

NEWS KIDS CAN TRUST

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR*



First News

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2.6M READERS*



NEWS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT
INTERVIEWS PUZZLES COMPETITIONS



A MILLION BOTTLES BOUGHT EVERY MINUTE

by editor in chief Nicky Cox MBE

A MILLION plastic bottles of water are bought every minute across the world – and it's damaging our health and the planet, say experts.

They say our use of plastic bottled water needs an urgent rethink.

About two billion people around the world, who don't have access to safe drinking water, rely on bottled water. But, for the rest of us, it's a choice. Often, people buy bottled water because it's convenient. Another reason is because advertising can lead people to think bottled water is healthier than tap water.

But it isn't, say the authors of a new global report from Weill Cornell Medicine in Qatar, published in *BMJ Global Health*.

That's because bottled water often doesn't have the same quality and safety tests as tap water. And harmful chemicals can leak into the water from the plastic bottles, especially if it's stored for a long time or the bottles get warm, they explain.

Microplastics and other contaminants have been found in between 10% and 78% of bottled water samples, which can lead to a number of negative health effects.

Tap water is also a greener choice. Plastic bottles make up the second most common ocean pollutant – around 12% of all plastic waste. Only a small number are recycled.

Now the experts are calling on governments to launch campaigns to educate people about the health benefits of tap water – for people and the planet – in the hope they will change their habits.

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MEET THE TEAM



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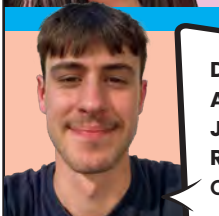
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World leaders pledge to listen to young people



World leaders have made a new agreement at the United Nations (UN) called the 'Pact for the Future', to help solve global problems. The pact includes ideas to make the internet available to everyone, protect people online, especially kids, and give young people more say in big decisions. Countries also promised to work together on new technologies like artificial intelligence. The UN hopes this agreement will make the world a more peaceful, inclusive and sustainable place for future generations.

School tax rises unfair on SEND pupils, say parents



Parents of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are speaking out against the new 20% tax on private school fees. They say it's unfair and could force them to move their kids to state schools that might not meet their needs. Rebecca, a mum from Somerset, told the BBC: "Our shoulders are not big enough. I can't get into a [state] school and none of them are able to cater for my children's requirements." The government says the money raised from the tax will help to improve state schools. But some parents worry their special needs children won't get enough help in those schools. The new tax starts in January 2025.

The RSPCA peeks into the future



The RSPCA animal welfare charity has created an interactive game called *Animal Futures* to get young people thinking about how climate change and technology will affect animals in the year 2050. Players can explore different scenarios, including worlds with robot pets, and the ability to talk to animals using artificial intelligence. The game aims to show how our choices today can impact animals tomorrow. Chris Sherwood from the RSPCA says: "Some of these worlds may seem bleak or even downright chilling. The good news is that animals' futures are in our hands – but time is running out."

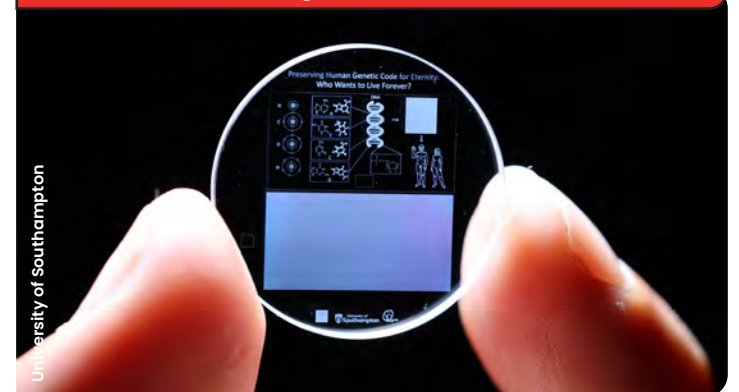
HAVE YOU

Octopuses and fish work together to hunt, study reveals



Scientists have discovered that octopuses and fish work together when hunting for food. This surprising teamwork was witnessed in the Red Sea during researchers' scuba diving trips. They found that octopuses, which usually hunt alone, join forces with different types of fish to catch prey like shellfish and crabs. The fish help find good hunting spots while the octopuses decide when to attack. This co-operation helps both the octopuses and fish catch more food than they would on their own. They also push each other around to keep the group in order, and octopuses were filmed punching fish to keep them in their place!

DNA stored on crystal could bring back humanity after extinction



Researchers at the University of Southampton have found a way to save a record of a person's DNA on a small crystal. DNA is found in our cells and is like an instruction manual telling our bodies how to grow and function. The crystal could last for billions of years and might help bring back humans if we ever die out. The scientists used ultra-fast lasers to write the information on the crystal. Unlike other data storage methods, this method doesn't wear out over time, as the crystal can survive extreme heat, cold, and even space radiation. While we can't create humans from scratch like this yet, scientists hope it could be useful in the future. They also think it could help restore endangered plants and animals. Although if humans do become extinct, who would bring us back...?

HEARD?



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

Elderly seal celebrates 50th birthday



A rescued grey seal named Sheba is celebrating her 50th birthday at the Cornish Seal Sanctuary, making her one of the oldest seals in human care. She was found with eye problems in 1974, and Sheba has lived at the centre ever since. The sanctuary's staff threw her a party with a brass band and a special ice and fish cake. Tamara Cooper from the sanctuary says: "Reaching 50 is a huge milestone, not just for Sheba but for everyone here who has been part of her journey. The bond we've developed with Sheba over her lifetime is something truly special."

First News' Look Up! campaign



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.

Ten Welsh words added to English dictionary



A selection of Welsh words and terms have been added to the *Oxford English Dictionary*. Editors of the dictionary say that the ten Welsh words have been added because the English language borrows these words. Some of the words added to the dictionary include 'Senedd', the name of the Welsh parliament, and 'iechyd da', which translates as 'good health' and is often used as a toast. Other words added include 'sglods' (chips), 'cawl' (a type of soup), 'twp' (stupid) and 'ych a fi' (used to express disgust). The new additions are part of editors' efforts to represent different varieties of English spoken throughout the world.

New blood test could spot diabetes risk



Scientists at King's College London have found a new way to check if children might be at risk of type two diabetes or other health problems linked to being overweight. They looked at tiny particles in the blood called lipids, some of which can show if a child might get diabetes or have high blood pressure, even if they're not very overweight. They believe this test could help doctors catch health issues early to treat kids correctly. It might also lead to new ways to stop type two diabetes before it starts.

Taxis take ill children to Disneyland



More than 200 children with serious illnesses were treated to a magical journey when London taxi drivers took them to Disneyland Paris. This amazing trip, organised by the Magical Taxi Tour charity, has been happening for 30 years. Children nominated by their hospitals met their favourite Disney characters and went on exciting rides. One driver, Phil Davis, said: "It's a challenge, but we all do it to see a smile on their face." Doctors and ambulance staff also went along to help. The trip included surprises, treats and a dinner with dancing at the end. All the taxi drivers volunteered their time and taxis for free to make the special day happen.

Children's art and story competition aims to promote peace

A writing and art competition called War Through Children's Eyes is inviting young people to share their thoughts on conflict using drawings, paintings and short stories. The competition was held first in 2022 to mark a terrible event in 1992 in Azerbaijan, where hundreds of people were killed. Organisers hope the entries will help people understand how war affects children and the importance of peace. Entries are open to anyone aged 7 to 17 and based in the UK, until 18 October. More information can be found at www.warthroughchildrenseyes.org.uk.



● NATIONAL DOODLE DAY 27 SEPTEMBER

Hundreds of authors and illustrators have been doodling their own creations to help raise money for the charity Epilepsy Action.



● BLACK HISTORY MONTH OCTOBER

A chance to celebrate African and Caribbean history and culture in the UK. This year's theme is Reclaiming Narratives.



SAVE OUR COASTS!

Kids send prime minister an urgent message

10cm
Erosion causes around a quarter of coastlines in England and Wales to lose more than 10cm of land a year.

KIDS from the UK Children's Parliament (UKCP) have written to Prime Minister Keir Starmer, in a bid to save the country's crumbling coastlines.

Erosion is when coasts and cliffs are worn away by the force of nature, making them unsafe. One of the worst areas in Europe for this is in Hemsby, in Norfolk. There, some homes have had to be knocked down to prevent them from tumbling into the sea.

Four-point plan

It was in Hemsby that children from the UKCP held an emergency meeting to discuss the problem, chatting to local councils and residents who have been forced to abandon their homes.

The group of young UKCP members,

who attend schools in London, Essex and Norfolk, agreed a four-point plan to tackle the issue.

It includes better support for people who've been forced from their homes, and for coastal erosion to be treated with the same urgency as flooding.

Clark Dearson, the 11-year-old Child Prime Minister of the UKCP, said that coastal erosion was a "very real and immediate problem". He added: "If nothing's done, it could, at best, forever change the lives of many local people and the local economy – and, at worst, could result in a substantial loss of life."

The UKCP's findings have been sent to Mr Starmer and other senior politicians.

Important Notice:
DANGER
UNSTABLE CLIFFS
RISK OF INJURY
NO PUBLIC ACCESS
KEEP AWAY.



£4,000

The UKCP's meeting featured this brilliant £4,000 LEGO model to show coastal erosion. It will be auctioned to raise money for local lifeboat and coastline charities in Hemsby.

More fighting in the Middle East



Above: cars queue to flee missiles hits
Right: a missile hits

THOUSANDS in Lebanon have fled their homes, with the country under heavy fire from Israeli missiles.

Lebanon shares a border with Israel. On Monday, Israel's army said that it had hit 1,600 sites controlled by Hezbollah – a group that runs Lebanon's most powerful army.

Lebanon's health ministry said that Monday's missile strikes had killed at least 558 people, and injured 1,835.

In response, Hezbollah fired missiles back at Israel. Most of them were either destroyed or fell in safe, open areas, Israel said, but 48 people were killed.

Why is this happening?

Hezbollah is classed as a terrorist group by countries such as the UK and the USA. It has a large supply of missiles and has been firing them at Israel to support Hamas – the group that runs Gaza and is at war with Israel.

Due to the rise in danger, all schools in Lebanon were shut when *First News* went to press, with some being used as shelter for civilians. Schools were also shut in northern Israel. Some airlines, including British Airways, cancelled flights to Beirut in Lebanon and Tel Aviv in Israel.

RADICAL RATS!

A TALENTED team of rats has been trained to help humans tackle the illegal wildlife trade!

APOPO, a rat-training charity, has found that African giant pouched rats can use their super sense of smell to detect four types of items that come from endangered species and are sold illegally – rhino horn,

elephant ivory, pangolin scales and African blackwood.

The rats are able to sniff out these items even when they're hidden in parcels and masked by other scents.

The researchers say that the rats are a cheaper way of finding these items than using expensive tech like X-rays.



They're like real-life Detective Pikachu!

EDITOR'S COMMENT



Nicky Cox MBE

THIS week, I asked people to guess how many plastic bottles of water were sold every minute.

Nobody guessed that it was as many as one million (front page). It's a staggering number and a huge problem for the planet.

As with many environmental problems, we already have the answer... stop buying them!

By switching to reusable bottles and filling them with (often healthier) tap water, we can reduce plastic waste, save money, reduce our carbon footprint and be healthier.

It's a small but powerful step to protect both the planet and people. So, let's do this!



Bison survived in European zoos

Bison

NEW bridges are being built in Kent to give people a good view of the first wild bison herd in the UK for thousands of years! European bison became extinct in Britain 6,000 years ago, but they're making a comeback. A herd of three bison was released in 2022, and it's already doubled in size after the birth of three calves.

GOOD WEEK

Russian chess players

THE International Chess Federation has voted to continue banning Russia's chess team from taking part in international competitions. The team was banned first in 2022, after Russia invaded Ukraine.

The Ukrainian Chess Federation's Viktor Kapustin told the BBC:

"[Russia] must be punished in all spheres of their life, including sport."



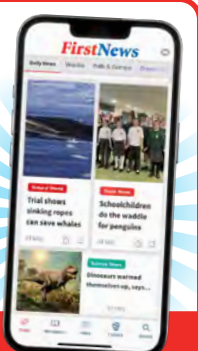
BAD WEEK



Russia's ally, Belarus, is banned, too

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PROTECT CHILDREN FROM AIR POLLUTION

SAY TOP DOCTORS



A traditional wood burner

DOCTORS are calling on the UK government to do more to protect children from air pollution.

Two of the most harmful pollutants to children's health are PM2.5 and nitrogen dioxide, which can affect how your organs develop and increase your risk of other diseases both now and in the future. Some of the main sources of these pollutants are vehicle exhausts and wood-burning stoves.

