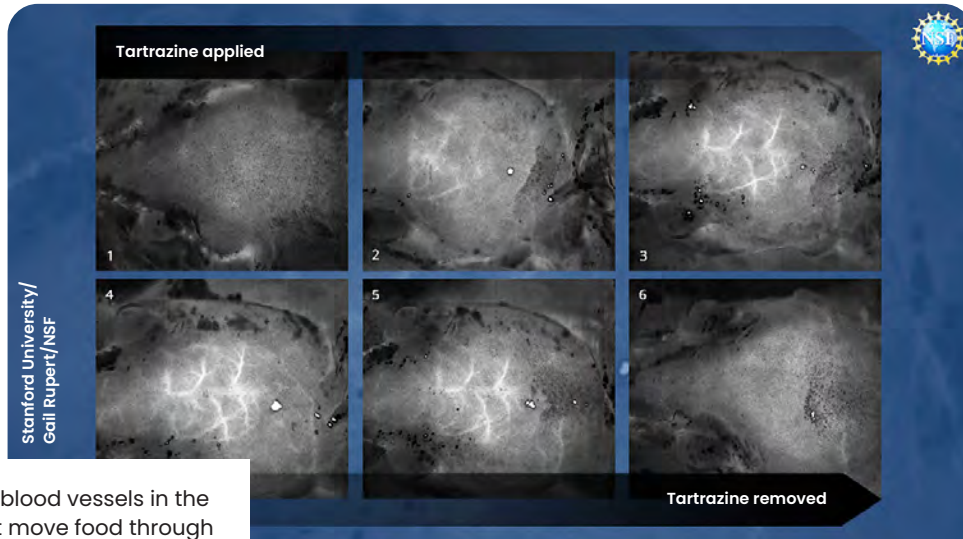
The reason we can't look through skin is that, when light waves hit it, tissue scatters the waves, making the skin non-transparent. The scientists in this study used tartrazine because its molecules absorb blue and ultraviolet light. This makes it easier for light to pass through the mouse's skin, turning it see-through.

They first tried out their special mixture on chicken breasts, before turning to a mouse.

The transparent skin made it possible to see lots of

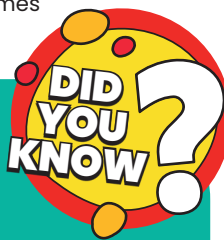
different things, including the liver, blood vessels in the brain and muscle movements that move food through the mouse's digestive system.

The researchers believe this is the first time a mouse's living internal organs have been seen without the use of machinery or surgery. They hope their work could one day allow a similar technique to be used on humans, to help locate injuries and spot tumours inside the body. But tweaks to the 'potion' will have to be made – human skin is several times thicker than that of a mouse.



As the dye was added to the skin, it became possible to see clearly inside the mouse

IN HG Wells' 1897 science fiction novel, *The Invisible Man*, the main character invents a cocktail of drugs that makes the cells in his body transparent by controlling how they bend light. The book has been adapted into several films and TV series.



Tartrazine, a common food dye

## Eels escape from belly of fish that ate them

YOU would think that being eaten and ending up in the belly of a fish would lead to certain death.

But, amazingly, the Japanese eel is able to burst out of its predator's body. The discovery was made by scientists in Japan, who described it as "astounding".

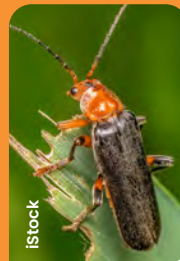
A few years ago, a scientist observed an eel being swallowed whole by a dark sleeper fish – only for it to reappear in the fish tank less than a minute later. It was thought the eel had escaped through the

mouth. However, after years of research, experts used X-ray video cameras and saw that the eels actually moved backwards up the digestive tract of the fish, poked their tail through its gills, then wiggled out of the fish tail-first!

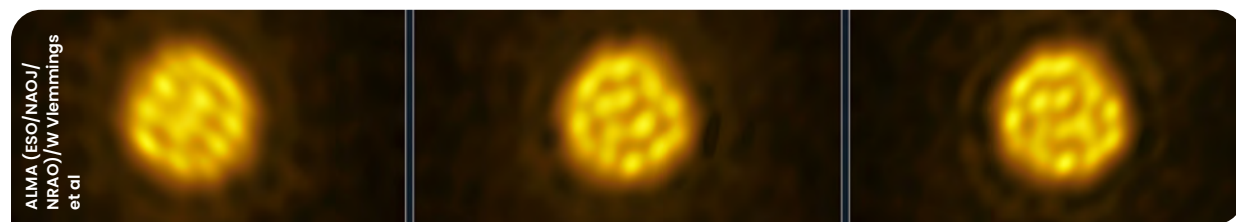
The eels had to be quick to survive. If they were stuck in the fish's belly for three minutes or more, they died.

The scientists now want to find out whether other species are capable of pulling off a similar escape from a predator's stomach.

ALTHOUGH this is thought to be the first time a fish has burst out of an animal's body, other species are also able to pull off daring escapes. The bombardier beetle (pictured) can get out of a toad's belly by letting off a toxic fluid that makes the toad throw up!



## Star's bubbles captured on video for first time



ASTRONOMERS have captured detailed images of the surface of a star other than our sun for the first time.

The footage is detailed enough to see bubbling gas on R Doradus, a red giant star about 350 times bigger than our sun that is roughly 180 light years away.

It was taken with the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA) telescopes. Professor Wouter Vlemmings, who led the study, said he never expected to be able to see a distant star in such detail.

The images show several huge, hot bubbles, which are caused by heat rising from the star's core. As the bubbles cool, they sink back to the star's surface. Each bubble is around 75 times the size of our sun!

Behzad Bojnodi Arbab, a student who worked on the research, said: "It is spectacular that we can now directly image the details on the surface of stars so far away, and observe physics that until now was mostly only observable in our sun."

## COOL FACTS CORNER



@TheDadLab

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

DID YOU KNOW?



An electric car engine contains approximately 20 moving parts, while a much more complicated petrol engine has over 2,000!

DID YOU KNOW?



Musical instruments can't make any sound in outer space. That's because space has no atmosphere, so the sound has no way of being transmitted.

The amount of water that exists on Earth has never changed. We have the same amount of water today that we had millions of years ago, when dinosaurs ruled.



Scan the QR code or see [thedadlab.com/facts](https://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.



# ORGAN DONATION WEEK



PEOPLE across the UK will be celebrating Organ Donation Week between 23 and 29 September. This year is even more special because the NHS Organ Donor Register celebrates its 30th birthday!

## What is organ donation?

Organ donation is when you decide to give an organ to save the life of someone else, or make their quality of life much better. You can donate some organs while you are alive, and this is called living organ donation. However, most organ donations come from people who have died.

## What can you donate?

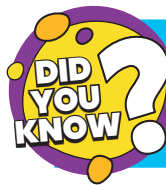
You can donate a variety of organs and tissues from your body, including your cornea (the clear outer layer of tissue at the front of the eye that allows you to see). The organs you can donate include the heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, pancreas and small bowel.

## What is the Organ Donor Register?

The NHS Organ Donor Register is a special record of people's organ donation decisions. It records whether you'd like to become an organ donor or not when you die.

## Different laws across the UK

Organ donation laws are different across the UK. In England, all adults are now listed as organ donors when they die unless they state otherwise. In Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, there are similar laws in place but they use slightly different terms.



**MORE** than 1,000 people donate a kidney or part of their liver across the UK each year, to help a friend or family member, or someone they don't know.



## Sophia's story

**MEET Sophia** – in 2019, aged just three, she received a heart transplant.

Sophia was ten weeks old when she was diagnosed with dilated cardiomyopathy (a weakening of the heart muscle). She struggled to eat, suffered with chest infections and spent lots of time in hospital. When doctors failed to see any improvement in Sophia's heart function, she was placed on the transplant register for a new heart.

It took 14 months to finally get the call at 5am in the morning from her consultant, with the fantastic news that a donor heart was available.



Sophia with her mum Taz

An ambulance was outside Sophia's front door by 9am and she was at Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) an hour later, meeting her consultant and surgical team. By 3pm she was in surgery.

After an 11-hour operation, Sophia's family discovered the transplant had been successful. Sophia was finally discharged from GOSH two months later.

