

NEWS KIDS CAN TRUST

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR*



First News



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2.6M READERS*

NEWS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT
INTERVIEWS PUZZLES COMPETITIONS



IS THIS THE G.O.A.T. GOAT?

JOSHUA the goat was an unexpected runner in a half marathon in Newfoundland, Canada.

He got excited when he saw runners going past, escaped his pen and jumped right into the Conception Bay South race. Not only did he make it to the finish line, but he even got his very own medal for his efforts!

WILDLIFE IN PERIL



WHAT HAPPENS IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS WILL DETERMINE THE FUTURE OF LIFE ON EARTH, WARNS WWF
SPECIAL LIVING PLANET REPORT

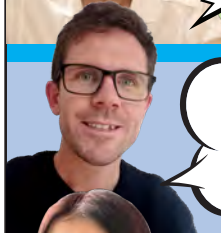
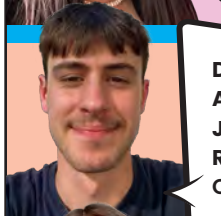
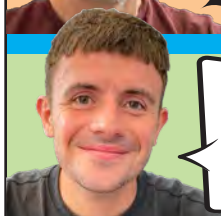
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INSIDE THE UPCOMING FILM **PADDINGTON IN PERU** IN CINEMAS 8 NOVEMBER!



14

* Newspaper Awards 2023, Niche market Newspaper of the Year. First News readership is 2,626,625. Source: Opinion Matters 2020. First News is the widest-read of all children's publications audited in the UK. First News supports children's charities.

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Robson****Senior
Designer
Dan Jordan****HAVE
YOU
HEARD?**Snappy stories to get
you talking!**Schools set to offer health checks to
SEND pupils**

Starting next year, schools in England will provide eye, ear and dental check-ups for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). The checks will be done by trained school staff in familiar surroundings, making it easier for students who might find hospital visits difficult. This new programme aims to help 18,000 pupils in residential special schools and colleges across the country. It includes annual eye tests, at least one dental check-up per year and hearing tests at important school transition times. The aim of the scheme is to catch health issues early and improve students' overall wellbeing.

**Bird extinctions cause huge losses
to nature**

Experts writing in the journal *Science* say that the loss of bird species due to human actions has had a bigger impact on the environment than previously thought. Over the last 130,000 years, humans have caused at least 600 bird species to become extinct. This has led to a 7% decrease in the variety of jobs that birds do in nature, like spreading seeds and controlling pests. The researchers say this has erased about three billion years of unique bird evolution (how species change over time). They warn that these losses affect how well ecosystems work and stress the need to protect birds to maintain the balance of nature.

Football friends help home hounds

A Spanish football team has lined up with abandoned dogs instead of the usual mascots, to help the pooches find new homes. It's the second year that Espanyol players have raised awareness for homeless animals. Last year 11 dogs were rescued from the streets, and more than two tonnes of food and blankets was donated. Espanyol said: "With this action, the club wants to impact society again and help raise awareness of this problem." The Barcelona-based team, no doubt with luck from their four-legged friends, went on to beat Mallorca 2-1 in their La Liga match.

**Seeing real art brings out more
emotion, says study****Johannes Vermeer's *Girl
With A Pearl Earring* in the
Mauritshuis museum, the
Netherlands**

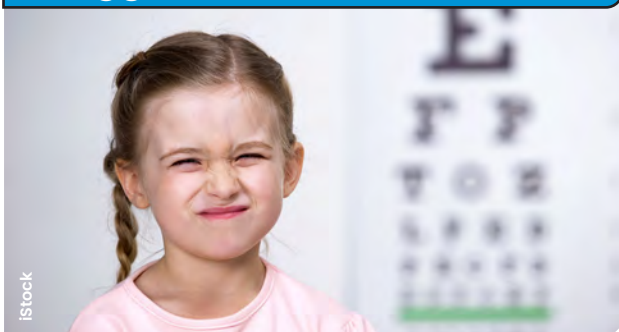
Researchers in the Netherlands have found that we experience more intense feelings when seeing real works of art instead of replicas. Scientists studied the brain scans of ten volunteers, and found that people had ten times more of an emotional response seeing the real *Girl With A Pearl Earring* painting than when looking at a poster of it. It's thought to be the first study that has measured brainwaves to see how we respond to artwork.

Friends who look after kids need more support



A charity called Kinship says people who look after children for family or friends need more support. These carers, often grandparents, are struggling with money and might have to stop caring for the kids. The charity found that these carers are more likely to use food banks and have trouble paying bills. They don't get as much help as foster carers, even though they may look after more children. The government says it will make changes to help these families. The charity hopes this will give carers the support they need.

Kids who need glasses struggle to learn



A new study shows that children who need glasses but don't have them learn only half as much as their classmates with good eyesight. This problem affects nearly 18 million kids worldwide every school day. Researchers say that fitting a child with glasses at the age of five could help them earn 78% more money in their lifetime. They also found that fixing this issue could save 6.3 million years of schooling each year globally. Experts are calling for more eye tests in schools and better access to glasses. They believe this could help solve the world's "learning crisis" and improve children's futures.

Prime minister returns gifts after criticism



Prime Minister Keir Starmer has given back over £6,000 worth of gifts and freebies that he received since becoming PM. The gifts include Taylor Swift concert tickets, race tickets and rented designer clothes for his wife Victoria. Many were upset that Mr Starmer and other top Labour politicians were getting free gifts from wealthy donors. The PM said it was "right" to pay back these gifts. He promised to make new rules about what gifts politicians can accept. Until then, he decided to return these items to avoid more criticism.

Girls facing rising challenges, says study



A new study by Girlguiding reveals worrying trends for young girls in the UK. The survey found that only 25% of girls aged seven to 21 feel confident about their future, and 85% of girls aged 11 to 21 face sexism (unfair treatment based on gender) daily. The research also highlights concerns about online safety, with over half of girls worried about AI being used to create fake images of them. Girlguiding is calling for better education in schools to tackle these issues and support girls' wellbeing.

Sort your gadgets and cables for International E-Waste Day!



International E-Waste Day 2024 is on 14 October, and experts are asking people to stop throwing away their old electronics with their regular rubbish. Every year, 14 million tonnes of electronic waste (e-waste) ends up in normal bins – that's as heavy as 24,000 large aeroplanes! Recycling

them properly can reduce pollution roughly equal to taking 20 million cars off the road each year. Another huge issue is hoarding, as many people refuse to get rid of their gadgets, and this isn't good either. So, next time you need to bin that old phone or broken laptop, think responsibly!

There are **74** e-products in an average home

13 of those items are unused or broken

46% thought they may use those items again

7% were unsure on how to dispose of the item



Shane Gross/Wildlife Photographer of the Year



Shane Gross from Canada has won Wildlife Photographer of the Year with *The Swarm of Life!* The annual competition is developed and produced by the Natural History Museum, London.

To capture the winning image (pictured), Shane snorkelled under the surface of Cedar Lake while a large group of western toad tadpoles moved past. Shane stayed in the lake for several hours among carpets of lily pads. This stopped any movement and disturbance of the fine layers of algae covering the lake bottom. If he had moved them, this would have reduced his visibility. So, the timing of the picture and each movement of his was carefully planned out for the perfect shot.

THE **FirstNews** READER SURVEY ???

We would 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 take the survey online at first.news/RS2024. The closing date is 18 October 2024.

● WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

12 OCTOBER

Emphasises the important role insects play in the survival of migratory birds.

● WORLD FOOD DAY

16 OCTOBER

Raises awareness of the issues behind food poverty and seeks to help those struggling from extreme hunger.



Go to the *First News* app for daily news posted throughout the week.



WORLD REMEMBERS ATTACK VICTIMS



MEMORIALS were held around the world to mark one year since the terrorist attack on Israel that triggered the fighting in the Middle East.

At sunrise on 7 October 2023, fighters from Hamas – the group that runs Gaza – launched a surprise attack on Israel, killing some 1,200 people at a music festival and in villages nearby. In the attack, Hamas also kidnapped 251 people. Of those, 97 are still being held as hostages (prisoners) in Gaza.

Later that day, Israel's army began its response, firing rockets at areas of Gaza where Hamas fighters were believed to be hiding. Over the past 12 months, Gaza's health ministry says that nearly 42,000 people there have died in the attacks.

On the one-year anniversary, Israelis gathered at the site of the Hamas attack and held a minute's silence to honour those

who were killed and kidnapped.

In a park in the Israeli city of Tel Aviv, musicians gave emotional performances while pictures of the victims were shown on big screens.

Further memorials and marches were held worldwide, including in the USA, Australia, Germany and the UK. In New York, people held signs that called for peace, saying things like: "Not one more drop of blood," and "Not another bomb."

However, at the same time, Hamas and Hezbollah – a terrorist group from Lebanon that supports Hamas – fired hundreds of rockets at Israel. Most were shot down.

Israel also fired rockets at Lebanon's capital, Beirut, targeting Hezbollah fighters. In recent weeks, over one million people in Lebanon have left their homes to flee the rockets, and 1,400 people have died.



● For more on the situation in the Middle East, check out the Sky Kids FYI report (above) on pages 20–21.

● You can also learn more about the conflict by visiting [first.news/IsraelGaza](https://www.first.news/IsraelGaza).

Atheists overtake believers in God

FOR the first time, there are more people in the UK who don't believe in God than those who do, says new research.

Dr Lois Lee, from the religious studies department at the University of Kent, said: "The UK is now entering its first atheist age."

She was one of a team of doctors and professors who wanted to find out why people around the world become atheists.

Their research found that parents are a big

influence on whether their children grow up to be religious or not. It also found that, just because someone doesn't believe in God, it doesn't mean that they don't believe in supernatural things, like spirits or monsters.

The researchers say that the idea that atheists might be bad people, or that believers might be less intelligent, is wrong and unfair.

They hope that their project can combat harmful opinions like these.



An **atheist** is a person who isn't religious, and doesn't believe in the existence of any god.

TWO asteroids hit Earth as dinos died

IT'S widely believed that an asteroid wiped out the dinosaurs, but now scientists have made a surprising discovery – there were two of them!

They say that, around the same time that the main asteroid crashed into Earth near Mexico, about 66 million years ago, a second, smaller one smashed into the sea off the coast of West Africa.

It's unclear which asteroid landed first, but this smaller one would have formed a huge fireball that collided with our planet at 72,000km/h.

On impact, it would have created an enormous earthquake, and caused a "catastrophic" wave, 800 metres (half a mile) high, to tear across the ocean.



The second asteroid created the Nadir crater, found near Guinea in 2022

EDITOR'S COMMENT



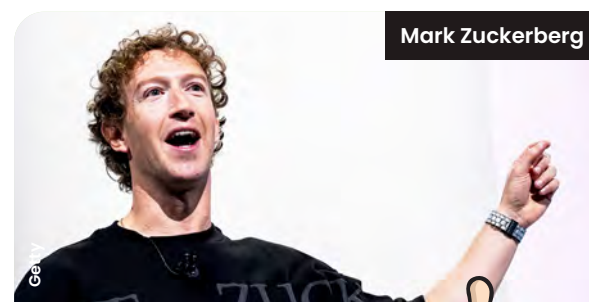
Nicky Cox MBE

ALTHOUGH the war in the Middle East has been going on for more than a year, it doesn't look like things are going to get better any time soon.

There are still missing hostages and daily attacks, and civilians across the region are living in constant fear of being blown up or losing their loved ones.

The war has also led to hatred being shown towards Jews and Muslims all around the world, so it's hard to see how the war has improved the situation or made anyone's lives better.

I sincerely hope that we don't have to report on the war's second anniversary next year.



Mark Zuckerberg

Mark Zuckerberg

THE creator of Facebook has become the second-richest person in the world, with an estimated wealth of £158 billion in the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. Elon Musk is in top spot on £195 billion, although other rankings say that Zuck is only in third place. Either way, he's stinking rich!



Antarctica

RECORD temperatures are turning parts of Antarctica green at such a rate that it's shocking scientists. In 1986, less than 1km² of the Antarctic Peninsula was covered in greenery, but by 2021, that had risen to nearly 12km². Researchers are worried about the impact on Antarctica's wildlife.



Antarctica is turning green



CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEEKLY QUIZ!

Test yourself on this week's news with our new quiz, included with every home and school subscription. Play with your family, friends or by yourself. Read this week's issue to get all the answers right!

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





THE GOLDEN FIND!

Buried owl is discovered after 31-year treasure hunt

ONE of the world's longest treasure hunts is over, after a golden, diamond-encrusted owl statue was finally found in France.

The search began 31 years ago, in 1993, with the release of a French book of riddles entitled *On the trail of the Golden Owl*. It contained 11 complicated puzzles, plus a hidden 12th teaser, that gave readers clues to the owl's location.

Thousands of puzzle fans from across the world spent decades trying to solve the mystery... until last week, when the book's illustrator, Michel Becker, posted: "Don't go digging! We confirm that the Golden Owl was unearthed last night."

The location of the statue, and the identity of its finder, is being kept secret. Experts have estimated that the prize is worth £125,000.

Or... is it?

The fact that Becker hasn't revealed the location of the owl, or any of the answers to the puzzles, has some doubting that it's really been found. Some fans don't trust him, and think that last week's find is another owl that he planted in the ground two or three years ago.

Michel BECKER Max VALENTIN
SUR LA TRACE DE LA CHOUETTE D'OR

Trouvez un véritable trésor estimé à plus de 1.000.000 de francs, grâce aux indices contenus dans ce livre!