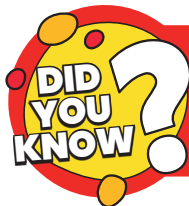
The RCPCH's recommendations

Doctors from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) want to see children being better protected against air pollutants and have released a new set of recommendations. These include:

- Monitoring air pollution in schools and giving local authorities the power to take action when pollution goes over set limits.
- Making a Clean Air Act (Ella's Law – see Did You Know?) so that everyone has a legal right to clean air across the UK, and committing to the World Health Organization (WHO) Air Quality Guidelines.

- Introducing a new law to protect people privately renting homes from living in dangerous conditions, such as houses that have damp and mould problems.
- Investing in sustainable transport so that half of urban journeys can be walked or cycled by 2030, with accessible public transport for all.
- Encouraging people to stop using wood burners in family homes and instead support those who need help with paying for fuel.

Dr Mike McKean from the RCPCH said: "Immediate action is needed to make the UK – and indeed the planet – a safer place for every child and young person."



ELLA Roberta Adoo-Kissi-Debrah, who died in 2013 aged nine, was the first person in England ruled to have died from air pollution. Ella's Law is named after her.



Children's Commissioner Dame Rachel de Souza needs your help!

Have your say in the School Survey!

THE Children's Commissioner wants to hear from schools and pupils in England for a big new survey.

Dame Rachel de Souza has set up the School Survey 2024 with the aim of helping to find out what support children need and how the government can provide it.

Make sure your views and interests are heard by taking part today at tinyurl.com/school-survey-2024.

The deadline is 20 December 2024.

A 'mini moon' for autumn

EARTH will be getting a second moon for a short time this autumn!

A new study says that 2024 PT5, an asteroid roughly ten metres long, will be sucked into Earth's gravitational pull and orbit our planet for about two months, becoming a 'mini moon'.

The asteroid will be with us from 29 September until 25 November, before returning to the Arjuna asteroid belt where it normally orbits the sun.

It will be too small and dim for many to see it, but experts say professional astronomers should be able to catch a glimpse with their telescopes.



The moon is getting a mate!

GLASS BUILDING BRICKS?!



A stack of the glass bricks

ENGINEERS have managed to 3D-print sturdy glass bricks for building structures.

Scientists from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology created the multi-layered glass bricks, each in the shape of a figure of eight, that are designed to fit together like LEGO bricks.

The aim is to find a sustainable and recyclable alternative to using concrete bricks for building homes and inside walls.

The team printed glass bricks and tested their strength by squeezing them in a huge mechanical press until they began to crack. They found that the strongest bricks were able to cope with pressures that are similar to those that concrete blocks can manage.

The next step

Michael Stern, who is working on the project, said the team hopes to build some structures with the glass bricks, starting with a pavilion (a big glass building) to see how they hold up.

The study has been published in the journal *Glass Structures and Engineering*.



Luckily, no-one was hurt

TWO teenagers were arrested in New York for stealing and crashing an empty subway train.

The 17-year-old boy and girl are accused of entering the train just after midnight on 12 September at Briarwood station, in Queens.

Demetrius Crichlow, from the New York City Transit Authority, said that the pair drove the train about 50ft (15m), caused a collision, then ran away – but were caught on camera.

He called it an "extremely foolish and reckless act".



Shanghai, China



PEOPLE visit the Shanghai International Light Festival, which features spectacular shows and colourful art installations.

Queanbeyan, Australia



A DRAMATIC jousting tournament was just part of the excitement on offer for visitors to the Queanbeyan Medieval Fair, which also included jester performances and re-enactments of historical events.

Toronto, Canada



THIS cool cat was hanging out with its ducky pal while its owner waited for the start of an epic 2.5km (1.6-mile) domino rally (right). The public art project was created by Station House Opera and involved 8,000 giant dominoes falling on a route through the city!



Paris, France



THE ten golden statues of female pioneers that formed part of the opening ceremony for the Olympics are now on show at the National Assembly in Paris.

Chongqing, China



THIS panda tea party looks like it's about to get out of control!

Love reading

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the *First News* app!

DAILY NEWS

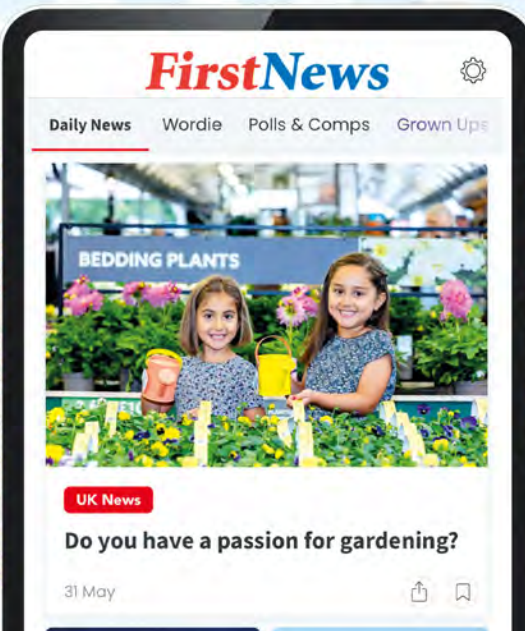
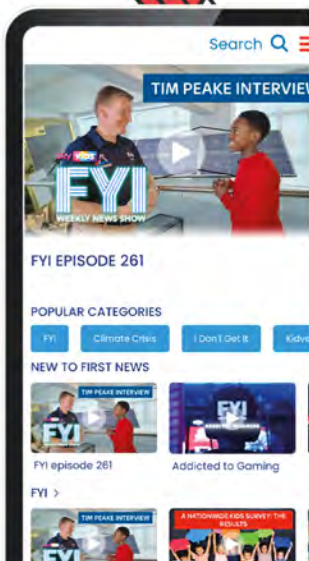
PLAY FUN GAMES

AWESOME PUZZLES

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VIDEOS



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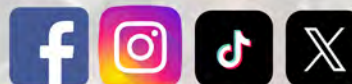
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DERRY

Digging up the past

Artefacts from the 17th century have been uncovered in the first archaeological dig in Derry in more than a decade. The week-long excavation, organised by the Friends of the Derry Walls, took place just below the city's historic walls. Experts from the Queen's University's Centre for Community Archaeology thought before that it was the site of a 17th century ditch. While exploring this hidden ditch, they discovered old coins, medals and marbles. Pupils from local schools also got involved, allowing them to learn about archaeology and get a glimpse into the history of their city.



Niall McCaughan

GLASGOW

Games to return

The city has confirmed it will host the 2026 Commonwealth Games. The city of Victoria in Australia was picked to host the event at first but pulled out because it was going to cost too much. The Glasgow Games will be scaled down, with only ten sporting events and fewer athletes competing, to keep costs low. Glasgow last hosted the games in 2014, very successfully, so Scotland's largest city will be hoping to recreate the magic. Many Scottish athletes are excited because the Commonwealth Games is the only event where they can represent Scotland instead of the wider Great Britain team.



Usain Bolt won gold in Glasgow in 2014

BELFAST



Daniel Wiffen shone in Paris

Olympic homecoming

Northern Ireland will host an official celebration for the return of their Olympic and Paralympic heroes. Northern Irish athletes won a record-breaking seven medals at the Paris Olympics, including four golds. Swimming star Daniel Wiffen picked up one of them, and he also took home a bronze. Northern Ireland had eight Paralympians competing in Paris, including 17-year-old swimmer Dearbhaile Brady. Sports Minister Gordon Lyons said: "Every local athlete who took part... is an inspiration," and that qualifying for the Games in the first place was a "huge success". The Paris Celebration Event will take place at the SSE Arena on 3 October.

LAND'S END

Paddington on tour

Marmalade sandwiches at the ready – Paddington could be coming to a bench near you! More than 20 Paddington statues will be installed on benches from John O'Groats to Land's End – including London's Paddington station of course – ahead of the release of *Paddington in Peru*. The latest film sees Paddington return home for a journey through the Amazon rainforest and the mountains of Peru. It's in cinemas from 8 November. Head over to the *First News* app to hear more about the trail from Hugh Bonneville, who plays Mr Brown in the Paddington films!



One of the statues gets its final touches before taking a seat with a sandwich



OXFORDSHIRE

Green cup scheme

Two popular visitor attractions have joined forces to stop more than 600,000 single-use coffee cups from being thrown away every year. Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire and the Eden Project in Cornwall have set up a returnable cup system. Visitors pay a small deposit, and they get the money back once they return the empty cup. Replacing the old single-use cups could save 27 tonnes of greenhouse gases per year. That's about the same as heating 12 homes for 12 months! Blenheim Palace aims to be carbon neutral by 2027.



Blenheim Palace

LONDON

Forming female leaders

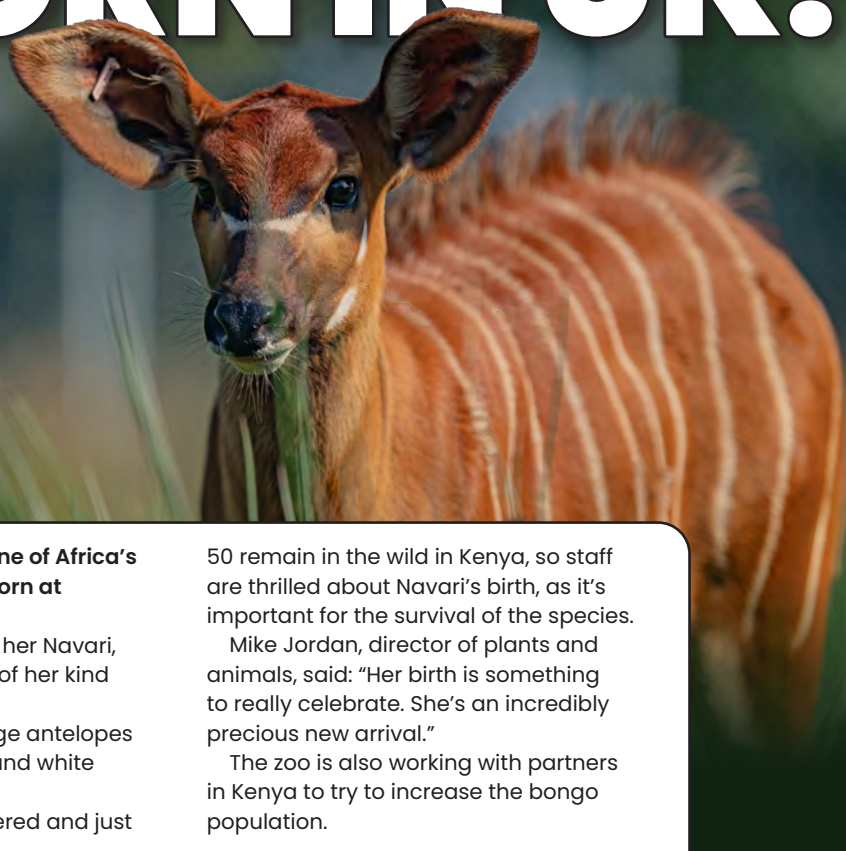
The Festival of the Girl is returning to inspire and engage ahead of International Day of the Girl on 11 October. The weekend of 5-6 October marks the sixth year of the festival – its biggest yet. Harmful gender stereotypes will be challenged in interactive workshops, to stop them from becoming set in people's minds. The event is aimed at, but not limited to, girls aged 7-11 and includes a quiet 'noises off' session especially for SEND children and their families. Potential leaders of the future will be able to chat with female role models to help build their confidence.



The festival takes place at the Business Design Centre in Islington, North London



BABY BONGO BORN IN UK!



A **BABY** mountain bongo, one of Africa's rarest animals, has been born at Chester Zoo.

Zookeepers have named her Navari, and she is only the second of her kind born at the zoo in 15 years.

Mountain bongos are large antelopes with reddish-brown coats and white stripes.

They're critically endangered and just

50 remain in the wild in Kenya, so staff are thrilled about Navari's birth, as it's important for the survival of the species.

Mike Jordan, director of plants and animals, said: "Her birth is something to really celebrate. She's an incredibly precious new arrival."

The zoo is also working with partners in Kenya to try to increase the bongo population.

Chester Zoo

ANEESHWAR'S ANIMAL OF THE WEEK



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

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

EURASIAN MAGPIE



istock

HABITAT:

Woods, farms, moorland, parks and gardens, but can also be seen in city centres.

FUN FACTS:

- Magpies are omnivorous, meaning they eat pretty much anything, including fruit, insects, roadkill and small birds and mammals.
- They are non-migratory, and it's rare for one to travel more than 10km from where it hatched.

