

NEWS KIDS CAN TRUST

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR*



First News

Issue 958 £2.95 25 - 31 October 2024

2.6M READERS*



SPECIAL HALF-TERM PULL-OUT INSIDE!

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AND, WHY DO WE CARE WHO IS THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE USA?

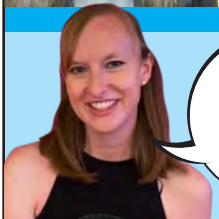


* Newspaper Awards 2023, Niche market Newspaper of the Year. First News readership is 2,626,625. Source: Opinion Matters 2020. First News is the widest-read of all children's publications audited in the UK. First News supports children's charities.

MEET THE TEAM



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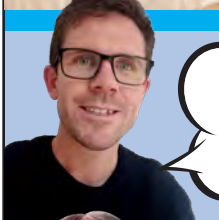
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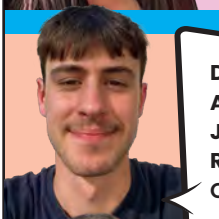
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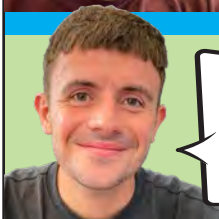
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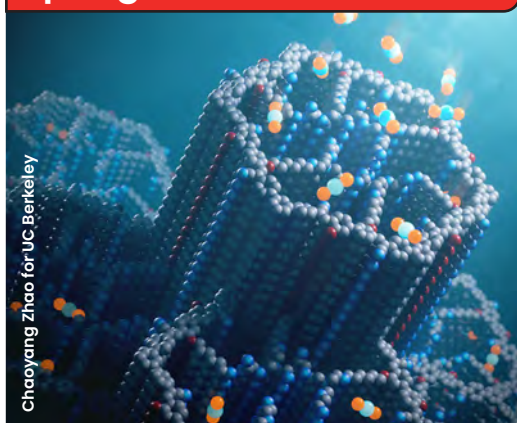


Senior Designer
Dan Jordan

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Snappy stories to get you talking!

Scientists create super-sponge to clean air



Scientists in the US have made a new material that can suck carbon dioxide (CO₂) out of the air we breathe. This special 'sponge', called COF-999, works better than anything else we've seen before, they claim. The material can clean all the CO₂ from a sample of air, and it's so good that a small amount, about the weight of a football, can remove as much CO₂ in a year as two trees!

Ocean protection goals delayed by 80 years



A new report says the world is far behind on its plan to protect the oceans. The goal was to protect 30% of the ocean by 2030, but, at this rate, it won't happen until 2107. The report by the environmental group Greenpeace shows that only 3% of the world's oceans are fully protected from human activities. To meet the target, the group says we need to create about 50 new protected areas every year, each as big as the UK.



First-year students take part in the annual St Andrews Raisin Monday foam fight. The Raisin Monday tradition is one of the events to welcome new students into their "academic families", as they begin their studies at the Scottish university!

THEY SAID THAT!

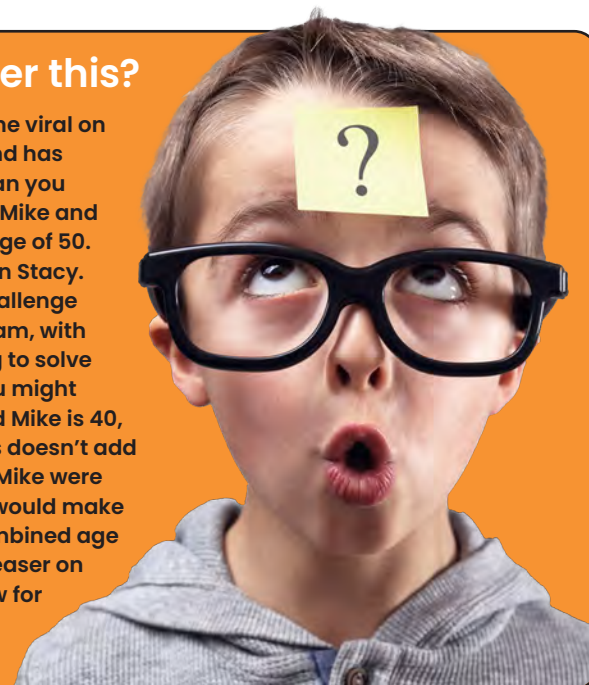
"Imagine a rain cloud but, instead of water droplets coming down, it's like molten rock droplets raining out of the sky!"

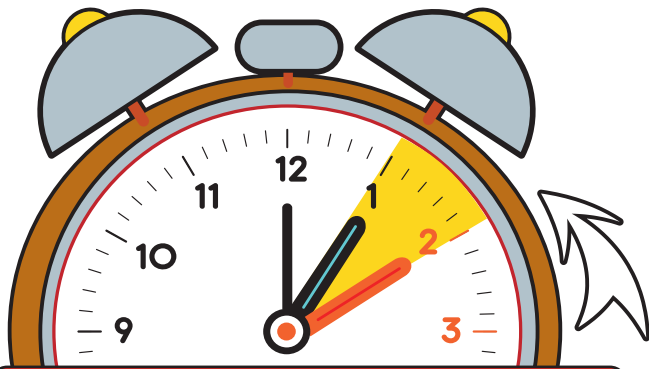
– Professor Nadja Drabon from Harvard University talking this week about a huge meteorite. First discovered in 2014, it caused a tsunami bigger than any in known human history and boiled the oceans. Don't worry – it was three billion years ago!

Can you answer this?

A maths question has gone viral on social media this week and has stumped many adults. Can you solve it? The question is: "Mike and Stacy have a combined age of 50. Mike is 40 years older than Stacy. How old is Stacy?" The challenge first appeared on Instagram, with hundreds of people trying to solve it. Now, at first glance, you might think that Stacy is ten and Mike is 40, totalling 50. However, this doesn't add up. If Stacy were ten and Mike were 40 years her senior, that would make him 50, bringing their combined age to 60. Aha! Try the brainteaser on your family and see below for the answer.

Answer: Mike is 45 and Stacy is five





Clocks fall back this weekend

The clocks go back this weekend, giving us an extra hour of sleep and brighter mornings. This change happens every autumn to help us make better use of daylight. The idea came from a builder named William Willett more than 100 years ago. He thought people could enjoy more daylight and save energy by changing the clocks twice a year. Now, we 'fall back' in October and 'spring forward' in March.

Scientists hope to bring back extinct creature



Researchers from Australia and the US are trying to bring back the Tasmanian tiger, an animal that became extinct in 1936. Using DNA from a 108-year-old preserved head, scientists say they've taken a big step forward to create the lost creature. The Tasmanian tiger, also called a thylacine, was a dog-like animal with stripes on its back. It lived in Australia and nearby islands. While some experts are excited about the project, others worry about how it might affect nature if extinct animals are brought back.

The Royal Mint and Natural History Museum unveil coin collection

The Royal Mint has unveiled a new 50p coin collection featuring giant Ice Age animals. These include the steppe mammoth, which lived more than two million years ago and was the height of a double decker bus! There's also the woolly rhinoceros and a giant deer.

The three-coin collection is called 'Ice Age Giants' and has been made with help from the Natural History Museum.



The Royal Mint

Big Apple's big new bird!



Pigeons nibble a lot of discarded snacks on the streets of New York, so it's not too surprising to see a hefty one here and there – but how about one as tall as a giraffe? This beast-sized bird sculpture has just been installed in the city's High Line park, making passers-by feel like breadcrumbs!



Bruno Cisterna & Eric Vitrioli/Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University/Nikon Small World

Nikon's teeny-tiny photo competition winner!

Nikon's yearly Small World competition showcases images of a world that can't be seen with the naked eye. The photos are captured through the lens of a microscope, and the winner receives a \$3,000 (£2,300) prize. This year's winner was Bruno Cisterna for his amazing image of mouse brain tumour cells. The competition received more than 2,000 entries from 80 countries around the world and celebrated its 50th anniversary this year.

