NEWS KIDS CAN TRUST

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR*

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NEWS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT INTERVIEWS PUZZLES COMPETITIONS

144

YOUNGEST PERSON EVER TO CONQUER THE WORLD'S 14 HIGHEST MOUNTAINS

SHOULD UK FIREWORK DISPLAYS BE REPLACED BY LASER AND DRONE SHOWS? NINE OUT OF TEN PEOPLE WANT A CHANGE

* 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

by Safiyyah Choudry and Georgia Henderson

Quick News

Issue 957 **FirstNews** 18 – 24 October 2024



Japanese atomic bomb survivors win Nobel Peace Prize



A Japanese group of atomic bomb survivors has won the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize. The group, called Nihon Hidankyo, represent survivors of the US atomic bombings of the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. Members of the group, now mostly in their 80s, shared their stories to explain why nuclear weapons never should be used again. The Nobel committee praised the group for helping create a "nuclear taboo" – the idea that using such weapons is unthinkable.

More people die than are born in UK for first time in decades



For the first time in almost 50 years – not counting the Covid pandemic – more people died than were born in the UK. The Office for National Statistics says the UK saw about 16,300 fewer births than deaths in the year leading up to mid-2023. This hasn't happened since the 1970s, when there was a big drop in the number of babies born. However, the UK's population is still growing because of people moving here from other countries, increasing by 1% to more than 68 million people.

Hospital admissions surge as new Covid strain spreads



A new strain (type) of Covid-19 called XEC is making more people sick, the UK Health Security Agency has warned. The Northeast has seen the highest hospital admission rates, with about eight out of every 100,000 people needing care. For people over 85, about 52 out of every 100,000 are being admitted to hospital. XEC causes the same problems as other Covid strains, such as tiredness, headaches and sore throats, but that people start to feel better after a few weeks. Doctors advise washing your hands often and keeping rooms well-aired to stay healthy, and that those eligible should get their Covid booster.

New Diwali Barbie joins the diverse doll family

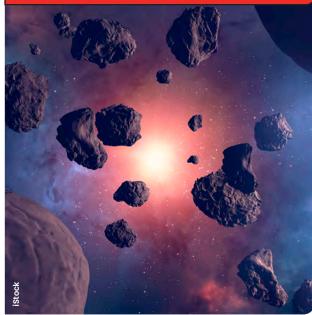


Mattel, the toy company behind Barbie, has released a new doll for Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights. This new doll wears traditional Indian clothes designed by Anita Dongre. The company says it aims to show different cultures in its toys. Earlier this year, Mattel made the first blind Barbie and a black Barbie with Down's syndrome. The company also created dolls based on real-life famous women to inspire girls. Diwali lasts for five days, but the third day sees the main celebrations. This year, that's 1 November.

Quick News

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Space rocks could help to feed astronauts



Scientists at Western University in Canada have come up with a wild idea to make food in space. They think astronauts could turn asteroids into meals! Here's how it might work:

- Find carbon-rich asteroids floating around Earth
- Mine the carbon from these space rocks
- Feed the carbon to tiny microbes in a special machine • The microbes turn it into food that humans can eat

Researcher Eric Pilles says: "For deep space exploration, as humans, we are always tethered [tied] to Earth. If you really want to go far, the only way to do it is to produce food in space. And, if you're not carrying carbon along with you, which means packing freeze-dried food packages, then you need a way to be able to use what's in space." This new method could help astronauts travel further into space without packing loads of food. It's still just an idea, but it might change how we explore space in the future

against children

UN calls out violence

A new United Nations (UN) report says that violence against kids is at its highest level ever. These issues are happening both online and in real life. They include things like forcing kids to work, marrying them off young and bullying. The report also says that one in six kids are growing up in war zones. The UN warns that this violence can cause long-term mental health issues and affect children's education. It also says that poverty is making things worse, and that up to one billion children are "at high risk" of being affected by the climate crisis.



Mammoth tusk gets gigantic clean

Experts at Leeds Museums and Galleries are carefully cleaning a giant mammoth tusk to prepare it for public display. A mammoth was like a huge, hairy elephant. The fragile, two-metre-long tusk was discovered in an old coal mine in Yorkshire in the 1960s, and is more than 38,000 years old. The find indicates that mammoths lived in the area during the last ice age, when Yorkshire was frozen over. Clare Brown from Leeds Museums said: "It's hard to imagine today that mammoths once lived here in Yorkshire, so we're very fortunate to have such a remarkable, tangible [physical] piece of evidence that, thousands of years ago, these

astonishing animals once walked in the places we know today."

There's still time to win prizes in our creative writing competition with Vodafone! 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 closing date is 1 November. Find out more at firstnews.co.uk/vodafone.

PRIDE OF BRITAIN **AWARDS 21 OCTOBER**

The annual event celebrates the heroic acts and bravery of ordinary people, from adults to children.



INTERNATIONAL PRINT **DAY 23 OCTOBER**

This is your chance to celebrate all your favourite magazines, comics and newspapers - including, of course, First News!



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

Mental health crisis in UK schools



A new survey by charity YoungMinds says that teachers are having to help pupils with their mental health at least once a week because the NHS doesn't have the money to do it. James Bowen, from the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "Schools are increasingly having to step in and fill the gap left by underfunded mental health services. With hundreds of thousands of young people waiting for specialist support, school staff are left with no alternative but to step in and help pupils as best they can." The research calls for more mental health resources in schools to support both students and teachers.

Teachers think 1 in 4 of their students need mental health support

I in 5 teachers deal with mental health issues daily

3 in 4 teachers prioritise students' mental health over teaching at least once a week

believe less than half of students who need help actually receive it



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TKTOK

SEVERAL states in America have sued TikTok for "wreaking havoc on the mental health of millions of American children and teenagers".

The lawsuit was filed in New York and has been brought by 14 different states, including California, Kentucky and New Jersey. The attorney generals of those states are the people who advise the state governments on all legal matters. A group of 14 of them have come together to accuse ByteDance, the Chinese company that owns TikTok, of using addictive features to get children hooked on the app. They say this leaves youngsters feeling "more



TikTok is under the spotlight again

sad, anxious and depressed". The lawsuit also says that TikTok has misled the public about the safety of using the app for long periods of time.

New York's attorney general, Letitia James, said that young people across the country had died or injured themselves while doing TikTok "challenges". She gave the example of a 15-year-old boy who died in New York City while "subway surfing" on top of a moving subway (underground) carriage. Ms James said the boy's mother later found TikTok videos of this activity on his phone.

This isn't the first time TikTok has been in hot water with US authorities. In August, the Justice Department also sued the app for allegedly failing to protect children's privacy. And a new law could see TikTok banned in America in the new year, unless ByteDance sells it.

TikTok says:

"We strongly disagree with these claims, many of which we believe to be inaccurate and misleading. We're proud of and remain deeply committed to the work we've done to protect teens and we will continue to update and improve our product."

Teen on top of the world!

A TEENAGER has become the youngest person to conquer the world's 14 highest mountains.

Nima Rinji Sherpa, an 18-year-old from Nepal, climbed Mount Shishapangma in Tibet last week to complete the set of 14 mountains that rise 8,000m above sea level. He completed his challenge just 740 days after he started.

Another person to complete the set this month was Adriana Brownlee, 23, who became the youngest woman to do it and only the second Brit. She told us her next challenge is to tackle some "unclimbed peaks".

Storm damage

"It's beyond ridiculous. It's

so stupid. It's got to stop.'

on the fake news about

the storms

President Joe Biden





Fake weather theories go viral

THE USA has been hit by wild weather this month – and some very wild ideas about the cause of it were spread around online, too.

Two very powerful storms, called Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton, killed more than 250 people. They also caused floods and widespread damage to buildings, and left millions of homes without power.

As weather experts tracked the storm and tried to keep people safe, they also received violent threats from people who fell for bizarre lies that were spread on social media. One said that weather agencies had created the storms, and sent Helene to flatten the town of Chimney Rock so that the US government could mine for lithium, an element used in batteries for electric cars.

Weather expert Katie Nickolaou told the *Guardian* newspaper: "I've had a bunch of people saying I created and steered the hurricane [and] called me a [number] of curse words. It's eating up a lot of work and free time to deal with all of this. It's very tiring."

Some of the fake news was shared by presidential candidate Donald Trump.

EDITOR'S COMMENT



around the world to mark celebrations. But what do you think about

a call to replace more of the displays with light shows instead, using lasers or drones (front page and p5)? Do you think that's as good – or, maybe, even better?

A few things to think about: fireworks can cause pollution, disturb wildlife, upset pets and pose safety risks. A light show can be an ecofriendly alternative that still looks dazzling but doesn't cause noise pollution or leave harmful debris behind. But, does it lack the excitement of fireworks? You decide. Vote at first.news/polls.