SPECIAL SUPERPOWER:

They are very intelligent, and can recognise themselves in a mirror – a very rare animal skill.

CONSERVATION STATUS:

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



Aneeshwar's magpie art

Grumpy fish found in Red Sea



Viktor Nunes Peinemann

SCIENTISTS have discovered a new type of fish in the Red Sea that always looks like it's angry!

The tiny fish, whose scientific name is *Sueviota aethon*, has been named the grumpy dwarfgoby. It's less than 2cm long but has big teeth and a fierce face.

Divers found it in the Red Sea near Saudi Arabia. It lives under coral reefs and eats tiny sea creatures. It is also bright red, which helps it hide among the red algae that cover the reefs.

Researchers say finding new sea animals like this shows how much we still don't know about ocean life. They worry some creatures might disappear due to coral reef damage before we even discover them.

Rhino's broken leg fixed in world-first surgery

A RHINO named Amara at Knowsley Safari Park in England is back on her feet after a world-first operation to fix her broken leg.

Doctors used tiny cameras and tools to look inside her leg and repair it, just like they do for horses. However, this was the first time anyone had ever done this kind of surgery on a rhino.

Amara had to wear a big cast for four weeks after the operation. Vets and keepers weren't sure if she would be able to move around with it, but they say she did really well!

Now, Amara is all better and can run around outside again.



Knowsley Safari Park

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.



HUMAN BONE INSPIRES TOUGHER CONCRETE

Researchers Reza Moini (left) and Shashank Gupta with some of their concrete creations

RESEARCHERS in the US have developed a new type of concrete that's more than five times more resistant to damage than current materials.

Reza Moini and Shashank Gupta at Princeton University were inspired by the outer layer of the human femur (thigh bone) and other bones, known as cortical bone. This type of bone contains lots of tubes called osteons, which help to deflect any cracks and stop them spreading further.

The researchers made their concrete shapes by creating silicon moulds with a 3D printer and then pouring concrete into it.

Current methods to strengthen concrete involve adding materials like plastic, but this new method uses less material, since there are hollow spaces in it.

The scientists say that their method could be used to improve the strength of other materials too.



AFTER water, concrete is the most widely-used substance in the world – around 30 billion tonnes of the stuff is used every year! It's made from cement, sand and crushed rock, and manufacturing cement is responsible for around 7% of the world's CO₂ emissions.



Elon Musk's satellites are harming astronomy

RESEARCHERS from across Europe and South Africa say that Elon Musk's Starlink satellites are having a negative effect on radio telescopes based on Earth.

There are thousands of Starlink satellites in orbit around Earth, and they help to provide high-speed internet and phone signal in remote areas, including in the UK.

However, a new report says that many of the newer satellites are giving off radio signals that spoil the data being collected by radio

telescopes. The scientists say that this unintended electromagnetic radiation (UEMR) could mean that some telescopes may not be able to produce any reliable observations.

Although the report in *Astronomy & Astrophysics* says that Starlink is co-operating to find out which parts of the satellites are giving off UEMR, it says that international regulations should be strengthened to protect the work of astronomers.

THE sun and all of the planets in our solar system give off radio signals, and recording these can help us to learn more about their internal structure. Observing radio emissions also helps us to study things that we can't see with optical telescopes.



New species discovered near science labs

EXPERTS at Rice University in the US have found a species of wasp that's new to science, and they only had to nip outside their labs to find it!

One of the reasons that *Chrysonotomyia susbelli* has gone unnoticed until now is that it's absolutely tiny – just 1mm long. It was found preying on the larvae of slightly larger gall wasps on southern live oak trees.

The researchers say that oaks can often have 5–50 species of gall wasp living in them, so it's very possible there are more undiscovered species of these tiny



wasps in the 270+ species of oak trees that can be found in the US, Canada and Mexico.

Incredibly, this is the fourth new wasp species to be discovered on the university campus in seven years.

"You don't have to travel to a distant rainforest to find new and beautiful things – you just have to step outside and look," says Scott Egan, one of the authors of the report.

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?

On Venus, one day is longer than a year! This is due to the fact that the planet turns incredibly slowly, and takes a total of 243 Earth days to make a full turn.

DID YOU KNOW?



Point Nemo is the place in the ocean that's the farthest away from any land. If you went there, you'd be closer to astronauts in space than to any people living on Earth!

Ever tried to lick your own elbow? If not, give it a try right now! It's impossible for most people to perform this seemingly simple task.



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

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



FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE FROM SPACE

**SCIENCE
MUSEUM
GROUP**

IN the fourth of a six-part series of climate change films from the Science Museum Group, FYI presenters Scarlett and Jeriah look at how satellite data is helping us to track the effects of our changing climate. 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-space.

Satellites can be used to direct firefighters to wildfires, and give them an idea of how the wind and weather will change the course of the fire

SINCE the first satellite was launched in 1957, there have been nearly 20,000 sent up into space. But how can they help us to beat climate change?

What are satellites used for?

All sorts! We often use them every day without realising, such as when we get TV pictures sent to a satellite dish or use GPS satellites to help us get directions from apps like Google Maps. But they're also used to track weather around the world, keep an eye on changes to crops and forests, and even measure concentrations of gases in the atmosphere or salt in the ocean.

How do they help us tackle climate change?

Since trees help to soak up carbon dioxide (CO₂), they're very important for life on Earth. Satellites can help to spot forest fires in remote regions, or see where trees have been illegally cut down to make way for mines or cattle farms, or to make space for roads that allow loggers to go further into the forest.

Anything else?

So many things! Satellites can keep an eye on emissions of planet-warming gases such as CO₂ and methane, helping officials to inspect illegal or inefficient factories or other industrial sites that have high emissions.

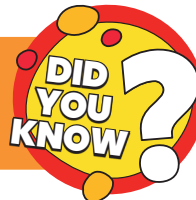
Can they help animals?

Yes they can. As Scarlett and Jeriah show in the film, groups like WWF and the British Antarctic Survey are using satellite images to track populations of animals like walrus and penguins. These images have even helped us to discover previously unknown populations of animals who live in areas that researchers can't get to easily. Satellites can also see if fishing vessels are operating illegally in protected areas.



Antarctica is 61 times bigger than the UK, so satellites are the only way that we can properly keep track of changes that are happening there

SATELLITES can even spot clouds of methane over cattle farms that come from cow burps and farts!



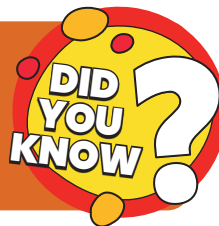
What's next?

Many of the problems caused by climate change have only been discovered thanks to satellite data. Now, scientists and politicians have to use that information to reduce harmful emissions as soon as possible, to avoid any more damage to our climate.

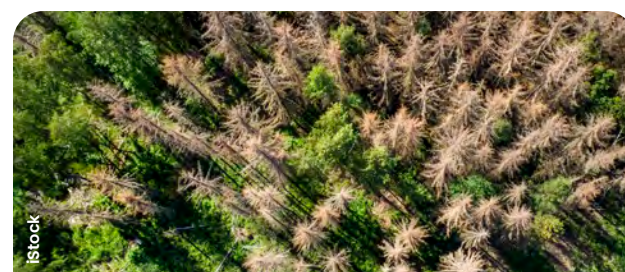
An engineer working on Sputnik 1, the first ever satellite to successfully orbit Earth



SCIENTISTS at RAL Space say that their thermometers on satellites can measure sea surface temperatures from 800km away to within 0.2°C.



SATELLITE data has helped us to see that Earth has lost 28 trillion tonnes of ice since the early '90s – that's enough to cover the whole of the UK in a sheet of ice 100m thick.



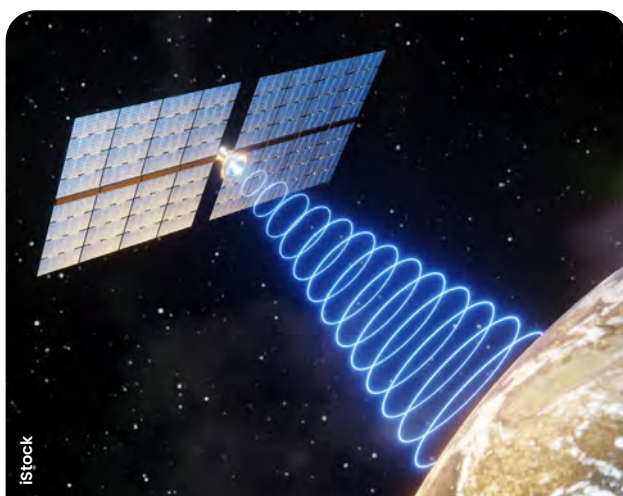
Satellite images can tell us how healthy a tree is, if it's diseased and even how likely that disease is to spread to neighbouring trees

WATCH THE FILM



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

This QR code should be scanned by a responsible adult.



Engineers are also working on ways of beaming solar power from satellites back down to Earth. These would have the advantage of being able to collect the sun's energy for 24 hours a day



GIANT PENGUIN CHICK!



A BABY king penguin named Pesto has become an online sensation for his unusual looks and size.

At just nine months old, Pesto is already bigger than his parents at the Sea Life Melbourne Aquarium in Australia.

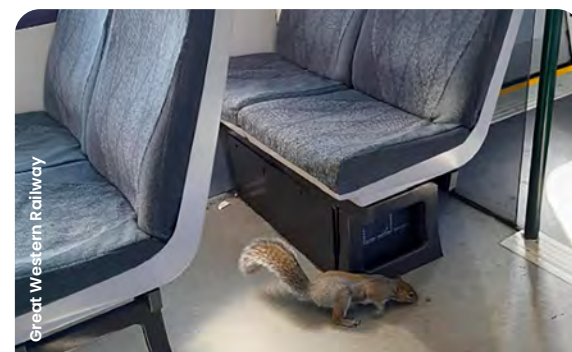
The fluffy chick weighs 22.5kg and is about 90cm tall. He eats twice as much as adult penguins, gobbling up more than 30 fish every day.

Pesto stands out among the aquarium's other penguins because of his large size and brown baby feathers. But as he grows up, he will lose his baby feathers and learn to swim, becoming part of the penguin colony.

Michaela Smale from Sea Life thinks "he's always going to be a big boy" and described him as a "walking, feathery poop machine".

Sea Life Melbourne

Squirrel chaos on train



TWO mischievous squirrels caused quite a stir on a busy train to Gatwick Airport.

The furry troublemakers hopped aboard the Great Western Railway (GWR) service at Gomshall station, sending passengers scurrying to other carriages.

Train staff tried everything to remove the squirrels, tempting them with snacks and even trying to sweep them off with brooms, but they wouldn't budge.

In the end, the train company had to cancel the entire journey.

A GWR spokesperson joked: "We can confirm that the 08:54 Reading to Gatwick was terminated at Redhill after a couple of squirrels boarded the train at Gomshall without tickets, breaching railway byeclaws."

"We attempted to remove them at Redhill, but one refused to leave and was returned to Reading to bring an end to this nutty tail."

Car dumped on dumpster

RESIDENTS in Florida, USA, were greeted with a bizarre sight after a car was spotted perched on top of a dumpster (a big bin, like a skip)!

The unusual incident occurred at a construction site for a new apartment complex in Fort Myers.

One eyewitness, Scott Greenberg, initially thought the vehicle might be up for grabs as it was in the bin!

However, it was later revealed that construction workers had decided to teach the owner a lesson after they had left the car in a no-parking area.

They used a forklift to hoist the vehicle onto the dumpster. Fortunately for the owner, it was later safely removed without any apparent damage.



You can't park there!