Animal life under the sea bed

Scientists in the Netherlands have found animals such as tube worms and snails living beneath the sea floor near hot water vents. These vents are like underwater hot springs, where hot water bursts out of the ground.

Researchers sent a robot to look at rocks 2,500m down and made the surprise discovery. Scientists had thought that only microbes could survive there.



Tiny plastics found in dolphin breath, study reveals



Twelve million tonnes of plastic is dumped into oceans every year

There are around 3,500,000,000,000 (3.5 trillion) fish in the ocean

1 in 3 fish caught for food now contain plastic

100,000 marine mammals are killed by plastic pollution every year

Scientists in the US have discovered that dolphins are breathing in very small pieces of plastic. Researchers looked at dolphins in two different places in the United States and found the tiny plastics in the breath of all the dolphins they tested, even in areas far from cities. Experts think the plastics might be floating in the air and getting into the dolphins' breath when they surface.

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.



GLOBAL MEDIA AND INFORMATION LITERACY WEEK 24-31 OCTOBER

This year, the annual event is focusing on the critical thinking skills that are needed when reading online.

HALLOWEEN 31 OCTOBER

It's half-term for lots of schools across the UK this week and, to celebrate, there are all sorts of spooky, scary and silly events taking place! Check out p11-18 for all of our favourite books, days out and bakes!



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



HAMAS LEADER KILLED



Israelis in Jerusalem react to the news

ISRAELI soldiers have killed the leader of Hamas, Yahya Sinwar, in Rafah, southern Gaza.

Sinwar's death wasn't part of a planned operation. Troops on a patrol fired at three Hamas fighters and only later realised that one of them was Sinwar.

While most Israelis celebrated the news, some were worried about what it means for the hostages that Hamas is still keeping prisoner in Gaza.

Hamas is the terrorist organisation that has ruled Gaza since 2007. Sinwar became its leader in 2017, and he was in charge when Hamas fighters attacked Israel on 7 October 2023, killing nearly 1,200 people and kidnapping 251 more. In response to that, Israel has been attacking Gaza and fighting with Hamas. At least 42,600 Palestinians have been killed and 99,795 injured.

Will this mean an end to the war?

US President Joe Biden said Sinwar's death raised "the prospect of a ceasefire" (a pause in the fighting), while Kamala Harris, the vice-president competing against Donald Trump to be the next president, said that it provided a chance finally to end the war in Gaza. However,



Yahya Sinwar in 2023

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has made it clear that the killing does not mark the end of the war.

In fact, Israel ramped up operations last weekend, with bombing and gunfire around a hospital in northern Gaza that damaged the hospital's water tanks and electricity supply. And at least 87 people were killed or missing under rubble after Israeli strikes on a residential area.

Meanwhile, Hamas has told the BBC that it will begin choosing a new leader soon – but it will keep their identity a secret in order to protect them.

Alexa shares fake news

AMAZON'S voice assistant, Alexa, has been giving users wrong information on various topics.

That's what research by fact-checking organisation Full Fact has found. Alexa told one user that the northern lights were man-made rather than a natural phenomenon. It also dished out completely false information that British Prime Minister Keir Starmer planned to break off diplomatic relations with Israel and that MPs can get a £50 breakfast for free.

Full Fact said the false answers were "a big problem" and that "Amazon hasn't given us an explanation of what went wrong".

An Amazon spokesperson said: "These answers are incorrect and we are working to resolve this issue."



Amazon's Echo Dot smart speaker, which includes Alexa

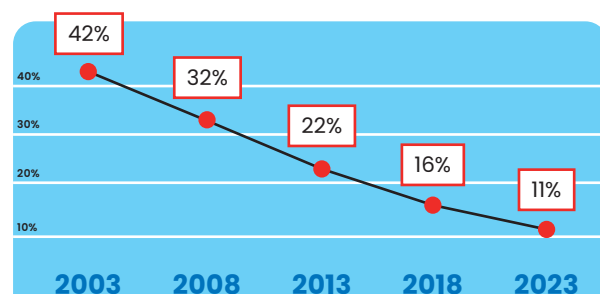
Child smoking at its lowest level

THE number of secondary school pupils who've tried smoking has fallen to its lowest level on record – but vaping levels aren't falling.

The survey by the NHS found that only 11% of young people in Years 7 to 11 have smoked at least once. This is down from 12% in 2021, the last time the survey was held.

While this is welcome news, the survey also found that a quarter of 11 to 15-year-olds have tried vaping, and nearly one in ten (9%) do it frequently. That's the same figure as in 2021.

Government minister Andrew Gwynne said: "It's very worrying to see a quarter of pupils tried vaping last year. The health advice is clear that children and adult non-smokers should never vape."



The percentage of secondary pupils who have smoked has dropped sharply in 20 years

EDITOR'S COMMENT

IT'S great that the country has its first ever Special Representative for Nature (below).



Nicky Cox MBE

Ruth Davis will be focused on making sure our natural environments are protected.

This is good news for nature in the UK. It's sad to think that the once biodiverse, nature-filled islands that make up the UK are now one of the worst for nature on the planet! We have about half of our biodiversity left – far below the global average of 75%.

But it's not too late to turn things around and, with Ruth on the case, let's hope she'll get things done for the environment and for our futures.



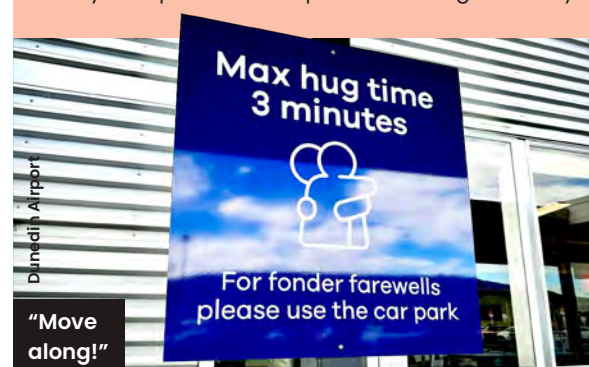
Nature

THE UK has appointed its first ever Special Representative for Nature. Ruth Davis is a writer and environmental campaigner. In her new role, she'll attend important international climate events and help UK politicians to push for the protection and rebuilding of nature worldwide.



Cuddles

AN airport in New Zealand has put a time limit on goodbye hugs! Family and friends are asked to spend no longer than three minutes to say their goodbyes before moving along. Dunedin Airport bosses say it's to give everyone space and keep traffic flowing smoothly.



"Move along!"

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 **WEB ID** to use the app.



THOUSANDS MORE BADGERS TO BE KILLED

You can learn more in our special report on the badger culls at first.news/badgers or by scanning this QR code.



WILDLIFE campaigners have criticised the government's announcement of the numbers of badgers that could be killed in England this year.

Around 230,000 badgers have been culled (killed) in England since 2014, in an attempt to control a disease called bovine tuberculosis (bTB). The disease can pass from badgers to cows, but is mostly spread between cattle. Around 278,000 cattle have had to be put down in the past ten years due to bTB infection.

Lots of scientists and experts say that the cull is unnecessary and unscientific, although many farmers and the previous government believe that it is working.

Before this year's general election, the Labour Party said in its manifesto that the badger cull was "ineffective". It has vowed to end the culls within

five years, but the government's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) says that up to 40,204 badgers could still be culled in 2024.

Dr Mark Jones, a vet at animal charity Born Free, said the decision "condemns tens of thousands more badgers to a brutal and unnecessary death".

In 2007, the results of a ten-year government project called the Randomised Badger Culling Trial (RBCT) were published. Professor John Bourne's report concluded that "badger culling can make no meaningful contribution to cattle TB control in Britain".

Many experts still think that's true but, whatever you believe, £100m is being spent every year to kill thousands of badgers and control bTB, with very little clear evidence that it's having much of an effect.

Pet fancy dress is not so fun

ANIMAL charity the PDSA has warned people against dressing their pets up for Halloween this year.

It says that inappropriate fancy dress outfits for pets can have a bad impact on an animal's health and wellbeing.

The charity adds that some pet costumes are made from thick fabric that can restrict a pet's movement and their self-care, such as grooming.