Over the last four years since her heart transplant, Sophia continues to have health challenges, but there is a marked improvement in her quality of life. She's able to attend school full time and has energy to participate in extra-curricular activities such as horse riding and drama. She also particularly enjoys playing the roles of a doctor and a patient who has heart problems.

Sophia's mum Taz said: "An organ donation is important not only because it greatly enhances the life of the person who receives it, but because it saves lives. Sophia, despite having a diseased heart, was still able to donate her valves and help potentially save the lives of other children."



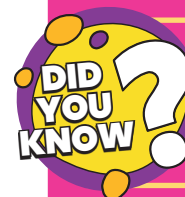
Sophia with her Molly's Dolly, provided by the Children's Heart Federation. The doll has scars that match Sophia's surgical scars

## GOING PINK!

To mark Organ Donation Week, lots of local landmarks and buildings across the country will turn pink to help raise awareness of organ donation and encourage others to think about becoming a donor. Look out for places near you!

## THE CHILDREN'S HEART FEDERATION (CHF)

CHF is the leading UK children's heart charity, supporting children and their families living with heart conditions.



**ONE** in 100 babies in the UK are born with a heart condition. Every year, between 500 and 1,000 develop heart conditions after they are born.

The charity is on a mission to raise awareness of congenital (from birth) heart disease by going into schools and running campaigns such as its Curious With Kindness assemblies and STEptember Challenge. You can find out more at [chfed.org.uk](http://chfed.org.uk).





 **USA**



Wilcox cycled for 14 hours on some days

## Around the world in 108 days!

An American woman has cycled around the entire planet in a new world record time! Lael Wilcox, aged 38, began in Chicago on 28 May and returned 108 days, 12 hours and 12 minutes later, on 11 September. On her epic route, she crossed 21 countries on four continents. Of course, you can't cycle across oceans – Guinness World Records rules say that riders have to travel for a total of 40,000km and can use ferries and planes, but they have to cycle at least 28,970km. Wilcox did her cycling in North America, then Europe, then Australia and New Zealand. She was cheered on by fellow cyclist Jenny Graham, from Scotland, who set the previous record of 124 days in 2018. Graham said: "It's the most amazing thing to see women out there pushing their sport the way they want to. I'm just a massive fan."

 **VIETNAM**

## Typhoons wreak havoc in Asia

A huge search and rescue operation is underway after Typhoon Yagi struck Vietnam. A typhoon is the name given to a powerful tropical storm that happens in the northwest Pacific Ocean. Days of heavy rain triggered floods and landslides that killed at least 273 people and forced around 75,000 families from their homes. Hundreds of schools have been shut, too. At least 220 people have been killed in Myanmar. Meanwhile, in China, Typhoon Bebinca ripped down billboards and forced the evacuation of 400,000 people in Shanghai. Chinese media said it was the city's strongest storm in 75 years. The rest of the city's 25 million residents were told to stay indoors to ride it out.



 **JAPAN**



A Cape penguin like Pen-chan

## Zoo penguin paddles out to sea

A female Cape penguin who escaped from a sea enclosure in Aichi has shocked her keeper by surviving for two weeks at sea. Pen-chan, aged six, was born in captivity and had never had to fend for herself. So, when she disappeared on 25 August, she wasn't expected to survive for more than a week. Her chances took another hit when a powerful typhoon hit the region but, on 8 September, she was spotted swimming near a beach 30 miles (48km) away. "It's a miracle!" said her keeper, Ryosuke Imai. "I think she got there by stopping at various places for a break... she lost a little weight but she's doing great." Cape penguins are found along the southwest coast of Africa. Imai thinks that Pen-chan caught fish and crabs to help her survive her two-week adventure in the wild.



 **BRAZIL**

## Sacred cloak returned to Brazil

A sacred cloak has been returned to Brazil by a museum in Denmark, around 380 years since it was taken from a group of indigenous (native) people. It's made from thousands of ibis feathers, and would have been worn in ceremonies. About 200 of the Tupinambá de Olivença people, who live in a region called Bahia, made a 777-mile (1,250km) journey down to the National Museum in Rio de Janeiro, where the cloak is on display. Seven of the group were allowed in to visit it, the day before its public unveiling. One of the group said: "I don't even have words. It's the most beautiful thing I've ever seen." The cloak is thought to have been taken by Dutch soldiers in the 1600s. There are at least ten other Tupinambá cloaks still held in museums in Europe.



The cloak on display

 **SEYCHELLES**

## New hotel puts tortoises at risk

Animal campaigners have warned that the habitat of the world's biggest population of giant tortoises is under threat from plans to build a new luxury hotel. Discussions are underway for a major new resort to attract wealthy tourists, yachts and planes to Assumption Island. It's near to an important ecosystem that's home to around 150,000 giant tortoises. The resort's developers promise that they'll obey sustainability guidelines, but biologists say the project should be stopped until the risk that the project poses to animals has been properly studied.



These guys can weigh 250kg and live past 200 years old

 **AUSTRALIA**

## Kids set to get social media ban



The minimum age will either be 14 or 16

Australia will stop lots of its children from using social media by the end of the year. It plans to create a law that enforces a minimum age for using platforms like Instagram. The prime minister, Anthony Albanese, said: "I want to see kids off their devices and onto the footy fields, the swimming pools and the tennis courts... we want them to have real experiences with real people." He said that social media is harmful to children's mental health, but critics argue that the law goes against kids' freedom.





# THE READER AND THE DIGITAL WORLD

## A TALE OF ONLINE SAFETY

THERE once was a group of scientists and inventors who helped to create the internet and in turn opened up a huge digital world. This world is both amazing and daunting. But how can we all enjoy it and stay safe? Let's see...



### A guide you can **TRUST!** **NSPCC**

By **Vodafone and the NSPCC**

Being online is a vital part of everyday life and everyone deserves to enjoy this in a safe and happy way. That's why it's Vodafone and NSPCC's mission to make sure you stay safe and protected online. Check out our top tips for you and your family!

#### **T** – Talking about safe phone use

Be open and honest about how you use your phone or why you want a phone. Is it just to stay in touch as you go to and from school, or do you want to have apps and games on there too? You should agree what you're allowed to use as a family, especially with things like social media apps and games. Some games have hidden costs to watch out for!

#### **R** – Recognising rights to safety online

If there's anything that's worrying you or makes you feel unsafe about your phone or something you see online, you always have the right to get help. Don't feel afraid to speak up.

#### **U** – Using online safety and wellbeing tools

There are lots of things you can put in place to help with safety. This includes things like content filters, muting and blocking, in-app reporting features and location settings. Remember, you don't want to give away personal information about yourself online.

#### **S** – Support when facing challenges online

Knowing where to go for support in different situations is important, but there are lots of options! You could share concerns with a trusted adult or teacher, or visit a helpline like the NSPCC's Childline at [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk) or **0800 1111**.

#### **T** – Talking about online safety going forward

Have regular conversations with your friends and family about things you read and see online. Can you spot fake news? Do you know about cyberbullying? How do you feel about social media?

#### ● **Making a family phone pledge!**

A family phone pledge is a great way to help you agree some rules and boundaries together! Every family is different and there's no one set of rules that will work for all, whether that's to do with your phone, laptop or tablet.

Some things you could think about:

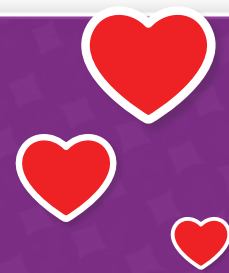
- What's a good screen time limit to set?
- Which applications will you use and how will you use them?
- Who will you connect with and chat to online?

Scan the QR code here to find out more about these tips, as well as creating a family pledge.



**Exciting  
competition  
inside!**





# W

## THE CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR STORY TO LIFE BY A PUBLISHED CHILDREN'S AUTHOR

### THE CHALLENGE

**First News** has teamed up with **Vodafone** for an exciting creative writing competition all about staying safe and happy online.

We're asking you to write your own fable that focuses on the themes of online safety and positive digital experiences. That might mean talking to a trusted adult about any online worries, or leaving devices outside the bedroom to get a better night's sleep.