Shark survives swordfish stab

A BLUE shark probably got a splitting headache when it was stabbed through the skull by a swordfish – but remarkably, it survived!

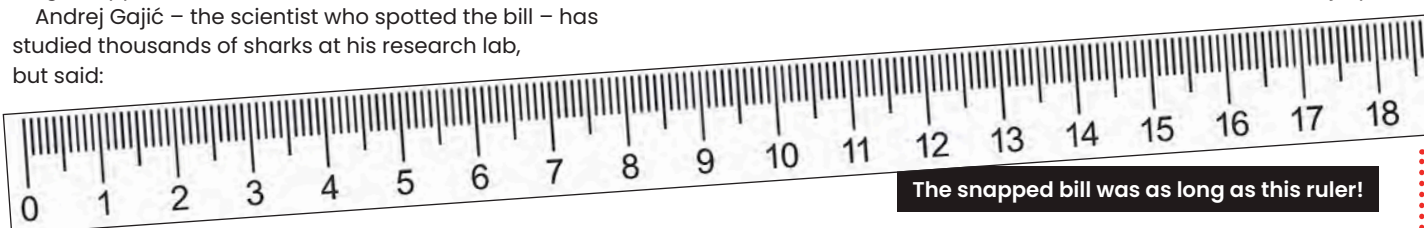
The incident was discovered when the shark was caught by fishers in Albania. It was later found to have an 18.6cm-long, snapped-off swordfish bill stuck in its head.

Andrej Gajić – the scientist who spotted the bill – has studied thousands of sharks at his research lab, but said:

"I was astonished... I've never encountered anything like this."

The injury may have been the result of an accident, or the swordfish might have been defending itself from an attack.

There have been eight recorded incidents of a swordfish stabbing a shark in the head before, but this is the first time that a shark has been known to have survived such an injury.



The snapped bill was as long as this ruler!

Friendly viruses live on our toothbrushes!

RESEARCH has found that a wide range of viruses live on our toothbrushes!

It's not an excuse to avoid brushing your teeth, though, because these viruses are harmless to humans, and target bacteria instead.

In fact, some of the bacteria-busting viruses could even help humans, by being used to treat infections.

A team led by scientists at Northwestern University, in the USA, took a close look at lots of used toothbrushes and shower heads.

"The number of viruses that we found is absolutely

wild," said lead researcher Erica M Hartmann. "We found many viruses that we know very little about and many others that we have never seen before."

Hartmann's team detected 600 viruses, and no two were the same. "Each shower head and each toothbrush is like its own little island," she said. "It just underscores the incredible diversity of viruses out there."

The study was published in a science journal called *Frontiers in Microbiomes*.



WOULD YOU WALLA-BELIEVE IT!

Rise in wallaby sightings in the UK

THIS summer saw a rise in sightings of an animal that's more commonly found on the other side of the planet.

Wallabies are little cousins of kangaroos, native mostly to Australia. However, there's been a rise in the number of them found hopping around Nottinghamshire.

Some were seen in the village of Calverton and another was spotted bouncing through a golf course. It was first thought that they'd escaped from a private owner, but Erin McDaid, from the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust (NWT), isn't so sure.

"Reports and sightings started coming in from a much wider area," she said. "This suggested there were more out there than we had originally thought. The distance between [them]... makes it unlikely those animals are escapes from the same location."

Experts say that more than 400 wallabies have been seen in the UK since the 1950s. The NWT now wants people to report if they see any more, to get a better idea of nature in the UK today.

Have you seen a wallaby? If so, report it at:
record.nottinghamshirewildlife.org



Adams was caught at court

A MAN in Oklahoma, USA, stole an ambulance because he was late for court... where he was already in trouble for stealing a car.

Kody Adams had been unable to get a lift to his hearing, a 30-minute drive away. So, instead, he pinched an ambulance that had been left unattended.

He was arrested by an officer just as he arrived at the courthouse. Adams reportedly told the officer that he hadn't stolen the ambulance and was just "borrowing" it, but that didn't stop him being taken to jail and given another round of charges.



Dorset, UK



Louise Ahrens

FIVE Dorset residents are challenging the stereotypes of ageing by recreating some iconic album covers! Here, 85-year-old Pat Shepherd proves that everyone can be a Swiftie as she poses for her own version of Taylor's 1989. The campaign, organised by Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council and the Age Friendly Communities Network, celebrates the vital part that older people play in our communities. Check out more of the photos, featuring the likes of Adele, on the *First News* app!

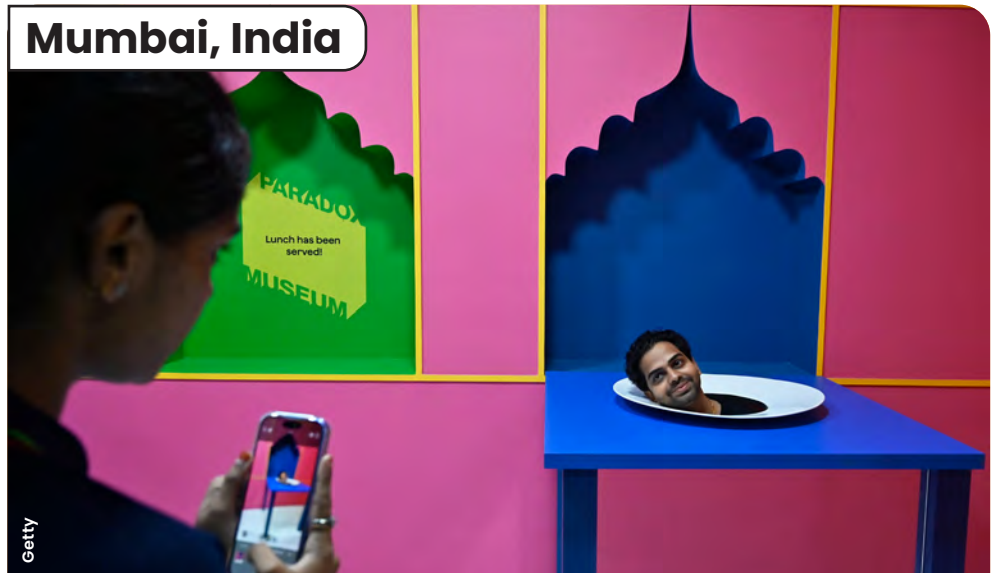
Caracas, Venezuela



CHRISTMAS has started early after President Nicolás Maduro declared that festivities would kick off in October. The Christmas signs and decorations are an apparent attempt to cheer people up – or distract them – following a recent election scandal.

Getty

Mumbai, India



WHERE'S his body gone?! India's new Paradox Museum features 55 incredible illusions.

Getty

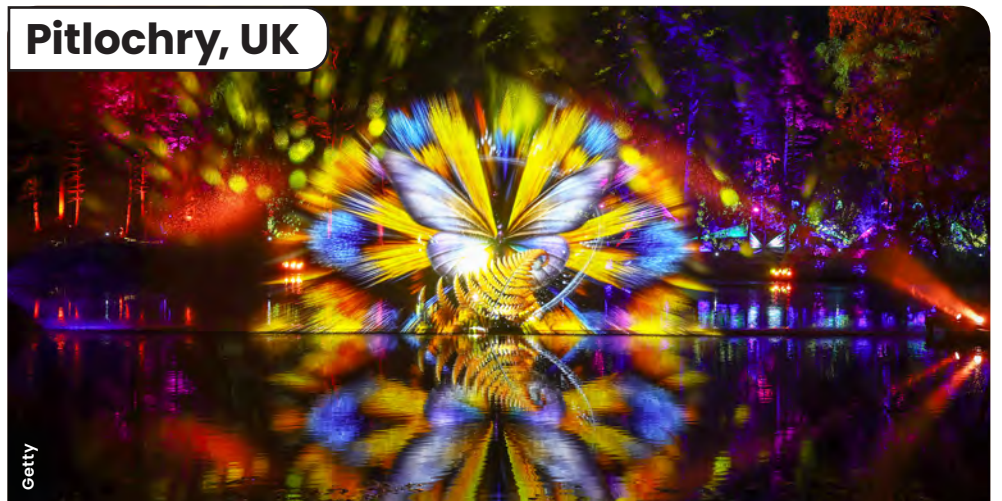
London, UK



MORE than 20 green figures have appeared in Canary Wharf in a first-of-its-kind urban space. Eden Dock, by charity the Eden Project, aims to encourage other big cities around the world to increase their biodiversity.

David Parry/PA Media Assignment

Pitlochry, UK



THE dazzling Enchanted Forest has returned. Read more about it on UK News (p7).

Getty



CHESTER

Hope for new habitat

Chester Zoo has planted 19,000 trees to provide for plants and animals of the future, restoring almost ten hectares of lost woodlands – equal to around 14 football pitches. It's the zoo's biggest ever habitat creation project, and the new area will be home to some of the UK's most precious species, including the green woodpecker, badgers and speckled wood butterflies. Conservationists hope that the new trees will boost carbon storage to help stop global warming and fight climate change. Species planted include oak, beech and hazel, and the area links two previously smaller woods to form one huge habitat.



Check out a video of all the wildlife spotted so far on the *First News* app!

PITLOCHRY

Dazzling display

One of Scotland's most popular sound and light shows is back in Perthshire. The Enchanted Forest has been dazzling visitors for over 20 years, with displays of light and atmospheric sound. This year's event, which takes place in Faskally Wood next to Loch Dunmore, is called 'Symphony of Nature'. It will highlight the harmonies created by the many animals who call the area home. The 85,000 expected visitors will also witness the return of Beira, the mythological Goddess of Winter from last year's show. The Enchanted Forest is open now and runs until 3 November.



WALES



The BSL exam had already been delayed until 2027

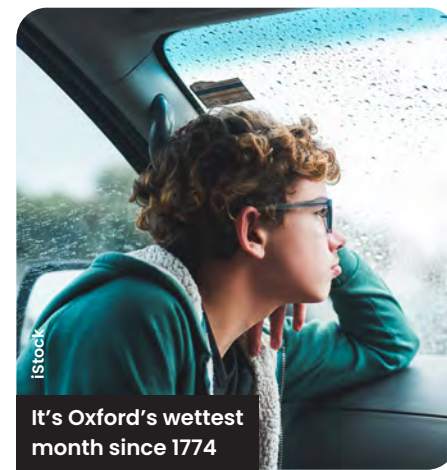
Sign language GCSE scrapped

Members of the deaf community have expressed anger at the scrapping of the British Sign Language (BSL) GCSE in Wales. BSL is a visual means of communicating using gestures, facial expressions and body language. A new GCSE teaching BSL was due to be introduced in 2027, but Qualifications Wales said it raised "many practical challenges for the education sector". Martin Griffiths, British Deaf Association Wales Manager, said: "This is a slap in the face for deaf children and their friends and classmates across Wales." Pupils will instead be able to study smaller units of BSL. Campaigners say the decision is "devastating".

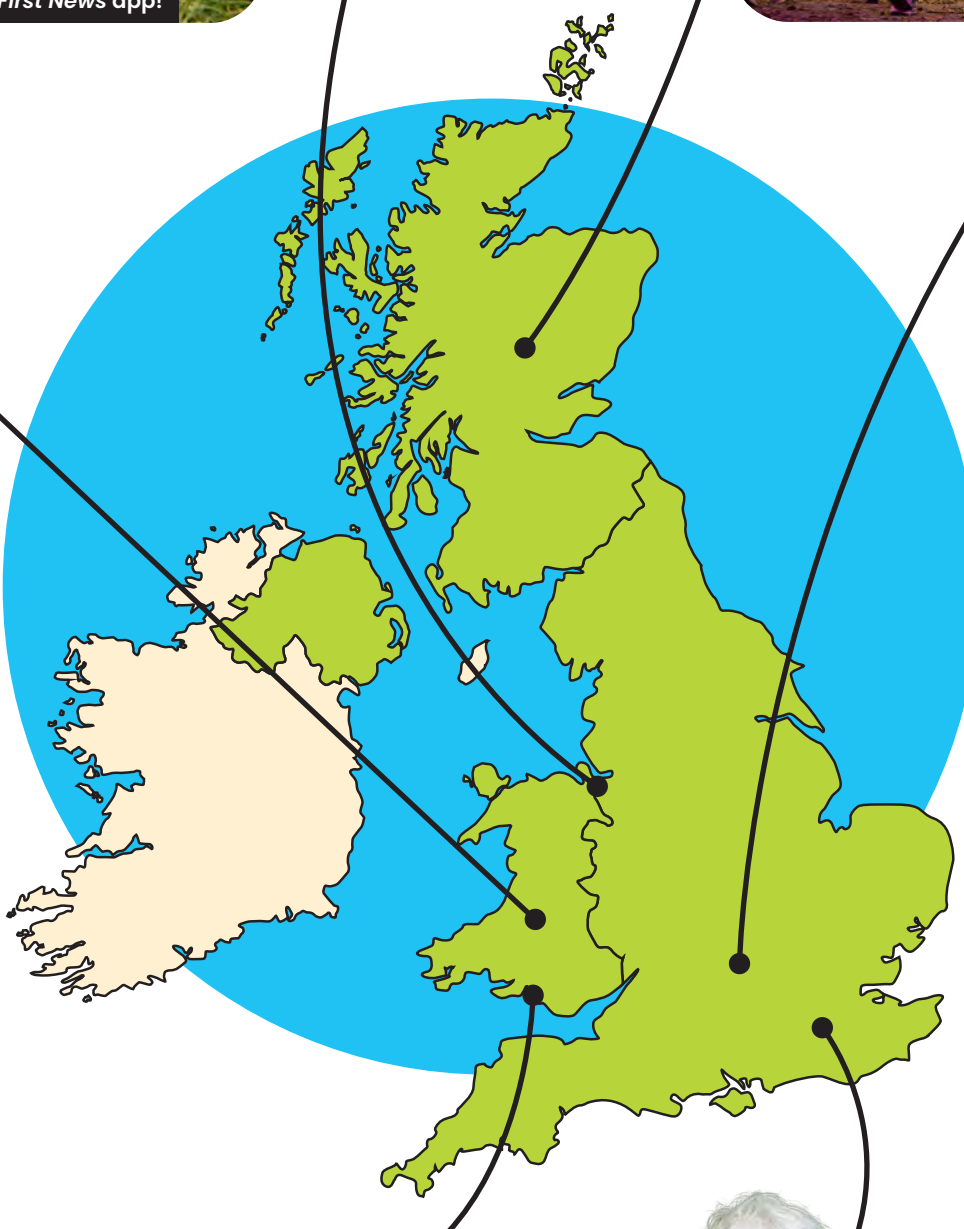
OXFORD

Wettest month in 250 years

Unless you've been living under a rock, you probably noticed that it rained quite a lot in September. Well, University of Oxford researchers have now revealed that it was the wettest month in 250 years! They recorded the findings at the Radcliffe Meteorological Station, which confirmed that September 2024 saw a remarkable 193.3mm of rainfall. Expert Charlie Knight says that this is even more extraordinary considering that "most of the month's rain fell across just two days." From 22-23 September, many areas of the UK experienced flash (sudden) floods.