They can also make an animal hot, while smaller parts of an outfit might be a choking hazard.

Some costumes can even prevent a pet from

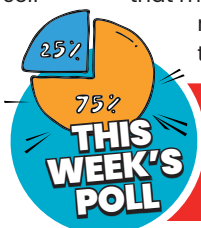
walking or going to the toilet comfortably.

The charity says dressing up is unnatural for pets and can distress them.

Gemma Renwick, a PDSA nurse, said: "While fancy dress may be fun for us, it's important to remember that our pets aren't toys or a Halloween party prop. Dressing them in a way that makes fun of them... is just not a considerate thing to do."



The PDSA says pet costumes can be humiliating or uncomfortable



Should pets be dressed up in Halloween costumes?

Let us know at first.news/polls

Radical new farming method invented



A prototype (early version) of the new system

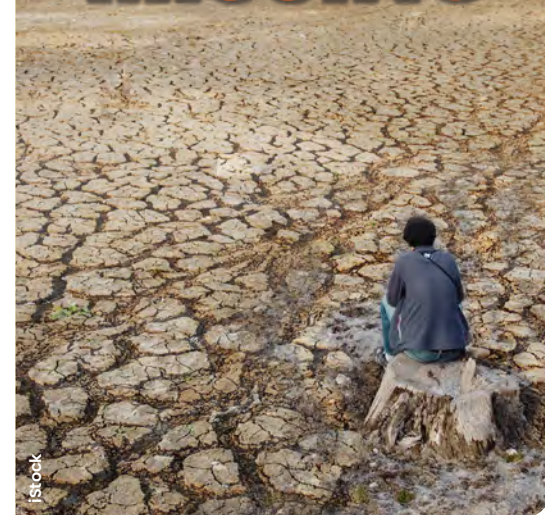
SCIENTISTS have come up with a radical new way to produce food that they say could cut the amount of land needed for farming by 94%.

"Electro-agriculture" replaces photosynthesis with a solar-powered chemical reaction that more efficiently converts carbon dioxide into an organic molecule that plants can be adapted to 'eat'. Photosynthesis is the process by which plants convert carbon dioxide and water into oxygen and glucose.

Electro-agriculture involves replacing farm fields with multi-storey buildings. Solar panels on the buildings would absorb the sun's radiation, and this energy would power a chemical reaction between carbon dioxide and water to produce acetate, a molecule that would then be used to feed plants.

The new process already works with mushrooms, yeast and algae, but all plants could be grown indoors and in the dark eventually – and even in space.

CLIMATE CASH MISSING

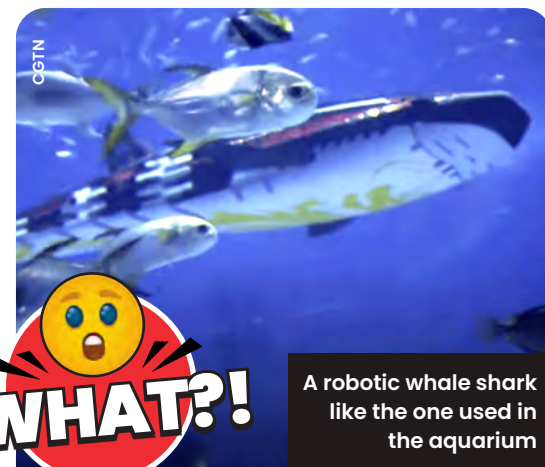


OXFAM says that up to \$41 billion (£31 billion) of money promised to help fight climate change is missing.

The charity looked at the World Bank's 2017–2023 climate finance plans and found that there was no trace of tens of billions between the time projects were approved and when they closed.

There's no record of where the money went or how it was used, or even if it was ever spent on the intended projects. It was meant to help poorer countries protect people from the impacts of the climate crisis and invest in clean energy. The money is crucial for helping countries protect against rising sea levels, damage to crops and land, and other devastating effects of rising global temperatures.

The World Bank has 189 member countries and is the biggest provider of climate finance. The head of Oxfam's Washington, DC office in the USA said: "The bank is quick to brag about its climate finance billions – but these numbers are based on what it plans to spend, not on what it actually spends once a project gets rolling."



WHAT?!

A robotic whale shark like the one used in the aquarium

VISITORS to an aquarium in China were shocked to discover the star exhibit, a giant whale shark, was actually a robot!

Xiaomeisha Sea World in Shenzhen reopened on 1 October after being shut for five years for renovations. The shark was supposed to be the star attraction, and was advertised as being a robot. Other exhibits include AR, VR and laser shows.

Staff said the robot was used because Chinese law bans the trade of whale sharks.



Giza, Egypt



All images: Getty

AFTER years of delays, the Grand Egyptian Museum has opened some of its galleries to the public. On display are exhibits from ancient Egypt, some many thousands of years old. The museum is set in the shadow of the great pyramids at Giza and will hold more than 100,000 artefacts from ancient Egypt eventually. Inset: the huge statue of King Ramesses II, who reigned from 1279–1213 BCE. See page 22 for more.

Anshun, China



A MAGICAL rainbow arches over Huangguoshu Waterfall, one of the largest waterfalls in Asia.

Las Vegas, USA



THE famous Las Vegas Sphere has been transformed into a giant pumpkin for Halloween!



Kolkata, India

AN artist puts the final touches to a statue of the Hindu goddess Kali ahead of Diwali.

Oban, UK



HIGHLAND dancers compete during the Royal National Mòd, a festival celebrating the Gaelic language and culture.



MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT

HOW YOU CAN HELP CHILDREN AFFECTED IN GAZA, LEBANON AND THE WIDER REGION, SAYS THE DISASTERS EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

OVER the past year, conflict in the Middle East has devastated lives across the region, and millions have fled their homes in search of safety. Right now, millions of people across Gaza, Lebanon and the wider region are in urgent need of food, shelter and medical care.

Meet Zainab and Nour, siblings in Lebanon forced to flee their home

Zainab*, nine, and Nour*, six, fled with their family from their home in the south of Lebanon, and now stay in a school that acts as a shelter.

Like many in Lebanon, the siblings miss their home and toys, but the community in the shelter means they can play football with other children. Support staff make sure they have food, water, clothing, mattresses and blankets.



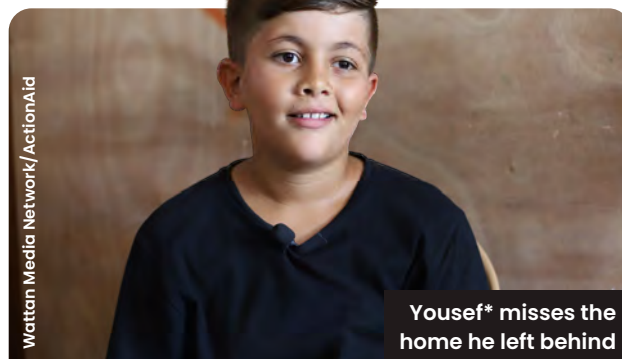
Zainab* and Nour* fled from their homes and are staying in a school

Yousef dreams of returning to school

Yousef* is ten years old and lives in the north of Gaza. He was happy until conflict forced him and his family to move south, and he thinks fondly of his home and the family shop, both of which have been bombed.

"My house is never far from my mind, and the shop and all of the north of Gaza, I can't forget," he says. He has

dreams of moving abroad and returning to school, but currently experiences health difficulties due to poor living conditions.



Yousef* misses the home he left behind

Darine's family and pets take refuge

Darine* and her two children live in temporary shelter in Gaza after being displaced, along with their cat and cockatoo.

Her daughter Fatima*, 11, carries on with her hobby of making bracelets and sharing them with friends, but her brother Hassan*, six, struggles and misses his home and toys. Like many forced to leave their homes, he finds adapting to the change very hard.