When writing your fable, you'll need to think about:

- Who are your main characters?
- Where is your story set?
- What is the plot?
- What is your message or moral?

**500** Your fable should be no longer than 500 words, so try to keep it clear and to the point.

The aim of the challenge is to highlight how we can lead happier, healthier digital lives, so no characters should be made to feel guilty or bad for their behaviour. They should be learning something or encouraged to think about other choices.

Take a look at famous fables throughout history and check out our expert tips from children's authors Jeanne Willis and Joseph Coelho (on the back page of this pull-out) to help you get started.



### What is a fable?

A fable is a short story, featuring a non-human character (traditionally an animal), that focuses on a moral.

You might have studied Aesop's Fables at school. They include the classic tales of:

- *The Hare and the Tortoise*
- *The Boy Who Cried Wolf*
- *The Fox and the Crow*

Fables are often designed to teach you something or make you think about the outcomes of different situations.



### Remember

If anything is worrying you, or you feel unsafe online, you can always speak to NSPCC's Childline at [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk) or **0800 1111**.

### HOW TO ENTER

Once you've written your fable, ask an adult or teacher to upload your entry at:  
**[www.firstnews.co.uk/vodafone](http://www.firstnews.co.uk/vodafone)**

Please note: a consenting adult will need to complete an online form with your contact information.

**Closing date:** 1 November 2024.

For full terms and conditions, visit [www.firstnews.co.uk/vodafone](http://www.firstnews.co.uk/vodafone)





# WIN

# STORY PUBLISHED AND BROUGHT CHILDREN'S ILLUSTRATOR!



## THE PRIZE

There will be six winners in total.  
Each will get:

- Their winning fable published by Andersen Press in a book (printed and ebook), illustrated by Sue Cheung, Fiona Lumbers and Paddy Donnelly
- Two tablets for their school
- A library pack of 100 books for their school
- A Kindle Paperwhite (kids)
- A £50 book token
- The chance to feature in *First News*!

\*Prizes may look different from those pictured.



**PLUS!**  
**TABLETS, A KINDLE,  
A £50 BOOK TOKEN  
AND A PACK OF 100  
BOOKS FOR YOUR  
SCHOOL!**



## THE JUDGES

The competition is being judged in three age categories:

- 7-9 years
- 10-11 years
- 12-15 years

We will be choosing two winners in each group.

The entries will be judged by an expert panel including authors and illustrators, *First News*, Vodafone, the NSPCC and Andersen Press.



## FOR PARENTS/TEACHERS

To help with this activity, make sure you check out our brilliant set of resources at [www.firstnews.co.uk/vodafone](http://www.firstnews.co.uk/vodafone). You'll find two separate packs – one for KS2 (both LKS2 and UKS2), and one for KS3. Each will include: a model text, teacher notes with curriculum links, a list of grammar topics that could be taught with the pack, three worksheets, margin planners and display materials!

For more information and support in making digital choices for your family, visit [www.vodafone.co.uk/digitalparenting](http://www.vodafone.co.uk/digitalparenting).



**RESOURCES  
AVAILABLE**







# EXPERT AUTHORS' TOP TIPS!



Bestselling children's authors Jeanne Willis and Joseph Coelho share their top tips for writing a story to help you get started on your fable.



## TIP 1: GATHER IDEAS

● **Jeanne says:** If you're stuck for a story, gather some surprising or unexpected facts about the subject to inspire you. Good places to search are newspaper articles, magazines and non-fiction books.

You could also ask friends and family about any experiences they've had. Another trick is to think of an interesting question and find the answer online – ask a trusted adult to help.

## TIP 2: MAKE NOTES

● **Joseph says:** Always carry a notebook wherever you go. You never know when a good idea will hit but if you have a notebook with you, you can be sure to record your fabulous ideas when they arrive.



## TIP 3: LOOK AROUND

● **Joseph says:** Observe the world around you, take note of the sights and sounds, colours and smells that wash over you on your journey to and from school, as you go for lunch or meet with friends. All those details can be great starting points.

## TIP 4: TAKE INSPIRATION

● **Joseph says:** Read, read, read. Read about the things that interest you, and get into the habit of asking yourself questions as you read. You never know when a little-known fact or a turn of phrase might inspire a whole new story.

## TIP 5: SET THE SCENE

● **Joseph says:** Have a go at drawing your characters and the situations they find themselves in. Sometimes drawing a scene can help you imagine how things might play out in your story.

## TIP 6: START STRONG

● **Jeanne says:** Make sure your opening sentence grabs the reader's attention. It should act like a teaser,

hinting at what's to come. Don't go on about the weather or the wallpaper, dive straight in and make your reader want more. One of my favourite opening sentences, written by JM Barrie, is: "*All children, except one, grow up.*" Straight away, I had to know which child DIDN'T grow up and why! I kept reading, discovered it was Peter Pan and I wasn't disappointed.



## TIP 7: ENJOY IT!

● **Jeanne says:** Write a story that you would like to read. Think about your favourite books, whether you're into heroes, humour or hedgehogs. You're in charge – create characters that fascinate you, take them on a journey and enjoy the ride.

## TIP 8: FAB FINISH

● **Jeanne says:** Have a surprising end twist – never finish with: "It was all a dream." That's a cop-out writers use when they can't think of a good ending! Don't let your story fizzle out like a soggy sparkler – when you've chosen your theme and created your characters, decide on the ending at the beginning. That way, when you start writing, you'll have a target to aim for and leave your reader satisfied.

## TIP 9: TEST IT OUT

● **Joseph says:** Share! Share your stories with your friends and family, find out what parts of your story they liked and what parts they feel could be made even better. By getting feedback on your writing you can make sure that your storytelling skills are getting the very best possible workout.



## TIP 10: SLEEP ON IT

● **Jeanne says:** When you think your story is perfect, put it in a drawer overnight. Look at it again in the morning with fresh eyes and give it a polish. Check spelling and punctuation. Is the opening sentence a stunner? Have you kept to the plot, cut out any waffle and tied up any loose ends? Will the ending knock the judges' socks off? Well done, I'm crossing my fingers for you. Good luck!

## MEET THE AUTHORS

### Jeanne Willis

Jeanne Willis is an award-winning children's author and scriptwriter. She started writing when she was just five. Her books include *Who's In The Loo?* and the *Goffins* series.



### Joseph Coelho

Joseph is an award-winning poet and author, who served as the Waterstones Children's Laureate between 2022–2024. His books include the *Luna Loves* series and *The Boy Lost In The Maze*.



774







# WEIRDEST HOTEL REQUESTS!

Istock

A REPORT from the booking website Hotels.com has uncovered some strange things left behind in hotel rooms and unusual room service requests.

Among the forgotten items were expensive watches worth more than £4 million, a designer bag, a car tyre, false teeth and even pets like a lizard and a baby chicken. Both animals were returned safely to their owners.

Odd room service requests included a bathtub filled with bottled Evian water for a child, a special food menu for a pet with allergies, burnt toast and a high-five from hotel staff!

The report gathered information from more than 400 hotels worldwide.



# Chocolate wall art!



A UNIQUE art installation is melting hearts around the world with its chocolatey charm!

Artist Anya Gallaccio's *Stroke* features walls coated in chocolate paint, inviting visitors to touch and explore it.

The artwork, which is now in Paisley, has travelled the world, sparking different reactions.

Gallaccio said: "In Japan, where I expected people to be more reserved, they licked the walls!"

The sweet-smelling display runs until New Year's Eve, as the edible chocolate will eventually decay.

# Skies rain pants in Chinese city



Istock

RESIDENTS of a Chinese city were surprised to see underwear falling from the sky!

This unusual occurrence happened after local authorities used 'cloud-seeding' rockets to make it rain and break a long heatwave.

People in Chongqing reported seeing clothes flying through the air, with one person saying: "I went outside and suddenly it started raining heavily and underwear fell from the sky."

Officials deny that their weather experiment caused the flying laundry, saying it was just random strong winds, but many people thought that there must be a link.

ha  
ha  
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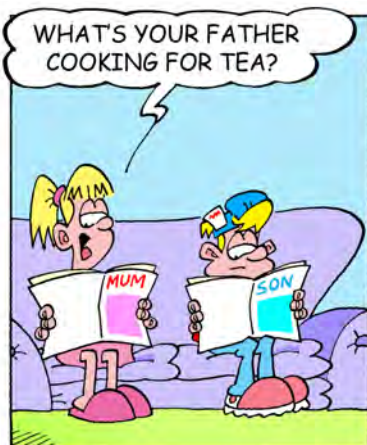
**JOKE OF THE WEEK**

What's an alien's favourite chocolate bar?