It's Oxford's wettest month since 1774



PORT TALBOT

Tropical moths in Wales

Two clearing moths ended up on a Welsh windowsill after travelling 4,500 miles as larvae in a bag from Guyana in South America. Ecologist Daisy Cadet spotted one of the striking insects flying around in her house and posted a picture of it online when it settled. The Natural History Museum found out and got in touch. After lots of tests, it was confirmed to be a new species native to Guyana, where Daisy's photographer mum, Ashleigh, had just returned from. It's hoped the new discovery can help highlight how climate change and rising sea levels are destroying moth habitats in Guyana.



© Daisy Cadet

Scientists named the moth *Carmenta brachyclados*

CRAWLEY

Dame Judi's charity paint

Dame Judi Dench has grabbed her brush to help save a struggling hospice. The Oscar-winning actor created a watercolour painting of a Scottish landscape, titled *Early Sunset Wester Ross*. It was then made into 500 hand-signed prints. They're being sold for £150 in aid of St Catherine's Hospice, which recently announced that it needed to save £1.5 million to secure its future. Every year, the hospice provides care around Sussex and Surrey to almost 2,500 people who are coming to the end of their lives. Dame Judi lives nearby and has supported the charity for many years.



Dame Judi Dench



TOOTHY TOAD DISCOVERED!



SCIENTISTS have discovered a new species of toad in Vietnam that has teeth and unusual colour markings!

Researchers from ZSL accidentally discovered the Mount Po Ma Lung toothed toad (*Oreolalax adelphos*) after searching for a different species of amphibian.

This special toad has tiny teeth on the roof of its mouth and unusual spots on its skin.

However, its habitat is threatened by people cutting down trees for wood and planting crops for cardamom production. So, scientists hope its discovery will help preserve the area.

ZSL

Camels boost desert farming



CAMELS are becoming agriculture's secret weapon against climate change, experts say.

These tough animals can survive in hot, dry places where other farm animals cannot.

They provide milk, meat and transport for people living in deserts and mountains.

Camels are quite unique because they can eat plants other animals won't touch, like cactuses, and go for long periods without water.

This makes them perfect for farming in areas hit hard by global warming.

The United Nations has named 2024 the 'Year of Camels and Their Relatives', which include llamas and alpacas.

istock

Scientists reveal nature's 'darkspots'

SCIENTISTS have identified 33 places around the world where they think thousands of unknown plants are hiding.

These 'darkspots' exist in countries such as Madagascar, Brazil and Vietnam.

Researchers from Kew Gardens say there could be 100,000 plant species we haven't discovered yet – many in these 33 areas.

They worry that many of these plants might be in danger of dying out before we know about them.

The team hopes the new findings will help botanists focus on the right areas to find new plants quickly.

They say these unknown species could be important for making new medicines or fuels in the future.

The study was published in the journal *New Phytologist*.



RGB Kew



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...

HAMMERHEAD SHARK



istock

HABITAT:

Temperate and tropical waters worldwide.

FUN FACTS:

- They have 360-degree vision, thanks to their far-apart eyes that can rotate.
- Unlike many fish, hammerheads don't lay eggs. Instead, females give birth to live young.

SPECIAL SUPERPOWER:

This shark's name comes from its unusually shaped head, which it uses to pin its favourite snack – stingrays – to the ocean floor.

CONSERVATION STATUS:

There are many species of hammerhead sharks whose populations are decreasing, says the International Union for Conservation of Nature.



Aneeshwar's hammerhead art

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



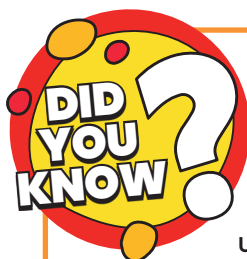
WILDLIFE NEEDS OUR URGENT HELP!

says WWF's Living Planet Report

Shutterstock/Debra James/WWF

What's the report all about?

The Living Planet Report is published every two years and looks at how wildlife is doing, alongside the health of the environment. It highlights how the findings could impact humans and the planet.



THE Amazon is home to 10% of all the wildlife species on the planet. Experts predict that if 20–25% of the Amazon is lost, it could suffer irreversible decline (damage that can't be undone).

Up to 17% of the rainforest has already been destroyed, and that was before it started to suffer from extreme drought and wildfires over the last year.



Jacqueline Lisboa/WWF-Brazil

Lots of rivers in South America have suffered from drought

THE LATEST FINDINGS

The latest WWF Living Planet Report has found:

- Average wildlife population sizes have declined by 73% in 50 years.
- Species in Latin America and the Caribbean have seen even more extreme average declines of 95% since 1970.
- The decline has been driven by human activity, such as habitat destruction, and climate change.
- Europe and North America are causing nature loss in other countries because they're importing livestock feed (food given to cows and chickens) that's grown on areas that were once wild.

WARNING!

Why is WWF so worried about the findings?

When wildlife populations decline, it can be an early warning sign that some species are at risk of extinction. This could also result in the loss of healthy ecosystems. When ecosystems are damaged, they can become more vulnerable to issues that can't be reversed. The report warns that global 'tipping points', such as the decline of the Amazon rainforest, melting polar ice or the loss of coral reefs, could impact food security and livelihoods across the world. WWF says: "It is no exaggeration to say that what happens in the next five years will determine the future of life on Earth."



African forest elephants

ACTION NEEDED

THE report calls for the following urgent action:

- **Changes to the way we grow our food.** Our food production system uses 40% of the Earth's habitable land. It is the leading cause of habitat loss, as forests and grasslands are turned into farmland. We must think of more nature-friendly ways to grow food, as well as reduce food waste.
- **Looking at how money is spent.** We need to make sure money is used to protect and restore nature, not hurt it. Did you know that £150 billion goes towards nature-based activities at the moment, while around £5 trillion (33 times as much) goes to activities damaging to nature?
- **Moving to clean energy.** We must urgently stop using fossil fuels to cut greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030 and keep the global temperature increase below 1.5°C.

WWF collects data from ten turtles fitted with satellite transmitters, to track them and help protect them from threats



WWF-Australia/Christine Hor

NEXT STEP

Ahead of the COP16 biodiversity summit in Cali, Colombia, and COP29 climate conference in Baku, Azerbaijan, WWF UK is urging the UK government to introduce a Living Planet Act and announce a big plan to protect and restore nature in the UK and around the world.

WWF YOUTH AMBASSADOR WILL SAID:

"As a young person and nature lover, I've found the results of the Living Planet Report 2024 to be both an upsetting wake-up call for our planet's crises, and also a clear indication of the connection between biodiversity and climate change. With data in the report showing that 220 marine species eat microplastics, I would like to see further government action against the use of single-use plastic and the promotion of more sustainable alternatives."



"AMAZING" BACTERIA THAT EATS PLASTIC

A beach full of mostly plastic rubbish on Madura Island, Indonesia. Some of it is dumped by locals, but much of it is brought there by ocean currents

RESEARCHERS have discovered that a common type of bacteria can break down and eat the main plastic that litters our waterways.

A study published in *Environmental Science & Technology* shows how *Comamonas testosteroni* can use PET plastic as a source of energy.

PET (polyethylene terephthalate) is the stuff that lots of food packaging and drinks bottles are made from. It makes up around 12% of the plastic that's produced every year, but is responsible for up to half of the plastic found in rivers and sewers.

PET doesn't naturally break down and can survive in the environment for hundreds of years, so lead researcher Ludmilla Aristilde says it's "amazing" that a single bacterium can break PET down into its smallest building blocks. It does this with the help of a special enzyme (see right).

Aristilde says that using this process could "help get rid of plastics in the environment", but that it could also help us to learn more about the journey of plastics through water systems and into nature.



VIDEO
ALERT!

ENZYMES are proteins produced by living things, and help speed up chemical reactions, such as breaking food down quickly so that we can digest it. You can find one called amylase in your saliva (spit) that helps to break down starchy foods such as potatoes. There's a great Operation Ouch! video on YouTube where you can learn more about amylase and other enzymes. See tinyurl.com/ouchamylase.

Where there's muck, there's gas

METHANE emissions from dairy farms in the UK could be up to 40% higher than the government estimates, research has shown.

Methane is the fossil fuel gas that many of us use to cook with and heat the water and radiators in our homes. But if it's released into the atmosphere, it's a more powerful greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide.

Cows' burps and farts produce methane too, but so does slurry – a runny mix of cow poo and water

that farmers store and spray on fields as fertiliser.

Trials on two dairy farms in Cornwall showed that methane emissions from slurry were up to five times higher than estimated.

The good news is that the tech already exists to cover slurry pits and capture the methane. This 'biogas' can then be used in place of fossil fuel methane to heat farm buildings or even power tractors.

The report is in *Environmental Research: Food Systems*.



A robot scrapes up cow poo so it can be used to make biogas

There are more than **22m** dairy cows across the UK and EU

Methane captured from slurry could be worth **£400 million** to the UK dairy industry alone

For an average-sized dairy farm, that's equal to **£52,500** per year

Voyager 2 loses an instrument

NASA has had to shut down one of the five remaining instruments on board its Voyager 2 spacecraft, in an attempt to save what's left of its power supply.

A nuclear power source has been powering Voyager 2 (and its twin Voyager 1) since 1977, but it is slowly running out. The pair both had ten science instruments on board, but some have been shut down over the years because they were damaged or no longer useful, such as the cameras, or to save energy.

Since Voyager 2's plasma science instrument was shut down last week, both probes now have just four of their original instruments working. The plasma

science kit helped to measure levels of plasma (charged atoms), and which way it was flowing.

The Voyagers are the only spacecraft to have ever left the heliosphere, the 'bubble' of particles and magnetic fields produced by the sun that protects Earth from powerful cosmic rays.

Voyager 1 and 2 are the two furthest man-made objects from Earth, but Voyager 1 is further away – 15.36 billion miles (24.7bn km) from Earth, compared to Voyager 2's 12.8 billion miles (20.6bn km).

Voyager 2 being fitted into its protective capsule ahead of launch, in August 1977



This report is from the Science and Industry Museum in Manchester

SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

THIS jacket does more than keep you dry in the rain!

Luxury clothing brand Vollebak made this performance jacket using graphene, a wonder material that was first discovered in Manchester 20 years ago.

The inner layer is made from graphene, the world's thinnest and strongest material. Graphene is stronger than steel yet lightweight and flexible, making it ideal for clothing that's designed to be hard-wearing.

Since scientists at the University of Manchester first found a way to work with it in 2004, graphene has been used not only in clothing, but also headphones, smartphones and even tennis rackets.

The jacket is on display for the first time now at the Science and Industry Museum as part of Manchester Science Festival. See tinyurl.com/SIMMSF.



The futuristic jacket



CAN CAPTURING CARBON CANCEL CLIMATE CHANGE?

SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

IN the last of a six-part series of climate change films from the Science Museum Group, *FYI* presenters Scarlett and Jeriah investigate the science of carbon capture. But why do we need to capture it, and how tricky is it to do? Read on and watch the film to find out! Each week we've been featuring different stories about how science and tech can help us to win the battle against climate change. To see the film, go to [first.news/science-museum-carbon](https://www.first.news/science-museum-carbon).

The Mammoth plant in Iceland is the largest direct-air capture and storage (DAC+S) plant in the world. It's said to be able to take 36,000 tonnes of CO₂ out of the air every year

UNTIL humans messed everything up by burning loads of fossil fuels, the Earth had been pretty good at keeping the amount of carbon in the air at a fairly constant level. We know that we need to bring carbon emissions down, but while we do that, lots of people are looking at ways of capturing carbon and storing it safely.

● Where's all this carbon coming from?