Fatima* and her mother, brother, cat and cockatoo are living in a temporary shelter

IN NUMBERS

- In Gaza, **1.9 million** people are displaced. That's more than **90%** of the population.
- **86%** of people in Gaza do not have enough food to eat.
- In Lebanon, more than a million people are displaced, around **20%** of the population.
- **Hundreds of thousands of people** have already been reached by help from DEC member charities.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- You can fundraise at home and at school. Activities like bake sales are always popular, and every donation goes a long way.
- **£10** could provide blankets for two people, to keep them warm.
- **£50** could provide emergency food for five families for one week.
- **£100** could provide emergency shelter for five families.

To find out more about supporting the DEC, please visit dec.org.uk/fundraise-for-us.

What help is being provided?

DEC member charities and their local partners are working around the clock in Gaza and Lebanon to distribute essential aid and meet people's most basic needs. This includes:

- Providing hot meals, dry goods and baskets of fresh foods.
- Distributing clean drinking water and hygiene kits.

- Supporting field hospitals and medical clinics.
- Supplying shelter support, such as tents, shade covers and tarpaulins.
- Offering cash vouchers, so that people can buy the essential items they need.
- Providing psychological support and setting up child-friendly spaces.



*Names have been changed to protect identities



WALES

Exercise on the rise, but so is bullying

A national survey of nearly 130,000 Year 7-11 pupils has revealed mixed news about the wellbeing of Welsh kids. The School Health Research Network health and wellbeing survey, which happens every two years, found that 23% of boys exercised for 60 minutes a week (the national guideline), up from 21%, while it was 14% for girls, up from 12%. But it's not all good news. Reports of bullying were higher than ever in the survey, with more than 40% of girls and over 30% of boys saying they were bullied in the previous couple of months.



istock

PERTH

Activist's art reunion

A young climate activist has been reunited with a piece of art she made for a climate protest. Bridget was eight when she attended the School Strike For Climate in 2019, which was part of a wider movement on Fridays – started by Greta Thunberg – to demand action against climate change. The artwork (pictured left) is heading to Perth Museum for the new Waters Rising exhibition, which opens on 8 November. Bridget, now 14, said: "It's a really lovely thought that future generations might see this movement and, hopefully, know that we made a difference."



Duncan McGlynn

Bridget drew the Earth as a melting ice cream cone

MERTHYR TYDFIL



Pupils and a teacher at the innovative school

First-of-its-kind super school

Wales is on the way to having its first ever refurbished net-zero carbon school. Instead of knocking down then rebuilding Pen y Dre High School, as is normal for a net-zero refurbishment, it will be stripped down to its frame and built back up. This is expected to save 48% of carbon compared to the normal method. Being carbon-neutral means that overall it will release no climate-warming CO₂ into the atmosphere. Any spare electricity created will be supplied straight to the nearby Prince Charles Hospital. The project is part of the Welsh government's mission to become a net-zero carbon nation by 2050.

WORCESTER

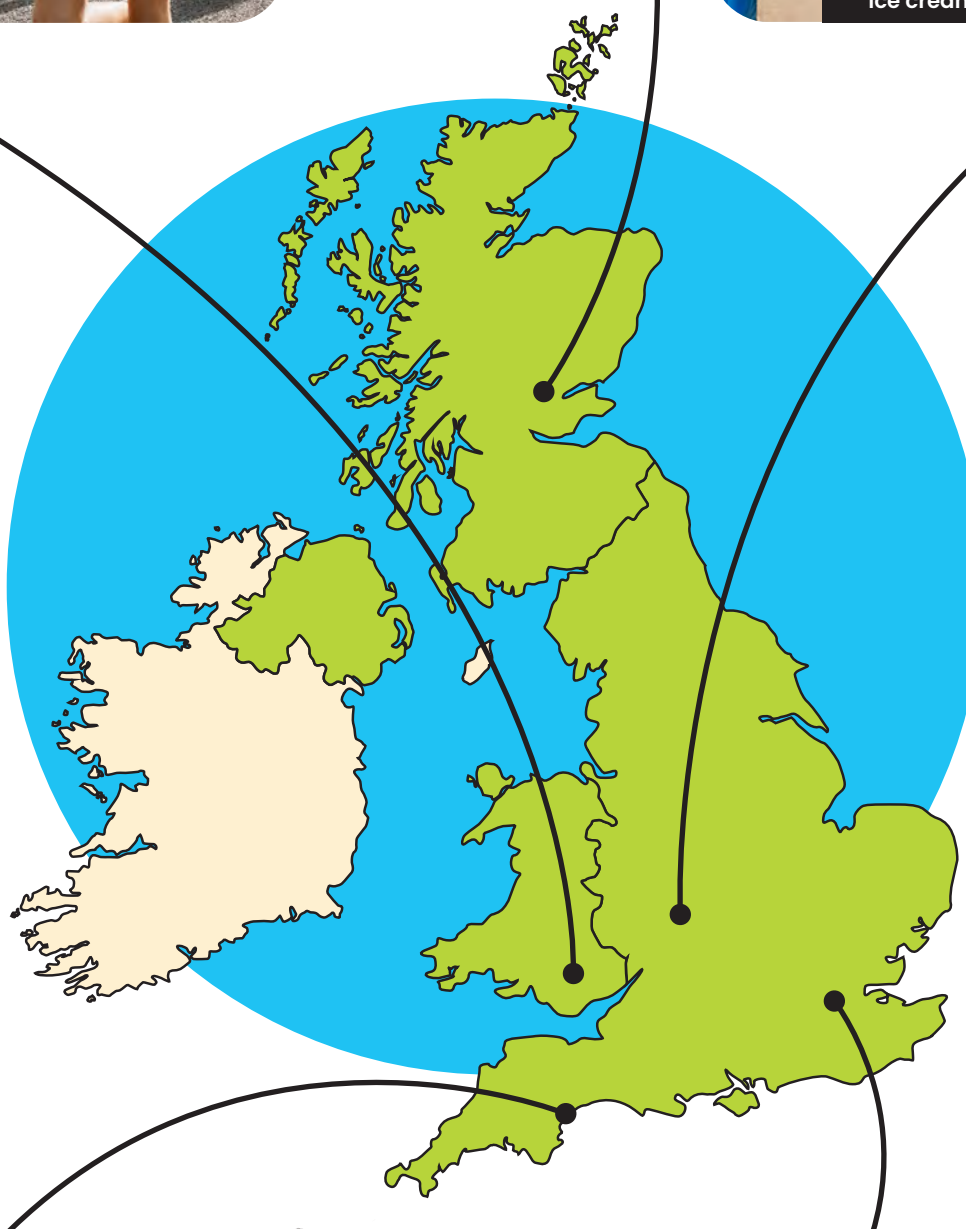
BSL help for Halloween

A street has learned British Sign Language (BSL) to help deaf neighbours enjoy Halloween this year. People living on the UK's first BSL-inclusive street in Worcester have learned how to sign phrases such as 'trick or treat'. Ada, a six-year-old living on the street, will be able to take part in the tradition for the very first time. Her neighbours have even put stickers in their windows to show that they're BSL-friendly. It follows new research by Cadbury, which found that 79% of deaf children feel like they're missing out on the fun of Halloween.



Cadbury Fingers

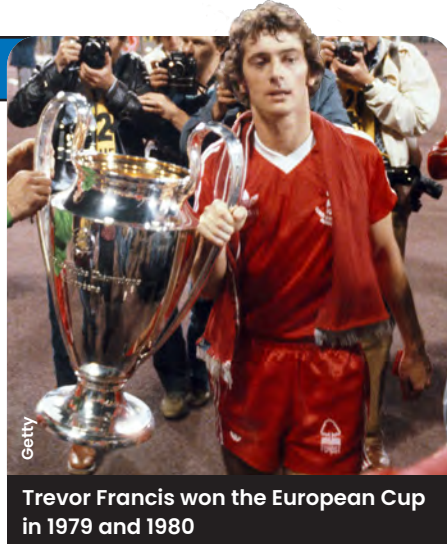
Watch a video of Ada's heart-warming evening on the First News app!