FROG fans rejoice! Scientists have discovered no fewer than seven brand-new species of the

hoppy little creatures on the African island of Madagascar. They're all types of tree frog – and they've all been named after *Star Trek* characters (Kirk, Picard, Sisko, Janeway, Archer, Burnham and Pike) because their high-pitched whistles sound like sound effects from the sci-fi show!

BBC Weather

THE BBC's weather service went a bit haywire last week, with a technical glitch warning the residents of Nottingham



to expect tremendously toasty temperatures of 404°C, with 14,408mph winds!



CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEEKLY QUIZ!

Test yourself on this week's news with our new quiz, included with every 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 WEE ID to use the app.



Headlines

POLL: ARE FIREWORKS FINISHED?

Most Brits want to see alternative light displays

MORE than 90% of people in the UK want to see alternatives to traditional firework displays.

That's what a new survey by the Social Market Foundation (SMF) has found. Some 91% of Brits would like a partial replacement of traditional fireworks with lasers, drones or silent/quiet fireworks instead.

The UK lags behind some other countries when it comes to alternative light shows. In Japan and Hong Kong, for example, 'illumination festivals' are popular events that attract huge crowds and visitors.

The survey found that a quarter of British people would be open to a complete replacement of traditional fireworks. in China earlier this year

A spectacular drone light show

The firework season in the UK, which includes Halloween, the Hindu festival of Diwali, Guy Fawkes Night and New Year's Eve, is about to begin.

The SMF report was sponsored by animal charity the RSPCA. It calls for much stricter rules on traditional firework displays to protect vulnerable people and pets, as well as firework-free zones and more investment in alternative light displays.

> Would you prefer a light or drone show to a fireworks display? Let us know at first.news/polls

Bird flu cases rise fast in USA

THE number of people infected by H5 bird flu in the USA this year has risen to 20.

Six of these cases were reported in California this month. They were all in dairy farm workers and it's thought the people caught the virus from infected cows on different farms.

All six people experienced mild symptoms and none had to go to hospital.

But it's the rate at which the flu is spreading throughout cattle that is worrying scientists. Cases of bird flu have been detected in dairy herds in 14 US states, and the number in California alone rose from 56 herds to 100 in a week. Some cows who died of bird flu were left at the roadside without any security measures or warning signs in place.

The bird flu virus was first discovered in geese in 1996. After years of low numbers of cases, the 2021 outbreak in farm and wild birds worldwide became the biggest ever, and the virus spread to mammals in various countries, too. It was first reported in cattle earlier this year.

So far there has been no evidence to show it can be caught easily between humans.



Climate change wrecks English harvest



ENGLAND has experienced its second worst harvest on record – and experts reckon it's down to climate change.

Heavy rain last winter affected the production of important crops including wheat, winter barley and oats. This year's wheat harvest is thought to be 21% lower than in 2023. Farmers are expected to lose out on £600 million worth of sales because of a long stretch of damp weather, lasting from last autumn through this spring and early summer. Some winemakers say their grape harvests are down by as much as 75% compared to last year.

Food and farming expert Tom Lancaster said: "It is clear that climate change is the biggest threat to UK food security. And these impacts are only going to get worse until we reduce our greenhouse gas emissions."



TESLA TAXI UNVEILED

AMERICAN car company Tesla has revealed its new self-driving 'robotaxi', the Cybercab.

The car has no pedals or steering wheel and features two doors that look a bit like wings.

At the taxi's launch, Tesla boss Elon Musk said that fully self-driving cars will be safer than those driven by humans. The tech billionaire said production of the Cybercab would begin some time "before 2027", but many people aren't so sure – Musk is known for missing his own deadlines!

He also said the car would cost less than \$30,000 (£23,000) to buy, but some experts think it will cost quite a bit more. People who invest their money in Tesla don't seem to have been very impressed either – Musk's announcement of the Cybercab actually caused Tesla's value on the stock market to fall by several billion dollars.

Tesla's self-driving cars use lots of cameras as well as AI that learns from data it collects from millions of vehicles.

Other robotaxis are already operating on some roads in America, but safety remains a big concern. Cruise, one of the first companies to provide a robotaxi service, was suspended in San Francisco, California, after one of its cars dragged a pedestrian along the road.



THE robot artist Ai-Da has become the first AI humanoid robot artist to have an artwork on sale at a major auction house!

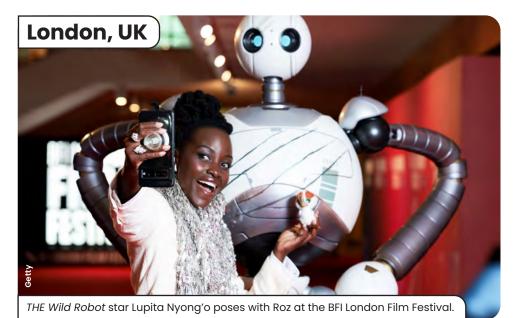
Sotheby's Digital Art Sale from 16-29 October will include Ai-Da Robot's painting *Al God*, which is a huge portrait of British computer scientist Alan Turing. It's expected to sell for £100,000-£150,000 at auction.

The realistic robot artist has already had paintings exhibited at various galleries including the Tate Modern in London.

News In Pictures

Texas, USA

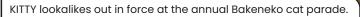




Torre Squillace, Italy

A ONCE in a lifetime sighting of the A3 comet, which will appear next in 80,000 years!







SHADOW puppets line the streets for the Beijing Animation Festival.



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TWO (not so) giant panda cubs are unveiled to visitors at a breeding base.





THE northern lights have been seen all over the northern hemisphere in October, including here, over the Jinshanling Great Wall.



A PUP gets a colourful dye job during a 5km family race.



RUNNERS sprint off the start line in the 46th annual Empire State Building Run-Up. The challenge involves running up all 86 flights (1,576 stairs) of the iconic tower (inset), with the fastest runners completing it in about ten minutes.

<u>UK News</u>

LOCH NESS

Cattle comeback

Centuries after becoming extinct, an ancient cattle species is returning to the UK through its modern relatives. A project by rewilding charity Trees for Life will see huge wild cattle called tauros introduced to the UK for the first time. They've been bred to be like aurochs, a species that became extinct in Europe 400 years ago. The charity aims to introduce 15 tauros to the Highlands next year, which could be great for the surrounding wildlife, research shows. Tauros move across landscapes in social groups, naturally grazing some areas while leaving others untouched, boosting species diversity.





Music for all

Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) will be able to live out their musical dreams this school year. Oxfordshire County Council is putting £90,000 into specially adapted musical instruments, including some that light up when played and a musical 'joystick' for pupils with limited movement. One person who has thrived through musical opportunities supported by the council is visually impaired Millie. The 17-year-old loves singing and recently performed at Music for Youth's National Festival in Birmingham. She received extra support, and said: "When you've got sight loss, this... makes such a difference."

DORSET

Solving shipwreck mystery

A sea mystery that lasted for more than 30 years has been solved at last. Maritime archaeologists from Bournemouth University used their detective skills to identify a shipwreck that was discovered in 1990. They believe that the ship, nicknamed 'Pin Wreck' after its hundreds of metal bolts, is likely to be what's called an Admiralty mooring lighter. Built in 1866, it was a mechanical ship used for moving heavy loads. It helped to maintain Britain's ports in the 19th century, but now lies around 27 metres below the surface. The team has applied to protect the area around the wreck.





in Lanarkshire. Dogs have been taken in all around Scotland

LANARKSHIRE

Record dog rescues

An animal charity has seen its biggest ever intake of dogs, some of which were rescued from "utterly appalling" conditions. The Scottish SPCA rescued 216 "neglected" dogs in the first ten days of October, following raids across the country. Only 45 dogs were taken in over the same period in 2023. Many of the dogs taken in are being treated for serious health problems after living in "heartbreaking conditions". Some were only a few weeks old when they were found. The charity says more than £260,000 will need to be raised to pay for the animals' care.

LONDON

Number one fans

A threatened species of coral has been bred in a UK aquarium for the first time. Eunicella verrucosa, more commonly known as the pink sea fan, reproduced in a lab at the Horniman Museum and Gardens in south London. Corals were collected off the coast of Devon by a team from the University of Exeter, and eggs in the lab developed into larvae, an early form of the fans. Pink sea fans are found in coastal waters from the UK all the way to the shores of West Africa but the species is still threatened by extinction



LONDON

Frozen out of school

Ice sculptures have appeared along the River Thames to highlight the millions of girls who are frozen out of education around the world. Announced on International Day of the Girl (11 October) by children's charity Plan International UK, the sculptures are based on airls from Gaza, Sudan and Afahanistan. Girls in these countries face many challenges while trying to get an education, including conflicts and poverty. These reasons have been written in absence notes on tables in front of the sculptures. The challenges mean that, around the world, a shocking four in ten airls never even finish school.





Yorkshire-based artists Sand in Your Eye helped to create the sculptures



🁏 Natural World

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NATIONAL HELP FOR

WILDLIFE charities have joined with farming, housing and researchers to launch Britain's first ever national plan to help hedgehogs.