When we talk about carbon emissions, we mostly mean carbon dioxide (CO₂), as that's the most common greenhouse gas (GHG) that's causing our planet to warm up. But the next most common GHG is methane (CH₄), which also contains carbon. CO₂ mainly comes from burning fossil fuels and wood, but is also produced in huge quantities in some industries – for instance, the cement industry is responsible for around 7% of the world's CO₂ emissions. Methane mostly comes from three sources: the production and storage of fossil fuels; the burps and farts of the planet's billion cattle; and from the decay of waste in landfill sites (tips).

● And where does it normally go?

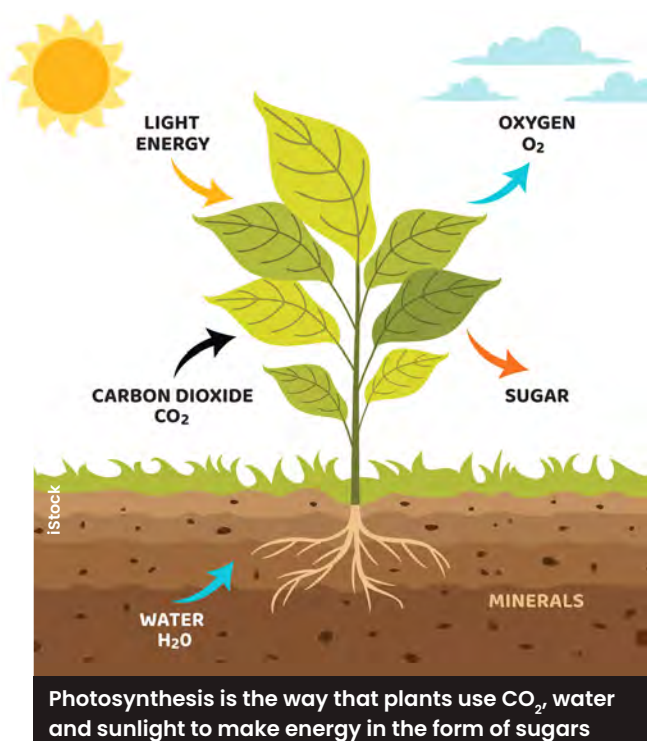
As you've probably learnt at school, CO₂ is taken in by plants and used to help them produce energy via a process called photosynthesis. Oxygen is a waste product of photosynthesis, so we're only kept alive by breathing in plant waste! What you might not know is that our oceans actually absorb more CO₂ than the world's plants and trees, mainly due to tiny organisms called phytoplankton that also use CO₂ in photosynthesis.

● And this is all going wrong then, is it?

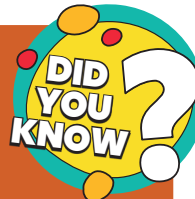
Unfortunately, yes. Huge chunks of places like the Amazon rainforest are being burnt or chopped down, which releases the carbon that's stored in the trees. Plus our oceans are getting hotter due to climate change, which lowers the amount of CO₂ that they can store.

● So what can we do about it?

The world needs to burn fewer fossil fuels and tackle any other sources of carbon emissions. But in the meantime,



ALTHOUGH we usually talk of CO₂ being emitted as waste, a lot of industries need it. A use you'll all be familiar with is to put the fizz in fizzy drinks, but the main use of CO₂ is to make fertiliser. In total, the world's industries use around 230 million tonnes of CO₂ every year.



lots of scientists are experimenting with the best ways of capturing carbon. Some projects are capturing it as it's produced, such as in industry, while others are trying to take CO₂ directly out of the air.

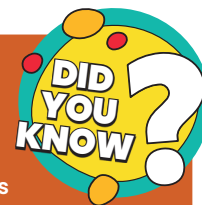
● And what happens to carbon once it's captured?

It can be mixed with other materials and turned into rocks, or even pumped into empty caverns underground. Some of these caverns once held the oil and gas that we burned to create carbon emissions in the first place.

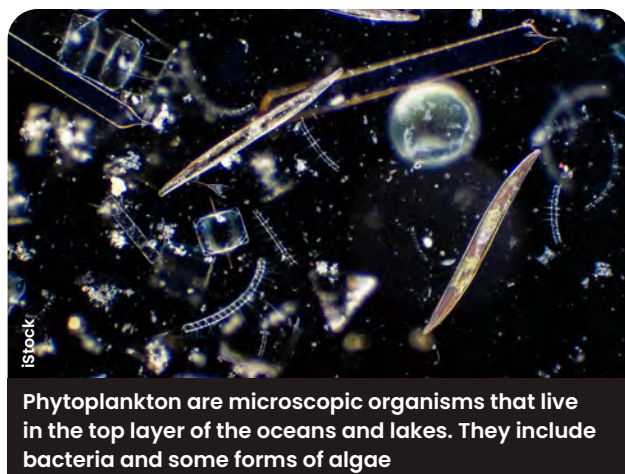
ONE of the main types of phytoplankton (see left) are diatoms. Bizarrely, the shells of dead diatoms in the bed of a dried-up lake in the Sahara desert in Chad are responsible for fertilising the Amazon rainforest! Strong winds sweep up the dust and transport it across the Atlantic Ocean, and the iron and phosphorus found in the shells helps trees to grow.



AROUND two billion tonnes of CO₂ are removed from the atmosphere by human activities each year, although at the moment, most of this is by traditional methods such as planting more trees. Lots more carbon capture will be needed, as experts say we'll need to remove around 7-9 billion tonnes of CO₂ from the air by the middle of the century.



An illegal fire in the Amazon rainforest. So much of the forest has now been chopped down or burned that parts of it are now emitting more carbon than they take in. Experts say that many more parts of the forest are following a similar path



Phytoplankton are microscopic organisms that live in the top layer of the oceans and lakes. They include bacteria and some forms of algae

WATCH THE FILM



Go to [first.news/science-museum-carbon](https://www.first.news/science-museum-carbon) to watch the full film, or just scan the QR code!

This QR code should be scanned by a responsible adult.





STOLEN LORRIES, TRUCKS AND AMBULANCES!



THE latest figures from the DVLA (Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency) show that thieves will steal anything on wheels.

Bin lorries, ambulances, road sweepers and even a hearse were among some of the 106,524 vehicles stolen in the UK in 2023.

Motoring research charity the RAC Foundation says the figures show there is “literally no type of vehicle that someone won’t steal”.

The most common thefts were five-door hatchback cars (24,518), estate cars (20,685), motorbikes (18,673) and small vans (11,172).

Other unusual stolen vehicles include ride-on lawnmowers, road sweepers, a sewage tank emptier, a concrete mixer and a fire engine.

Circus camel takes a detour



A DRIVER in Mayenne, France, captured the moment he spotted a lost camel on the side of the road.

Adrien Houdu posted his video to Facebook, where he had the reply: “We find everything in Mayenne.”

It turns out the camel was from the Zavatta traveling circus, and had escaped from a parking area near the town of Blandouet-Saint Jean while the circus was taking a break.

Thankfully, officials safely returned the camel to the circus unharmed.

Parrots poop all over town

THOUSANDS of parrots have descended upon two towns in Argentina, causing chaos for local residents.

But the birds aren’t just making a mess with their droppings, they’re also nibbling on power lines, leading to blackouts.

Experts say the birds were forced into urban areas due to deforestation (the removal of trees). The birds outnumber humans ten to one and, despite attempts to scare them off with loud noises and lasers, the persistent parrots aren’t budging.

Residents have protested, but the bird species, known as the burrowing parrot, is protected by Argentinian law.

Biologist Daiana Lera told the *Guardian* newspaper: “The hillsides are disappearing, causing [the parrots] to come closer to the cities to find food, shelter and water... we need to restore our natural environments. Until that happens, we have to think of strategies that allow us to live together.”



JOKE OF THE WEEK

ha ha ha

What do you call a camel with no humps?
Humphrey!

Paper Boy!

Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer





SPAIN



Getty

There were no female drivers in Formula E last season

Women get chance in Formula E

The motorsport of Formula E has announced a girls-only session to test drive its new cars, in a bid to improve diversity. A bit like Formula One but with electric cars, the globe-trotting Formula E championship launched in 2014, but in its first ten years it's only had three female drivers. The sport's 11 teams will get a chance to test next season's Gen3 Evo car on the Ricardo Tormo Circuit, near Valencia, in November. Each team will be required to have one woman among their two test drivers, and only the women will be allowed on track for the afternoon testing session on 7 November.

SWEDEN

Government may ban begging

The Swedish government is exploring the idea of banning people from begging, and if they think a ban could work, it could become law. The Sweden Democrats group leader, Linda Lindberg, has criticised people arriving from abroad "to beg outside our shops." However, a local Christian organisation has criticised the government for trying to "outlaw poverty", while legal expert Aida Samani says such a ban might be illegal. One rival politician, Anna Starbrink, said: "People in need cannot be forbidden from asking for help."



The government says begging has risen

INDIA

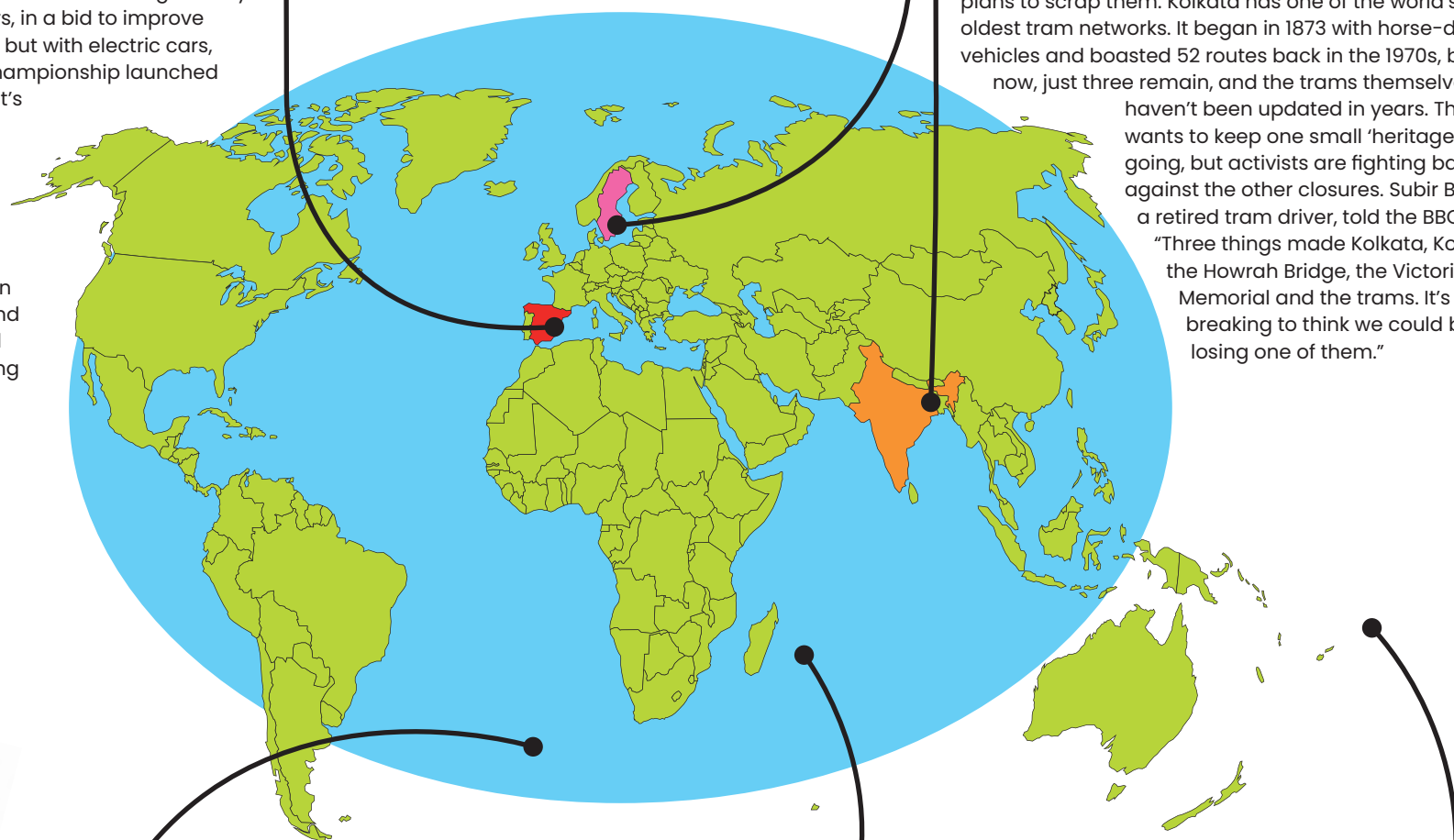


Getty

In 1920, Kolkata got Asia's first electric trams

Locals bid to save historic trams

Fans of Kolkata's colourful trams are battling to save the rattling vintage vehicles, after city bosses announced plans to scrap them. Kolkata has one of the world's oldest tram networks. It began in 1873 with horse-drawn vehicles and boasted 52 routes back in the 1970s, but now, just three remain, and the trams themselves haven't been updated in years. The city wants to keep one small 'heritage' loop going, but activists are fighting back against the other closures. Subir Bose, a retired tram driver, told the BBC: "Three things made Kolkata, Kolkata: the Howrah Bridge, the Victoria Memorial and the trams. It's heart-breaking to think we could be losing one of them."