EXMOUTH

Special footie items sold

Unique items from Britain's first £1m footballer have sold for £135,000. Trevor Francis, who passed away last year aged 69, was a legend of the English game. In 1979, he joined Nottingham Forest from Birmingham City for a record £1m. He won the European Cup (now the Champions League) with Forest, and his winner's medal is part of the collection that was auctioned in Devon. Having also played in Italy, Francis had managed to get a match-worn Napoli shirt from one of the greatest footballers of all time, Diego Maradona. That went for the highest price, fetching £20,000.



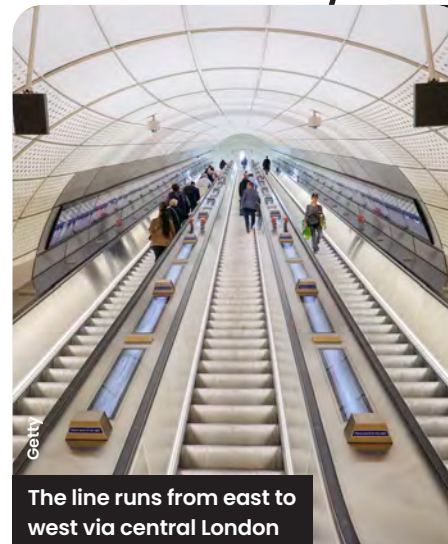
Getty

Trevor Francis won the European Cup in 1979 and 1980

LONDON

Train line triumph

The Elizabeth line, London's newest train line, has won the UK's most respected architecture prize. The Stirling Prize is normally awarded to a building, but this year the award has gone to the 62-mile network and its ten new stations. The judges liked its "slick suite of architectural components", in which "the typical commuter chaos is transformed into an effortless experience". They also said it was "architecture of the digital age" that used cutting-edge technology. The line opened in 2022 and transports more than 700,000 passengers every weekday.



Getty

The line runs from east to west via central London



BIRDGIRL'S HOPE FOR NATURE AT COP16

Dr Mya-Rose Craig

Use this QR code to watch our short film with Birdgirl about the right young people have to protest about the climate crisis. It should be scanned by a responsible adult.



DR Mya-Rose Craig, also known as Birdgirl, is a birdwatcher and an environmental campaigner who is attending COP16. Here is what she says about nature...

From 21 October to 1 November, something important will be happening in Cali, Colombia. It's the United Nations Biodiversity Convention, or COP16. It brings together almost every country in the world, working together to stop the loss of nature – or biodiversity – and I feel really fortunate that I'll be attending it.

I'm looking forward to hearing from countries around the world, and of course the UK, about what they are doing to halt and reverse the loss of nature by 2030, as promised at the previous nature summit, COP15, in 2022.

Leading by example

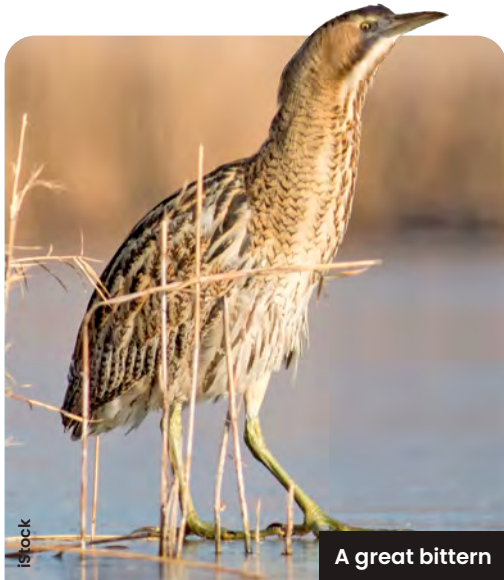
I really believe that the new UK government must show leadership on the world stage. All four countries of the United Kingdom are shockingly some of the most nature-depleted in the world, so we must lead by example and ensure that promises are turned into actions, and that our generation, and generations to come, live within a healthy, flourishing natural world.

While in Cali, I'll be supporting the RSPB (the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds), who will be there to make sure that COP16 gets the vital change that is needed both for nature and people. The RSPB has brilliantly demonstrated how to bring back nature from the brink, and it's really

crucial to prove to world leaders that it's not too late to make a difference.

The boom of the bittern

Take one example, booming bitterns! You might not ever have seen a bittern, but you may have heard one. A



A great bittern

member of the heron family, bitterns are elusive birds, often hiding in reedbeds. They are actually the loudest bird in the UK! The males make a booming sound in spring that can be heard up to three miles away, helping them establish their territory and attract female mates during the breeding season. In 1997, there were just 11 males in the UK but, thanks to the RSPB's efforts, there are now 234 male bitterns booming, with reedbeds restored and habitats created to help bitterns thrive, including at the RSPB's Leighton Moss reserve.

New wildlife haven

If you live in London, or have visited recently, you may have travelled on the new Elizabeth line. But I bet

you didn't know that three million tonnes of soil that were excavated during the construction of tunnels were taken by ship to RSPB Wallasea Island, in Essex. The newly created saltmarsh, mudflats and lagoons are a wildlife haven, with more than 38,000 waterbirds recorded there last December. It's an amazing example of how to become 'nature positive' – one of the big targets for countries to ensure there is more nature in the world by 2030.

There may only be five years left to meet the major global biodiversity commitments, but I do have hope for our natural world. Nature isn't just there for us to observe and enjoy. We are a part of nature, and so I have hope that everyone who flocks to COP16 from around the world, will want Peace with Nature (the theme of the event), for themselves, their children and generations to come. And that starts with saving it now.



The COP16 opening ceremony



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](https://www.firstnews.com/climatecrisis).

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

PLATYPUS



HABITAT:

Freshwater systems across eastern Australia.

FUN FACTS:

- Male platypuses are venomous. They have sharp, lethal stingers on their legs.
- Like sharks, platypuses use electric fields to help them find food underwater.

SPECIAL SUPERPOWER:

A platypus is one of only five egg-laying mammal species, known as monotremes.

CONSERVATION STATUS:

They are near threatened, says the International Union for Conservation of Nature.



Aneeshwar's platypus 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.



Inirida flowers

THE logo for COP16 includes the flower of Inirida. These native Colombian blooms are known as 'everlasting flowers' because they can resist extreme weather and keep their shape even when they're cut and dried to be used for decoration. The conference's organisers say it's a symbol that they're aiming to "maintain life on the planet forever".



IRELAND



There had been no trace of the long-lost tale for more than 100 years!

Before *Dracula* came this spooky story!



Bram Stoker was an Irish author who's best known as the creator of the legendary vampire story *Dracula*. Now, 112 years after his death in 1912, another spine-tingling, long-lost tale of his has been discovered! It's called *Gibbet Hill*, and it was first published in a Dublin newspaper in 1890, seven years before the release of *Dracula*. It tells the chilling tale of a sailor who was killed by three criminals. The story was spotted by an amateur historian named Brian Cleary, while he was having a snoop through old newspaper archives at the National Library of Ireland. Now, *Gibbet Hill* has been published again, with all the money from sales going to research into infant hearing loss.

GERMANY

Blaze destroys state-of-the-art fire station

A brand-new fire station that cost tens of millions of euros to build has burned to the ground because it had no fire alarm! The station in Stadtallendorf caught fire when flames spread from a burning vehicle. Thankfully no-one was hurt, but ten fire engines were destroyed. The station reportedly didn't need to have any fire alarms because it was classified as a building holding equipment, rather than an actual fire station.



INDIA



Those spreading dangerous fake news about bombs will be banned from flying

Airlines hit by fake bomb threats

Flights from Indian airports had to be cancelled, diverted or guided to safety by fighter jets after 90 fake bomb threats in one week. At least 50 of the threats were made over email and social media accounts last weekend (19-20 October) alone. In contrast, India received 120 bomb threats in total from 2014 to 2017. When *First News* went to print, authorities had yet to work out the reason behind the hoaxes, but one child has been arrested. Indian airlines like Air India, IndiGo and SpiceJet are facing big financial losses, because rules say that they have to investigate every bomb threat, causing big delays for passengers. The minister for aviation (flights), K Ram Mohan Naidu, said that anyone "responsible for the disruptions will be identified and prosecuted".