**A Mars bar!**

# Paper Boy!

Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer







# IN-TENTS RIVALRY

**READY, set, bake!** The most delicious show on the telly is back this week and we're already getting our whisks and aprons out!

Presenting duo Alison Hammond and Noel Fielding are back in the tent with their cheesy comedy and comforting words, alongside Paul Hollywood and Prue Leith as judges. How many

Hollywood handshakes will we see this year? Our bet is eight!

We've also got a whole batch of new and fabulous bakers from across the UK to get to know. Our mouths are watering already!

**The Great British Bake Off** airs on Channel 4 at 8pm on Tuesday 24 September.



The fabulous four!

Channel 4/Mark Burdillon

# PUP STARS!

**THE new animated film 200% Wolf, about a poodle with big dreams, has just hit cinemas!**

This sequel follows Freddy Lupin, a brave poodle who wants to lead his werewolf pack. But after a wish goes wrong, he turns into a werewolf and must save his moon spirit friend.

Joined by his pooch pals, Freddy faces a dangerous witch

who despises wolves and puts them in danger. One thing's for sure – Freddy will never question being a poodle again.

The movie features the voices of Jennifer Saunders, Samara Weaving and Ili Swindells. **200% Wolf is out now.**



Freddy Lupin



# TOM DEAN CHATS STRICTLY!

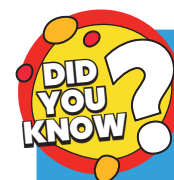


"I've never danced before!"

**THE first live show of Strictly Come Dancing** takes place this weekend. Here's what Olympic swimming champion Tom Dean told us about how he's feeling!

● **How excited are you about Strictly, Tom?**  
Very! It's a fantastic opportunity to throw myself into something completely different and learn a new skill. It's the show's 20th anniversary this year, so hopefully I can put on a semi-decent performance!

● **What are your moves like?**  
I've got no experience in the world of dancing whatsoever, but I'm a competitor at heart, so I really want to see how far I can push myself. I'm already using muscles that I never thought I would use, and it's tough on the feet, but that's the joy of it!



TOM Dean (below, right) has won three Olympic golds, including one in the men's 4x200m freestyle in Paris!



**Strictly Come Dancing** airs this Saturday (21 September) on BBC One and BBC iPlayer

## ● Tickets on sale for BFI London Film Festival

The BFI London Film Festival takes place between 9 and 20 October, with the programme and tickets now available. This year, audiences can look forward to a whole host of events including red carpet premieres, immersive storytelling and games. Family films include *Blink*, *Savages* and *Watership Down*. Cinemas across the UK are taking part too. Check out [whatson.bfi.org.uk/LFF](http://whatson.bfi.org.uk/LFF).



## ● New Disney podcast

Disney On Ice has launched its first ever podcast! Hosted by TV and radio presenter Gemma Atkinson, the *Activity Quest with Disney On Ice* podcast features tons of fun Disney facts, games and behind-the-scenes info! You can listen to it on all major podcasting platforms, including Spotify.







# WIN!

## A NINTENDO SWITCH POKÉMON SCARLET & VIOLET EDITION!

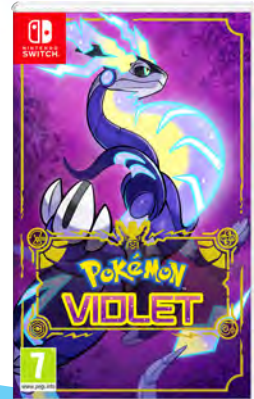


**POKÉMON Horizons: The Series** launched exclusively on BBC iPlayer and CBBC earlier this year. To celebrate the show, we're giving one lucky reader the chance to win a Nintendo Switch Pokémon and a copy of *Pokémon Scarlet* or *Pokémon Violet*!

The TV series follows Liko and her partner Sprigatito – the Grass Cat Pokémon – and Roy and his partner Fuecoco – the Fire Croc Pokémon. Together with a group of adventurers known as the Rising Volt Tacklers, they journey through exciting lands, meet brand-new Pokémon and discover some seriously epic mysteries! You can check out all the episodes now on BBC iPlayer.

For double the fun, you can also enjoy the *Pokémon Scarlet* and *Pokémon Violet* games on Nintendo Switch, which allow you to explore the region for yourself and come face to face with the Pokémon you see on screen!

To be in with a chance of winning this amazing prize, all you have to do is answer this question...



©2024 Pokémon/Nintendo/Creatures/  
GAME FREAK. TM, © Nintendo

Who is Liko's Pokémon partner?  
a) Fuecoco b) Skeledirge  
c) Sprigatito

### ENTER NOW!

### MARK YOUR ENTRY POKÉMON HORIZONS

[first.news/comps](http://first.news/comps) or see page 20. The closing date is 4 October.



## Love reading

# FirstNews?

## There's even more on the First News app!

DAILY NEWS

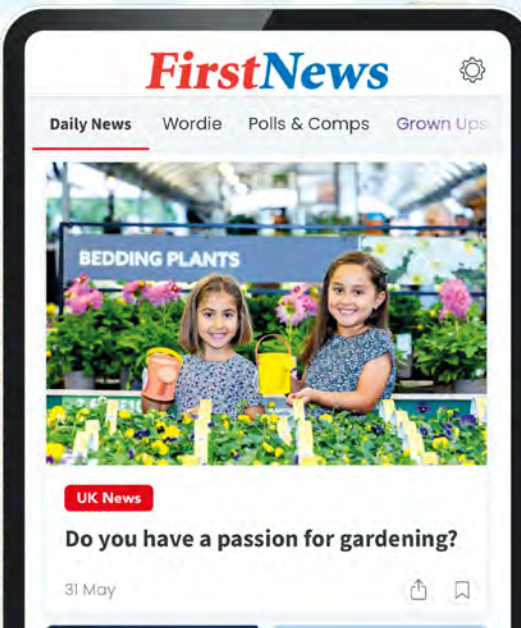
PLAY FUN GAMES

AWESOME PUZZLES

WATCH SKY FYI

LISTEN TO ARTICLES

VIDEOS



Get an adult to scan one of these QR codes to download the app. They'll need the Web ID which we emailed to the person who paid for your subscription. If they can't find it please ask an adult to email [info@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:info@firstnews.co.uk) and we will be happy to help!