Numbers of the cute, spiky animals have dropped by up to 75% in rural areas since 2000, mostly due to habitat loss and reduced insect food sources.

The National Hedgehog Conservation Strategy aims to stop this decline.

Nida Al-Fulaij from the People's Trust for Endangered Species says: "We hope industries like farming and housing will scale up hedgehog-friendly practices."

Fay Vass, from the British Hedgehog Preservation Society, which also worked on the plan, said: "This strategy is a real moment for hedgehog conservation."

The plan says people can also help by making holes in fences so hedgehogs can move between gardens to find food.



AI dodo chats to humans!



VISITORS at a Cambridge museum can now have a little chinwag with extinct animals such as the dodo, thanks to AI (artificial intelligence).

Cambridge's Museum of Zoology is offering chats with 13 creatures, including a dodo skeleton, a stuffed red panda and a preserved cockroach.

People can ask questions by scanning QR codes, and the animals will answer as if they were still alive. The aim is to help people care about nature. The

museum hopes it will make learning about animals more enjoyable, especially for young visitors. You can talk to the animals until 15 November. See

www.museum.zoo.cam.ac.uk/visit-us for details. If you go, write in and let us know what you think!

Eco-friendly school competition

SCHOOLS across the UK can now enter a contest to win money for their nature projects.

The competition, run by Let's Go Zero and OVO Foundation, has prizes worth £13,000.

Schools can win £1,000 or £200 to create outdoor spaces, plant gardens, or build homes for insects.

The contest aims to help pupils learn about the environment and take action on climate change. To enter, schools need to explain how they want to connect students with nature.

The deadline to send in entries is 25 November, and the winners will be announced in February 2025.

Previous winners have built willow domes and vegetable gardens.

Ask your teacher to find out more and sign up at letsgozero.org/join.





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...



ΗΔΒΙΤΔΤ

South Asia, Southeast Asia, Australia, East Africa and some Pacific islands. They eat fruit, flowers, pollen, nectar and the odd insect. FUN FACTS:

Some fruit bats are also called flying foxes because of their long, dog-like faces.

The giant golden-crowned flying fox is thought to have the longest wingspan of any bat species – up to 1.7m (5ft 7in).

SPECIAL SUPERPOWER:

Unlike other bats, which use echolocation (sound) to navigate and catch food, fruit bats use their big eyes to find food in low light.

CONSERVATION STATUS:

There are nearly 200 species of fruit bat, and their conservation status varies, says the International Union for Conservation of Nature.



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@

Special Report



IN 2023 the National Education Nature Park programme from the Department for Education, Natural History Museum and Royal Horticultural Society challenged schools to bring life to their grey outdoor spaces. The first annual report has now been published, showing that more than 3,000 schools and colleges across England have joined the free programme.

What are schools doing?

Students have been tasked with exploring and mapping their school's green space. Along the way, they're asked to note the species that rely on the space and see if they can create new habitats in their school grounds.

How is the programme going?

Fast forward a year and over two million square metres of school green space have been plotted on an interactive

map – that's the equivalent of about 1,600 Olympic-size swimming pools! The map shows all the new habitats such as green walls, ponds and pollinator-friendly plants that have been created across different schools.

Why should you join in?

There are lots of benefits to the programme, including:building a connection to nature and helping to create

- new or improved green spaces
- improving your physical and mental health by spending time outdoors
- feeling empowered to voice your concerns about nature and the climate, as well as what action needs to be taken for your future

You can find out more about the scheme by going to **www.educationnaturepark.org.uk**.

A SPOTLIGHT ON CO-OP ACADEMY MANCHESTER

AT Co-op Academy in Manchester, the Eco Club has transformed their school's grounds to improve biodiversity and create new green spaces.

Meet Zahra

Zahra, a Co-op Academy student and Eco Club member, said: "We spend our breaks and lunch times in the quad, which is a large, grey, concrete square. We decided that we wanted to build a vertical garden that would 'green' up some of the area and doesn't take up too much space. The vertical garden brightens up our breaks and lunches a little bit."

The green wall also serves as a cooling device in the summer months, reducing the outside wall temperature by ten degrees Celsius. This makes break times more comfortable and helps to shield the classroom on the other side of the wall from high temperatures.



What else has the school been doing?

As part of the National Education Nature Park programme, Co-op Academy's Eco Club has also been researching the local area to see what changes they could make to serve the school grounds and wildlife better.



This autumn, Co-op Academy students will collect dead wood and broken branches to create log piles that will host hibernating mammals, amphibians and invertebrates.

TAKE PART IN THE HIDDEN NATURE CHALLENGE!

THIS October, we're inviting schools to discover wildlife hiding around their school by joining the Hidden Nature Challenge.

Explore your school grounds and record your discoveries. From the smallest sign of nature to plants in an unexpected place, share your findings online and see what other schools across the country have found on an interactive map.

Ask your teacher to read more at tinyurl.com/HiddenNatureChallenge.





IF all education settings in the country took part in the National Education Nature Park programme, they could create a space twice the size of Birmingham for wildlife to thrive in!

Science News

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The James Webb Space Telescope in

the new Minecraft DLC

SUPERSPACE SCOPEMEETS MINECRAFT

IF you want to have some fun playing a game while learning some cool stuff about space at the same time, it's your lucky day!

The US space agency NASA has teamed up with *Minecraft* to create some free DLC (downloadable content) that allows you to learn more about the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) and its many amazing discoveries.

The JWST is the most powerful space telescope ever built, and the DLC allows you to find out more about how it works, how stars and planets form, and what types of galaxies there are.

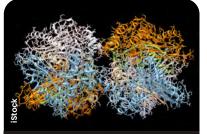
"No matter where Webb looks, it sees something intriguing, setting the stage for amazing discoveries yet to come," said NASA's Mike Davis. "As people explore the *Minecraft* world of Webb, we hope they will be inspired to carry that interest further and maybe someday help NASA build future space telescopes."

The DLC is available for free in the *Minecraft* Marketplace. Happy exploring!

THE huge sunshield on the JWST is the size of a tennis court and helps to keep the sun's rays away from the telescope and its various instruments, which work best at temperatures as cold as -266°C. That's just 7° above absolute zero, the coldest temperature possible!

NASA employees with a full-size model of the JWST

Big prizes won with the help of Al



Proteins are made from simple building blocks called amino acids but, as you can see, they can form some very complicated molecules! THE world's most famous science prizes were handed out last week, and AI (artificial intelligence) was heavily involved in two of them.

The Nobel Prize in Physics was given to Geoffrey Hinton and John Hopfield for their work on artificial neural networks. This technology was inspired by the human brain, and laid the foundations for much of today's AI, including things like ChatGPT. It allows computers to learn by example, for complicated problems that can't be solved by traditional computer programs. Two of the three people awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry aren't even chemists, and work at Google DeepMind in London. Demis Hassabis and John Jumper used Al to predict the complex structure of proteins, which had stumped scientists for decades. The third winner, David Baker, leads a team that has created proteins that have never been seen before. All of this work could lead to new medicines, ways to clean up plastic and many more discoveries.

Poet teaches science a lesson

YOU might have heard the expression 'in the doldrums' before, meaning that something is quiet and boring, but do you know where it comes from?

The doldrums is known by scientists as the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ). It's the name given to a region near the equator where wind speeds can be very low, so it could be treacherous for sailors in the days of wind-powered ships. But since most ships now are powered by fossil fuels, there'd been very little interest in the doldrums until a scientific breakthrough about them was announced last week.

It had been thought that winds announced that work. It had been thought that winds met at the ITCZ, then travelled upwards into the atmosphere, leaving areas of calm on the surface, while also making it rain. Now, in a report in *Geophysical Research Letters*, scientists say the opposite is true, and that the winds are actually moving away from each other, which leads to dry spells with no rain.

The doldrums are famously mentioned in Samuel Taylor Coleridge's classic poem, *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*. The report's

authors say it seems like he was aware of the doldrums meaning there'd be no rain, as this section shows:

Day after day, day after day, We stuck, nor breath nor motion; As idle as a painted ship Upon a painted ocean. Water, water, every where, And all the boards did shrink; Water, water, every where, Nor any drop to drink



An illustration of the famous scene from the poem

This report is from the Science Museum Group



THIS orange vehicle is a Sno-Cat. Originally designed to travel on very soft snows to maintain telephone lines in North America, it was adapted to withstand an even colder environment, and set a world record.

In the 1950s, a fleet of Sno-Cats including this one were specially modified to cope with the cold of Antarctica, the southernmost continent. They were part of the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition, which was the first successful motorised crossing of the continent.

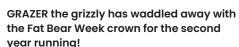
After almost 100 days of adventures (including partially falling into a large crack in the ice sheet!), the Sno-Cats completed their journey in 1958.