USA

Pandas arrive at new home

Two giant pandas from China have arrived at their new home at the Smithsonian's National Zoo in Washington, DC. Bao Li and Qing Bao will live at the zoo for the next ten years, as part of an agreement between China and the US to help conserve the species. The last giant pandas at the zoo were sent back to China nearly a year ago. Now, the new duo, both three years old, will spend time settling into their new home before making their first public appearance in January 2025.



...and the gift shop is stacked with souvenirs!

EGYPT

Grand Egyptian Museum galleries open to the public

Twelve sections of the Grand Egyptian Museum have been opened to visitors, giving them the chance to see a host of treasures from the tomb of King Tutankhamun. The museum, once finished, will house the world's largest collection of ancient Egyptian artefacts, with more than 100,000 objects set to go on display. It was due to open in 2012 at first, but has been delayed several times. It's now cost over a whopping \$1bn (£768m)! The official opening date hasn't been announced yet.



Painted Egyptian coffins

AUSTRALIA

Mysterious tar balls wash up on Sydney beaches



Workers clear up 'tar balls' on Coogee beach

Eight beaches in Sydney have reopened and swimmers allowed back in the water after they were forced to close last week when tar-like balls started washing ashore. Authorities say the balls aren't toxic to humans but urged people not to touch them. "Based on advice from the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), we can now confirm the balls are made up of fatty acids, chemicals found in cleaning products, mixed with fuel oil," said New South Wales Maritime boss Mark Hutchings. The EPA is still trying to find out where the balls came from.





HAPPY HALF-TERM!

IT'S officially cosy season, folks!
That means it's time for hot chocolate, cute pumpkins and tons of frightfully fun events. Take a look inside this week's pull-out for our pick of the best books, activities and bakes for autumn.

The spookiest holiday of the year is here...



ha ha ha



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you spot the five changes in picture B?



HALLOWEEN HOWLERS!



What do witches put on their bagels?
Scream cheese!

How did the zombie become great at trick or treating?
Dead-ication!



What do ghosts use to wash their hair?
Sham-boo!

What do birds say on Halloween?
"Trick or tweet!"



What's a monster's favourite game?
Hide and shriek!

Which spooky character is good at maths?
Count Dracula!





AUTHORS REVEAL THEIR FEARS!

WELL, it's only fair, isn't it? Their books make us feel all sorts of things: happy, excited – and sometimes a little bit spooked! So this Halloween, we've turned the tables, and asked ten top children's authors what gives THEM the chills...



NADIA SHIREEN

Author of the *Grimwood* series

"Weird old Victorian dolls. With those staring eyes. Musty-smelling frilly dresses. They're horrible. Urgh!"



All pics: Getty



Who's the real Elle?!
(It's okay, they both are!)

ELLE MCNICOLL

Author of *A Kind of Spark*

"Something that can mimic something it's not – like *doppelgängers* who look like you and could take your place!"



CHLOË HEUCH

Author of *A History of My Weird*

"Maggots! The way they writhe about. The way they just appear. Their moist, plump bodies, all feeding on dead things!"



JEFFREY BOAKYE

Author of *Kofi and the Secret Radio Station*

"Big, massive faces on giant statues. The idea of being up close to the Statue of Liberty makes me feel dizzy."



EVE WERSOCKI MORRIS

Author of *Forest of Forbidden Magic*

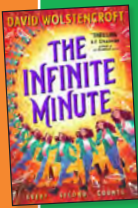
"Sharks! Their horrible grins with teeth like broken glass and their dead eyes. Animals that can't blink are freaky!"



DAVID WOLSTENCROFT

Author of *The Infinite Minute*

"A brollachan (a spook from Scottish folklore) for sure... clowns for another... and I'm not a massive fan of *zombies*!"



AF STEADMAN

Author of the *Skandar* series

"I have a very vivid imagination so I'm pretty scared of most *horror movies*. I can't stop thinking about them after!"



CHARLIE HIGSON

Author of *Worst. Superhero. Ever.*

"I find *masks* really unsettling – you can't read someone's face, what they're thinking... or even know who they are!"



ALICE ROBERTS

Author of *Wolf Road*

"I really hate *ticks*. Not the ones on your homework – the little arachnids that live in grassy fields and suck your blood."



ROSS MONTGOMERY

Author of *I Am Rebel*

"I cannot stand *deep water* – even thinking about it makes me want to run out of the room!"





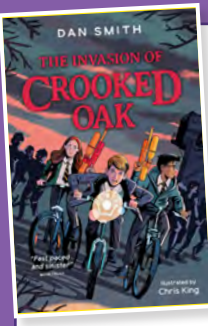
GABRIEL DYLAN'S Recommended reads

Hi! I'm Gabriel Dylan, author of *Shiver Point*.

It's a series of books all about a group of children who live in the town of Shiver Point – a place that seems boring and ordinary, but is actually hiding some creepy creatures!

Over the series, the children, who call themselves the Shiver Squad, battle alien invasions, scary scarecrows and terrifying werewolves – monsters guaranteed to make you shiver (sorry).

There's nothing better than getting stuck into a good horror book as the nights grow dark, and my three Halloween recommendations are...



The Crooked Oak series by Dan Smith. I love this, and have read it with the pupils I teach. It's fast-paced, easy to read, references some classic horror films, and has all kinds of weird and wonderful monsters.

Frozen Charlotte by Alex Bell. It tells the story of a group of tiny dolls that come to life after dark, often armed with needles or pins. You'll never look at dolls the same way again!



The Call by Peadar O'Guilin. One for teens, this is one of my favourite horror books ever. Imagine an alternative Ireland, malicious fairies and a storyline where children are teleported

(or 'called') to a terrifying world where they have to survive 24 hours of being relentlessly hunted – thrilling, dark, and very scary!

Shiver Point: Under A Howling Moon by Gabriel Dylan is out now.

WRITE YOUR OWN MAGICAL TALE

SkYE McKenna's fantastical, witchy tales make for great reads this time of year. Here, she shares her top tips to get swept away by the season and create your own fictional masterpiece.



SkYE's latest book, *Seawitch*, is out now.



by SkYE McKenna

I WRITE books about young witches in training, but in my stories, magic isn't something you're born with – it comes from nature.

The natural world is full of intriguing animals, mysterious plants and bizarre fungi, all of which offer great inspiration. In my *Hedgewitch* books, I want to share what it feels like to be in wild places, encountering new plants and animals for the first time.

Here are my top tips for writing your own magical story...

Make a map

First, decide where your story will take place. Would you like to write about a vast, enchanted forest, like the one in my book *Woodwitch*? Or an underwater world, like in *Seawitch*?

You could draw mountains, a jungle or a desert island, or even a place you know well, like your local park. Start with the physical features of your world – the rivers, forests, lakes or hills. Then, you can add important locations for your story.

I draw maps for all my books. They help me create mysterious places for my characters to explore.

Powerful plants

The witches in my stories are always brewing up potions with plants they gather in the wild.

In *Seawitch*, they must find a seaweed called rainbow wrack that glows blue underwater. This is a real plant that you can find on British beaches!

Research the plants that'd grow in your story-world. Instead of writing about "trees", think about what type of trees they are – oaks, pines or even prickly cactus.

Curious creatures

The best thing about writing a nature story like I do is that not all your characters have to be human. In the *Hedgewitch* books, the young witches each have a



FUN FACT

SKYE lives in Scotland, but she's originally from Australia – where she was used to being around curious creatures.

Her family rescued wild animals, and she once had a boobook owl sleep in her room overnight!



'familiar' – an animal companion who can talk and do a little magic of their own.

Now you have a map, you can populate it with all sorts of interesting wildlife. When I wrote *Seawitch*, I did a lot of research into what sorts of fish and animals you might see off the Cornish coast. You might even like to invent a few creatures of your own, like the reef wyrms and mimic murex I created for my story.

Fascinating fungi

Mushrooms and fungi are often overlooked, which is a pity because they're incredible! Some fungi form fairy rings on the grass, others ooze bright yellow goo or drip black ink from their caps.