TRISTAN DA CUNHA

Wasps fly to the rescue of rare Atlantic birds

An army of wasps has been brought to a remote island in the South Atlantic to save one of the world's rarest bird species from extinction. Wilkins' bunting is a bird found only on Nightingale Island, which is part



Pics: Getty, Peter Ryan

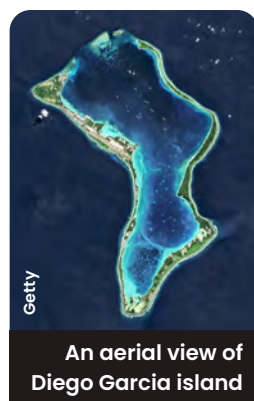
There are fewer than 100 breeding pairs of the birds

of a group of islands called Tristan da Cunha. The birds survive on the fruit produced by the island's only native tree species. However, the island has become infested with tiny insects that destroy the trees, meaning the birds go hungry. To control the insects' numbers, wasps were flown from London to South Africa, before taking a week-long sea voyage to the island. Fewer than 10% of them survived the 10,000km journey, but it's starting to pay off. Dr Norbert Maczey, one of the scientists involved in the project, said: "The wasps [settled] surprisingly quickly... and the trees are already showing signs of recovery."

MAURITIUS

UK returns islands to Mauritius

The UK has handed control of a cluster of islands back to Mauritius, a country in the Indian Ocean. For decades, Mauritius has said it was forced to give the Chagos Islands to the UK in exchange for independence in 1968, while the UK has said sorry for forcing 1,000 islanders to leave their homes during that time. One island, Diego Garcia, has become a secret military base for UK and US navy ships and aircraft. This base will remain for at least 99 years, and the UK will pay Mauritius an annual fee. Mauritius will now begin a scheme to allow those who were forced to leave the islands in 1968 to return, if they wish to.



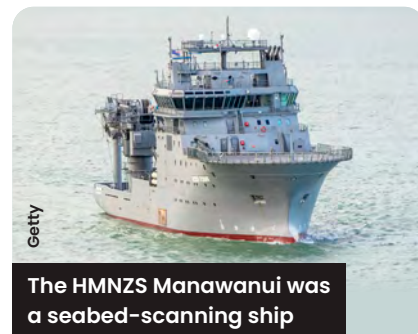
Getty

An aerial view of Diego Garcia island

SAMOA

New Zealand vessel shipwrecked

New Zealand has lost a navy ship to the sea for the first time since fighting in World War Two. It happened while the vessel, the HMNZS Manawanui, was conducting a survey of a reef off the coast of Samoa. In stormy weather, the ship entered shallow water and got stuck, eventually catching fire and sinking. There were 75 people on board, including its British captain. All escaped on lifeboats and were taken to Samoa before flying home. New Zealand's defence minister, Judith Collins, called the loss of the ship "a really sad day for the Navy". Work has begun to salvage (collect) it from the seabed.



Getty

The HMNZS Manawanui was a seabed-scanning ship

PADDINGTON'S GREAT

START - LONDON, ENGLAND

Where: 32 Windsor Gardens, home of the Brown family and our favourite bear, Paddington!



JOIN Paddington and the Brown family to Peru in this winter's hit new film



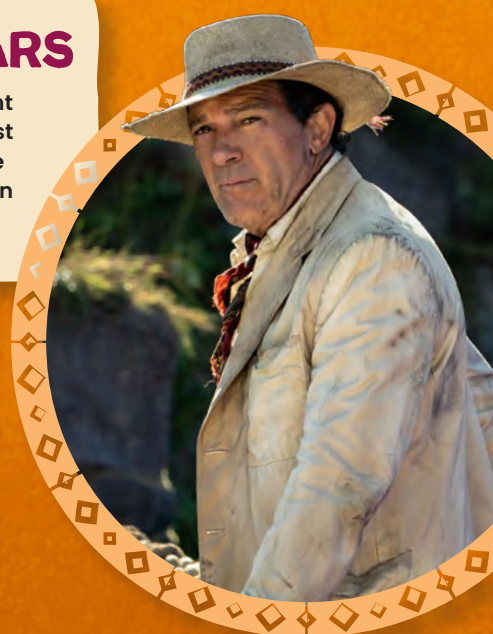
SAY CHEESE!

Pose for your passport picture! We need a passport for a fabulous adventure as Paddington heads off to see his beloved Aunt Lucy in Peru!



HOME FOR RETIRED BEARS

This is it, our final destination! Although wait, where is Aunt Lucy?! The Reverend Mother tells us she's set off on a quest deep in the jungle and they have no idea where she is. Are we buying that story? We're not so sure, but it's time to join Paddington as he gets his investigative hat on...



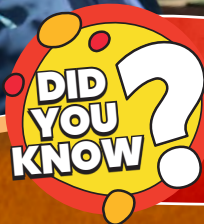
HOLD TIGHT!

We're taking to the skies and it might be a little bumpy! Don't forget to bring snacks - marmalade sandwiches always help to settle the nerves!



ON THE WATER

All aboard as we set sail on the water to find Aunt Lucy! Where has she gone? Our boat's captain, Hunter Cabot, promises to help, but mark our words, there's something fishy about this guy.



PADDINGTON in Peru is the third film in the franchise! You can also check out *Paddington* and *Paddington 2*.

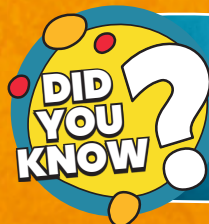


All pics: Studiocanal / iStock

PADDINGTON IN PERU is in cinemas from 8 November 2017

ST ADVENTURE BEGINS

Family on an epic journey from London
New film, *Paddington in Peru*.

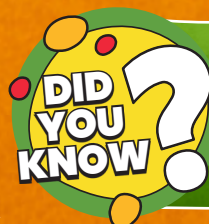


THE superstar cast includes Ben Wishaw, Hugh Bonneville, Emily Mortimer, Olivia Colman, Antonio Banderas, Jim Broadbent, Imelda Staunton and Julie Walters!



THE AMAZON

Paddington's ready to show us where he's from, but we've got a feeling this could be a wild ride! Prepare for more choppy boat trips, mysterious rainforest antics and some seriously hair-raising adventures!



THE Paddington films are based on the books by British author Michael Bond.

YOUR AMAZON FACT FILE

The Amazon rainforest is the largest in the world, covering 6.7 million square kilometres – that's almost 28 times the size of the UK!

- 1 It spans eight countries: Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname and one overseas territory, French Guiana.
- 2 It contains millions of different species, including macaws, jaguars, poison dart frogs, squirrel monkeys, pink river dolphins, electric eels and snakes!
- 3 More than two million indigenous (native) people live in the Amazon rainforest.
- 4 An estimated 150–200 billion tonnes of carbon are stored in the Amazon's forests and soils, making it one of our biggest assets in fighting climate change.



X MARKS THE SPOT

Will we find our treasure, aka the wonderful Aunt Lucy? That's a very good question, and one you'll have to answer by watching the new *Paddington in Peru* film, in cinemas from 8 November!





INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD

IT'S International Day of the Girl Child on 11 October, a chance to recognise girls' rights and the unique challenges that girls face around the world.

What's the theme?

This year the day is focused on 'Girls' vision for the future'. It aims to highlight the urgent action we need to take to make sure girls feel that their voices and visions for the future are heard.

Why is this so important?

Girls growing up today are unequally affected by global crises such as climate change, conflict and poverty. Many girls across the world are denied equal rights and don't have access to things like education. Despite this, recent studies show that girls are hopeful for the future and not afraid to stand up. It's important that they have support though, and that their voices are listened to, so let's hear from some amazing young campaigners...

SUSMA'S STORY

SUSMA lives in the rural mountains of Nepal, where it's expected that girls will marry, or look after their parents, instead of going to school.

But Susma is confident and is leading a wave of change – from her phone. She is now a social media influencer, who champions girls' rights. She's built a following of young people who strive for education and a community where they can express themselves.

During the day, in between her studies, Susma leads self-defence classes at the local primary school. She's even submitted an appeal to the local government, urging them to take action to end child marriage.

Her dream is to become a teacher and help shape the next generation of girls.

"I want to be the example. I wish to create a thousand adolescent girls like me."

– Susma



SEMIRA'S STORY

SEMIRA has totally changed how her community in Ethiopia sees girls, by creating a girls' club with her friends to write plays, poems and songs advocating for girls' rights. They then perform these in schools.

In Semira's community, girls were expected to prioritise working at home instead of going to school. When Semira realised the realities behind some traditional practices, such as child marriage, she wanted to make a change. She joined forces with her friends and formed a club to help educate others on the importance of empowering girls instead.

"The community here used to think that the kitchen was the right place for women. There was clear gender-based violence before, and women were considered worthless as compared to men. Now those backward attitudes have changed after our advocacy work [campaigning]."

– Semira

RATRI'S STORY

RATRI is the president of a child forum to protect children, particularly girls, in Bangladesh.

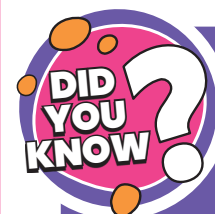
Ratri and the child forum group are working to raise awareness about girls' rights in their community, where child marriage is widespread.

A World Vision survey found that half of the girls in the area were married between the ages of 12 and 18, despite child marriage being illegal. Gradually, the situation around Ratri is starting to change, with more cases being reported to the authorities for prevention.

Ratri believes we must speak up for girls.

"What is the issue if someone is a girl? We are all human beings and have the potential to achieve great things. Given the right opportunities and recognition, I believe that girls can accomplish remarkable feats."

– Ratri



IF the world was made up of 1,000 girls:

- 200 would be married
- 126 would be out of school
- 65 would be child labourers
- 5 would be victims of child trafficking

(where children are forced or persuaded to leave their homes and moved or transported to somewhere else, where they are sold or forced to work).

To help support kids with remembering key online safety advice, Vodafone and *First News* have launched a creative writing competition inviting you to create a new fable for the digital age, showcasing your healthy digital habits and how you stay safe online! Check it out at firstnews.co.uk/vodafone.



KIDS REVEAL THEIR ONLINE SAFETY VIEWS

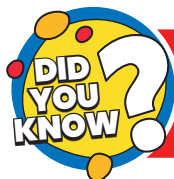
A BRAND-NEW study, which polled 1,000 children and 1,000 parents, showed 95% of kids feel confident they know how to stay safe online.



DIGGING INTO THE DATA

The data shone a light on young people's online habits:

- 91% felt comfortable talking to their parents about staying safe online.
- 51% felt it was important not to share personal information online.
- However, when asked in further detail, only 37% felt not sharing their passwords was important and 21% stated keeping their online profiles private was a priority.
- 48% also admitted they had followers on social media that they aren't friends with offline.



FAMILIES are having important conversations about online safety, with nearly half (49%) of the rules parents are teaching their children relating to staying safe online.

THE POWER OF STORYTELLING



While children and parents are both prioritising online safety guidance, the data showed there was still room to make the advice more memorable to help children and young people put it into practice. One way to do this is through storytelling.

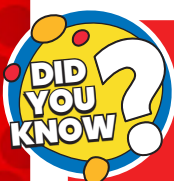
Stories can be a powerful learning tool, helping to make things more engaging. For example, fables have been passed down the generations, helping people to remember important morals. Have you heard *The Tortoise and The Hare*, which teaches us that 'slow and steady wins the race'?



DR ELLY HANSON, CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST, SAID:



"Fables and stories have been passed down for thousands of years – and for good reason. By reading or listening to a story, children and young people can mentally step into the shoes of other characters, helping them to work through a situation as if they were experiencing it themselves. And, in turn, this can make it easier for them to put these learnings into practice in the real world."



MOST online safety conversations begin when children are around 7–8 years old, with two-thirds of children (66%) believing online safety rules are some of the most important ones they follow.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

THE CHALLENGE

WE'RE asking you to write your own fable that focuses on online safety and creating positive digital experiences. Your fable should be no more than 500 words.

THE PRIZE

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

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

*Prizes may look different from those pictured.

HOW TO ENTER

Once you've written your fable, ask an adult or teacher to upload your entry at firstnews.co.uk/vodafone

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

Closing date: 1 November 2024.

For full terms and conditions, visit the link below.

WIN!



This QR code should be scanned by a responsible adult.

Enter today at firstnews.co.uk/vodafone



WITNESS THE ORIGIN

THE new *Transformers One* film goes back in time to the beginning of the Transformers story and reveals the unlikely friendships between future enemies. *First News* caught up with its stars Chris Hemsworth (Optimus Prime), Brian Tyree Henry (Megatron) and Keegan-Michael Key (Bumblebee) to learn more about what fans can expect!

● Hi Chris, Brian and Keegan! How does it feel to be part of *Transformers One*?

Keegan: We really are honoured to be part of this. It's such a big piece of the fabric of society, like global society. Everybody everywhere knows these characters, grew up with these characters and it's really wonderful to be part of the legacy.

Chris: You don't really get to play a character that you may have played as a kid. And now, as a bigger kid you're transforming into that space. It's pretty cool.

Brian: Also, when you get to be in the same space as these guys and play these characters, it truly elevates it. It's so much more fun.

● What was it like bringing these iconic characters' origin stories to life?

Chris: That was the fun part and what really interested me in being a part of the film, besides the adventure and sort of nostalgia that's attached to the universe of *Transformers*. The fact that it was an origin story and we were discovering they



Head to the
First News app for more
Transformers One
interviews!