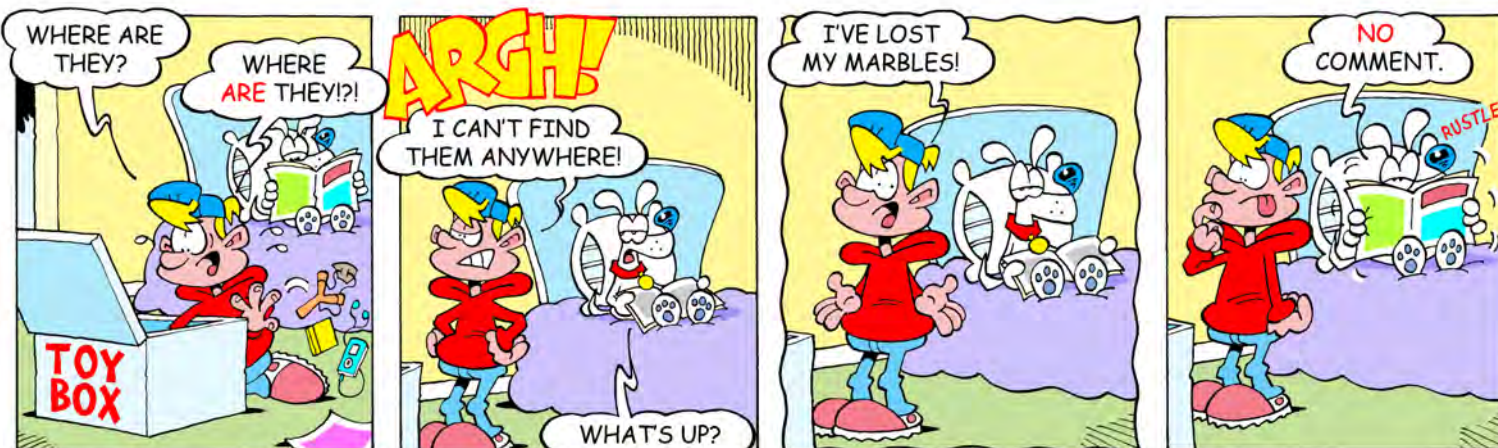
JOKE OF THE WEEK

ha ha ha

How does a penguin build its house?
Igloos it together!

Paper Boy!

Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer





THE **FirstNews** READER SURVEY

WE love to hear what you, our readers, think of *First News* and our digital app. Take part in our reader survey and you'll not only help us to improve, but you could win a whopping £100 Amazon voucher! Simply send this form back to us at *First News*, The Nest, 2-4 Sampson St, Wapping, London, E1W 1NA. Or, take the survey online at first.news/RS2024. The closing date is 18 October 2024.



WIN!
A £100
Amazon gift
voucher!*

Age: Gender:

County:

● **Rate the sections of the paper from 1 to 17:**
(1 being the section you like the best, 17 the one you like the least):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quick News | <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Headlines | <input type="checkbox"/> Game Zone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> News In Pics | <input type="checkbox"/> Puzzles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Reports | <input type="checkbox"/> Crazy But True |
| <input type="checkbox"/> UK News | <input type="checkbox"/> Books |
| <input type="checkbox"/> World News | <input type="checkbox"/> Your News |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Natural World | <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly Quiz |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <input type="checkbox"/> Sport |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FYI | |

● **What do you like most about *First News*?**

.....

● **What do you like least about *First News*?**

.....

● **Do you prefer to read *First News* on paper or on a device?**

- Paper Device

● **Where do you get your news from? Tick all those you use regularly.**

- | | | |
|--|---|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newspapers | <input type="checkbox"/> FYI | <input type="checkbox"/> WhatsApp |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Radio | <input type="checkbox"/> YouTube | <input type="checkbox"/> Snapchat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TV | <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook | <input type="checkbox"/> Instagram |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Online news sites | <input type="checkbox"/> X (formerly Twitter) | <input type="checkbox"/> TikTok |

● **What other newspapers or magazines do you read?**

.....

● **How long, on average, do you spend reading an issue of *First News*?**

.....

● **When do you read *First News*? Tick all those that apply.**

- In the week At the weekend In the morning
 In the evening Other. Please specify:

● **Where do you read *First News*?**

- At home At school On journeys
 Other. Please specify:

● **What do you like doing in your free time?**

.....

● **What world issues matter the most to you? For example, climate change, animal rights, equality.**

.....

● **If you watch online videos, what type do you like?**

.....

● **What sort of stories do you enjoy seeing most on our Sky Kids' FYI page?**

.....

● **How easy is *First News* to read? Are there too many, or too few, words?**

- Too many Too few Just right

● **Do you have the *First News* app?**

- Yes No

● **What would you like to see more of on the app?**

.....

● **How much do you trust the news you read in *First News*?**

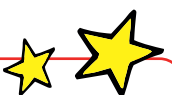
- I trust it completely I mostly trust it I don't trust it at all

ENTER OUR PRIZE DRAW!

First name:

Parent or teacher email/phone number:

*All completed surveys will be entered into a prize draw. One lucky winner will be selected at random to win a £100 gift voucher. *First News* will not share your details with third parties. We'll only use your details to contact you if you win, and details will be deleted once the winner has been contacted.





CANADA

Smugglers using TikTok

Criminals are using TikTok videos to advertise their illegal service to help people cross the border into the US. Most of the people paying the smugglers are from India or Bangladesh who are in Canada on tourist or student visas (like a temporary passport that allows you to stay in a country). Experts say that it's much easier to get a Canadian visa than a US visa, then pay smugglers a few thousand dollars to get across the border into the US. It's also a much safer way of getting into the US compared to entering from Mexico, where armed gangs are a constant threat.



A border patrol at a bridge over the Niagara River, which separates Canada from the US



NORWAY

Electric cars take over

There are more electric cars on Norway's roads than petrol vehicles now, say new figures from the Norwegian Road Federation. A study found that 754,303 vehicles registered in the country are all-electric, compared to 753,905 that use petrol. Residents are encouraged to choose electric vehicles to benefit from things like free parking and not having to pay city tolls. It's good news for Norway, which also hopes to become the first nation to end the sale of new petrol and diesel cars by 2025.



Getty



FRANCE

Morlaix re-twins with Truro

Morlaix in Brittany has renewed its twinning partnership with Truro in Cornwall, UK. The two places came together for a special ceremony on the 45th anniversary of the towns becoming 'twins'. The first partnership was signed in 1979. Towns and cities across the world often twin together, to help build relationships and share different cultures. The mayor of Morlaix, Jean-Paul Vermot, said: "The English people were our best allies during the last century when we fought together during two world wars and I want to say thank you."



Morlaix



ECUADOR

Lights out to save power

The President of Ecuador has introduced night-time blackouts in his country to help save power during a very severe drought. From 10pm, residents must switch their electricity off for eight hours. Ecuador's main source of power is its hydroelectric plants, which generate electricity from flowing water. With a lack of water, there are concerns that power will run out. A statement from the president explained that the measures have been put in place due "to the worst drought in the last 61 years and aim to responsibly manage the control of our electrical system."



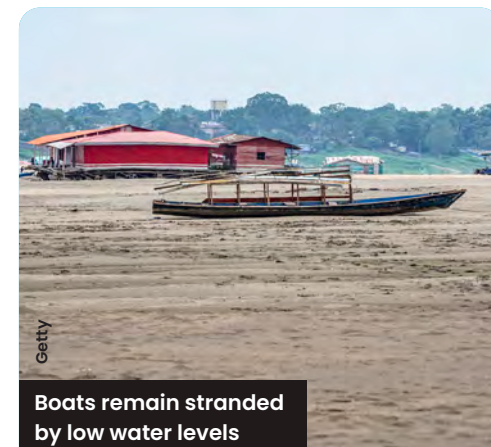
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BRAZIL

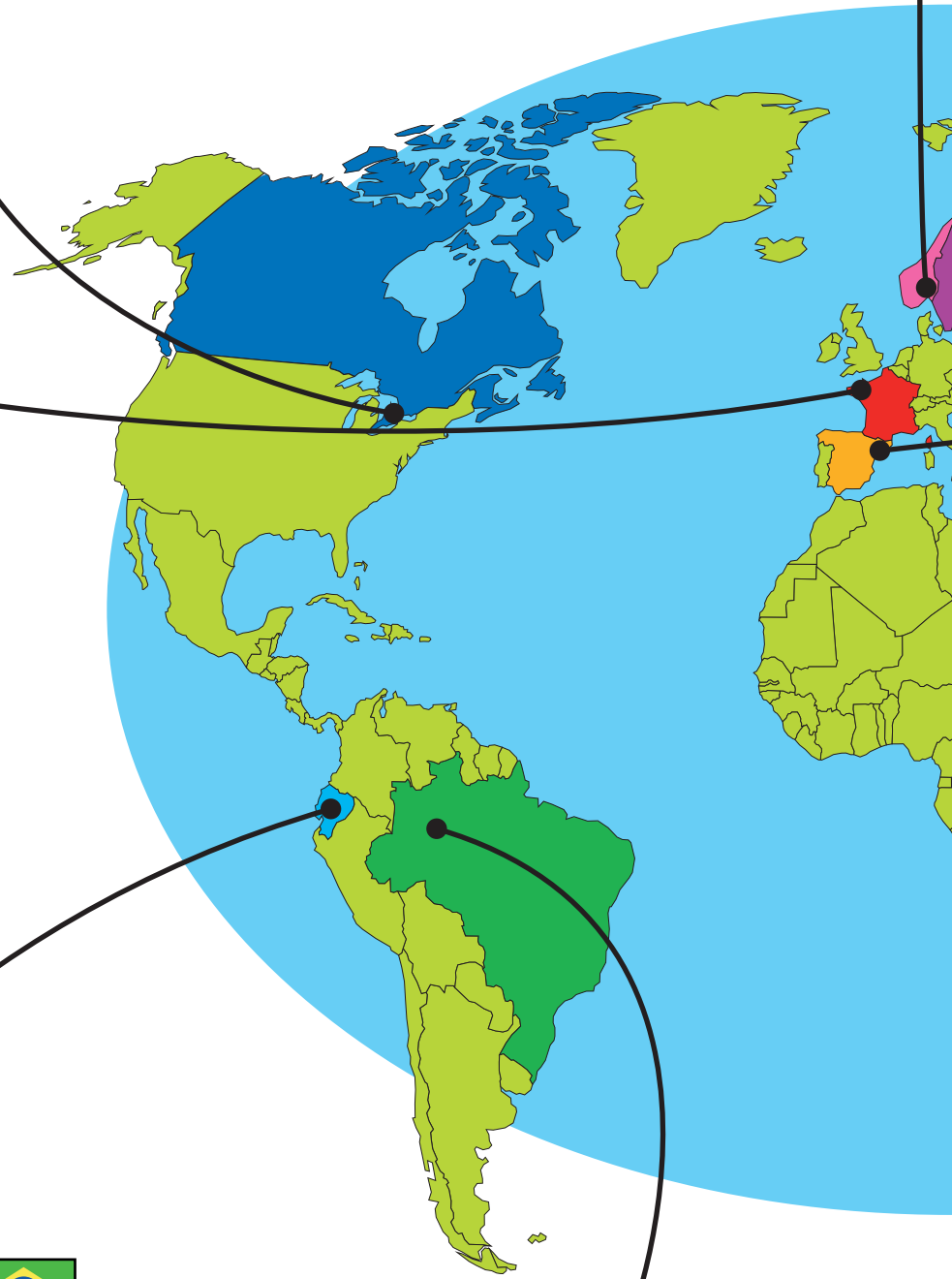
Amazon water levels hit record low

Water levels of rivers in the Amazon rainforest have reached a historic low, due to the worst drought on record. Lake Tefé has dried up completely, putting endangered freshwater dolphins under huge threat. Locals are also struggling as their floating homes and boats become stranded. It's the second year in a row that Brazil has experienced such a severe drought, with many of the country's plants and animals suffering. Experts say climate change is behind the drought.



Getty

Boats remain stranded by low water levels





SWEDEN

School to start a year earlier

There's a big change coming for kids in Sweden as, from 2028, they'll have to start school at the age of six rather than seven. Up until that age, Swedish kids learn mainly via play, in more of a nursery-type environment. However, in recent years, maths and reading standards have fallen, so the government says it can improve things by making kids start traditional education a year earlier. But some experts think it's a mistake, and say the evidence shows that kids are better off playing more at that age. Estonia is one country that has copied Sweden's system, and has the best results in Europe for school education.



SPAIN

Sagrada Família tower nearing completion

The tallest tower of the famous Sagrada Família in Barcelona should be completed in 2025, say officials. The Tower of Jesus Christ is the central tower of the church and will stand 172.5 metres tall. It will also feature a 17-metre-tall cross at the top with a viewpoint for visitors. Building first started on the Sagrada Família in 1882, and is the masterpiece of architect Antoni Gaudí, who designed many of the city's most famous sites.



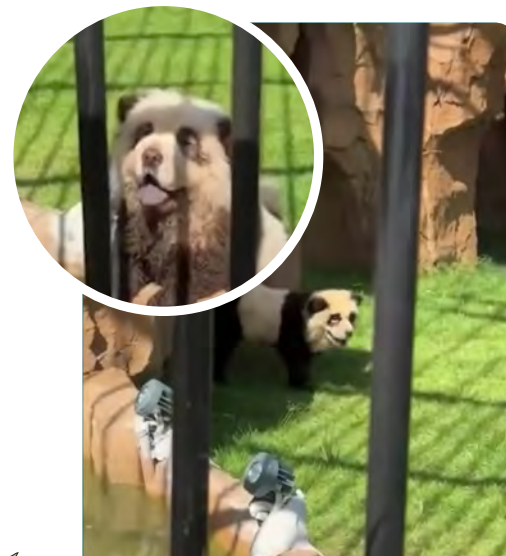
Could this be the longest building project in history?