Autumn is a great time to go looking for mushrooms in your park or wood, especially after it rains. What role could fungi play in your story? Are yours mundane or magical? Deadly or delicious? [Remember: never eat a wild mushroom you're not 100% sure about.]

SKYE SAYS: My final tip is to look around you whenever you go outside. Nature is everywhere – even in cities, there are pigeons on the rooftops and wildflowers in the pavement.

Every living thing has a story to share if you use your imagination. Have fun creating a living, breathing world for your next story.

DON'T FORGET!

THERE'S still time to enter 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.

This QR code should be scanned by a responsible adult.



WIN TOP PRIZES!



Find out more at firstnews.co.uk/vodafone

SPOOKTACULAR



BOO AT MARWELL ZOO! HAMPSHIRE

The animals are getting ready for some spooky delights as visitors are invited to dress up for a trip to the zoo! Lowedolf, Marwell's resident wizard, will be teaching little ghouls, ghosts and witches how to fly a broomstick like a pro and there'll be firepits with marshmallows and s'mores kits available. **From 26 to 31 October.** tinyurl.com/marwellboo

GET ready for some frightfully good fun at these events and attractions across the UK.



MEGA MONSTER HUNT BLACKPOOL

Monsters have descended on Blackpool, and it's your job to find them! Stretching from the sea to the city centre, giant inflatables form a trail that can be completed in the day or at night when they light up! The Monster Hunt runs **between 28 October and 3 November.** tinyurl.com/monmeghunt



WICKED PLANT TRAILS AT RHS GARDENS UK

A host of fang-tastic activities are taking place across all five RHS gardens **until 3 November**, from terrifying trails to insect encounters, zombie discos and creepy crafts. tinyurl.com/RHShalfterm



HALLOWEEN STREET PARTY LIVERPOOL

We love a street party, especially when you get to show off your best Halloween outfit! A free celebration takes place in the streets of Liverpool on **27 October**, which will also involve prizes for the best dressed! Other activities in the city include nature and light trails. www.liverpool-one.com



THOUSANDS OF PUMPKINS CARDIFF

Cardiff Halloween Festival is back and better than ever. If searching for the perfect pumpkin is your thing, then you've got tens of thousands to choose from! Also, you can enrol in the Witch & Wizard Academy, try your hand at axe throwing, or dance the day away at the Monster Bash family disco. **Until 31 October.** www.cardiffhalloweenfestival.com



DESIBLITZ LITERATURE FESTIVAL BIRMINGHAM

Celebrate Diwali at the UK's biggest South Asian book festival in Birmingham. Running **until 2 November**, British writers with Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi or Sri Lankan – or 'Desi' – heritage will be celebrated, and there'll be fiction, poetry, storytelling, music, film and TV. www.desiblitz.com/literaturefestival



HALL HIJINKS EDINBURGH

Explore some of the city's most interesting buildings and **Hijinks**. Live painting and film for every visitor will be available. **to 27 October.** www.visitbelieve.com



LEGO BRICK WIND

Trick or Treat with a difference! An extravagant event on **Monster Street**. tinyurl.com/legobrickwind



CINE SCREENS BELFAST

Experience some of the best of British and Irish cinema. Film screenings, live painting parties and film for every visitor. www.visitbelieve.com

FAMILY DAYS OUT



WOW!

HALLOWEEN HISTORY EDINBURGH

...e of the darker sides of history at Edinburgh Castle's Halloween performers will be sharing stories of ghosts and witches, and be able to dress up as a king, queen or court jester. It runs **from 25** ...er and again **on 31 October**. More events are being held at Historic Scotland sites all over the country. tinyurl.com/EdHijinks

Historic Scotland



LEGOLAND WINDSOR PUMPKIN OR TREAT

...t? At LEGOLAND, the only correct phrase is Brick or Treat! The ...ra returns **until 3 November**, where you can solve cryptic puzzles ...Street and boogie with Lord Vampyre at his monstrous disco. [/brkortrt](https://www.legoland.co.uk/brkortrt)

LEGOLAND Windsor



MAGIC SCREENINGS FAST

...ome on-screen magic this half-term with special Halloween movie ...rom a fancy dress watchalong of *The Addams Family* and a face-...y for *Coco*, to a *Room on the Broom* storytelling session, there's a ...one in Belfast. [fast.com/cinemagic-halloween-screenings](https://www.fast.com/cinemagic-halloween-screenings)

istock



LONDON TRANSPORT MUSEUM'S HIDDEN TOURS LONDON



London Transport Museum

Discover 160 years of secrets in the Tube's hidden stations. The London Transport Museum is hosting family tours with exclusive access to spooky spots, like wartime shelters and time-capsule corridors. Children aged ten and over will be able to join the Hidden London tours for the first time. You can explore locations such as the secret parts of Euston Tube Station, the two disused platforms of Holborn, and the deep-level shelter hidden underneath Clapham South, one of the eight secret wartime shelters built in London during the Second World War. www.ltmuseum.co.uk/hidden-london



PUP-KIN PATCH AT DOBBIES UK

Dobbies

Families, friends and four-legged companions are all welcome at Dobbies Garden Centres this half-term. Taking place in 20 stores around the UK, the annual Pumpkin Patch celebrates all things pumpkin. Also new for 2024 is the Pup-kin Patch, which allows dogs to pick out a Halloween-themed toy to take home for £8. tinyurl.com/PupkinPatch



CREEPY CRAWLIES AT THE EDEN PROJECT CORNWALL

The Eden Project

Halloweden activities will allow you to get up close and personal with cool (or creepy!) critters. **From 26 October to 3 November**, meet minibeasts from around the world, including Chilean tarantulas and giant African snails. If animals aren't for you, then you can escape to Eden's magical ice rink. tinyurl.com/Halloweden



KEEP up-to-date with daily news stories and enjoy our fun Wordie game over on the *First News* app! There's plenty to enjoy when you have a bit of downtime over the holidays!



ZOMBIE COOKIES!

DAVE Pigeon and his sidekick Skipper are determined to find and eat all of your biscuits! Don't let them steal these amazing Halloween bakes, though!

INGREDIENTS

MAKES: 10-15
TOTAL TIME: 15 MINUTES

- 125g butter, softened
- 100g light brown soft sugar
- 125g caster sugar
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 225g self-raising flour
- ½ tsp salt
- 200g chocolate chips
- 3 drops of green food colouring

Ask an adult to help!



METHOD:

1. Preheat oven to 180°C (fan assisted 160°C), 350°F or gas mark 4.
2. Mix the butter and sugars. When that's nice and creamy, add in the egg and vanilla.
3. Sift in the flour and salt, then throw in the chocolate chips. Next, add in the drops of food colouring.
4. Roll into walnut-sized balls and place on ungreased baking paper.
5. Bake for seven minutes until the cookies are just setting. This makes sure that they're really gooey and delicious.
6. Take out of the oven and leave to harden for a minute before transferring to a wire cooling rack. Store them away somewhere cool, dry and away from any hungry pigeons!

The comically creepy adventure *Dave Pigeon (Zombies!)* is available to buy now.



GHOSTS MAKE GOOD SIDEKICKS!



Ghost Edgar Wilde (left) and his friend Matilda Lockett

GHOSTS get a pretty bad rep.

We mostly fear them and dread the thought of ever seeing one, but if books and films teach us one thing about them, it's that they're not all bad!

That's certainly the case for Edgar Wilde, a ghost boy who teams up with a girl called Matilda Lockett in a new book, *Lockett & Wilde's Dreadfully Haunting Mysteries: The Ghosts of the Manor*.

The clue's in the title! Together, the girl and ghost duo set about solving some spooky mysteries at a grand old haunted house called Beauchamp Manor.

That's just half the story, though. The tale is brilliantly brought to life

with illustrations that'll set your spine tingling just as much as the plot will.

"The illustrations are very much part of the story," says the book's author, Lucy Strange. "They hold lots of exciting clues to help readers solve the mysteries!"

So, keep your eyes peeled if you fancy joining Lockett and Wilde for a spot of supernatural snooping this Halloween.