App Store

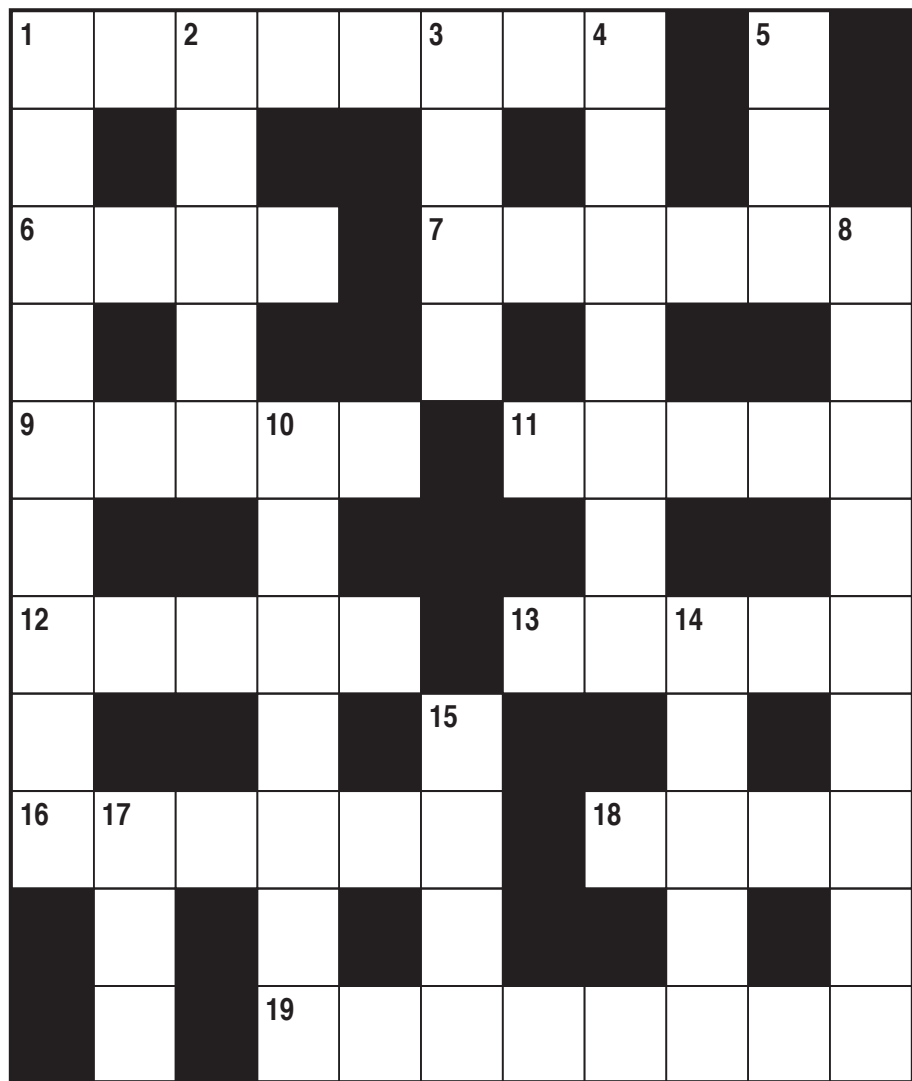
Google Play





# CROSSWORD

CAN you solve our crossword puzzle using the clues below?



### ACROSS

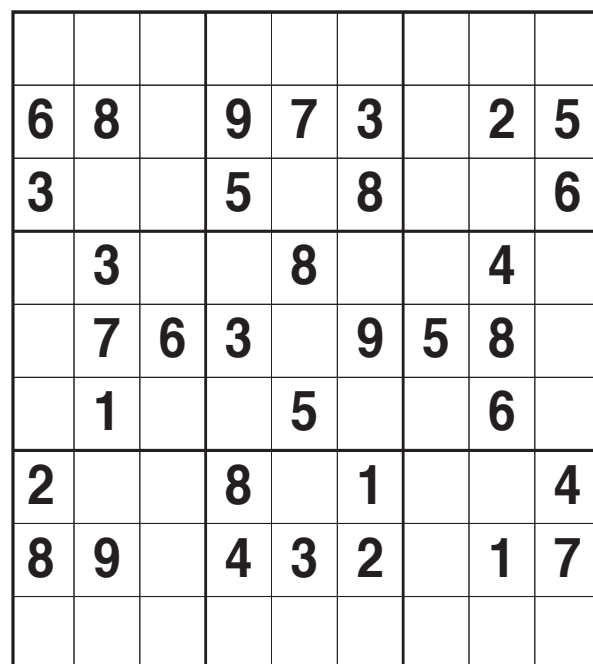
- 1 Jewellery for the wrist (8)
- 6 Nocturnal birds (4)
- 7 E.g. Mars or Jupiter (6)
- 9 A piece of writing (5)
- 11 The rate at which something moves (5)
- 12 Keep away from (5)
- 13 Strangely
- 16 E.g. the Milky Way (6)
- 18 Place out of sight (4)
- 19 Not plural (of a word) (8)

### DOWN

- 1 Curved stick that returns to you when thrown (9)
- 2 Book of maps (5)
- 3 Outer parts of the mouth (4)
- 4 Stuck somewhere (7)
- 5 Grow older (3)
- 8 Cuddly toy (5,4)
- 10 E.g. dogs and elephants (7)
- 14 Hole-making tool (5)
- 15 Church song (4)
- 17 Sum numbers together (3)

# Sudoku

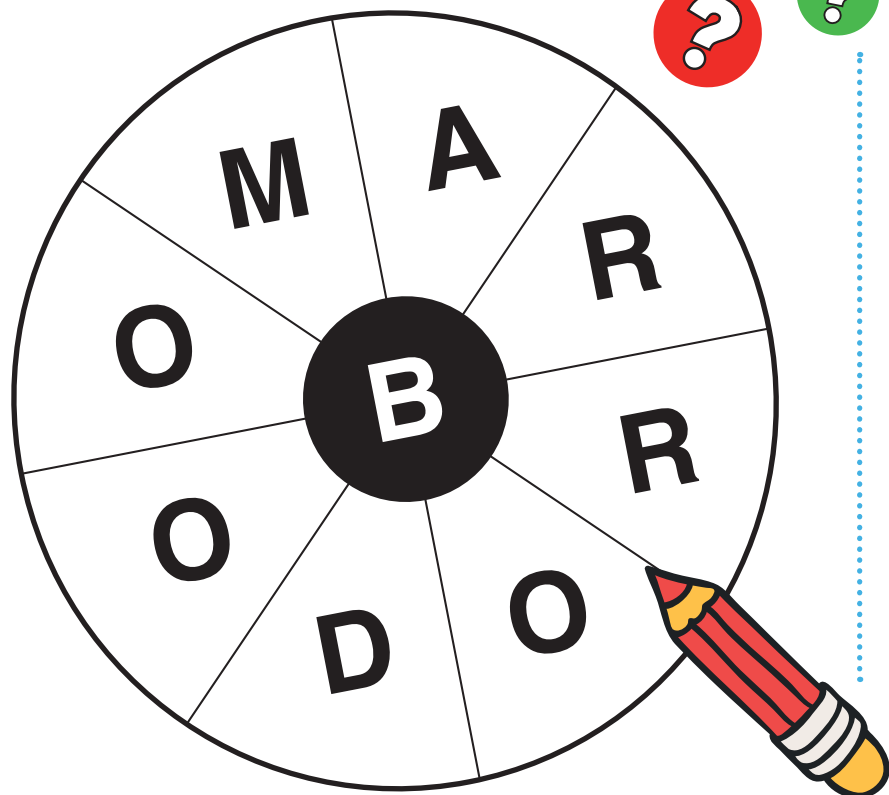
CAN you complete our sudoku puzzle, filling in the numbers one to nine?



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

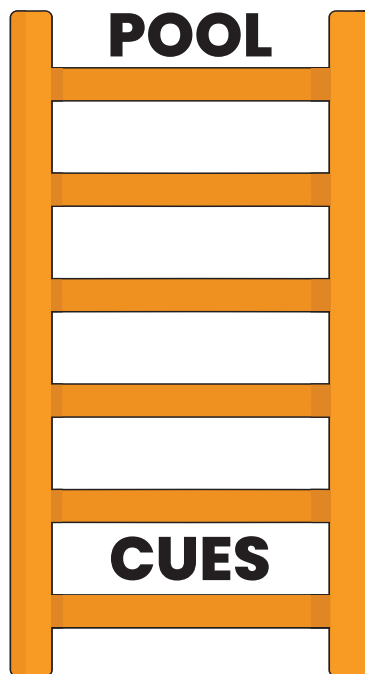
# Word wheel

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



# Word ladder

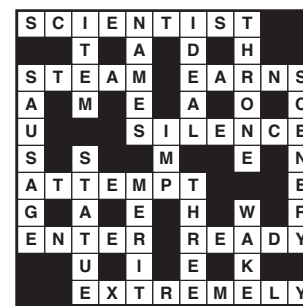
SEE if you can get from the top of the ladder to the bottom by changing one letter at a time to make a new word.



## ISSUE 952 ANSWERS:

Word wheel: unplanned.

Word ladder: leap, lean, mean, moan, mown, down.



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



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



# IN NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE!

DON'T MISS IT!

LARGEST POETRY LESSON



DRAGONKEEPER MOVIE



STRICTLY'S ANTON DU BEKE

## WIN! AIRBRUSH PLUSH COSMIC UNICORN



DECORATE your very own magic unicorn plush again and again, with the Airbrush Plush Cosmic Unicorn kit!