This Sno-Cat is now taking a much-deserved place at the Science and Innovation Park, with the rest of the Science Museum Group collection, where you can now go visit it. Find out more at **tinyurl.com/sciparknew**.



Crazy But True

GRAZER GOBBLES UP BEAR PRIZE!

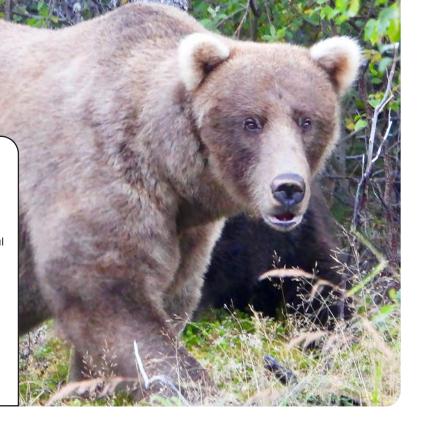


This annual event, held in Alaska's Katmai National Park, celebrates bears packing on the pounds to prepare for hibernation.

"For bears, fat equals survival," the National Park Service says. "Survival depends on eating a year's worth of food in six months."

Grazer, a new mum, outweighed the competition by feasting on salmon, berries and roots. She got 71,248 votes from the public, more than doubling the tally for her rival, Chunk.

"Thanks again to the salmon," Katmai National Park said. "Without healthy salmon, there would be no healthy, fat bears."



Raccoon home invasion

A WOMAN in Washington state, USA, had to leave her house after dozens of raccoons surrounded it, demanding food.

She had been feeding a few raccoons for years, but their numbers recently grew to nearly 100.

The woman said that the animals became aggressive, scratching at her door and car.

Kevin McCarty from the local sheriff's office said: "The word got out in raccoon land and they all showed up to her house expecting a meal."

Officials said that the raccoons are now leaving the area since the feeding has stopped.



Little digger has a big journey



A DIGGER stolen from a construction site in the UK has been found in a small town in Poland, over 1,900 kilometres (1,200 miles) away!

Back in April, two diggers were stolen from the site in Dorset. Now, after a five-month search involving international police teams, one of the vehicles was discovered in Pruchnik, Poland.

The digger will be sent back to England while police search for the second stolen machine and the thieves who took it.





Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer









World News



Mushrooms put 11 in hospital

A meal made with mushrooms found in a forest has put II members of a family in hospital in York County, Pennsylvania. Officials say that some of the ill included children, and six ambulances were needed to take the family to hospital. Medical experts recommend

against foraging mushrooms, as a large number are toxic and even experts struggle to tell species apart sometimes. Across North America, at least 250 species of mushroom are harmful to humans, and there are possibly more species that haven't been identified yet. Experts also say that cooking mushrooms won't destroy the poison and that you can't tell by the taste - some toxic mushrooms are apparently quite tasty. No matter which country you live in, it's always safest to get your mushrooms from a supermarket or mushroom farm.

THE NETHERLANDS

Oops! Museum worker throws art in the bin

A worker at a Dutch museum thought that a French artist's work was rubbish... literally! You can understand the confusion – the piece, created by Alexandre Lavet in 1988, appears to be two dented drinks



cans, dropped on the floor. The worker thought messy visitors had left them behind, so chucked them in the bin. Luckily, staff spotted the mistake and saved them before they were lost. The LAM museum in Lisse explains that the cans are carefully "hand-painted with acrylics".

CHINA



China hits the gas on green energy!

It's expected that, in six years' time, half of the world's new green energy will be generated in China. The International Energy Agency says that the country is set to speed up its drive towards green energy, installing 60% of the world's renewable systems between now

and 2030. Green energy comes from renewable sources, like wind, water and sunlight – rather than fossil fuels like gas and coal, which release carbon when they're burned and contribute to global warming. However, in 2022, China released more carbon than any other country by burning fossil fuels. Globally, solar panels are expected to be by far the most popular way to generate green energy, because they've become much cheaper.

BOLIVIA

Bolivia suffers its worst wildfire season ever

More than ten million hectares of land in Bolivia have been burned by wildfires this year – a total that's roughly the size of Iceland, or 14 million UK football fields. Thousands of people have lost their homes and livelihoods, while firefighters have also battled



to save local wildlife, including parrots, armadillos and turtles. Scientists say that climate change caused by humans is leading to dry conditions and heatwaves, which help fires to spread more rapidly. Gonzalo Colque, from environment charity the Tierra Foundation, said that this year "will be remembered as the year of the worst environmental disaster in Bolivia's history."

SAMOA

Leaders gather for Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

Leaders from 56 countries across the world are due to come together in Apia, Samoa, between 21-26 October for the next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. King Charles and Queen Camilla are among those attending the meeting, which will look at global issues such as climate change and trade. The talks will also aim to ensure the voices of young people, women, businesses and other organisations are heard.



of Samoa, Fiamē Naomi Mata'afa, will be there

Zoo mourns passing of lion pair



A pair of lions that shared a "remarkable" bond for 16 years have passed away at Adelaide Zoo. Mujambi, a "handsome" male, was 19, and his bezzie mate Amani was 23. Sadly, Mujambi suffered a medical problem and was put to sleep – and the decision was taken to put Amani to sleep, too. Elaine Bensted, the chief executive of Zoos South Australia, explained: "We really didn't want Amani's last [months] to be pining for the male that she'd been partnered with for so long." The zoo's curator said Amani loved being in Mujambi's shadow. Visitors to the zoo's website are invited to sign messages for the pair.

*Prizes may look diff. rom those pictured.

£50

Adve

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.

THE FirstNe ONLINE BROUGHT TO YO

BEING online is a vital part of everyday life – and every the digital world brings with it huge possibilities and be

REMEMBER TO...

SWITCH OFF

Ň

Take tech time-outs and do something fun with your friends or family instead. Try to have one hour of screen-free time before bed, and charge devices outside your bedroom.

BE KIND

Think about other people's feelings before posting comments online. It's not fair to spread information about someone that's untrue, or send rude messages. Report bullying and abuse.

TALK TO A TRUSTED ADULT

Chat to a parent or guardian about using phones safely and building a healthy and happy digital life.

FOLLOW AGE RESTRICTIONS

Games, apps and TV shows all have age restrictions. Talk to a trusted adult to ensure the ones you use are age-appropriate for you.

CHECK SAFETY AND PRIVACY

Make sure only friends and family can see your posts. Explore safety features and how to block other users on apps with a trusted adult.

MAKE A PLEDGE!

Take ten minutes to create a family phone pledge with help from Vodafone. It's a great way for you and your family to agree how you'll use your devices safely.



This QR code should be scanned by a responsible adult

ENTER OUR COMPETITION!

THE CHALLENGE

WE'RE asking you to write a short story, called a fable, that focuses on online safety and creating positive digital experiences. Your fable should be no more than 500 words.

Enter today at firstnews.co.uk/vodafone

rtorial

ONLINE SAFETY

PIN-UP POSTER

WS GUIDE TO SAFETY U BY 🚺 vodafone



Vodafone wants everyone to get the most out of tech and enjoy happy and safe digital lives.

For expert advice, resources and support to help you to make the right digital choices, visit vodafone.co.uk/ digitalparenting.

eryone deserves to enjoy it in a safe and happy way! enefits, but we should always be aware of the risks, too.

WATCH OUT FOR...

FAKE NEWS

The news you see on social media isn't always accurate. Some is made up to scare you, or make you do something. Adults can help you to check that the source is real, and look for evidence to prove it.

PROTECTING YOUR PERSONAL INFO

Avoid posting personal details about where you live, which school you go to, and your private contact information – and keep your passwords secret.

STRANGE LINKS

THE PRIZE

Their story published by

and Paddy Donnelly

Never click links from emails or messages that ask you to log in or share your details, even if you think they might be genuine. Show these messages to a trusted adult, and go to the app or website directly, instead.

IF you have any concerns, share these with a trusted adult or teacher, or visit a helpline like the NSPCC's Childline at childline.org.uk or on 0800 1111.

UNKNOWN FRIEND REQUESTS

Only accept friend requests from people that you know. If you're approached by a stranger, talk to a trusted adult.

SCAMS

One of the most common scams targeting teens right now is the 'influencer' scam - scammers pretend to be celebrities, host a fake contest, then ask the 'winner' to provide personal details to get their prize. Be careful, and ignore things like this.



Please note: a consenting adult will need to complete Closing date: 1 November 2024 For full terms and conditions, visit the link.



responsible adult

Andersen Press in a book for their school (printed and ebook), illustrated Two tablets for their school by Sue Cheung, Fiona Lumbers

There'll be six winners in total. Each will aet:

- A Kindle Paperwhite (kids)
- A £50 book token

A library pack of 100 books

HOW TO ENTER

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

Special Report

WHATIS CLIMATE FINALCES IT MIGHT SOUND LIKE HARD SUMS, BUT IT ISN'T – AND IT'S THE KEY TO TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

COP29 takes place from 1-22 November!