CHINA

Pandas really are painted pups!

A Chinese zoo has admitted to painting dogs to look like pandas. Videos of the "pandas" at Shanwei Zoo have gone viral in the last few weeks. The zoo has come clean, but says: "You can see by our name, we are Strange Animals and Cute Pets Paradise. These are chow chow dogs being painted, as this is part of our specialties." And this isn't the first time it's happened. In May, it was reported that Taizhou Zoo had also painted chow chows to look like pandas!



SLOVAKIA

Unhappy ending for book lovers

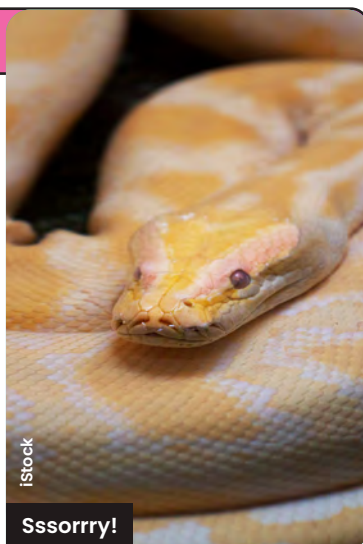
Readers are going to have to shell out a lot more for their books now, after the Slovakian government decided to increase the tax on them. All countries have some form of sales tax or value-added tax (VAT) that applies to lots of products, but most countries have a reduced VAT rate on books because they're seen as being good for society. (In the UK and Ireland, books and newspapers have no VAT added at all.) However, the Slovakian government has caused a huge fuss by saying that it's mainly the wealthy who read books, so plans to charge 23% VAT on them instead of the current 10%. It's part of a wider plan to improve Slovakia's finances and pay off some of its debts.



THAILAND

Woman trapped in snake attack!

A Thai woman has described how she was trapped in the coils of a huge 20kg python for two hours, before being rescued by the police. Arom Arunroj said she was attacked and bitten by the snake while she was at home doing the washing up one evening. She called out for help, but no-one came, until her neighbour eventually heard her cries and rang the authorities. Police Sergeant Major Anusorn Wongmali Anusorn told Thai media that Ms Arunroj "had probably been strangled for a while, because her skin was pale." Thankfully, she was quickly freed and taken to hospital for treatment.



istock

Sssorry!





THE TROUBLE WITH TOURISTS

27 September
WORLD TOURISM DAY

Rome is thinking of making tourists book ahead to see its famous Trevi Fountain, to control numbers. Visitors throw over €1 million (£844,000) in its pool every year

EVERYBODY loves a holiday, and it's great to experience other cultures, but around the world some countries and the people who live in them are pushing back against overseas visitors. How come? *First News* takes a look at what's going on... and why!



● "There are just too many!"

Locals in Sintra, **Portugal**, have been outnumbered by tourists wanting to visit the colourful Pena Palace. As many as 5,000 visitors a day queue on one single lane leading to the palace. Locals have complained about tourists taking over the town, because they block homes, shops and the roads around Sintra.



● "They're taking our homes!"

In certain cities in **Spain**, thousands of locals staged protests against tourists this summer, waving signs saying things like: "Go home!" and "Barcelona is not Disneyland!" Some even sprayed tourists with water pistols! They're unhappy that there aren't enough affordable homes to buy. They say many homes that should belong to local families are instead being used as holiday apartments for tourists.



A RECORD-BREAKING 85 million tourists visited Spain last year. Barcelona alone had 26 million overnight visitors. The city's population is just 1.6 million!



● "Our wildlife is under threat"

New Zealand has tripled the cost of the tax on tourists from NZ\$35 (£16.50) to NZ\$100 (£47). The government has said this is to help economic growth, boost public services and protect New Zealand's ecosystem from over-tourism. The profit from the rising tourist tax will be used for things like creating habitats for endangered species and building cycling trails to reduce pollution in the country.

● Meanwhile, in other countries...

Some countries are trying to attract more tourists. **Greenland:** A new international airport is opening later this year. The government is hoping for an increase in visitors to grow the economy.

Morocco: Morocco is opening more hotels to accommodate an extra 26 million visitors before it hosts FIFA World Cup matches in 2030. Tourism has greatly increased in Morocco in the last 20 years, boosting business and creating a safer country, say locals.



World Tourism Day celebrates the benefits of tourism. This year, the theme is peace. UNESCO says that travelling allows us to forge closer bonds with people from other countries. It says countries that are open to tourism tend to be more peaceful.

PROS OF TOURISM



■ It boosts the economy

Tourism can generate money for a country, as well as create jobs for millions of people.

■ It breaks down barriers

Travelling can teach us about other cultures and allow us to witness and experience different lifestyles.

■ It gives a purpose for projects

Tourism can give officials a reason to invest money into protecting roads, buildings and services.

CONS OF TOURISM



■ Environmental damage

New hotels can threaten natural habitats, while boats and planes pollute the oceans and the air.

■ Disruption to locals

It can create conflict between tourists and locals. Large crowds can block people going about their regular day.

■ Money being spent in the wrong ways

Money can end up being spent on tourist areas and attractions, while other places and businesses suffer.



This net was put up for a short time to block a view of Mount Fuji that had become too popular



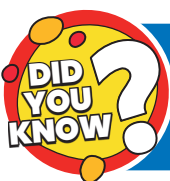
● "They're disrespectful... and messy!"

Japan has introduced rules for tourists wanting to climb Mount Fuji, due to safety and environmental concerns at the volcano. Climbers have caused a fuss by leaving behind huge amounts of mess, including plastic, food and even clothes! Now, in busy months, only 4,000 climbers are allowed to enter the trail per day. They have to book a slot and pay a fee, too, to help to protect the historic Japanese site.



● "They spoil the environment!"

It has been estimated that 30 million people visit Venice, **Italy**, every year. These large crowds can have a serious impact on the city's fragile sites. Importantly, Venice banned large cruise ships in 2021, because they were damaging the city's natural canals. Fuel emissions from the ships was also affecting not only the natural environment and the health of living beings, but also corroding the art and palaces around Venice.

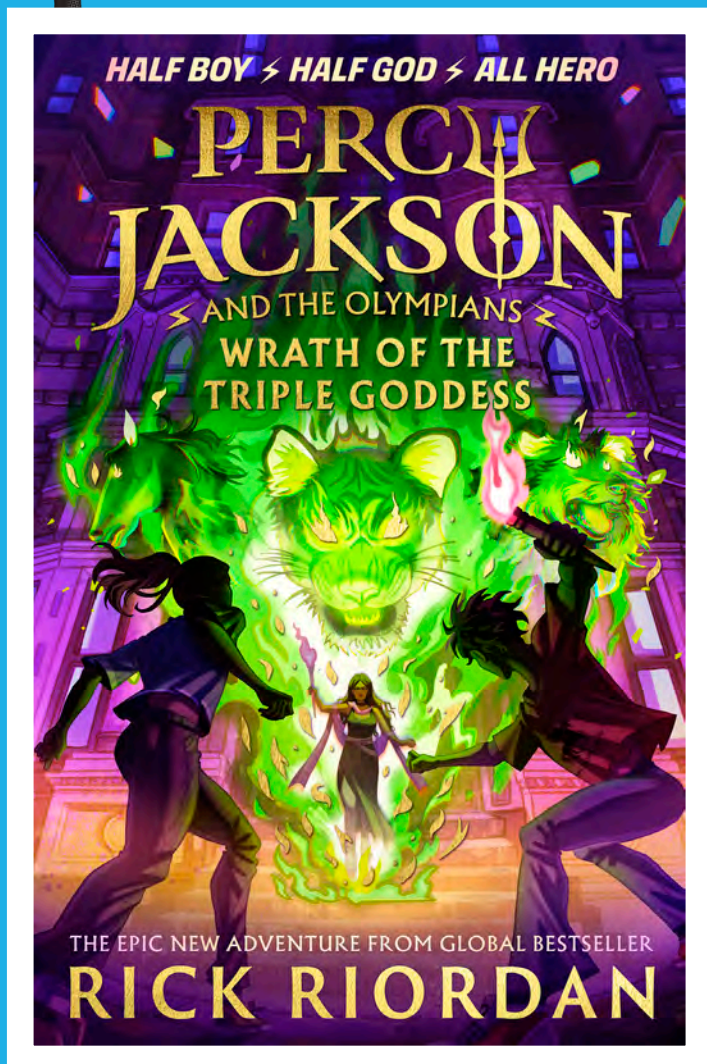


LONDON Stansted airport recorded its busiest ever July this year, with a whopping 2.9 million passengers passing through the terminal!

HALF BOY ⚡ HALF GOD ⚡ ALL HERO



THE ORIGINAL HERO. A BRAND-NEW ADVENTURE!



PERCY Jackson has saved the world multiple times – battling monsters, Titans, even death himself – so graduating high school should be a breeze, right?

Wrong. Percy needs three recommendation letters from the gods before his final year in high school comes to an end. And one thing Percy knows, the gods on Mount Olympus don't do anything for free.

To secure his second letter, Percy and his friends Annabeth and Grover agree to a new quest – pet-sitting for the goddess Hecate while she's away over Halloween.

They just need to follow her simple rules:

- 1. LOOK AFTER THE PETS LIKE THEIR LIVES DEPEND ON IT (BECAUSE THEY DO)**
- 2. DON'T TOUCH ANYTHING - ESPECIALLY HECATE'S MAGIC POTIONS!**
- 3. SEE POINTS 1 AND 2**

But when Grover's curiosity gets the better of him, the trio find themselves with a giant goat, a destroyed house and Hecate's (terrifying and potentially deadly) pets on the loose in New York City.

Now the trio have 24 hours to find the pets and restore the mansion to order – or face the full fury of Hecate and her horrifying three-heads.

WIN! A complete bundle of Percy Jackson and the Olympians books!



Seven books including the all-new *Wrath of the Triple Goddess!*

ONE lucky reader will win all seven books in the series, including the new release, *Percy Jackson and the Olympians: Wrath of the Triple Goddess!*

To enter, just answer this question:

Which of these is a Greek god?
a) Bruce b) Moose c) Zeus

ENTER NOW!

Email your answer to puffin@uk.penguinroup.com and mark your entry **First News Comp**. Closing date 18 October. For full T&Cs, visit m.shortstack.page/DxNdmr

HALF BOY ⚡ HALF GOD ⚡ ALL HERO



A SPELLBINDING ADVENTURE

GET your popcorn at the ready, as the magical new movie *Dragonkeeper* hits cinemas today (27 September).

● **What's the story?**

A young orphan girl called Ping is looking after the last two dragons in the kingdom when she discovers that one has sadly died, and the other is guarding a precious dragon egg. When Danzi the dragon disappears, palace guards believe Ping has helped to free him and she must run away too. Danzi and Ping manage to escape from the palace together and must return the dragon egg to the ocean to save all dragons from extinction! Will they do it or will they get caught?

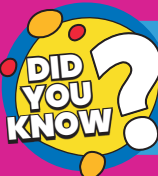


● **Where's it set?**

In ancient China, so you can expect lots of amazing backdrops!

● **Who's in it?**

Bill Nighy is the voice of the dragon Danzi, while young British actor Mayalinee Griffiths plays Ping. Anthony Howell and British comedian Bill Bailey also star.



THE movie is based on a popular book series written by Carole Wilkinson.

Dragonkeeper is in cinemas now.



STEVE BACKSHALL

ADVENTURER Steve Backshall is supporting a new *Blue Peter* Earthshot competition, which is searching for the next generation of young inventors to help save the planet. We caught up with him to find out more.

● **Why are you backing this competition launched by Prince William?**

It's such a sensational idea – the idea of using creativity as a way of finding solutions for our planet. You can throw yourself into the challenge with no limits and every single bit of creativity you can find.

● **What do you think are the world's biggest environmental challenges?**

The area of the competition I'm involved with is climate and that is the basis of all the other big problems we are facing, I believe. Be that overpopulation, be it biodiversity loss, be it warming seas. How do we solve climate change? There might be a five or six-year-old out there who can come up with a genius plan that can make a massive difference.

● **What effects of climate change have you witnessed personally?**

I do a lot of work in the Arctic. People there see climate change not as a thing of the future, but as an everyday reality. They can track the disappearance of glaciers, the different times the pack ice forms and melts again, the changing of the seasons, which have always been quite predictable but are now changing and swinging in real time. On the other end of the scale, I've been doing work in places like the Maldives, where again, climate change is an absolute reality. A huge percentage of their land is going to be underwater in the next 10-15 years, so it's a primary concern.