Fancy a new design? Just wash and repeat. Ask the unicorn a question and watch the colour-changing horn reveal your answer! Use the battery-powered airbrush and four coloured markers and you can give your unicorn a stunning style makeover. Use the 100+ stick-on stencils provided to customise and decorate your unicorn. Then, when you're ready for a change, simply wash with water and start all over again!

We're giving eight lucky readers the chance to win an Airbrush Plush Cosmic Unicorn kit.

All you have to do is answer this question:

What do you call a baby horse?  
a) A foal b) A kit c) A calf

ENTER NOW!  
MARK YOUR ENTRY UNICORN

first.news/comps or see page 20. The closing date is 4 October.

## WIN! BEYBLADE X GOODIES!



THIS year sees Beyblade turn 25 and rip back into your top 'must-have lists' with a brand-new franchise – Beyblade X.

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

Beyblade X also introduces the X-Celerator Rail gear innovation, allowing tops to speed into high gear for explosive battles.

Beyblades are available at Smyths and Amazon, and will roll out in other retailers throughout the year.

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

We're giving six lucky readers the chance to win a Beyblade X Xtreme Battle Set and Beyblade X Starter Pack Set Assortment. All you have to do is answer this question:

What sport is Tom Dean known for?  
a) Football b) Rugby  
c) Swimming

ENTER NOW!  
MARK YOUR ENTRY BEYBLADE

first.news/comps or see page 20. The closing date is 4 October.





## A TOM GATES TEAM-UP!

First News reader's story printed in new book!

LAST year, *First News* hosted a very cool competition – we invited you to write a funny story, and have it illustrated by Tom Gates creator Liz Pichon!

Liz's winner was a boy called Noah, with his story *The Yeti Who Couldn't Laugh*. Not only has Liz illustrated it, it's also been included in the all-new paperback edition of her book *Tom Gates: Five Star Stories!*

So, Noah, how does it feel?

"It's amazing!" he tells us. "My mum shared the brilliant news that I'd won. At first I thought she was joking. I'm really excited to see my name in it, and can't wait to get my hands on my own copy."

His short, six-page story features a yeti and a bear (right) who are best friends.

"Bear can't believe that Yeti doesn't find anything funny, so tries his hardest to make him giggle. It's good to make people smile," says Noah.

The idea came to him because he was born in the winter, and he loves the snow and funny characters. Now that he's had one story published, would he like to be an author when he grows up?

"I love writing stories and making up adventures when playing with LEGO or gaming with my friends," says Noah. "I'd love to make my own computer or adventure board games and write the stories for them."

Being published in a Tom Gates book is a very good start indeed!

**Tom Gates: Five Star Stories is out now in paperback.**



Noah and his creations!



### LIZ PICHON

● **What did you like about Noah's story, Liz?**  
I loved his characters, especially Yeti. Having Yeti and Bear together was really fun to draw as it's like a double act.

● **What advice do you have for Noah?**  
Just keep writing, reading and enjoying books. Keep a diary too – it's a great way to get into the habit of writing regularly. You forget things when you're older, and it's fun to look back on!

● **Do your fans often send you stories and their ideas?**  
They write lovely letters and there's always something in the way they write that reminds me what it's like to be that age. They ask questions that make me laugh, too!



## Meet the author

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

● **What were you like as a kid?**

A genius. The character of Dexter wasn't just based on nobody, you know...

● **What was your favourite subject at school?**  
Lunchtime.

● **What's your best-ever memory?**

I was about to write about the time I bought a bag of Maltesers and every single one of them was solid chocolate... but then I realised my husband might read this, so I'll say meeting my husband instead.

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

When I was seven, I was a model in a cake recipe book.

● **Who is your favourite author?**

There are so many brilliant authors I love reading, whether it's Liz Pichon (above), Adam Kay, Frank Cottrell-Boyce, Jacqueline Wilson, Adam Kay, Adam Kay, Maz Evans, Adam Kay, Adam Kay or Adam Kay.



● **What's the last thing you ate?**

A plate of cheesy chips. I'm really hoping it's not the last thing I eat.

● **What's your biggest fear?**

Poisoned cheesy chips.

● **Describe Dexter Procter the 10-Year-Old Doctor in three words...**

Best book ever.

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

Doing the illustrations. It turns out I was rubbish at drawing, so I just got my friend Henry to do it instead.

● **Would you be comfortable being treated by a ten-year-old doctor?**

It depends why I was in hospital. If I had tummy ache or a broken leg then I'd feel very uncomfortable.

*Dexter Procter the 10-Year-Old Doctor is out now.*



## Recommended reads

in partnership with Peters



## Wheely good!

SADDLE up, because 23–27 September is Cycle To School Week, encouraging you to make your way to school in a way that's healthy and environmentally friendly. Be inspired by these brilliant, bikey books!



**The Mystery in the Marshes** by Mark Dawson

The After School Detective Club have a weekend of cycling and camping ahead. But adventure soon finds them when their new friend disappears...

**Princess BMX** by Marie Basting and illustrated by Flavia Sorrentino

Ava is bored of magical princess life... until she tumbles through a portal and discovers the world of BMX! With her new hobby, can she save her kingdom?

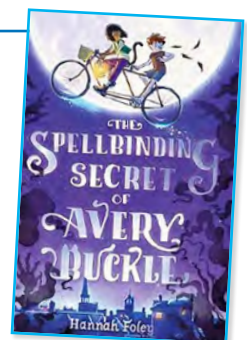


**The Green Bicycle** by Haifaa Al Mansour

Wadjda wishes to ride her own bicycle, but in Saudi Arabia it's considered improper for girls. This won't stop Wadjda from getting what she dreams of!

**The Spellbinding Secret of Avery Buckle** by Hannah Foley

Take a fur-raising ride on an enchanted bicycle with Cat Fae Avery and shape-shifting Low as they uncover a forgotten magical secret.



**On Your Bike** by Sir Chris Hoy

Olympic champion Sir Chris Hoy is your personal cycling guru, with advice for choosing the best bike, setting up the coolest stunts and more!





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# LEGO® CITY

## ULTIMATE SPEED RUN

EVER wondered what a LEGO® bus jumping over a LEGO helicopter would look like, or what would happen if you put LEGO rocket jets on a LEGO speedboat? Well, thanks to LEGO City and visual effects extraordinaire Brandon Baum, you now might just be able to...

Welcome to LEGO® City, where the out-of-the-ordinary is the ordinary, and you get to decide what happens next! With every build comes new stories and with every story comes new challenges and limitless fun. Because when you play in LEGO City there are no limits to what you can do.

### YouTube star turns LEGO City life-sized!

LEGO City lets you put your imagination to the test by playing out your own LEGO City speed runs, from zip lining across buildings, to racing monster trucks around a race track, or

skateboarding against the clock. The options are endless and no run is ever the same.

Helping to turn these runs into something life-sized, The LEGO Group called upon special VFX artist Brandon Baum to bring his wildest LEGO City speed run idea to life.

After getting his start working in TV, Brandon decided he wanted to create his own videos, content that inspired him to think big and be creative. Since then, Brandon has become an expert in creating viral videos, drawing in more than 15 billion views across his social channels!

A LEGO enthusiast himself, Brandon will feature an ultimate 'rate-the-run' challenge on his own YouTube channel, inspired by submissions from City fans.

## BRANDON B

**Brandon says:** "I can't wait to share the most exciting and action-packed run you've ever seen! The best part about it, it's completely inspired by your very own ideas – I was blown away by the imagination from you guys! The way you described your ultimate LEGO® City speed runs gave me so many ideas. And so with a little touch of visual effects, you'll be able to watch my version of the run from your own home, but I'm sure you'll feel like you're right there with me.

"Look out for the Cityscape you know and love, with a little bit of VFX magic sprinkled in. I've even created a teaser video on my Instagram to get you excited for what's to come. The sky is the limit!"



## YOUR CITY NO LIMITS

Keep an eye out on **Brandon B's YouTube channel** and the **LEGO® YouTube channel** to see the final ultimate run.



# ASKING THE SCHOOL BOSS EVERYTHING!

THE new government meant a new boss for schools. Bridget Phillipson is the new Education Secretary, which means she's in charge of everything that happens with your learning in England's schools. *FYI's* Scarlett joined Mrs Phillipson on a visit to St Peter's CofE Primary School in South Weald, a school that's part of the *First News* family. Scarlett put your questions to her about the stuff that affects you every school day. See the full interview at [first.news/TV-quicknews](https://first.news/TV-quicknews).