ONE of the biggest questions at next month's COP29 climate summit in Baku, Azerbaijan, is how to pay for the changes we need to tackle the climate crisis.

We have a good idea about how much money we need to cut climate pollution and better protect people from the increasing impacts of climate change, but what hasn't been agreed yet is how we find the money.

How much?

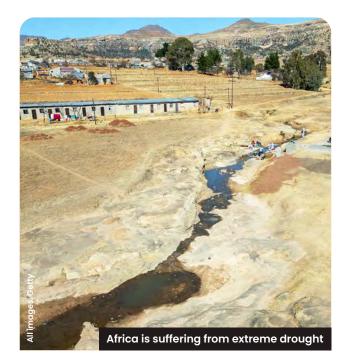
£2.6 trillion per year is how much we will need to reduce climate pollution from nearly everything we do: power generation, farming, transport, industry, buildings, forestry and how we use land.

£4.4 trillion is how much the countries most affected by climate change say they need by 2030 to protect the 3.6 billion people most affected by climate change.

The 20 richest countries in the world, responsible for **75%** of climate pollution, are still not cutting their emissions fast enough or doing enough to protect those most affected by climate change.

Just 3% of climate emissions put into the atmosphere are from Africa. Yet Africa is already suffering from droughts that affect harvests and wildlife, as well as catastrophic floods – all made worse by climate change.

This is why climate justice is so important at the climate talks, and a big part of that is linked to climate finance.



How do we find the money?

So far, climate talks have focused on governments paying for the changes we need. Governments must pay their fair shares, but rich governments' income is around £14 trillion a year, so it's not enough on its own. But there are other bigger sources available.



THE world's richest 400,000 people are worth £36 trillion and the assets (belongings) of financial institutions worldwide add up to £345 trillion.

So, we have enough money!

We need to understand that these huge numbers aren't just costs. They are also an investment that will make money, lower energy costs, make food production more secure and sustainable, and protect nature.

Governments and businesses working together can deliver the rapid change we need.

While we need more money than all the governments in the world have, they still have to play their part.



What has the UK government promised?

The UK government has promised £11.6 billion of climate finance between 2021 and 2026, and people will judge us on whether we keep our promise. There is lots to look out for at this year's COP29 climate summit, but climate finance and climate justice will be centre stage.



IN 2012, coal fuelled 40% of the UK's electricity, with renewable energy fuelling just 4%. At the end of September 2024, we closed our last dirty coalfired power station and now renewable energy generates over half of our electricity!

THE POCKET MONEY GUIDE TO UK CLIMATE FINANCE

Imagine you get £5 per week pocket money. Now imagine that you are the UK government.

The government takes around £1 trillion per year in taxes.

The government has promised £11.6 billion over five years in climate finance.

In pocket money terms, the government's climate finance promise would cost you just over a penny per week.

Do you think the UK government should keep its climate finance promise?

Let us know at first.news/polls



Check out our app! 🔀



PLAN YOUR CHILD'S FUTUR

17

Considering an independent school education for your child?

Two hours at the Independent Schools Show could transform your child's future. Family tickets £15 Advance tickets are FREE SchoolsShow.co.uk



Independent SCHOOLS Show Friday 8 November

Saturday 9 November Battersea Park, SW11



THE SUNDAY TIMES GOOD

TATLER Stilet

Entertainment

Issue 957 **FirstNews** 18 – 24 October 2024



THE Wild Robot is based <u>on an aw</u>ard-winning

that was first published

book by Peter Brown

in 2016.

EPIC new animated movie The Wild Robot hits cinemas this week. It follows the, well, wild and crazy adventures of a robot that gets shipwrecked on a mysterious island filled with animals. Adam Tanswell chats to actor Lupita Nyong'o all about her lead role as Roz!

• What excites you the most about the release of The Wild Robot?

I hope that audiences relish the beauty, adventure and emotion of this movie. It's not afraid to pull at your heartstrings, so I hope audiences enjoy that ride.

Did you immediately say yes to the movie?

When I was approached to work on the film, I read the book and I really loved it. One of the things that make robots and artificial intelligence different to human beings is the fact that they don't have emotions. Everything is programmed. My question to everyone was: "How am I going to play a robot? What is there to do as an actor if you can't rely on emotion?"

How would you describe Roz's journey in the story?

Roz is a very sophisticated robot, right? But when she lands on an uninhabited island, she's brand-new. She's like a child. I think that's what makes her such an



endearing character, because she's very childlike with her fresh eyes and a naivety about what life on a wild island can be like. Roz has a very literal way of looking at the world.



KIT Connor, Mark Hamill and Pedro Pascal are some of the other actors in the movie. Kit voices a gosling called Brightbill.

How long did it take to come up with the voice of Roz?

There was a lot of trial and error. We knew we were going to end up with a Roz that sounded more like me, but I was inspired by the automated voices of Alexa and Siri, as well as the text-to-speech voices of TikTok and Instagram.

What message do you want audiences to take away from the film? I really like the message that kindness is a force. I think kindness can often be



DIRECTOR Chris Sanders has worked on animated movies including Aladdin, Mulan, The Lion King and How To Train Your Dragon. considered a vulnerability. In this film, Roz's journey shows how it is a force - and it's a force to be reckoned with.

The Wild Robot is in cinemas now.

LIKE

Family Film Week at the Barbican is comina!

The Barbican's Family Film Week returns from Saturday 26 October to Sunday 3 November. It will showcase some of the best children's films from around the world, including new releases, special previews and activities! Highlights include Kensuke's Kingdom and Despicable Me 4.

Heroes celebrated!

Extraordinary members of the public are set to be honoured at this year's Pride of Britain Awards on 21 October. The annual event celebrates the heroic acts and bravery of ordinary people, from adults to children. Expect lots of celebs on the red carpet, too!





JAMIE Johnson FC is officially back on TV for series two, and there are special guest cameos from England footballers Jack Grealish, Declan Rice and Leah Williamson!

The new series sees pressure mount on Jamie and the Hawx Academy under-13s as they move a step closer to turning professional! Not only must they make the daunting step up to 11-a-side football, but the arrival of four new players causes a stir. The show is packed with all the usual footie tricks and flips that we love, too! Check it out on CBBC and BBC iPlayer.

19 by Charlie Baker

Game Zone

ARN TO COD

Issue 957 **FirstNews** 18 – 24 October 2024

CODING may sound complicated, but it's just writing instructions for computers and software so that they can do things for us. *First News*' Charlie tried his hand at coding as part of European Code Week, which is supported by the tech giant Apple. Find out how he got on below...



So, what's European Code Week?

Code Week is an opportunity to celebrate coding across Europe while highlighting the skills it can give you, both digitally and in real life.

From 14-27 October this year, coding takes centre stage. It supports people from learning their first line of code to building a whole app from their creative ideas.

Apple has been supporting Code Week for over a decade. It provides free resources to students in schools, as well as hundreds of free Today @ Apple sessions in stores to teach code.

Coding with Apple starts in its Swift Playgrounds platform. Charlie had the opportunity to learn his first line of code on the platform at Apple's offices in Battersea, London.



He said: "I had such a great time in the coding taster session. What's great about Swift Playgrounds is that you don't need any previous knowledge on coding, which is lucky because I had no idea what I was doing! It guides you along, from your first line, eventually to creating your first app. And you can read about two of these amazing apps on this page!"

Dr Luke Hale – Lungy

Luke is an NHS doctor in London. Using Apple's Swift, he taught himself how to code from scratch during the Covid-19 lockdown in 2020.

My app:

Lungy is an interactive wellness app that's used to help with stress and anxiety. It uses a combination of the microphone and camera on your phone to track your breathing. You can do breathing exercises on your phone by blowing into it. This actually makes these daily exercises more fun, and in turn helps you to de-stress.

What inspired it?

The idea for it came from working on hospital wards. Patients with Covid-19 were being taken off ventilators and given breathing exercises. I wanted to put these breathing exercises on a phone to try and make them more fun and engaging.

My advice to others who want to get into coding?

Just think of something that you really want to make. Something that you are really passionate about – ideally it can solve a problem too, and then it's really useful for the world. Don't be intimidated by coding being difficult. There is lots of guidance online to help. If you have a goal in mind,

you'll find a way to make it with coding.



Aiden Forrest – Heartbeat Hero

Aiden Forrest, 17, from Newcastle, was one of 50 Distinguished Winners of the Swift Student Challenge last year. We featured his winning app in *First News*!

The Swift Student Challenge aims to inspire the next generation of young people to learn to code using Apple's Swift software and change the world. Thousands of entries were received from around the globe in 2024.

Aiden created an app called *Heartbeat Hero* that teaches people how to save lives using a chestpressing technique called CPR. It was inspired by his firefighter uncle.

What skills has coding given me in life?