L-R: Brian, Chris, *First News*'
Safiyyah, and Keegan

were friends before they were enemies was really appealing.

Keegan: I also think it's exciting for us to think about how the audience is going to react to it. Since it's such a departure from the other movies, we get this opportunity for people to go: "Oh, that's something about them," or "They actually grew the way I thought they were going to grow!" I wish we could go to every movie theatre and watch the audiences' reactions while seeing the film.

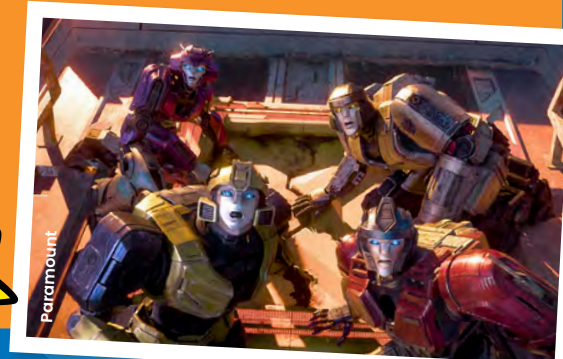
● Lastly, if you could transform into any object in real life what would it be?

Keegan: I would transform into a boat. I think it would be great to be a boat. Then I could just walk off the land, go into the water, become a boat, and then just chillax and I could go anywhere. Anywhere I want.

Chris: Maybe a boomerang. You'd fling me out there and I'd just come back flying and spinning. A giant boomerang.

Brian: I'd be a New York subway. Built hard, built tough and doesn't really care about anything. It runs when it wants to and goes where it wants to end up. It's very free!

Transformers One
is in cinemas now.



● **Paddington's back in cinemas!**

To celebrate the new *Paddington in Peru* movie coming this November (the latest trailer is in the daily news on the *First News* app), the first two Paddington movies are being reshown in cinemas! You can relive our favourite bear's most fantastic adventures in *Paddington* and *Paddington 2* on the big screen from 11-20 October.

● **Dancing On Ice 2025 stars revealed!**

The contestants for next year's *Dancing On Ice* have been announced! Among those pulling their skates on are Olympic rowing legend Sir Steve Redgrave (below), *Coronation Street* actor Sam Aston, nature presenter Michaela Strachan and Paralympian Dame Sarah Storey. Holly Willoughby and Stephen Mulhern are expected to return as the hosts. The show is back from January 2025.



● **KSI joins *Britain's Got Talent* (temporarily!)**

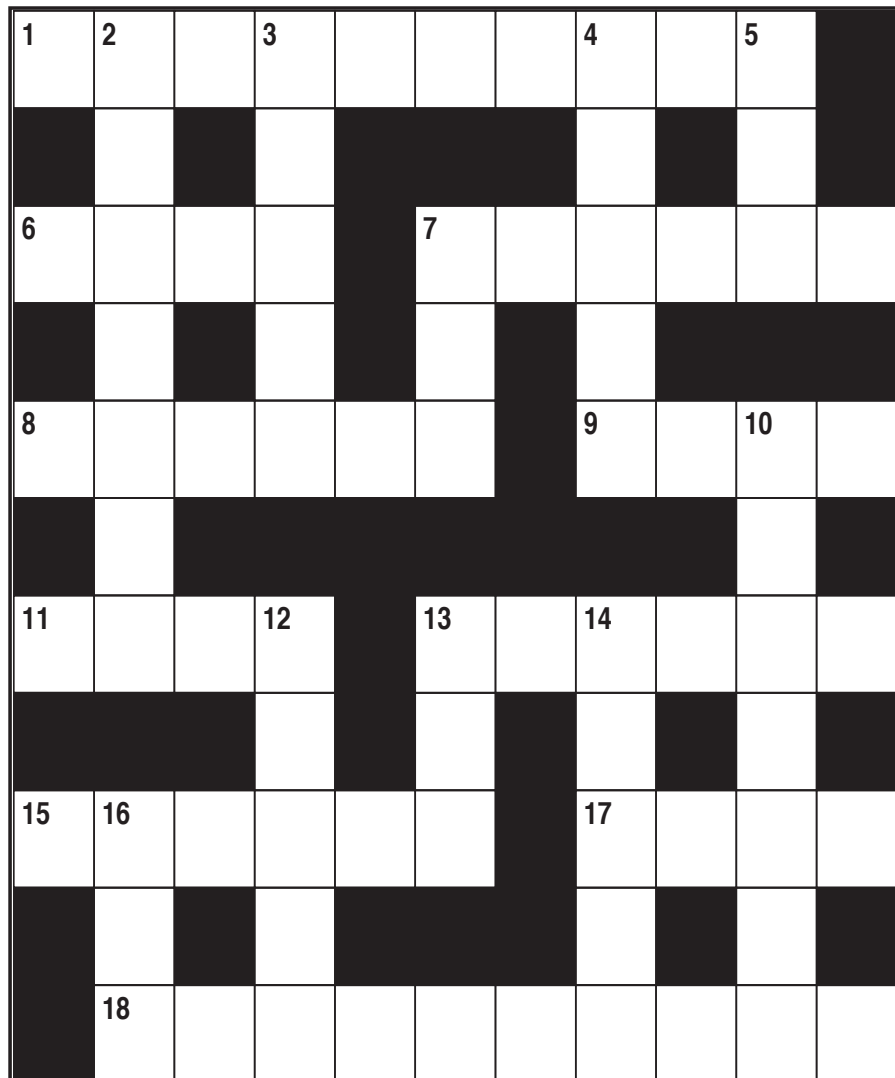
KSI is set to replace Bruno Tonioli on the judging panel of *Britain's Got Talent* (*BGT*) for a few episodes of the next series. The musician, boxer and social media star will stand in for Bruno while he's away filming *Dancing With The Stars* in America. KSI said: "I'm so excited to be a guest judge for *BGT*... I'm buzzing to see all the fresh new talent, and I'll be sure to leave a mark."





CROSSWORD

CAN you solve our crossword puzzle using the clues below?



ACROSS

- 1 Comprehend (10)
- 6 Male deer (4)
- 7 Firmly fixed in position; not shaking (6)
- 8 Having an excessive desire for food (6)
- 9 Continent (4)
- 11 Feeling happy (4)
- 13 E.g. Cheddar or Edam (6)
- 15 Someone who belongs to a club (6)
- 17 Pond-dwelling amphibian (4)
- 18 Space travellers (10)

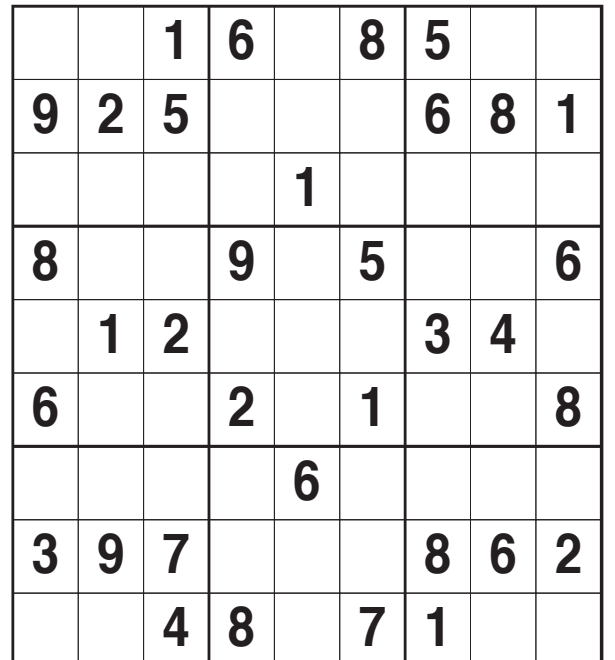
DOWN

- 2 Not artificial (7)
- 3 A large bird of prey (5)
- 4 Enclosed area for sports events (5)
- 5 Father (3)
- 7 Home for a pig (3)
- 10 Happening immediately (7)
- 12 First appearance (5)
- 13 Motor vehicle (3)
- 14 Additional (5)
- 16 A long period of time (3)



Sudoku

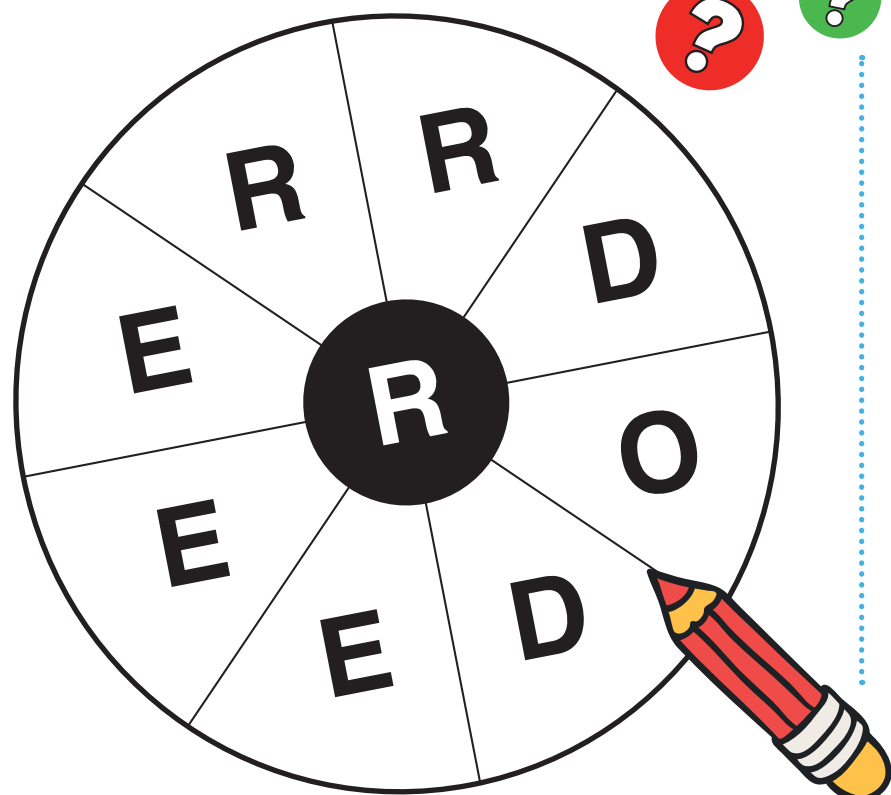
CAN you complete our sudoku puzzle, filling in the numbers one to nine?



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.

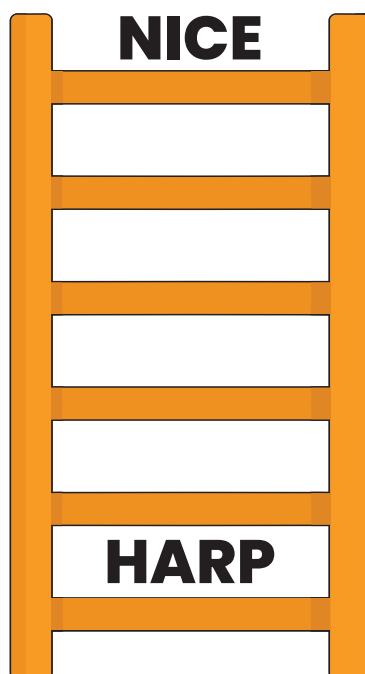
Word wheel

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

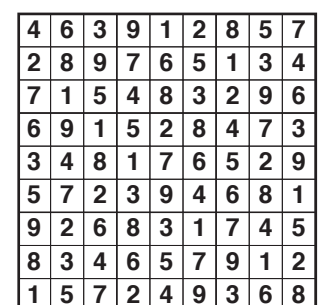
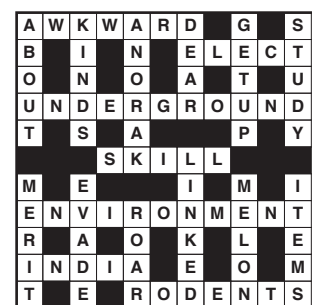
SEE if you can get from the top of the ladder to the bottom by changing one letter at a time to make a new word.



ISSUE 955 ANSWERS:

Word wheel: overdoing.

Word ladder: loud, lout, bout, bolt, belt, bell.



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

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE MIDDLE EAST?



IN *FYI*, Maya explains what's happening with the current fighting in the Middle East. She takes a look at how the conflict is escalating and hears from some young people who have been affected. You can watch the full clip and more at [first.news/TV](https://www.first.news/TV).



RIGHT now, there's lots of fighting and upsetting news in the Middle East, and it can be confusing to understand what's going on. In *FYI*, Maya takes a look at the history of the situation and we learn how the fighting has been spreading in recent weeks.

History of the recent conflict

The conflict in the Middle East has been going on for a very long time and involves lots of disagreement over land. The most recent conflict began just over a year ago on 7 October 2023, when armed Hamas fighters broke through border fences and launched a surprise attack on Israel. The attack killed lots of civilians, as well as soldiers. Around 1,200 Israelis were killed and 251 people were taken as hostages. As a result, a war erupted and more than 40,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza.



Missiles have been fired between Israel and Gaza, Lebanon and Yemen

How is the fighting growing?

The latest fighting is taking place in the countries of Israel and Lebanon. It is happening between Israel and an armed group in Lebanon called Hezbollah, who are supporters of the Palestinian group Hamas. Both Hamas and Hezbollah are banned in Britain as terrorist organisations.