● **Who do you admire from history?**

I would say my great hero from history is Alfred Russel Wallace, who was a contemporary of Charles Darwin. He was an incredible explorer and someone who discovered so many new animals in the kind of places that I explore now. From the present, I obviously admire Sir David Attenborough.

Find out more about the *Blue Peter* Earthshot competition and how you can take part by going to tinyurl.com/BPEarthshot.

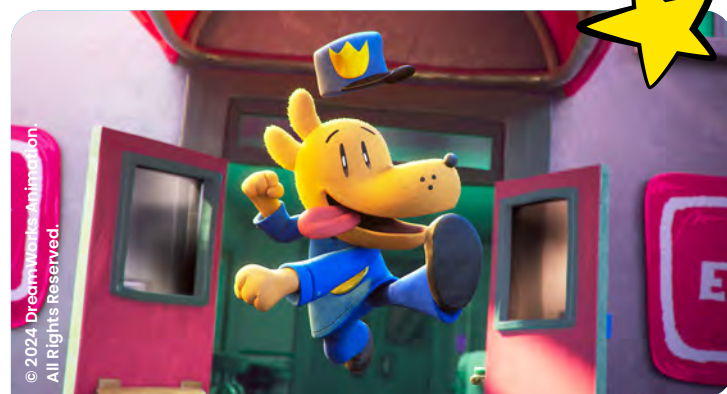


● **Ed Sheeran's tour album**

POP superstar Ed Sheeran has released a new album today (27 September) called *±=÷×* (*TOUR COLLECTION*). The album brings together some of Ed's biggest songs from his mathematical album era, including *Thinking Out Loud* and *Castle On The Hill*.

● **New Dog Man trailer!**

A NEW trailer for the movie *Dog Man* has been released! The movie follows a police dog and his human police officer handler who are injured together on the job. Then a crazy but life-saving surgery fuses the two of them together and Dog Man is born. Can he stop the evil plots of feline supervillain Petey the Cat?! You'll find out when the movie hits cinemas on 7 February 2025.





OCTOBER'S HOTTEST GAMES

ANOTHER month, and another awesome mix of releases. Here are some of our favourite games out this October!

Super Mario Party Jamboree



OUT 17
October

Super Mario Party Jamboree is the latest entry in the *Mario Party* series, and by far the biggest one yet! The Switch successor to 2018's *Super Mario Party* features more than 110 minigames and more playable characters than ever before, along with the usual Mario gang. You'll be able to discover boards both old and new with up to 20 of your friends and family!



Super Mario Party Jamboree will be available on Switch.

Sonic x Shadow Generations



OUT 25
October

Sonic x Shadow Generations will take you on a journey into the past, as Shadow the Hedgehog confronts painful memories to try to defeat Black Doom, his returning nemesis. Doom, who is Shadow's biological father, hasn't been seen since 2005's *Shadow the Hedgehog* game, where he was defeated. This new release combines two games – a remaster of *Sonic Generations* (2011) and the new *Shadow Generations* game featuring Shadow as a playable character. Shadow has all-new powers, including being able to surf on water! It's a busy year for Shadow, who will also feature in the upcoming movie *Sonic the Hedgehog 3*.

Sonic x Shadow Generations will be out on PC, PS4/5, Xbox One, XSX/S and Nintendo Switch.

Pokémon Trading Card Game Pocket



OUT 30
October

Pokémon Trading Card Game Pocket is the accessible app that many fans have been waiting years for! It will allow you to open Pokémon packs, battle and trade just as you can do in real life, but without having to carry all of those cards around with you. Two booster packs will be free to open every day, meaning you can still create a super collection of cards at no cost. There will also be "immersive cards" of fan favourites like Pikachu, allowing you to enter the card itself, as well as fresh cards that are exclusive to *TCG Pocket*. But the aim of the game is still the same – Gotta Catch 'Em All!

Pokémon Trading Card Game Pocket will be available on iOS and Android.

IN NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE!



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

AUTHOR LIZZIE DALY



BUFFALO KIDS



DON'T MISS IT!

WIN! HEDGEWITCH BOOK BUNDLES!

STEP into the magical world of *Hedgewitch*, where the land of Faerie lies just beyond our own...

Seawitch, the third book in the enchanting series by Skye McKenna, sees Cassie Morgan edging closer to passing her Witch's Licence. When the wicked Erl King is luring witches up and down the country to his side, with promises of unimaginable power, can Cassie use all of her training – along with help from her friends – to solve the secrets of the sea and foil the Erl King's plans once and for all? Published by Welbeck Children's Books, an imprint of Hachette Children's Group, *Seawitch* is a classic not to be missed.

To celebrate, we're giving three lucky readers the chance to win all three books in the *Hedgewitch* series.

All you have to do is answer this question:

Who must Cassie defeat in the *Seawitch*?

- a) The Mer-Man
- b) The Erl King
- c) The Wicked Witch



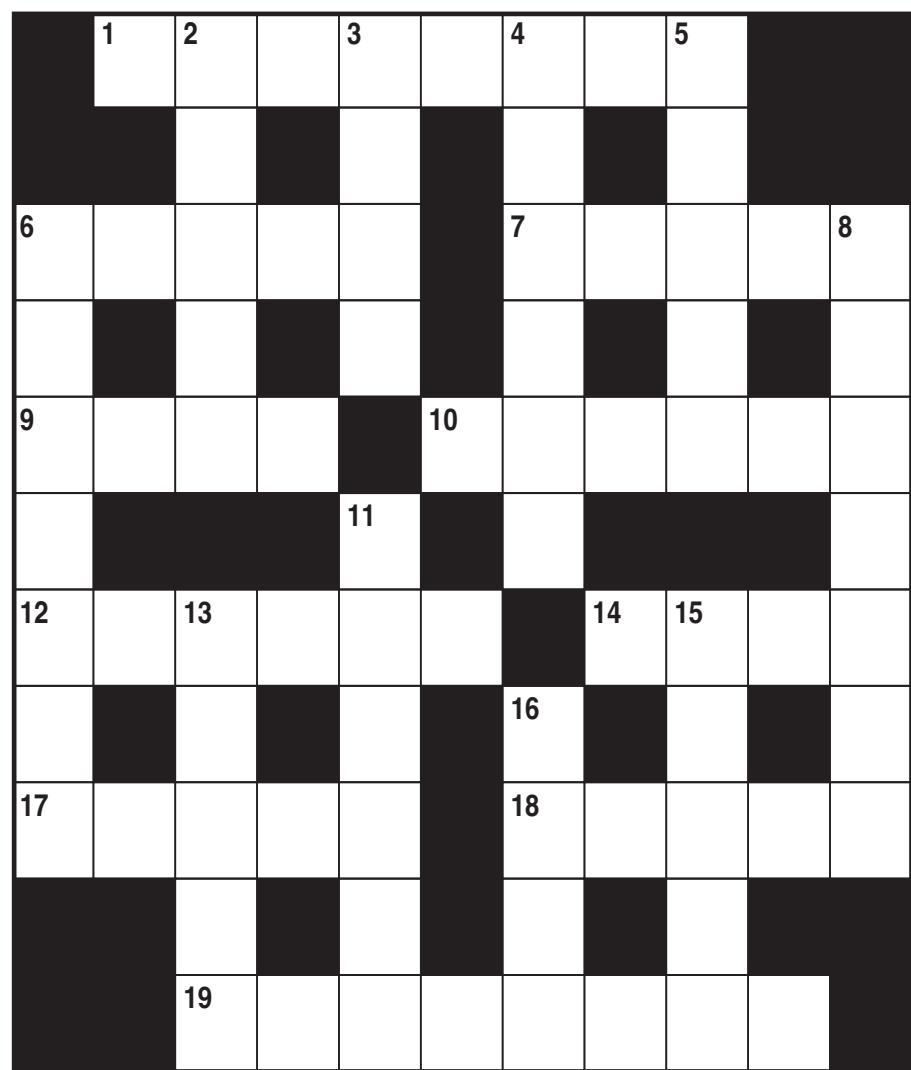
ENTER NOW!
MARK YOUR ENTRY HEDGEWITCH

first.news/comps or see page 20. The closing date is 11 October.



CROSSWORD

CAN you solve our crossword puzzle using the clues below?

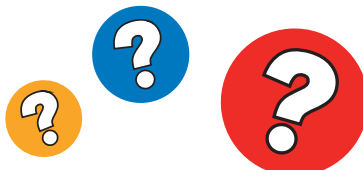


ACROSS

- 1 This keeps you dry when it rains (8)
- 6 Conceals (5)
- 7 Push gently (5)
- 9 Lean; slope (4)
- 10 Very unpleasant (6)
- 12 Room where people work (6)
- 14 Hurt or throb (4)
- 17 Not fresh (of bread) (5)
- 18 Requires (5)
- 19 Task a teacher asks you to do away from school (8)

DOWN

- 2 Award for winning an event (5)
- 3 Relax; take it easy (4)
- 4 Capital of the UK (6)
- 5 British snake (5)
- 6 Fast food items containing sausages (3,4)
- 8 Never finishing (7)
- 11 Shout loudly (5)
- 13 Shine brightly but briefly (5)
- 15 Shout of encouragement (5)
- 16 Frozen precipitation (4)



Sudoku

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

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

COMPETITIONS: *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.

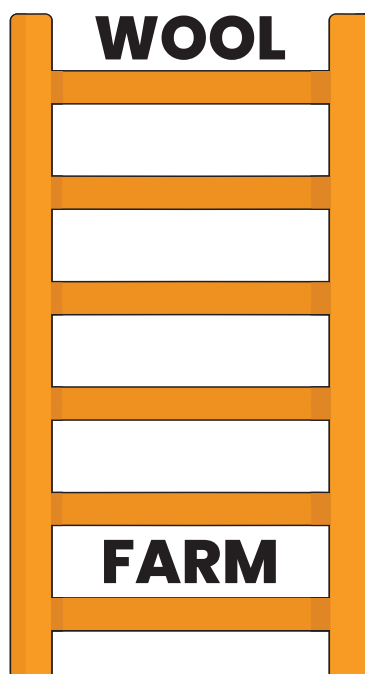
Word wheel

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 953 ANSWERS:

Word wheel: boardroom.

Word ladder: pool, cool, coos, cots, cuts, cues.

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

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



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



JOIN A GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS ATTEMPT!



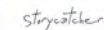
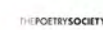
Largest Poetry Lesson
(multiple venues).



**OFFICIAL
ATTEMPT**



In partnership with



IT'S National Poetry Day on 3 October and, this year, you have the chance to be part of a gigantic Guinness World Records title attempt for the 'largest poetry lesson (multiple venues)' with poet Laura Mucha. Here's why she's doing it...

Every child counts

The theme of this year's National Poetry Day is 'counting'. What better excuse is there to attempt a Guinness World Records title where every single child counts, literally?!

Children. Lots of them

I didn't just want to break any record. I like to think there are a few chocolate-eating titles I would have a good shot at, but I wanted to break a record that would involve literacy. And mental health. And children. Lots of them. And have them participate in an unforgettable Guinness World Records title attempt. The problem with this sort of record attempt is that it is a GIGANTIC amount of work and organisation. But I'm too far down the line to give up now... This is all VERY different from my day job. I'm used to quietly writing books while drinking vast amounts of herbal tea – not persuading people into attempting a Guinness World Records title with me.

It will be worth it. Right?!

But I think the (very noisy) difference from my usual work life is worth it – or at least I tell myself it's worth it – for a number of reasons:

- 1 What better way to empower someone than to attempt a Guinness World Records title together?! And for this record, it's the act of taking part and coming together that counts. In a time where SO much focus is on achievement, isn't it refreshing for the simple act of taking part to be celebrated in itself?
- 2 You will be able to see the finished poem and think: "I was part of that, my ideas and opinions mattered, I helped make that happen."
- 3 I think it's really valuable to pause and create a time and space to think about – really think about – what's important. It's all too easy to lose sight of this question amid the endless demands of modern life. And poetry is a brilliant way to pause and reflect.
- 4 A lot (most?) of writing is editing, but editing is incredibly difficult to teach. I can tell you that you should read your work through and see if you can find any better words, or cut sections, or move them around... but it's much more impactful if we make those decisions together, you see what the options are, how they sound when you say them, what rhythm they have, how they fit together like a jigsaw, and what the different combinations feel like, and then YOU choose. And that's what we will be doing in this project. With tens of thousands of kids!
- 5 Last, but not least, I'm excited about bringing tens of thousands together to do something ginormous and giving them a voice. And it's not just young people who benefit from this...

I can't do this without you!