Coding has given me lots of problem-solving skills, and the freedom to make things that help my communities. For example, one of the first projects I made was called Bespeak. During Covid-19 times, my dad was running a kickboxing gym and he needed a booking website. I was just learning to code at this stage, so I took those skills and made something that benefited my dad. It ended up being used by hundreds of gyms around the country.

My advice to others who want to get into coding?

Just start building. Apple's Swift Playgrounds app gives you easy guides, so you can pick out an experience that you find interesting. Or, if you've got a specific idea, you can have a blank canvas. Playing around with things is really the best way to learn.

Swift Student Challenge 2025

Want to create your own app like Aiden and Luke? The 50 Distinguished Winners get the chance to fly out to Apple's headquarters in California! Apple announced that the Swift Student Challenge 2025 will kick off in February, with applications open for three weeks. While 13 is the minimum age to apply, you can get special permission from Apple if you're younger than 13 and want to take part. There have even been winners under the age of 13 before! Find out more at **developer.apple.com**.

Puzzle Fun

ACROSS

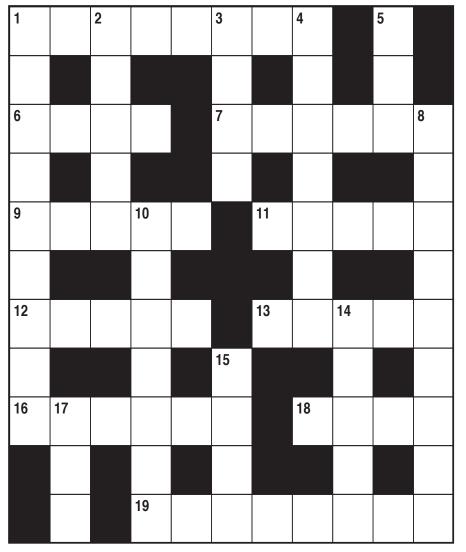
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6 Chair (4)

Issue 957 **FirstNews** 18 - 24 October 2024

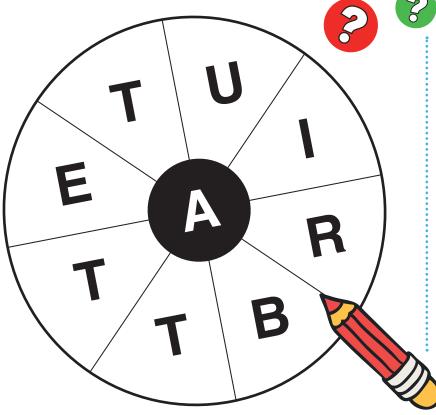
CROSSWO

CAN you solve our crossword puzzle using the clues below?



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?



happening (8)

7 Shape of a ball (6) **9** Vacant (5)

11 Small piece of food that's left over (5)

12 Selfish desire for something (5) 13 Comic entertainer in a circus (5) 16 Relaxed (6)

18 Small; tiny (4) 19 Way in (8)



DOWN

1 Person travelling in a vehicle (9) 2 Item put on an envelope before posting (5) 3 Woody plant (4)

4 Moral (7) 5 Road vehicle (3)

8 Very costly (9)

10 A building in which plays are performed (7)

14 A vegetable (5) 15 Change or modify (4)

17 A hen lays this (3)



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.

BOYS RACE



umt	pers or	ne to n	ine?					
		1				9		
	7	9		3		4	6	
	2	4				8	3	
	5		6		1		8	
		6	2		9	5		
	1		3		5		9	
	3	8				1	5	

Sudoku

CAN you complete our sudoku puzzle, filling in the

1

6

5

7

3

6

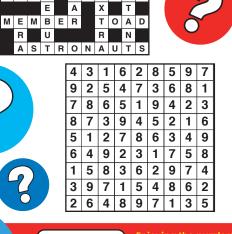
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COMPETITIONS: First News competitions are only open to those aged 15 and under and residents of the UK & Republic of Ireland, except employees of *First News*, First Group Enterprises Ltd, Reach plc and any associated companies and their families. 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.



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the First News This QR code should be scanned by a responsible adult.

NEXT WEEK! COMING UP!







HOPINGFORPEACE

THIS week the *FYI* team speak to two children from Israel and Gaza who are hoping for peace. You can watch the full clip and more at first.news/TV.

YOU'VE probably seen lots of upsetting news recently about the conflict in the Middle East, but in the midst of all the fighting, you might find it reassuring to know that lots of people are calling for peace. World leaders have tried to bring a peaceful end to the conflict, and there have been temporary ceasefires (pauses in fighting), although discussions about lasting peace have failed. And last week, to mark the one-year anniversary since the conflict began, vigils (peaceful demonstrations) were held all over the world, where people gathered to remember those who have lost their lives, and also to demand an end to the fighting. In this *FYI* episode, we hear from two children, Ishai and Rand, who are part of a charity called Jerusalem Peacebuilders that is hoping for peace.

• What is Jerusalem Peacebuilders?

Jerusalem Peacebuilders is a charity that brings young people from both Palestinian Arab and Jewish communities together to promote peace and reconciliation (becoming friendly again).

• Who are Ishai and Rand?

Ishai and Rand are two children from different sides of the conflict, both living in Israel. Rand is a Palestinian girl and Ishai is a Jewish boy. They are both part of Jerusalem Peacebuilders.

• How have Ishai and Rand's lives changed since the conflict began?

Ishai and Rand are just two of the many children whose

Jerusalem Peacebuilders is a charity that brings

young people together to promote peace

lives have been affected by war. They tell *FYI* about how frightened they are of the fighting and how they don't feel safe going outside any more.

• How has Jerusalem Peacebuilders helped them during the conflict?

In the video, Ishai and Rand tell *FYI* how Jerusalem Peacebuilders has helped them to understand the other side's perspective (point of view).

Rand says: "If it wasn't for this programme [Jerusalem Peacebuilders], I wouldn't have made a Jewish friend and got the chance to hear their story and the conflict from their perspective. And I found out that we could actually be friends together."

Ishai says: "Jerusalem Peacebuilders helped me better understand the other side. Before, I did not meet any Muslims, and I did not know their side of the story. Now, after talking to them, I can safely say that they're some of the best friends I have. Even though times are bleak, we plant the seeds for peace in the future."

"Even though times are bleak, we plant the seeds for peace in the future."

– Ishai

• Hopes for peace in the future Both Ishai and Rand tell *FYI* that they think the only way



forward is peace, for people to come together and talk.

Rand says: "No matter what happens, I will always hold on to the hope of a future where everyone lives peacefully. The way forward is for both communities to acknowledge each others' history and struggles. It is essential to be willing to compromise, to respect one another, and to actively pursue peace and fairness for all."

Ishai says: "The only way forward for this conflict in my opinion is to come and have dialogue [talking]. Jews and Arabs, Muslims and Israelis, they have to have dialogue about how we go forward and how we compromise for each other. People must find another way. This other way is simply peace and love."

"No matter what happens, I will always hold on to the hope of a future where everyone lives peacefully."

- Rand

Head to first.news/IsraelGaza to learn more about the conflict in the Middle East.



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

FROM DIGGING UP BONES TO DIGGINGUP **STORIE**

DID you know that top author and poet Joseph Coelho was once an archaeologist? Here, he writes for First News to explain how his treasure-hunting days inspired his latest book!

by Joseph Coelho

I CAN still vividly remember discovering the first complete bronze sacrificial blade at Huaca de la Luna in Trujillo, Peru.

It was the first year of my course in archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, UCL. We were given a whole booklet of potential dig sites we could join for the summer, and I jumped at the chance to visit Peru.

For the most part, we were uncovering long-buried houses made of adobe (bricks made from earth and organic material) between two huge pyramid-like structures. Often, we would turn up pot shards or bronze needles, occasionally a skeleton, but never before a complete bronze blade.

I will never forget the excitement I felt when what I first thought was another needle revealed itself to be much larger under my careful brush.



From bones to books

I adored completing my archaeology degree and have always wondered what life may have been like if I had continued digging up long-lost treasures as opposed to deciding to dig up stories.

After university, I got heavily involved with performance poetry, and over the years that path took me away from dig sites and flung me into the publishing world.

AN exciting new puzzle book has arrived to help you

find out! First News chatted to its creator, GT Karber...

You help four junior sleuths – Jake, Julius, Olivia and

Buster McPaws, the world's greatest cat detective - to solve crimes that they encounter. Then, at the end, they

all join the Detective Club and team up to take down

a criminal scheme much bigger and more dangerous

They don't let all their past experiences get in the way.

Any good magician will tell you that adults are easier

to fool than children, because adults think they know

them, you'll get to join the Detective Club, too!

• What makes kids good detectives?

than any one of their cases was on their own. By helping

• Tell us a bit about the book, GT!

Are you a top detective?

These last ten years, I have written over 45 books for children of all ages, from picture books to verse novels for young adults. As much as I love writing

stories, I have always thought back to my digging days with

great fondness, and so I simply had to write a story about archaeoloaists.