Since the outbreak of war in October 2023, Hezbollah has been firing missiles into northern Israel. But the conflict has recently escalated and Israel has fired missiles into the Lebanese capital of Beirut in retaliation, killing the leader of Hezbollah, Hassan Nasrallah. Israeli soldiers have now also crossed the border into Lebanon, as conflict takes place on the ground as well.

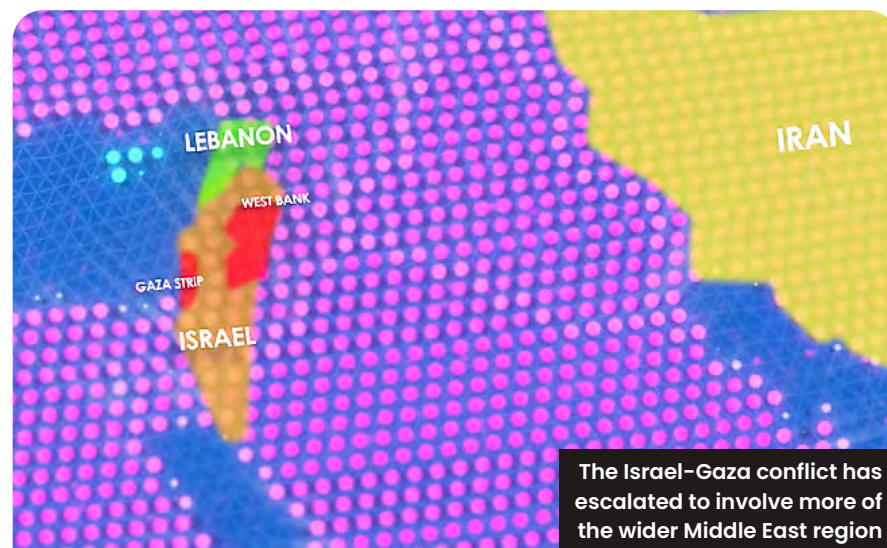
What are they fighting for?

Hamas and Hezbollah are fighting for a Palestinian state that would include some of the land currently occupied by Israel. Iran is supporting the terrorist groups and has recently fired lots of missiles into Israel – most of which were shot down and caused limited damage.

What has the fighting meant for ordinary people in the region?

The fighting has taken a big toll on the people living in this area. In northern Israel, more than 60,000 people have had to flee their homes due to Hezbollah missiles. In Lebanon, many have died and a lot of people have been forced to leave their homes. The UK government and other countries are calling for a ceasefire, demanding an end to the conflict that is impacting millions of civilian lives.

Nine-year-old Cilia has been forced to leave her home and live with her grandmother. "I came here because I was terrified of the war," she tells us. "They're bombing heavily. I wish they wouldn't bomb. When will this war stop?"



The Israel-Gaza conflict has escalated to involve more of the wider Middle East region



Cilia



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.first.news/FYInewsclub) to find out more. You can watch the full show every week on the *First News* app, at [first.news/TV](https://www.first.news/TV), or on Sky News and Sky Kids. This QR code should be scanned by a responsible adult.



Children and families escaping war

Charities are warning of the terrible effect the conflict is having on children and families. FYI spoke to Tess Ingram from UNICEF to find out more about the living conditions people are facing as a result of the fighting.

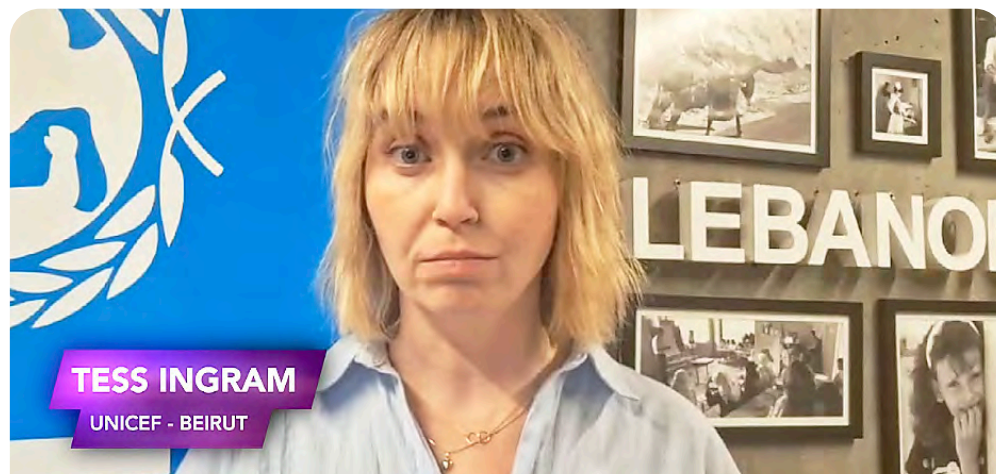
Tess says: "We know that one million people, which is quite a lot of the population of Lebanon, have moved in the last week to try and find somewhere safe. Some people are going to the homes of other friends or family in different parts of the country that are not being affected. Other people are going to shelters that are set up by the government to help protect people. These shelters are often schools, so where the children used to learn, they're now going there to live. And sometimes there can be as many as 20 people living in a classroom, which is a lot when you know how big your classroom is."



The charity Jerusalem Peacebuilders hopes to bring people together

Hoping for peace

FYI presenter Maya also hears from Ishai, living near Jerusalem. He's a teenager who's part of Jerusalem Peacebuilders, a charity that brings people from Palestinian and Jewish communities together. After over a year of conflict, he tells us he just wants peace. Ishai says: "It makes me feel scared for the people I love, for the people who are fighting in the north, or in the south in Lebanon. I want my people in my country to live a simple life. A peaceful life is not



TESS INGRAM

UNICEF - BEIRUT

If you're worried or scared about what's going on, you can always speak to a trusted adult. It's important to make sure you're reading or watching trusted news, so you can find out more at first.news/IsraelGaza.

WATCH MORE ON FYI



Scan the QR code to watch the video and learn more about the latest conflict in the Middle East.



This QR code should be scanned by a responsible adult.

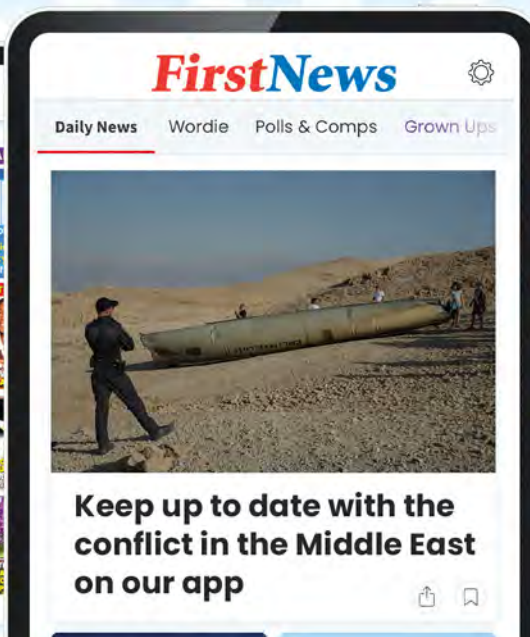
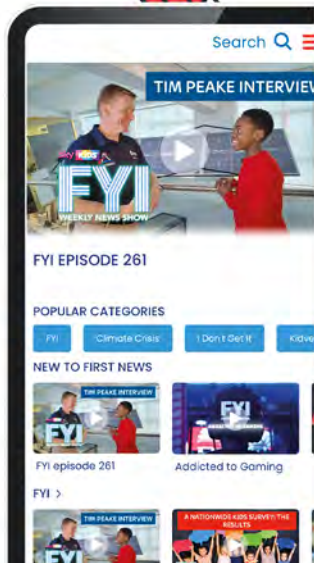
taken for granted in Israel, you have to constantly live in fear of what's coming next, the next threat, the next war. And I want to live in peace, to live, to know that I'm safe."

Watch the full clip at first.news/TV. To find out more about the conflict in the Middle East you can also visit first.news/IsraelGaza.

Love reading

FirstNews?

There's even more on the First News app!



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



App Store

Google Play

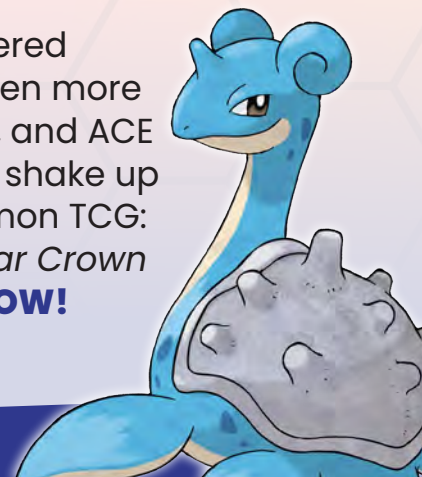
AN ADVENTURE TO AWAKEN THE POWER WITHIN!



DESCEND INTO A WORLD BELOW THE SURFACE AND DISCOVER THE TRUE POTENTIAL OF THE TERA STAL PHENOMENON!

The Legendary Pokémon Terapagos takes the throne, joined by Cinderace ex, Lapras ex, and Galvantula ex, all wielding brilliant new powers as Stellar Tera Pokémon ex.

The newly discovered Hydrapple ex leads even more Pokémon ex into battle, and ACE SPEC cards continue to shake up the game in the Pokémon TCG: Scarlet & Violet – Stellar Crown expansion... **OUT NOW!**



Each Stellar Tera Pokémon ex has a super-powerful Stellar Attack, which costs three energy types to use!

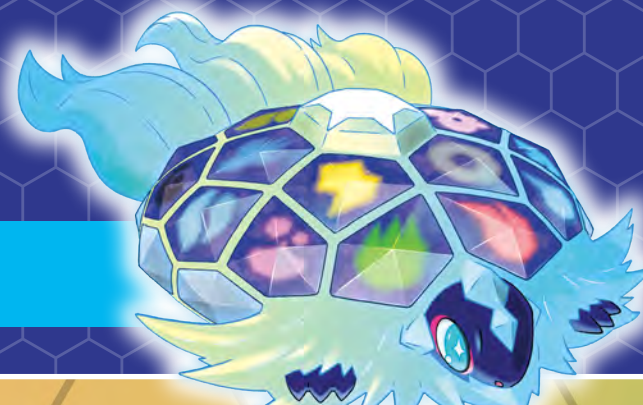


STELLAR CROSSING!

The Legendary Pokémon, Terapagos, has been spotted – hurry, follow its trail! Make your way from the start to the finish by drawing a route that follows the letters TERAPAGOS.

START →

				T	E	R	Q	D	U	F
L	K	Z	C	V	A	B	T	E	R	
T	S	O	L	W	P	H	S	K	A	
E	Y	G	F	H	A	G	O	I	P	
R	W	A	P	A	N	H	D	J	A	
A	P	B	I	R	E	T	S	O	G	
M	A	Y	X							
O	G	Q	U							
S	→ FINISH									



Pokémon Trading Card Game: Scarlet & Violet – Stellar Crown is available to buy now. For available stockists, visit: tcg.pokemon.com/en-gb/where-to-buy



@PokemonTCGUK |



@pokemontcgukofficial | #PokemonTCG

Please be aware of age restrictions on social media sites.



I'M BACK!

HELLO! You might remember me if you've been getting *First News* for a while, or if not, I'd like to introduce myself! I'm Milly, and before Kaya put together these pages, I used to lead the *First News FYI News Club*. This year, I stepped away from that role to go travelling. It's been an amazing experience visiting countries such as Thailand, Vietnam, Germany and Spain, and I even travelled around the UK for a while! But now I'm back and I'm really looking forward to hearing all of your amazing stories! There's certainly a lot to catch up on.

Share your news with me by asking a trusted adult to send it in via email to yournews@firstnews.co.uk. It might end up here in *First News* or on Sky Kids' *FYI*.



The highlight of my trip was visiting a duck farm in Vietnam!

PEDALLING TO END POVERTY



Aleksandr cycled 350km to raise money for charity!

LAST week, we featured a group of children who cycled all the way from Switzerland back to their school in the UK. Well, they aren't the only ones who headed to Switzerland this summer to take on a big cycling challenge! Aleksandr has been raising money for charity by cycling an impressive distance through the Alps (a huge mountain range in Europe).

by Aleksandr, aged 11

This summer, I set myself a challenge. While on holiday in Switzerland, I cycled 350 kilometres in just ten days, along rocky trails and up steep mountains. Although I enjoy cycling, this was not just for fun – I wanted to raise money for children less fortunate than me.

When choosing my charity, I wanted to pick one that has a global impact. Last year, I was lucky enough to travel to South Africa. During this trip, I visited a village where I witnessed extreme poverty for the first time. Seeing how these people struggled really affected me and I wanted to do something to help. I chose World Vision UK because they work to improve the quality of life for children in poverty.

There were tough moments as I cycled through the Alps. The early starts and the high altitude made it especially difficult. However, knowing I was helping others really motivated me.

An unforgettable experience at War Horse

GRACE recently won a junior journalist opportunity with *First News*, to go and watch and review the National Theatre's adaptation of Michael Morpurgo's popular book *War Horse*. She tells you all about it below, including seeing a very special someone at the performance...

by Grace, aged 11

In September, I was lucky enough to win tickets to see *War Horse* at The Lowry in Salford with my mum. It was an unforgettable experience that surpassed all my expectations. Based on the Michael Morpurgo novel, the story is set during World War One, when a young boy called Albert has his beloved farm horse, Joey, taken from him to work with the cavalry horses in France. The play follows Albert's desperate search for Joey as he is also conscripted (forced to sign up) to fight, aged only 16.