I'm really hoping that by now, you're thinking: "Hmmm, this sounds interesting (if a little bonkers)." If so, HOORAY! Take this article to your school and tell them about the record attempt!



HOW DO I TAKE PART?

It's free and easy!

- Register on the National Poetry Day website at forwardartsfoundation.org
- Join the Zoom lesson (online) at 10am on National Poetry Day, 3 October 2024.

Right.

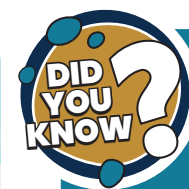
That's it.

What do you think?

Have I persuaded you?!

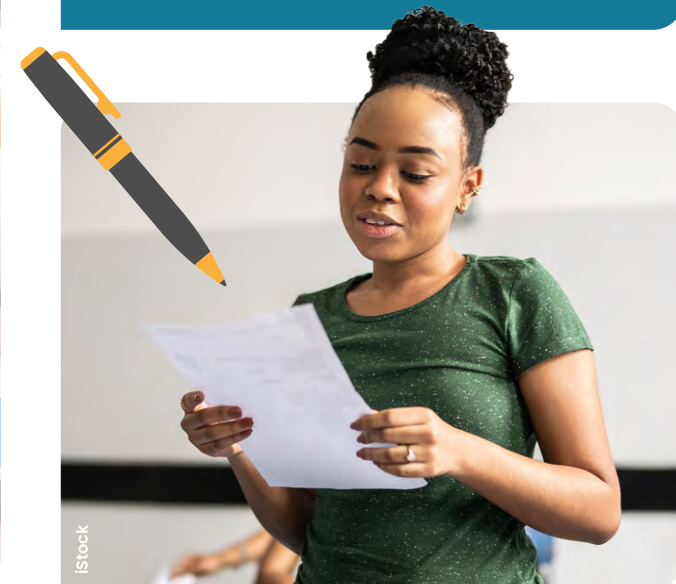
I hope so. Because I need your help. I quite literally can't do this without you.

I look forward to attempting a Guinness World Records title with you!



YOU could join the likes of these other amazing record holders!

- The youngest (male) club DJ is four years and 130 days old.
- The Guinness World Record for largest gathering of people dressed as Superman is 867. It was set by Escapade (UK) in Cumbria.
- The Guinness World Record for fastest tortoise belongs to Bertie in the UK, who reached a whopping speed of 0.28 metres per second. Go Bertie!





KEEEEEEP READING!

STRICTLY judge Anton Du Beke chats about his thrilling new wartime adventure story, *Code Name Foxtrot!*



● **Hi, Anton! Give us a quick introduction to your book.**
It's set in 1940 and based around ten-year-old twins, Harry and Rosie. They've been evacuated from London, up to a place called Cotterill Cove in the northwest of England. They go and stay with their grumpy Uncle Rupert, who doesn't really want them, to be honest with you. He wants them to not be seen and not be heard.

● **And how does dancing feature in the story?**
Well, there's a big competition at the Blackpool Winter Gardens because, during that time, people were putting on big dances in order to raise money for the war effort. Harry and Rosie become representatives of Cotterill Cove to dance in this deep nationwide competition.

● **How do you think you'd have coped with being evacuated from home as a child during the war?**
Oh... terribly! It's extraordinary to think that you could just one day be at home with the family, the next day going off to live with perfect strangers in a completely different part of the world. Suddenly you've got a little bag, your suitcase and that's your lot, you're off, for who knows how long. Also, it would have been more traumatic to have moved from London to Cotterill Cove, just south of Blackpool, in the 1940s than it would be today. Today, everyone travels so often and so easily – you could go there and back in the day, have a day on the beach, come back, no big deal. In those days, it was a huge thing!

● **Why is Blackpool Winter Gardens so special to the dancing world?**
It's the history of the place! People have been competing and dancing there for years now. They've come from all over the world to compete at Blackpool. It's big, and it's a beautiful ballroom. When it's full of people and the orchestra's playing and people are dancing, it's sort of spectacular.



● **Is it true that your own twins inspired Harry and Rosie?**
Entirely! The book is a dedication to my children. I wrote it for them, so I wanted the heroes to be a pair of twins. They've been my point of reference [inspiration], as well as the adventure stories that I used to enjoy reading, growing up.

Code Name Foxtrot by Anton Du Beke is out now.

In the book, Harry and Rosie's parents run a tearoom, so we asked **Strictly** judge Anton to rate some wartime food!



PORRIDGE
Anton said he'd have had his with British berries!
Anton says:
"A definite 10!"



'POTATO JANE'
An oven bake with potatoes, leek and cheese.
Anton says:
"Lovely... 8!"



OMELETTE
At the time, it was made with smelly powdered eggs.
Anton says:
"That'd be a 4."



CHOC CAKE
...but filled with dried eggs and grated carrot!
Anton says:
"Probably 6!"



CROC TAILS
Berlin Zoo animals were eaten in tough times.
Anton says:
"Bit chewy, 2!"

THE EXCITING YEAR!



TOP poet Matt Goodfellow's book, about a primary school boy named Nate, is called *The Final Year*, but how would Matt describe his own year so far?
"Exciting!" he tells *First News*, and no wonder! *The Final Year*, released in 2023, has been a smash hit. Matt's been running workshops and inspiring pupils around the country with the book and, in July, it won him the CLIPPA award – an important award for children's poetry.
"It's been a really beautiful thing, watching Nate's story reach so many young people," says Matt.



It's written from Nate's point of view – and in his Manchester accent, too. "We wanted Nate to be proud of his identity," says Matt. "We wanted to show young people that they can be proud of their voice."
Some people might find poems tricky, but Matt says that anyone can write one. "Everyone can talk about their life in their voice... it's just a snapshot of a feeling, a thought, an idea," he explains.
Matt's big year isn't over yet. This month, he released a new book of poems called *Tomorrow We Begin*, and he's working on a sequel to *The Final Year*, called *The First Year* – about Nate's move to high school. "It's looking good so far!" Matt teases. It's due out in spring, so his 2025 is already shaping up to be an exciting one, too!



Scan to try Matt's quick poem-writing activities!

QR codes should be scanned by a responsible adult.

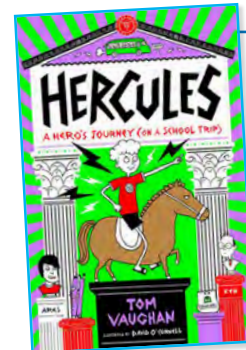
Recommended reads

in partnership with Peters



Cool schools

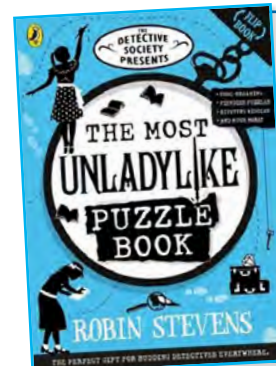
THE new term is well underway, and we hope you're enjoying it. But how are the likes of Hercules, Skandar and Deepdean School detectives Daisy and Hazel doing? Find out in these school-based books!



Hercules: A Hero's Journey (On A School Trip) by Tom Vaughan
Herc's back in action with a school trip to Greece to find his demi-godly power. Will it be an epic voyage, or an epic fail?



Skandar and the Chaos Trials by A.F. Steadman
Join hero Skandar as he tries to survive his third year at the Eyrie and face the terrifying elemental trials. Danger and ferocious unicorns await!



The Most Unladylike Puzzle Book by Robin Stevens
Could you join The Detective Society? Prove you've got what it takes to uncover tough mysteries just like Daisy and Hazel, with more than 100 tricky puzzles.



The Cheat Book: Vol 1 by Ramzee
Would you read a mysterious book that promises you popularity? Find out what happens to Kamal when he takes his chances!

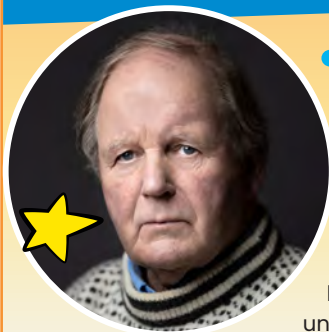


Three Cheers for the River School by Sabine Adeyinka
With football banned and replaced by a music competition, Jummy and her team must come up with a winning game plan!



COBWEB

MICHAEL Morpurgo's new war adventure book *Cobweb* is finally out. *First News* caught up with the famous children's author to learn all about his new story, which is told from the perspective of a dog!



● **Hi Michael! Can you tell us more about the real life French Drummer Boy of Waterloo from the story?**

At the Battle of Waterloo in 1815, there was a farmhouse on one wing of the British line. The farmhouse was occupied by British soldiers who were under attack by the French. After many failed attempts to get into the farmhouse, the French soldiers decided to give it one last try. So hundreds of them came and tried to break it down. The British soldiers were watching them coming, and in front of these French troops, they saw a little drummer boy leading them, drumming away. There was a terrible slaughter of the soldiers, but the boy stood there with bullets flying through the air, still drumming. The British soldiers spared his life, but to this day, no-one knows what happened to the brave young boy.

● **What inspired you to write the book from the perspective of a dog?**

Well, I've done this before. I've done a cat as well as a war horse. I rather enjoy entering the head of one of our fellow

creatures and imagining a life that isn't like ours. In this particular instance, it was very important because the dog was going to spend a lot of time on his own, and I wanted the story to be seen from his perspective, from a newborn pup to the end of the story. A dog's life, particularly for sheep dogs or troopers' dogs, is quite lonely. They're on their own and have a lot of responsibility to please their master. So I thought telling it that way would be fascinating, and I hope it's worked.

● **What message do you hope young readers will take away about the relationship between humans and animals?**

I live on a farm in the countryside. I've worked with animals all my life, and my wife and I began this charity called Farms For City Children. For 50 years, they've had children coming down to the farm from big cities, living and working there. And I've watched them carefully, with many of them relating to animals, a cow, sheep or a pig, for the first time in their lives. I've also written a lot about ourselves and other animals just because they're so important. When it comes to the wild, I feel it's very important to understand that they're just as important as we are.

***Cobweb* by Michael Morpurgo is out now.**



STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
7 NOVEMBER – 19 JANUARY

A DARK AND
SPELLBINDING
FAIRYTALE
THIS CHRISTMAS

Age guidance: 7+ years. *See website for details. T & C apply.
HALF PRICE FAMILY TICKETS*



THE RED SHOES

BY HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN
A NEW VERSION BY NANCY HARRIS

BOOK NOW
rsc.org.uk

This production is sponsored by **Pragwell**

Supported using public funding by **ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND**



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

This week on Your News, we have some really exciting stories. Make sure to check out Izabelle's piece on her day out to visit us at First News HQ – we always love having visitors in the office!

If you have any stories you'd like us to feature, you can get a trusted adult to contact us via email at yournews@firstnews.co.uk.

CODING FOR GOOD

A GROUP of young people aged 7–12 came together for a week of 'coding for good' at The Vale in Mossley, Greater Manchester. Coding for good means using IT skills to help the communities around you. The young coders also learned about renewable energy.

by Sophia, aged nine

We visited Saddleworth Hydro at Dove Stone Reservoir, where the power of water is used to make electricity. The turbine was so loud! But Dove Stone Reservoir is so still and tranquil. Water is amazing.

We looked at a stream behind the building and tested water wheels that we made out of paper. The best part was that when we put more paddles on, it worked better.

My favourite part of the week was learning about coding and making websites.

It was really fun and first I made a personal website about zebras and then we worked together on a web page for Dove Stone's Hydro, which refreshes every ten seconds to show how much power it is making.

We talked about how electricity could come from water and wind and solar power. I already knew a lot about solar power as I watched a documentary about it and my dad has solar panels on his roof.



The young people learnt some great new IT skills

THIS WEEK'S POLL!

We asked 2,186 of you:

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

27% of you said NO

73% of you said YES

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Vote at first.news/polls

Running 1,000 miles!

LAST year Sienna completed a 1,000-mile (1,609km) run to fundraise for Save the Children. She started aged nine and finished two years later, running a mile after school every day. Now she is urging children around the world to join in – by running, walking, swimming, cycling or hiking. Sienna is hoping to tally up 24,900 miles (40,075km) in total, representing the Earth's circumference (that's the distance it takes to go round the whole planet!).

by Sienna, aged 12

It felt amazing to finish the 1,000 miles after running for so long, but now there are so many more wars around the world and so many more children needing our help. I'm not ready to hang up my running trainers, I would love to inspire other children to set their challenges. Help me exercise around the world, and fundraise for Save the Children with me to help more children.



Sienna completed this amazing challenge!



CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH!

We want to hear from you. What inspirational black figures would you like to recognise in the paper? How will you be celebrating black history and culture? Are you doing something to celebrate in school? Let us know to have the chance to be featured in the newspaper! You can get a trusted adult to contact us via email at yournews@firstnews.co.uk.