## ONLINE SAFETY

● **Scarlett:** Some of our *First News* and *FYI News Club* members have asked what you're going to do to help protect us from fake news online. What more needs to be done to help us spot misinformation?

**Ed Sec:** I'm concerned about what young people will often see online. I want to make sure that all young people have got the critical thinking skills to challenge or question what's in front of them. I think there's also a wider question about what more as a government we need to do to regulate what goes on, particularly on social media. As part of the review that we've announced into curriculum [everything you study at school], this will be a part of it to make sure that everyone is able to look at what's in front of them and think: "Is this right?" And ask the correct questions about it.

## SUPPORT FOR EVERYONE

● **Scarlett:** The number of kids with special educational needs and disabilities has more than doubled in the past nine years. But loads aren't getting the support they need. I mean, we recently filmed a documentary which found that kids with disabilities are missing out on school sports. So what are you going to do about these problems?

**Ed Sec:** The whole system, when it comes to support for children with special educational needs and disabilities, just isn't working in the way that it should. I know that from speaking to young people, but also listening to their parents and to schools as well. There's a lot more that we need to do as a country. And I do think it's important that all young people have got access to sport and physical

activity. It's incredibly important for all of us. And that does have to be inclusive of all people.

## MUSIC, MATHS OR BOTH?

● **Scarlett:** Our last prime minister wanted pupils to study maths until they're 18, so that's two years longer than we have to already. But you got rid of this plan. Lots of kids actually think we should be spending more time on art-based subjects like art, drama and music. Do you think that these subjects are just as important as maths, English and sciences?

**Ed Sec:** I do. I believe it's important that all young people get breadth in terms of their education, because my concern is that at the moment it's often just parents who can afford to pay extras where their children get music lessons or drama or sport. And I want it to be accessible and available to all of our young people. I don't think it's one or the other. I think we can have really high standards around English and maths but, also alongside that, make sure that all pupils get a richness and a breadth to their education. And that's one area that I've asked the review that's going on at the moment to look at, to make sure we get that balance right.

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

● **Scarlett:** So let's move on to AI because it's a huge thing. I mean, it's something that affects all of our lives, but how should it be used properly in schools? You hear things all the time about people using it to cheat and stuff...

**Ed Sec:** I think there are great opportunities when it comes to the use of technology in schools, particularly



## DO YOU WANT TO FEATURE IN FYI?

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://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://first.news/TV), or on Sky News and Sky Kids.

This QR code should be scanned by a responsible adult.



## WATCH MORE ON FYI



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

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to allow teachers to spend less time on marking and planning. I do think there are quite exciting opportunities to use technology differently and, particularly, to free up teachers' time so that they're able to spend more time directly with students and spend a bit less time on things like marking.

## WHERE ARE ALL THE KIDS?

● **Scarlett:** There's a record number of kids missing school – as many as 1 in 50 are missing at least half of their lessons. So why do you think this is and how are you going to get kids back into school?

**Ed Sec:** I am really worried about it. I know that, for some young people, they face lots of challenges that make it harder for them to feel that they want to be in school. And that's why it's really important that we support those young people where it comes to mental health support, in particular. We know that we have to do a lot more. We also spoke about support for children with special educational needs and disabilities. That's really important as well. I think it is important to stress that being in school is really important for all of our young people, because the evidence that we have suggests that the more time you are out of school, the less likely you are to do well in your exams. And that has consequences over the course of your life – you'll go on to earn less if you're regularly out of school. So, yes, I know it's not easy at the moment for some young people and I want to work with parents and schools to deal with some of those problems. But it's really important that we try to have all children in school as often as they can be, because they miss out on time with their friendships and so much more.

## HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME

● **Scarlett:** I think that a lot of young people kind of miss out on school because parents take them out on holiday and, with the cost of living crisis, it's really difficult to go on holiday. Do you think you could find a way to stop travel companies from charging more during school holidays?

**Ed Sec:** It's a difficult challenge and I do recognise the pressures that families are under. But I don't think parents should be taking their children out of school for a holiday during term time because it's not just about the impact on the individual child, it's about the impact on the whole class. What teachers tell me is that they often end up having to cover the work again, because someone's



## Do you think music is as important as maths?

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

missed out, and therefore that has an effect on the learning of all children within the classroom.

## KIDS WITH LONG COVID

● **Scarlett:** I have a question from an FYI viewer who's only just gone back to school this term since Covid...

● **Eva:** As a student living with long Covid since 2020, I missed 47 months of school and social life. What specific plans do you have to support students like me with chronic conditions to ensure that success is not something that just happens to others?

**Ed Sec:** I'm really sorry to hear about the health impacts that Eva has experienced. And, you know, we do sadly see quite a lot of children who are out of school for extended periods of time. That's why the approach that we take is making sure that we're putting support in place to support children back into the classroom. There's obviously a longer-term question about some of the impacts of Covid overall. But I think that demonstrates how important it is that support is put in place to ensure that young people can be helped back into school. And, I think, particularly when you've been out of school for such a long period of time, it must feel really daunting.

## Do you think all schools should ban phones during the school day?



## FREE SCHOOL MEALS

● **Scarlett:** I know that all primary schoolchildren in Wales now have access to free school meals, but in England they can only get breakfast. Do you think that schoolchildren in England deserve to have the same treatment as kids in Wales?

**Ed Sec:** I can only set out areas where I'm absolutely confident we can make things happen and delivering universal free breakfast clubs in our primary schools would make a really big difference around attendance at school, behaviour and academic outcomes. The evidence is really strong about that. So that's where I want to focus our efforts.

● **Scarlett:** I know that, one lesson before lunch, I lose all my focus. I need to get into the canteen and have my food. I can imagine that, without that, I could just be going down and down all afternoon.

**Ed Sec:** I do understand the arguments around this. And, for part of my childhood, I had free school meals. So, I know that they're an important part of the system. Equally, what I hear a lot from teachers is that children are arriving at school already hungry, which is why our breakfast clubs will make such a big difference.



## SCHOOL PHONE BAN

● **Scarlett:** One of the biggest school groups (Ormiston Academies Trust, which runs 42 schools with 35,000 pupils) has put a ban on people using phones in schools. Do you think that's a good idea, and do you support a phone ban in all schools?

**Ed Sec:** The vast majority of schools take that approach and I think that's the right thing to do. You know, technology is wonderful but I don't want there to be any distractions within lessons. And, sadly, phones can be a distraction for children. It's important that schools make sure that children are not distracted and they're focused on their learning. I want to back schools to continue to do that. But, also, at break and lunch times that children and young people get the chance to spend time together chatting, not just being on their phones.

## PHONE BULLYING

● **Scarlett:** It also makes online bullying a lot easier when you have phones out at school.

**Ed Sec:** That is part of the challenge. It's one thing to deal with phone use within school, but some of the problems that young people and schools tell me about is actually what happens out of school – the bullying that you've just described. And that's also why it's really important that young people know where to go to get help if there're problems, but also that we make sure that young people aren't being exposed to really inappropriate or damaging material online.

## OLD SCHOOLS

● **Scarlett:** Some schools are feeling really old and draughty. And, last year, 500 schools were in urgent need of repair and rebuilding. What are you going to do to bring that number down?

**Ed Sec:** There's a massive issue in terms of the condition of schools. We also saw in recent times the scandal around the number of schools with RAAC, that kind of crumbling concrete that caused really serious disruption to children's learning. We're looking at all of the schools in poor condition and what we can do to address that. But, this is going to take us time. We haven't, over the last 14 years, had a serious plan for investing in our schools. And that means there's a very big backlog.





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

October is Black History Month, so we want to hear if you're doing anything to celebrate and learn about black culture next month. What inspirational black figures would you like to recognise in the paper? How will you be celebrating at your school?

We want to feature your reports in the paper, so get in touch! You can get a trusted adult to contact us via email at [yournews@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:yournews@firstnews.co.uk).