The production was absolutely breathtaking, from the puppetry and set design, to the highly emotive acting and singing. Although the topic was serious, there were also some humorous moments that kept it well balanced. We were also lucky enough to see Michael Morpurgo in the audience, which made the day even more memorable!

I would highly recommend *War Horse* to anyone. It is the best stage production we have seen by far.



Grace at the theatre



Want to be a junior journalist?

Join our News Club! You'll get amazing opportunities to get involved with *First News* and Sky Kids' *FYI*, and you'll get to have your school's name featured here in the newspaper. Just get your teacher to head to first.news/fyinewsclub to find out more.



Living with cystic fibrosis

TILLY has lived with something called cystic fibrosis her whole life. She wanted to tell you what it's like and how she's raising awareness of the condition.

by Tilly, aged 16

Hi! My name is Tilly and I'm 16. All my life, I've lived with a medical condition called cystic fibrosis. These are two long and boring words, so we like to shorten it to CF.

Sometimes I struggle to breathe, and I can't digest food without taking loads of medication – but I can still have all the McDonald's I want!

I'm part of a charity called Cystic Fibrosis Trust and I write speeches and articles (like this one!) all about living with CF. I mostly do this with the CF Youth Advisory Group (YAG), which is a little team of young people who do lots of cool projects that help the CF community. We love making a difference!

My writing (and face!) has been in magazines, booklets and newspapers that help to raise awareness of cystic fibrosis.

I've also spoken about my experiences in Cystic Fibrosis Trust's new resource for navigating a new diagnosis. You can find out more about that, YAG, and what cystic fibrosis is at cysticfibrosis.org.uk.



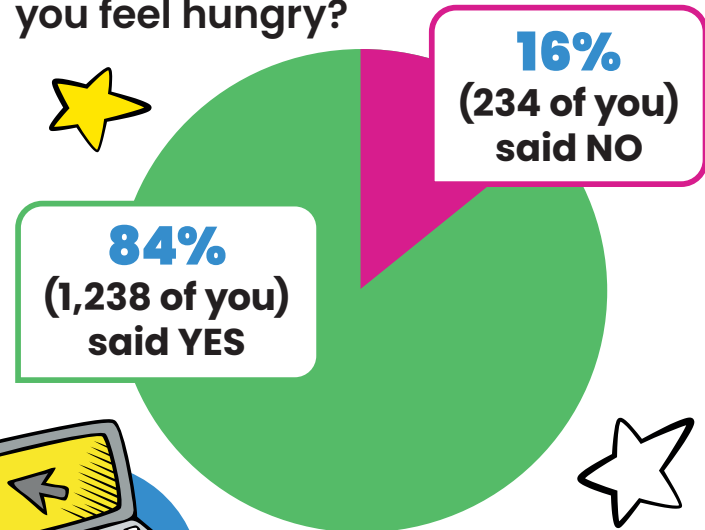
Tilly

THIS WEEK'S BIG QUESTION



We asked 1,472 of you...

Do junk food adverts make you feel hungry?



What do you think? Join in the conversation and cast your vote!

Vote at first.news/polls

IN NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE!



WILD ROBOT MOVIE!

JOSEPH COELHO WRITES FOR US



DON'T MISS IT!



WHAT IS THE HIDDEN NATURE CHALLENGE?

WIN! WOLFSTONGUE BOOK BUNDLES!



THE Forest is endless and filled with savage wolves. The human settlement stays safe inside its walls – but two children, Sally and Faolan, long to know what lies beyond.

Then one day a stranger arrives. His name is Reynard: trickster, storyteller, secret-keeper. He can show the children the way through the Forest, but the journey will be more dangerous than they imagine. There are worse things in the world than wolves, and the fox has one final trick to play.

The Forest Yet To Come, published this month by Little Island, is the magical final instalment in the award-winning *Wolfstongue Saga* written by Sam Thompson and illustrated by Anna Tromop.

To celebrate, we're giving three lucky readers the chance to win a *Wolfstongue* book bundle.

All you have to do is answer this question:

- Who writes the *Wolfstongue* books?
 a) Sam Thompson b) Cressida Cowell
 c) Joseph Coelho

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY WOLFSTONGUE

first.news/comps or see page 19. The closing date is 25 October.



THE TALE OF PERCY JACKSON

His latest adventure is out now! If you're new to the series (or just fancy a refresh!) here's the **epic story** so far...



26.2 MILLION

The first episode of the 2023 *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* Disney+ series had 26.2 million views in its first three weeks!

The Lightning Thief



In book one, Percy... learns he's the son of Poseidon, and starts demigod training at Camp Half-Blood.

2005

The Sea of Monsters



In book two, Percy... journeys to the Sea of Monsters to save Camp Half-Blood, which is under attack.

2006

The Titan's Curse



In book three, Percy... faces multiple monsters on a mission to rescue his friend Annabeth from a mantichore's clutches.

2007

The Battle of the Labyrinth



In book four, Percy... explores the Labyrinth (an epic maze) and prepares for war against the villainous Lord Kronos.

2008

The Last Olympian



In book five, Percy... and pals fight a huge battle against Kronos to defend the gods' home, Olympus.

2009

The Chalice of the Gods



In book six, Percy... learns he must complete three tasks to get a place at New Rome University.

2023

Wrath of the Triple Goddess



In the latest book, Percy... tackles his second task – pet-sitting for the goddess Hecate! It isn't long before her fearsome pets are running loose in New York. The new adventure is out now – and there'll be more to come...

2024

Black heroes!

THIS inspiring new book (right) celebrates the heroic history of Britain's black nurses!

We spoke to its author, Kandace Chimbiri, to learn about one such nurse – Mary Seacole.



● **Who was Mary Seacole, Kandace?**
Mary Seacole (right) was born in 1805 in Jamaica. She was a trailblazing nurse, healer, traveller and businesswoman.

● **What was the highlight of her career?**
Mary is most famous for her work for British troops during the Crimean War. She travelled to the Crimea at her own expense to set up her 'British hotel', which was

a general store, canteen and unofficial surgery.

● **Why is it important we remember her?**
Mary's story reminds us that nurses are important. We should celebrate and remember them all the time – not just when we need them!

The Story of Britain's Black Nurses by Kandace N Chimbiri is out now.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

READER REVIEW

My Big Fat Smelly Poo Diary by Jim Smith

THIS is a comic-style book about three friends who share many adventures together.

The main character Pedro writes about their adventures in his diary as part of his homework assignment. Pedro, for some reason, is OBSESSED with poo (as you can see in the name of the title).

This book was so hilarious and funny that it made me laugh out loud! I really recommend this to anyone who enjoys comedy, teamwork and adventure.

It makes a fun read for home or school. A great choice for the bus home from school or a fun bedtime story. This is an amazing book with comedy, and much more! I'd rate this 5/5 stars.

Review by Niamh O'Connor



Recommended reads

in partnership with Peters



Spooky books

OCTOBER gives us the chills, and it's not just down to the weather! Get in the mood for Halloween with these new, splendidly spooky books. No tricks here – each one is a spine-tingling treat!



The Haunting of Fortune Farm by Sophie Kirtley

Edie and Pip are sent to spend the October half-term on their nan's farm, high in the Irish mountains – and discover secrets, treasures and vengeful Viking ghosts!

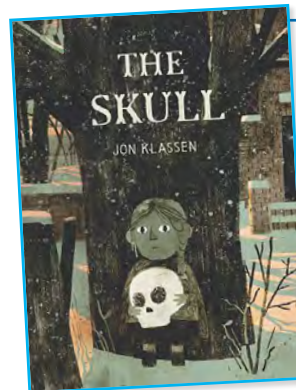
Groosham Grange: The Graphic Novel by Anthony Horowitz and Clément Lefèvre

Expelled from his boring school, David discovers his new school is a very weird and spooky place indeed. Can he and his new classmates escape?



The Skull by Jon Klassen

Fleeing from danger, brave Otilla is drawn to a lonely house owned by a skull. But there's something the skull is afraid of, too...



The Housetrapp by Emma Read

Could you win the house's game? Four children are trapped in a mysterious mansion and must solve its puzzle to make it out alive!



The Beast of Harwood Forest by Dan Smith

During a camping trip, three friends make it their mission to find out the truth about the wood's crumbling buildings and its strange screams...

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's the word for someone who doesn't believe in the existence of any god?



2 Which South American country has officially begun its Christmas celebrations?



3 Parrots have been causing chaos for locals in Argentina. But what caused the animals to descend on two towns?



4 A long treasure hunt in France is over after a statue of what animal was unearthed?

5 On what date is International E-waste Day?



6 This man has become the second-richest person in the world. What's his name?



7 A blue shark somehow survived after it was hurt by what other sea animal?

8 How many female drivers were in Formula E last season?



9 What did Spanish football team Espanyol bring onto the pitch instead of mascots?

10 What animals have been brought in to save the rare Wilkins' bunting?



11 Record high temperatures are turning Antarctica what colour?

12 What form of transport are people in Kolkata, India, trying to save?

13 How many asteroids hit the Earth as the dinosaurs died?



14 This winter, Paddington sets off on a new journey to find his aunt. What's her name?

15 Which social media star is set to join the judging panel of *Britain's Got Talent* for a few episodes?

Do you love our quiz? We've just launched a brand-new Families Quiz that you can play online with, you guessed it, your family! Check it out at [firstnews.co.uk/quiz](https://www.firstnews.co.uk/quiz).

FirstNews WEEKLY NEWS QUIZ!
Check out our new online Families Quiz!



PRIDE OF THE VALKYRIE

York Valkyrie lift the trophy for the second year in a row

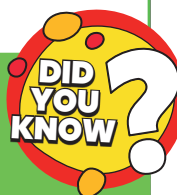
YORK Valkyrie came from behind to beat St Helens and retain their Super League Grand Final title.

The rugby league showdown could have seen St Helens win the treble, as they'd already bagged the Challenge Cup and League Leaders' Shield. However, tries from Eboni Partington and Kelsey Gentles helped Valkyrie to get back in front, and they went on to win the game 18-8.

"We knew, if we kept them down their end of the field, they wouldn't be dangerous," Valkyrie coach Lindsay

Anfield told the BBC. "We had to pin them down there, get off our line and be tough, and we did that on repeat, so I can't ask for any more."

IN case you're wondering about York's name, it comes from Norse mythology. The Valkyries were women sent by the god Odin to choose fighters killed in battle who were worthy of their place in Valhalla, the hall of slain warriors.



World Rugby, the global governing body for rugby union, has launched a new programme to get more girls playing the sport. It has the slightly unusual name of Rugby Rising Play and is aimed at girls who've never played the game. Officials hope that the Women's Rugby World Cup in England next year will help to give the sport more visibility and encourage more girls to give it a go.



A British team has qualified for the final of the America's Cup sailing contest for the first time in 60 years. Team GB Olympic hero Ben Ainslie skippered the crew to victory over Italy to secure a place in the final against defending champions New Zealand

Basketball legend LeBron James and his son Bronny made history this week, becoming the first father and son to play in the same NBA match. It was also Bronny's 20th birthday, so it was a pretty special day for the James family!



Chloe Tryon's face says it all during South Africa's defeat against England

The Women's T20 World Cup is well underway, and the early results for England and Scotland put them at opposite ends of the table. England won their games against Bangladesh and South Africa, while Scotland suffered defeats against Bangladesh and the West Indies. Scotland will be hoping for a change of fortune when they play England this Sunday (13 October).



Although England's netballers lost their last match against New Zealand, they still won the series 2-1. It's the first time they've ever won a Test series in New Zealand in the first two games

Braydon's on the ball



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

At one point on Saturday, Southampton led 1-0 at the Emirates and Fulham led 1-0 at the Etihad, and there was a possibility of some shock results. Could either team hold on for an unlikely victory? The answer was no, as Arsenal and Man City came back to take the points and retain their unbeaten records. Liverpool successfully navigated a tricky fixture at Palace, too, so no changes at the top as we head into the international break.

The high-scoring entertainment came at Brentford, who beat Wolves 5-3 in a game that saw six goals in the first half alone. Brentford again struck early, meaning they've now scored in the first two minutes of their last four league games. Surely opposition teams will now be on their guard against early Brentford pressure? It's an incredible record and Brentford fans need to make sure they get to the ground early!



A great leap from Nathan Collins got Brentford's early goal this week

The game that I thought would be the highlight of the weekend, between Villa and Man United, turned out to be a bit flat and ended in a goalless draw. Many expected Villa to push on after their win over Bayern Munich in the Champions League earlier in the week, but they found that the game following a big night in Europe is often a tricky one.

The comeback kings were Brighton, where an incredible second-half performance saw them go from two down at half-time to win 3-2. Three goals in 20 minutes at the beginning of the second half turned the game around and the Seagulls now sit well-placed in sixth. Spurs have now lost as many games as they've won, and will definitely be looking to improve.

Centre Stage was the duel between Anthony Gordon and Jordan Pickford at Goodison Park. Gordon was looking to score against his former club but was denied by a great save from Pickford, much to the delight of the Everton players and fans. That one ended 0-0, too.

Braydon's Team of The Week: I'll go with Brentford, for scoring the early goal again.

Braydon's Player of The Week: Facundo Buonanotte, who secured Leicester's first Premier League win of the season as the Foxes beat Bournemouth 1-0.

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