NEWS CLUB SHOUT-OUT!



A Terrible Thames boat trip



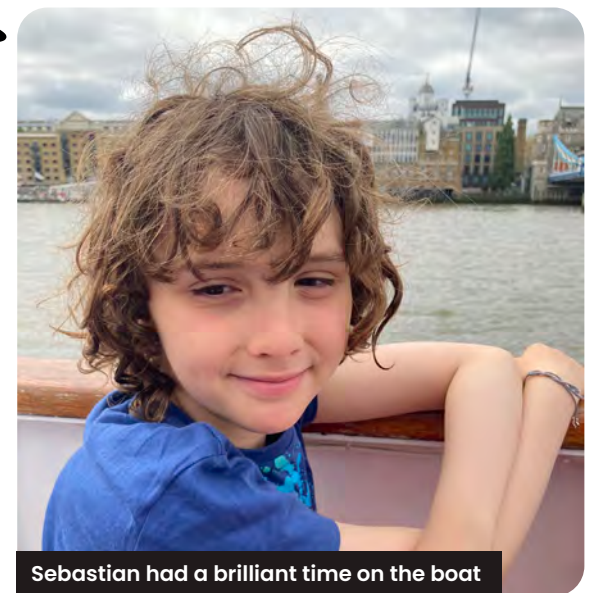
There are lots of fun history facts to learn on board!

RECENTLY Sebastian took to the water for *Horrible Histories'* Terrible Thames boat trip. Terrible Thames will be returning to the river between 26 October – 3 November 2024 for half-term, so budding historians don't miss out on a voyage through time!

by Sebastian

Are you wondering what to do this October half-term? Well, this *Horrible Histories* boat ride has got you covered. Just hop down to the Thames and you're already there! An amazing view with laughs here and there and, on top of that, facts! But, not any old facts – *Horrible Histories* facts! For example,

HMS Belfast hit a mine and took more than two years to repair, and Queen Victoria took a pleasure cruise but had to turn back after a few minutes because the smell was so awful. In 1858 after a scorching summer, the stench from the Thames became known as the Great Stink and was so overwhelming that they built a sewage system that still exists today. The Thames also used to be shallow and twice as wide – Julius Caesar was able to cross it on an elephant! It's a win-win and not as stinky, so see you there.



Sebastian had a brilliant time on the boat

My day out at *First News*

FIRST News reader Izabelle recently visited our lovely office for a special photoshoot. She also had the chance to interview Hannah, our wonderful Editorial Manager, on what it takes to make the newspaper each week. Find out more from Izabelle on her day out at *First News* here!

by Izabelle

The day started by hanging out at the *First News* office, where I got a chance to take pictures and meet all the other people participating in the photoshoot. We all played with the office dog, whose name is Milo. We were all able to meet the *First News* team and read all the issues of *First News*. We then went to the studio for the photos, and did different scenarios, like at home, school and Christmas. For lunch we had pizza!

The highlight of my day at *First News* was interviewing Hannah, the Editorial Manager. It was a chance for me to find out exciting things about her, for example, how she got her job. I also learnt about how they choose the stories for the newspaper and why Hannah loves *First News*!

I would say that my favourite part of my day was meeting new people, playing with Milo and, best of all, being part of the *First News* campaign! I was very lucky to get to take part and I could not wait to tell all my friends and show them the teddy that I was given.



Izabelle met Hannah at *First News* HQ

THIS WEEK WE'RE GIVING SHOUT-OUTS TO... St Christopher's The Hall School, Hargate Primary School, Outwood Academy Haydock, Brookfields School, Roecliffe C Of E Primary School, and Castletown Primary School!

★ ★ Join the News Club! ★ ★

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

LEARNING NEW TRICKS FROM SV2



IN *FYI*, Leo meets YouTuber Eman Balogun, aka SV2. He finds out some tips for making a successful channel and they teach each other some new tricks. Watch the full clip and more at [first.news/TV](https://www.firstnews.tv).



IN previous episodes of *FYI*, Leo has shown off his football skills. He has his own successful YouTube channel, BR2. Now Leo gets to meet one of the inspirations for his channel, online football star Eman Balogun (aka SV2). Make sure you check out the video to see some great footballing tips and some advice for budding YouTubers!

Leo: How do you come up with the ideas for your videos?

Eman: So obviously you know we do a lot of stuff with the kids. We've got special guests on my channel called Kid Ronaldo and Kid Messi. We just come up with fun football concepts that I know my audience will enjoy.

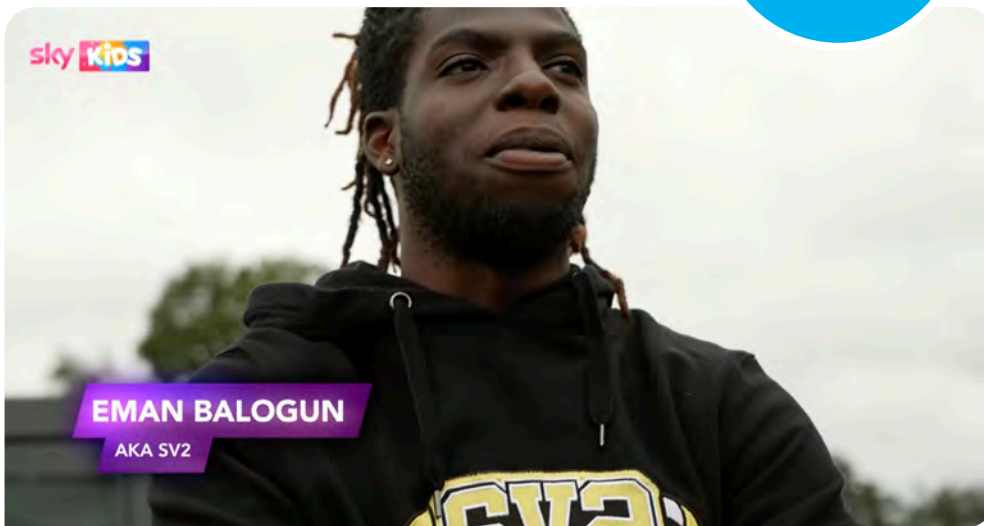
Leo: What advice can you give me to become as big as you?

Eman's tip 1: My main thing I'd say is to be consistent. I could post one video today, but if I don't post for three months, people might just end up forgetting about my whole career existing.

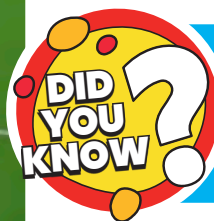
Eman's tip 2: I'd definitely say adding your own twist onto trends.

Eman's tip 3: Always show your character on there as well, don't be boring. You want to be entertaining!

Watch the full clip at [first.news/TV](https://www.firstnews.tv) to see football tricks from SV2 and BR2!



LEO'S YouTube channel, BR2, has more than 850,000 subscribers, and Eman's (aka SV2) has over 4.25 million.



THE most popular BR2 video has over ten million views and Eman's most popular SV2 video has an incredible 27 million!

DO YOU WANT TO FEATURE IN *FYI*?

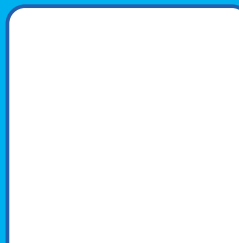
Start a **First News FYI News Club** at your school and you could create your own report for *FYI*, and have your story featured in *First News*.

It's easy to get involved, just ask your teacher to head to [first.news/fyinewsclub](https://www.firstnews.com/fyinewsclub) to find out more.



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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 What will the Earth be getting this autumn for a short time?



2 Which city will host the 2026 Commonwealth Games?



3 One of Africa's rarest animals has been born at Chester Zoo. What is it?



4 How many tonnes of concrete are used every year?

5 When was the first satellite launched?



6 Truro in Cornwall is twinned with where in France?



7 What animals caused a Great Western Railway service to be cancelled?

8 When is World Tourism Day?



9 What is the name of Anton Du Beke's new book?

10 How many bottles of water are bought every minute across the world?



11 From 2028, at what age will kids have to start school in Sweden?

12 What is the RSPCA's new interactive online game called?



13 Where does viral sensation Pesto the penguin live?



14 $+-=\div\times$ (TOUR COLLECTION) is a new album from which singer?

15 Which tennis star sealed victory for Team Europe in the final match of this year's Laver Cup?



Answers:
1 A mini moon 2 Glasgow 3 Mountain bongo
4 30 billion 5 1957 6 Morkia 7 Squirrels
8 27 September 9 Code Name Foxtrot 10 A million
11 Six 12 Animal Futures 13 Sea Life Melbourne
Aquarium, Australia 14 Ed Sheeran 15 Carlos Alcaraz

CARLOS CARRIES EUROPE TO VICTORY



Carlos Alcaraz celebrates the crucial win

EUROPE'S male tennis stars pulled off a remarkable comeback to beat Team World and win the Laver Cup.

Spain's Carlos Alcaraz was the star for Team Europe, winning eight points as Europe clawed their way back from 11-7 down to win 13-11.

Alcaraz beat the USA's Taylor Fritz 6-2, 7-5 to take Team Europe to the 13 points needed for the win.

The annual tournament is quite new and was first held in 2017, but Europe have now won five out of seven.

"I tried not to show Taylor I was nervous. If I looked calm, I'm a good actor."

– Carlos Alcaraz after beating Taylor Fritz in the final match.

Braydon's on the ball



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

An unusual turn of events saw Man City and Arsenal face each other in two big fixtures at the weekend, and both games ended in 2-2 draws.

In the opening game of the WSL, the teams met in London and it was Arsenal who opened their season with an early goal from Frida Maanum, before City hit back through Vivianne Miedema, who scored on her return to the Emirates Stadium, then Jess Park. The late equaliser in this one came from Arsenal substitute Beth Mead, when she volleyed in to earn a draw.

More drama came at the Etihad, where the 'Clash of the Titans' kept everyone on the edge of their seats on a rainy Sunday afternoon in Manchester. City got off to a flying start when goal machine Erling Haaland scored his 100th City goal, then as City pushed for a second, Arsenal came roaring back with a stunning strike from Riccardo Calafiori and another set-piece goal for Gabriel.



Beth Mead celebrates her goal

The tone of the game changed when Leandro Trossard was sent off on the stroke of half-time, meaning that Arsenal sat back for the entire second half in an ultra-defensive display. City dominated possession but couldn't unlock a stubborn Arsenal back line, before John Stones entered as a sub and grabbed a dramatic 98th-minute equaliser with almost the very last kick of the game. Disappointment for the Gunners, and City's unbeaten record at the Etihad lives on.

Centre Stage this week goes to Nottingham Forest, who are unbeaten after five games, this time sharing the points with Brighton in yet another 2-2 draw. Forest will be hoping to continue their form this weekend, and it's great for their fans to see them at the top end of the table.

Looking ahead to this weekend, the pick of the fixtures for me is Man United v Spurs, where both teams will be looking to ignite after a slow start.

Braydon's Team of The Week: Nottingham Forest. Unbeaten in five and a point from a difficult away game at Brighton.

Braydon's Player of The Week: Luis Díaz. Two more goals for him and he's the in-form player at Liverpool.

• Watch my weekly video on the *First News* app!



Japanese baseball star Shohei Ohtani has broken plenty of records in his career, but could have just set one that no-one will ever beat. The LA Dodgers star just became the first player in MLB (Major League Baseball) history to hit 50 home runs and steal 50 bases in one season. In a 20-4 thrashing of the Marlins, he also became the first player in the league's history to score three home runs and steal two bases in a single game. Many people have said that it was the greatest performance ever in MLB.

"I think we all know in here that we're watching the greatest player to ever play the game."

– Ohtani's Dodgers team-mate Gavin Lux.



Since data was first collected in 2003-04, not a single Premier League player had played 89+ minutes without successfully passing to a team-mate... until last weekend, when two Arsenal players became the first to manage it! Kai Havertz and Jurriën Timber might need some extra passing practice this week!



was scored by Japanese forward Kiko Seike as Brighton beat Everton 4-0, making her the first player to bag a hat-trick on her WSL debut!



Somerset bowler Jack Leach in action against Lancs

Somerset had high hopes of winning three trophies this season, but lost all three within the space of a week. A 168-run defeat to Lancashire ended their hopes of winning the County Championship, which Surrey won for the third season in a row. Somerset also lost out in the finals of the T20 Blast and the One-Day Cup.



Rory McIlroy broke his nine iron mid-shot at the PGA Championship, with the clubhead flying down the fairway. Miraculously, the ball went exactly where he wanted it to, and he still made a birdie!

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