Kai went to report on *Brainiac Live* for *First News*

## WHAT AN EXPLOSIVE SHOW!

WE sent junior journalist Kai to review *Brainiac Live* on stage. He tells us about his experience at this science show that's a bit out of the ordinary!



by Kai Gellard

Looking at the stage with barrels of slime and trademark yellow skull and crossbones plastered around gave a dangerous science lab vibe.

The performers instantly engaged the audience and their pantomime set-up with cheering and booing to let the audience know they could interact loudly! Luckily, ear defenders were provided. There were lots of explosive, practical experiments, definitely not what you would see in the classroom!

The three Brainiacs were brilliant! My favourite experiment was 'spin the office chair', with fire extinguishers and rockets – the sparks looked awesome! My mum's favourite was the Airzooka, blowing smoke rings into the crowd, as it was the quietest.

The show was entertaining and hilarious – great for younger kids and science geeks. A mixture of scientific knowledge and funny experiments, they intermingled the facts with entertainment brilliantly!

## TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Does doing things that are good for the environment make you feel better about climate change?

Research shows us that there has been a big rise in online searches for 'eco-anxiety' between 2018 and 2023. This is the worry that people have about climate change and the damage happening to our environment. However, there are lots of positive changes we can make to help tackle environmental problems. Find out more and vote in our poll to let us know what you think!

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

Vote at [first.news/polls](https://first.news/polls)

## Nasty neighbours



JUNIOR journalist Maebh received an exciting author visit at her school to mark the launch of a new Roald Dahl-inspired book. Find out what she thought of it below!

by Maebh, aged nine

At Surrey Street Primary School we celebrated the launch of *The Twits Next Door*, the thrilling new Roald Dahl-inspired book from Greg James and Chris Smith.

The main event took place in the school hall. The place where I would usually eat lunch now looked like a TV studio, cameras and wires snaking across the floor.

Chris and Greg made their entrance to loud cheers and applause. They introduced us to the main characters, Mr and Mrs Twit, a mean and miserable prank-playing pair who took pride in being awful 110% of the time. Then, there were the Lovelie family, joyous, playful and funny, whose disco pants made us all want to dance!

Greg and Chris then read a chapter from their book. Chris was the narrator and Greg brought the characters to life using different voices. I particularly liked how he squealed and howled when Mr Twit was stung on the bottom by a toilet full of wasps. Greg and Chris then kindly gifted and signed a copy of their book to every child.

It was amazing to have been part of such a special occasion, one I will remember forever. Greg and Chris are awesome and the most important thing I learned from the day is that being Lovelie is better than being a Twit.



All the pupils received a copy



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# 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** People in Dorchester on Thames were confused when told that their town would be renamed after which fictional character?



**2** A man from which country became the first non-astronaut to do a spacewalk?





**3** This is the huge nest made by what creatures?




**4** What colour is used to raise awareness of Organ Donation Week?

**5** TV company HBO is casting kids in a new show based on which book series?




**6** This cat won an award for helping women when they're hurt. What's his name?



**7** Kids born after 2010 are said to be in what generation?



**8** True or false: musical instruments can make a sound in outer space?




**9** What type of garment has been returned from Denmark to Brazil?




**10** What type of animal is this new discovery?



**11** Who became the first person ever to hit one billion followers across all of their social media channels?

**12** A trench has been discovered from which famous 1815 battle?





**13** People have been saying this statue looks like Mrs Doubtfire, but who is it actually meant to be?



**14** Plans to build a new hotel in the Seychelles could put what animals at risk?



**15** Tom Dean is putting his moves to the test on *Strictly*. But what Olympic sport did he win gold in at Paris 2024?




**Answers:**  
1 Winnie-the-Pooh 2 America 3 Wasps 4 Pink 5 Harry Potter 6 Marley 7 Alpha 8 False 9 A cloak 10 A dinosaur 11 Cristiano Ronaldo 12 Battle of Waterloo 13 Queen Elizabeth II 14 Giant tortoises 15 Swimming



# USA BACK ON TOP AGAIN



Lilia Vu celebrates taking the cup back to America

**THE USA fought off a late comeback from Europe to win golf's Solheim Cup for the first time since 2017.**

Europe has won the trophy for the previous three competitions, but a 15½-12½ win saw the cup head back to the other side of the Atlantic this time.

The crucial moment came when Lilia Vu birdied the 18th hole to win the half point that sealed victory.

At certain points on the final day, Europe thought that

a dramatic comeback was on the cards, especially when Charley Hull beat world No 1 Nelly Korda with four holes still to play, but the USA held on for a deserved win.

*"I'm just so proud of them. I'm proud that they get this moment where they get to celebrate tonight and win this Cup"* – USA team captain Stacy Lewis.



Everton have just equalled a Premier League record, but we doubt it's one that they're going to brag about! Sean Dyche's team snatched defeat from the jaws of victory again at the weekend, throwing away a two-goal lead against Aston Villa and losing 3-2. That means they've become only the second team since the Premier League began in 1992 to lose two games in a row where they were at least two goals ahead. Oof!



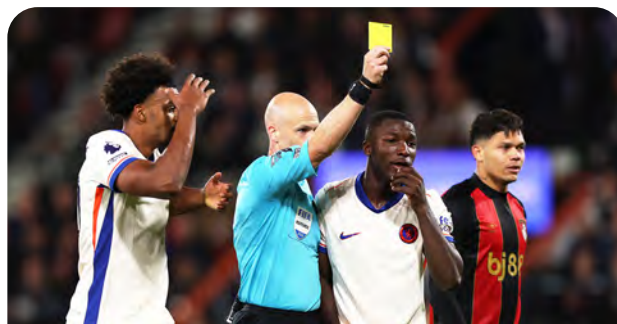
Four more sports have joined the Clean Water Sports Alliance, with the aim of forcing the government and water companies to clean up our polluted water. The alliance says that 47% of GB's medals in Paris came in water sports, and that 18% of GB's medals were won by athletes who train outdoors in rivers, canals and lakes.



**5 HAT-TRICKS** have been scored by England captain Harry Kane in the Bundesliga, Germany's top division. It's taken the Bayern Munich star only 35 games to reach that mark, which is 26 games faster than anyone else in the league's history!



Caitlin Clark, the new young star of the WNBA basketball league in the US, has broken yet another record in her debut season. She added nine assists to her season's total in a match against the Las Vegas Aces at the weekend, taking her past Alyssa Thomas's record that she set just last year. The 22-year-old made the move from college basketball after last season, and has been credited with increasing attendances and TV viewing figures for the women's game.



Bournemouth and Chelsea were very naughty boys in their recent match, with 14 players getting booked – the most in a single game in Premier League history!

## Braydon's on the ball



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

Arsenal continued their recent dominance over Tottenham in the North London derby on Sunday, with a 1-0 win making it three successive away victories for the Gunners in the new Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. In a hard-fought and close game, it was Arsenal's set-piece skills again that made the difference, when Gabriel headed home the winner from a corner on 64min. For Spurs, it was a similar story to last season and, despite some promising spells, they fell short again and have won just one of their first four matches.

Erling Haaland (who else) was among the goals again, this time with both of City's strikes in a 2-1 over Brentford, though it was the away side who started the game well and had some good chances after taking a shock first-minute lead. City bounced back, though, and found a way to take the three points and sit at the top of the table with maximum points.



Durán fires in a worldie to help Villa beat Everton

The big shock of the weekend came at Anfield, with Nottingham Forest ending Arne Slot's perfect start to the season. Liverpool rarely drop points at home and so this is most definitely an unexpected bonus for Forest, and Callum Hudson-Odoi's goal stunned Anfield to hand Forest their first win at Liverpool since 1969. Forest now sit in seventh with two wins and two draws, so a very tidy start to the season for them.

And so to **Centre Stage** this week, and THE goal that everyone is talking about, Jhon Durán's absolute rocket to win the game for Villa against Everton. He stepped off the bench to hit the top corner, and I doubt he'll ever hit one any better.

Looking ahead, in the Premier League it's one of the biggest fixtures of the season at the top of the table with Man City v Arsenal on Sunday. Now that will be a good one!

**Braydon's Player of the Week:** Jhon Durán of Aston Villa. If you've not seen the goal yet then find it online. What a strike!

**Braydon's Team of the Week:** Nottingham Forest. Not many teams win at Anfield, so a huge result for them.

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