That's how Relic Hamilton, Genie Hunter was born. It's a story about a young Londoner called Relic.

A new adventure

Relic lives with his grandfather above their antiques store in Soho. One day, he discovers an old genie lamp and accidentally releases an evil genie into the world. From this point on, his whole life is turned upside down. He discovers the Hermitic Sodality of Genie Hunters (a secret order of... you guessed it, archaeologists!) and becomes magically bonded to six sprite lamps that give Relic the power to defeat evil genies wherever and whenever they may be.

This is a time-travelling, magical adventure series and writing it has been a blast. I got to revisit my digging days and to even place the headquarters for the Hermitic Sodality of Genie Hunters in my old department - the Institute of Archaeology.

Relic Hamilton, Genie Hunter by Joseph Coelho is out now.

they're just supposed to do the same

thing every day. But kids know that

the world is a great big wild place to



TAKEOVER

CHRIS MOULD'S Recommended reads

Issue 957 **FirstNews**

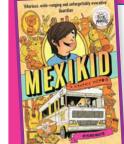
18 - 24 October 2024

I'M Chris, and I've created A fullcolour illustrated adaptation of HG Wells' sci-fi classic, War of the Worlds! It's August 1894 and in the heat of summer, the night sky lights up with the arrival of visitors from Mars Leon records all the information he can as machine-like



Martians march across the Earth. With the help of his partner, scientist Anya, they race to save the world from danger

That's my new book – now, here are a few of my favourite others!



Mexikid by Pedro Martín Pedro Martín recalls a family trip across the USA to Mexico to collect his beloved grandfather, amid important life lessons, mini adventures and childhood antics.

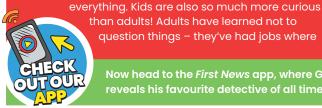
Lord of the Flies: The Graphic Novel by Aimée de Jongh Aimée's amazingly detailed environments convinced me that the plant life kept growing while I was reading.



Beautiful Darkness by Fabien Vehlmann & Kerascoët

Buried slightly deeper on the shelf, as it's not as recent, but a firm fave. Echoes of The Minpins, Alice and The Borrowers, wrapped up

into a surreal dream-like narrative that's darker than it first appears.



Now head to the First News app, where GT Karber shares his puzzle-creating top tip and reveals his favourite detective of all time. Can you guess who it is? (Clue: they like snacks!)

GT Karber

explore, and that there's something new around every corner. When you get older, you forget that. You start to think that you've seen it all. There are always new mysteries to solve, and I wish that adults could see that as clearly as kids do.

• You're the grandson of a real-life FBI agent – what sort of work did your grandad do

He worked in San Francisco in the 1960s. He searched for people who'd escaped Alcatraz prison, and tracked down stolen cars. He always taught me the importance of keeping your head up and your

eyes open. But the biggest lesson he gave me was to believe in myself.

Murdle Junior is out on 24 October.







9 October

WORLD

ARCHAEOLOGY

Books

Your News



HELLO! I've only been back for a week and I'm already blown away by everything you've been up to and all the things you're writing in to tell us about!

I'm especially excited that each month from now, I'll be featuring a column by a member of the Sir David Amess UK Children's Parliament. Naila, the Deputy PM, is kicking things off this week, talking all about the importance of girls getting into jobs in STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths).



FROM YOU!

Vote at first.news/polls

FirstNews

SPOOKY DAY AT LEGOLAND



IT'S nearly Halloween, and there are plenty of cool events taking place all across the UK. News Club members Michelle, Aria and Catarina went to check one out at LEGOLAND called Brick or Treat!

by Michelle, Aria and Catarina

We went to the LEGOLAND Brick or Treat event last Sunday and loved it.

There are spooky decorations and face painting kiosks throughout the park. If hungry, you can savour some Halloween-themed treats: the graveyard pizza, the eye scream or the haunted shake.

You can enjoy all the amazing rides and some special Halloween activities, such as Monster Street, Monster Jam Show, and Lord Vampyre's Disco. We particularly recommend Monster Street, a walk-through experience where monsters take you trick or treating. We received sweets and even some LEGO.

Even though it was a Sunday, the queues were relatively short. The longest waiting time was 45 minutes, but most queues were shorter than 15 minutes.

We only disliked that several adults were vaping around the park. We think LEGOLAND should designate an area away from children for that. They mention e-cigarettes in their smoking policy, but staff were not stopping people from vaping.

The event will end on Sunday 3 November, so hurry up if you want to enjoy it!

My fun trip to watch Buffalo Kids!

ANNIE went to a special screening and event for the launch of *Buffalo Kids* on behalf of *First News* and has written a report all about it!

by Annie, aged eight

Buffalo Kids was shown at the Warner Bros office and we arrived early to explore the event activities. There were themed tattoos and I got one of a cactus. My highlight was the balloon maker – he created lots of crazy things like a horse with a mane! It was so cool. There was a colourful bandana station and I decorated mine with charms across my initial. They also had an impressive doughnut station with so many flavours and colours. Yummy!

The movie started with two young children called Mary and Tom. They were looking for their uncle in America and it didn't go the way they planned. They went on lots of scary and exciting adventures and met a special friend called Nick who joined their journey. My favourite part was when they escaped from being prisoners in the gold mine and became a family.



NEWS CLUB SHOUT-OUT!

THIS WEEK WE'RE GIVING SHOUT-OUTS TO... Southbank International School, Hylands Primary School, Kent College, Kendall Primary School and ACS Egham International School!

Your News

Issue 957 **FirstNews** 18 – 24 October 2024

100km in 22 days!

SOME of you might have done the daily mile at school, or taken part in parkrun, but would you ever consider running over 100km? That's what Sebastian decided to do to raise money to help his grandparents!

by Sebastian, aged ten

My name is Sebastian and I am ten years old. I am really excited to share the news with you that I have just finished my 109.4km charity run! I wanted to support my grandparents as my nan suffers from something called Sjögren's syndrome, which affects the immune system, and my grandad has just been diagnosed with diabetes. I wanted to feel like I was helping them in some way and I love making a difference, so I set myself the challenge of running 109.4km, which is the distance between my house and their house.

I ran for 2['] days and have already raised over £1,000! I feel so grateful for everyone who has supported me, and this is a shout-out to my mum and dad, who ran alongside me and kept me motivated!

I am so happy to have finished and I really hope the money makes a difference to the two charities that I chose. I hope you enjoy reading about my story!





EVERYONE knows Wednesday Addams. She's dark, twisted and perfectly peculiar. But do you know what inspires her love of all things creepy and kooky?

Take a journey through Wednesday's reading list in this mysterious collection of spine-tingling quotes and nightmarish poems from the mind of the beloved character who features in the Addams Family animated films.

Perfect for Halloween, this chilling collection features quotes from famous authors alongside Wednesday's deadpan commentary and some wonderfully strange illustrations. *Wednesday's Library* by Calliope Glass, published by Harper360, makes for a horrifyingly delightful gift that is sure to ensnare fans of all ages!

We're giving six lucky readers the chance to win The Addams Family: Wednesday's Library.

All you have to do is answer this question:

When is Halloween? a) 29 October b) 31 October c) 1 November

ENTERNOW

ARK YOUR ENTRY WEDNESD

APAAMAS WEDNESDAY'S LIBRARY

Getting more girls into STEM education

by Naila, aged ten

Hello everyone! My name is Naila, and I am the Deputy Prime Minister for the Children's Parliament. I'm ten years old and I'm from Glendower Preparatory School in London.

I'm so excited to be writing my first column for *First News*. Having a voice to raise issues that I'm passionate about is a dream come true! I would like to dedicate Acida

this column to girls and STEM. I'm hoping most of you have heard about the word STEM but if you haven't, it stands for science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Sadly, these are topics where girls are underrepresented both in education and in the workplace. You might ask: "Why?" This is partly because the world still associates STEM with men and this often discourages girls from pursuing a STEM education.

Given that there are not enough women in STEM, it is then hard for younger girls to find role models in this field to be inspired. We must break this sad reality, but the good news is that there are many ways we can do this.

My two top tips for getting inspired to go into STEM!



Learn about STEM beyond the classroom. If your school doesn't have a STEM club, ask them to start one. This could be a fun way to motivate your peers to gain more interest in STEM. This can be anything from coding to cracking maths puzzles.

Find two STEM inspirational women, one who is really famous and one who is not. I chose Florence Nightingale, the inventor of modern nursing, and Katherine Johnson, an incredible mathematician known for calculating the Apollo 11 mission trajectories that sent astronauts to the moon. Learn about their journeys and use them to inspire you.

I hope this has inspired you to discover STEM and how you can make it part of your journey! I am looking forward to working with Baroness Uddin, Co-Parliamentary Champion for the Sir David Amess UK Children's Parliament, on developing this issue further.

Next month we'll hear from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Aryan!



If you want to be a junior journalist for *First News* and go to cool press events or write about a topic that you're passionate about, get in touch by getting a trusted adult to email us at yournews@firstnews.co.uk. Or, get your teacher to sign up to the *First News* FYI News Club at first.news/tyinewsclub.

Special Report

YOUNG PEOPLE AT THE PARTY CONFERENCES

THE Duke of Edinburgh's Award UK Youth Ambassadors attended this year's Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat party conferences. The aim was to give young people a chance to share their experiences with highlevel decision makers and have their say on the issues that matter most to them.

What is Youth Voices 2024?

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) spoke to more than 3,000 young people from across the UK for its Youth Voices 2024 report. It found that young people are driven by global issues like climate change and human rights, but worry more about local issues such as housing costs, the economy and the NHS.

What is the DofE doing now?

It is calling on policy makers and leaders to listen to young people and provide opportunities for them to have a say in decisions and policies that affect them. The charity's Youth Without Limits strategy aims to put young people, like you, at the heart of the decision-making process. The party conferences gave the DofE's Youth Ambassadors a chance to have their voices heard. Let's find out more about their experiences!

LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE

DofE Youth Ambassadors: Alice, 17, and Esa, 20 Our hiahliahts:

- Esa: Meeting Prime Minister Keir Starmer (right) and delivering my speech on engaging young people with nature, sharing my personal connection to it.
- Alice: Interviewing Lisa Nandy, who is the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. She shared her views on the importance of engaging young people in extracurricular activities and getting involved in politics through programmes such as Youth Parliament.
- Esa: Speaking to many company CEOs and leaders to see what they're doing for young people progressing into the working world. Many of them were really passionate about bringing more skill-based learning into the school curriculum and teaching young people more life skills, rather than just how to pass an exam.



Esa with Prime Minister Keir Starmer 👘

CONSERVATIVE PARTY CONFERENCE



DofE Youth Ambassador: Evan, 16 My highlights:

- Being able to present a speech sharing my Duke of Edinburgh's Award story within the Youth Zone. This allowed me to show first-hand the benefits that doing the award had on me, as well as allowing me to outline key changes that need to take place to allow young people to thrive both now and in the future.
- Discussing the key needs of young people with Jack Rankin MP and Joe Robertson MP. During our discussion, we outlined challenges young people faced from the DofE's Youth Voices survey, whether this be mental health or getting on the housing ladder.



THE Duke of Edinburgh's Award is open to any young person aged 14-24. Each young person gets to pick their own activities and causes to volunteer for, in order to achieve a Bronze, Silver or Gold DofE Award. The scheme was thought up by King Charles' dad, Prince Philip. Find out more at www.dofe.org.



LIBERAL DEMOCRAT PARTY CONFERENCE

DofE Youth Ambassador: Katrina Stanford, 22 My highlights:

- Taking part in a panel event hosted jointly by the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, National Youth Agency and YMCA, focusing on championing youth work. I answered questions and provided input from a youth perspective.
- Meeting Wendy Chamberlain MP (below).
- Sharing my story with everyone who was present at the conference, and being able to share my views on situations that many young people can relate to. One thing in particular that may affect young people (also coming from personal experience) is not having the correct support in schools, as well as a lack of extracurricular activities due to funding or family money worries.



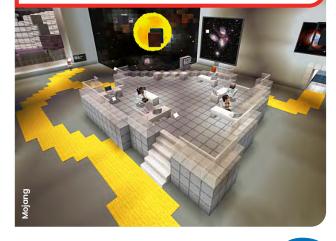
Katrina with Wendy Chamberlain MP

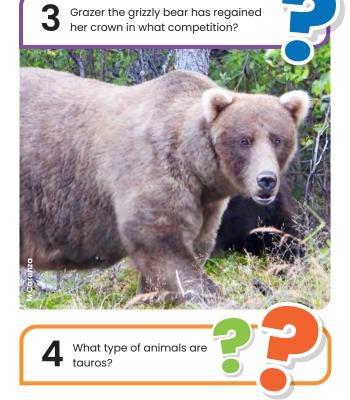
2 by Charlie Baker 3 by Charlie Ba

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.

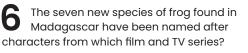
Which social media app is being sued for "wreaking havoc" on children's mental health?

2 Which game has NASA teamed up with to teach people about the James Webb Space Telescope?





In what month does the COP29 climate summit take place?





A woman in the US has had to leave her home after which animals surrounded it?





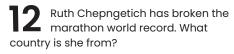
Confé

XEC is a new strain of what infectious illness?

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Which South American country has suffered its "worst environmental disaster" in 2024?

5 What new film does Lupita Nyong'o star in?

Do you love our quiz? We've just launched a brand-new Families Quiz that you can play online as an individual or with your family! Check it out at **firstnews.co.uk/quiz** and on the *First News* app!



Answers: 1 TikTok 2 Minecraft 3 Fat Bear Week 4 Cattle 5 November 6 Star Trek 7 Raccoons 8 Hurricane Milton 9 China 10 Dodo 11 Covid-19 12 Kenya 13 Diwali 14 Bolivia 15 The Wild Robot

Bevan French races through to score his try

WIGAN Warriors capped their fantastic season with victory in the Super League Grand Final to seal their historic quadruple.

Bevan French scored the only try as Wigan beat Hull KR 9-2 at Old Trafford. His cheeky faked pass gave him enough of a gap to squeeze through and run to the line, and it followed a similarly cunning try in the semi.

It's the first time since the Super League began in 1996 that a team has won the quadruple of the World Club Challenge, Challenge Cup, League Leaders' Shield and

Grand Final. Wigan have won the quadruple before, though, back in 1994.

French was named man of the match, as he was in the other two cup finals this year, but he was very modest about his impact on the pitch.

"I've probably been fortunate to set up the tries or score the tries," he said, "but what has won us those finals is our defence."

*That's French for a quality that's hard to describe. Don't say we never teach you anything!





This week also saw the Wheelchair Super League Grand Final take place, and a high-scoring match saw Leeds Rhinos take home the trophy after they beat Halifax Panthers 52-32. The Rhinos were losing at half-time, but a second-half hat-trick from Josh Butler helped to turn the game around.



A 21-12 win over Canada saw England retain their WXV1 title and dash Canada's hopes of taking the top spot. WXVI is the top division of the women's international rugby union competition. The Red Roses have now gone 20 games unbeaten - the last time they lost was in the World Cup final against New Zealand, but they'll be hoping to make up for that on home soil in next year's World Cup in England.



Kenya's Ruth Chepngetich absolutely demolished the world record at the Chicago Marathon this week, finishing in 2hr 9min 56sec – nearly two minutes faster than the previous best from last year!

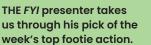
Two stories rocked tennis this that its 300 line judges will be replaced by AI (artificial intelligence) next year, using the same system from the US Open. Then Rafael Nadal said that he'd The Spanish legend won 22 Grand Slams in his career, including a record 14 French Opens.





After England's dismal loss against Greece last week, fans will be keeping their fingers crossed that Pep Guardiola decides to take the manager's job (see Braydon's column). But it was also revealed this week that the FA have been talking to former Chelsea boss Thomas Tuchel (above) about the job as well

Braydon's on the ball





The WSL served up some great games with plenty of talking points this week. The top fixture

was the derby between Arsenal and Chelsea at the Emirates, where the Blues continued their perfect start to the season with a 2-1 victory. A huge crowd of over 45,000 saw the Blues race into an early two-goal lead before Arsenal pulled one back on the stroke of half-time through Caitlin Foord. But despite creating some good

chances, the Gunners couldn't quite find the finish. The disappointing start to the season saw Arsenal coach Jonas Eidevall resign on Tuesday. Chelsea have three wins from three, while Arsenal are in an unusual mid-table position of sixth and are now looking for a new manager, too.

Man City secured their second win of a successful week with a late winner in a 2-1 win at Anfield. Following the Champions League win over Barcelona on Wednesday, City went a goal down



in Liverpool before battling back. Khadija Shaw was again the goal-scorer for City and got both, and the winner came in stoppage time in front of another decent crowd of over 17,000.

In the other fixtures, Man United caught the eye with a solid 3-0 win over Tottenham. Two goals on the stroke of half-time put United in control and they sit in third with nine points.

I think the battle for the WSL will be between Chelsea and City. They are without doubt the two best teams and I expect them to push each other all the way to the final games.

Centre Stage this week is the speculation that the FA have approached Pep Guardiola to talk about the England manager position. I'm sure every England fan would want to see Pep in charge, but as a City fan, I hope it is only speculation!

Looking ahead, the Premier League is back and the big game this weekend will be Liverpool v Chelsea on Sunday. Both teams are in top form, so let's hope for a good game with plenty of goals.

Braydon's Team of The Week: Man City. Two wins in a week and top of the WSL Braydon's Player of The Week: Elisabeth Terland.

Scored her first goals in a Man United shirt following a summer move from Brighton.

• Watch my weekly video on the First News app!