Keep them peeled, too, for the next book in the series! Lockett and Wilde will have another case to solve in *The Ghosts of London* – out next autumn. *Lockett & Wilde's Dreadfully Haunting Mysteries: The Ghosts of the Manor* by Lucy Strange, illustrated by Pam Smy, is out now.

MORE SUPER SPOOKY SIDEKICKS...



● **Casper the Friendly Ghost**
The friendliest ghost of all! The kind and thoughtful spirit began life (or, rather, 'death'...) as a cartoon character and got his own full-blown film in the 1990s.



● **Moaning Myrtle from Harry Potter**
The ghost who haunts the girls' toilets at Hogwarts and gives Harry helpful hints so that he can survive his time at school.



● **The ghosts from A Christmas Carol**
The ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future show Scrooge how to change his wicked ways in this classic festive tale.



★ WICKED WIZARDS RETURN!



David Henrie
(Justin Russo)



GABRIELLE NEVAEH

THIS wicked new series, *Wizards Beyond Waverly Place*, is set to be our must-watch Halloween TV! It follows Justin Russo, who has chosen to lead a normal, mortal life with his family. But when Justin's sister Alex brings Billie to his home seeking help, Justin realises he must dust off his magical skills to

mentor the wizard-in-training and safeguard the future of the Wizard World! David Henrie (Justin) and Janice LeAnn Brown (Billie) give us the gossip.

I wouldn't ask for any other family, genuinely. They all make me feel so safe and secure to just be myself. It's kind of like how Billie is feeling with the Russos in the show.

● Hi David and Janice! Can you tell us all about *Wizards Beyond Waverly Place*?

David: Absolutely! Selena Gomez and I really sought to recreate the magic of the original show, but get to pass that love on to a new generation. But at the same time, give the original fans an experience they can have with their niece or nephew or their child, because a lot of the original fans are starting to have their own kids. So we really are hoping for that wonderful co-viewing experience here.

● David, how does it feel to return to the role of Justin after all these years?

David: It was actually really easy for me because I am a dad myself. I have three kids, and I've just pretty much accepted the fact that I am Justin in my own house as well. I care about rules and discipline, so it was really easy. And getting to reunite with Selena was amazing. In our very first scene together it was like we hadn't missed a moment.

● If you could have a magical power in real life, what would it be?

David: It would be to be in perfect control of my emotions at all times, although that might get a little annoying after a while.

Janice: I'd want to do telekinesis so I could just go to a forest and make water float, put fish in it and make a beautiful scenery and take pictures.

● Janice, what's it like joining such an iconic show as a brand-new character?

Janice: It's truly an honour. I honestly sometimes don't even believe it's true. The best thing is I get to build a family on set, and

★ *Wizards Beyond Waverly Place* is available on Disney+ from 30 October. ★



GABRIELLE Nevaeh stars as Pandora in *Curses!* – an animated series about the Vanderhouvern family, who are all cursed because their ancestors stole ancient artefacts from across the globe. Here, she tells us more about the show and playing the character of Pandora.

● Hi Gabrielle! What's the best thing about playing Pandora?

I really love her vibrancy. She's very adventurous and she tackles challenges head on. She doesn't show that she's scared very often, and that's what I admire about her. Also, her vocal sound is really fun to play. She's kind of pinched and in a different part of my throat, and I like exploring that childlike wonder that she has.

● If Pandora could travel anywhere in the world for her next adventure, where would you want her to go?

I would want her to go to New York City because I feel like there's a lot of unspoken lore about New York that we could explore, even if it's just fictional. Maybe there are really big rats that Pandora and the family have to fight or something like that. I think that could be fun.

● If you could have any magical artefact from the show in real life, which one would you choose?

There was an episode where we got shrunk. I think we drank something that made us really, really small. So I think I would have that because it would just be fun to walk around my house and go under my couch and go under my bed, and just look around at the world from a different perspective.

Catch the second season of *Curses!* on Apple TV+ now.



Edward Cooke

● *Sing: Thriller* comes to Netflix

The *Sing* crew are celebrating Halloween in style with a brand-new animated short film. After staging a spectacular version of the show *Thriller* at the New Moon Theatre, Buster Moon and his friends leave to celebrate at Clay Calloway's Halloween party. But when they arrive, they discover a mysterious, multi-coloured ooze has transformed Clay and his guests into dancing freaks! Watch the film on Netflix now.



● *The Creakers* hits the stage!

Tom Fletcher's hit book *The Creakers* has been turned into a stage show – and it's arriving at Theatre Royal Plymouth today (25 October) for half term. The musical show, all about Lucy and the kids of Whiffington discovering the world of Creakers, will transfer to London's Southbank Centre on 18 December.





GHOULS AND GAMES!



Luigi's Mansion 3

AS it's Halloween, we're throwing it back to 2019 for a ghastly game that guarantees a great time!

Luigi's Mansion 3 seemingly sees Luigi living the 'suite' life when he gets invited for a relaxing hotel getaway with Mario and co.

However, things start to get a bit frightening when Mario and his friends are trapped inside paintings.

Luigi must face his fears – and ghosts – to figure out how to save them.

It's not often that Luigi takes centre stage, but he also stars alongside Mario in the upcoming Switch adventure, *Mario & Luigi: Brotherhood*.

It has fewer ghosts and more brotherly bonding, but there's still a big problem to sort out.

The world of Concordia has broken apart, with its inhabitants spread far apart from each other. The bros must sail the vast seas to reconnect the islands and save the day. Ship ahoy!



Nintendo

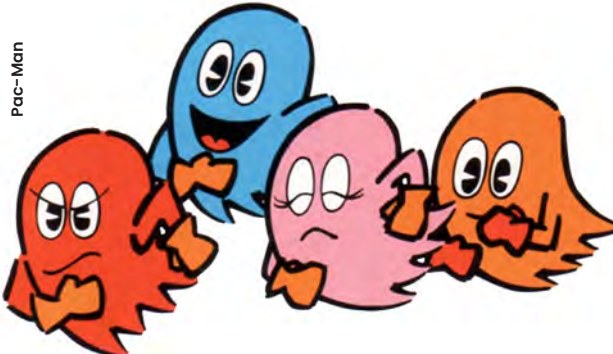
Luigi's Mansion 3 has lots of spooky surprises

Mario & Luigi: Brotherhood is out on Nintendo Switch on 7 November.

Who's the most iconic ghost?

WE think videogame ghosts are great, even if they can be a bit annoying at times!

But who's the most iconic ghost? It could be King Boo (chasing Luigi, below left). He's an ally of Bowser and enjoys tricking his enemies, especially if they're big cowards (we're looking at you, Luigi!).



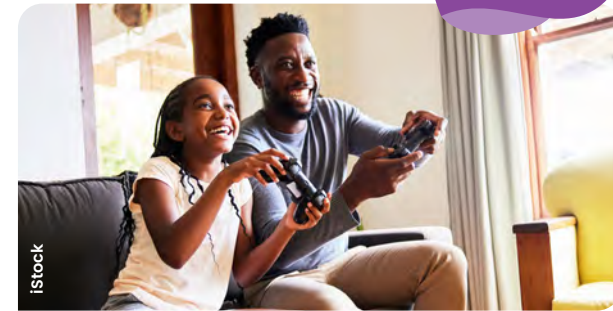
Pac-Man

Then, first introduced back in 1980, there are the four *Pac-Man* ghosts. Blinky, Pinky, Inky and Clyde are the main enemies of *Pac-Man*. They use their different abilities to try to stop the yellow creature before he can eat all of the *Pac-Dots*, so they're not as cute as they look!

There's also this character, who's really ghastly. No, really, it's *Gastly!* The Ghost/Poison-type Pokémon evolves into *Haunter* and then *Gengar*.



Pokémon



Videogames could be good for the brain!

A NEW study has found that playing videogames could have positive effects on your brain.

Over 2,000 participants from around the world took part in the study for the Manchester Science Festival.

First, a survey asked them about their lifestyle, before they got stuck into some games that measure their cognition – a word that describes the mental processes that happen in the brain.

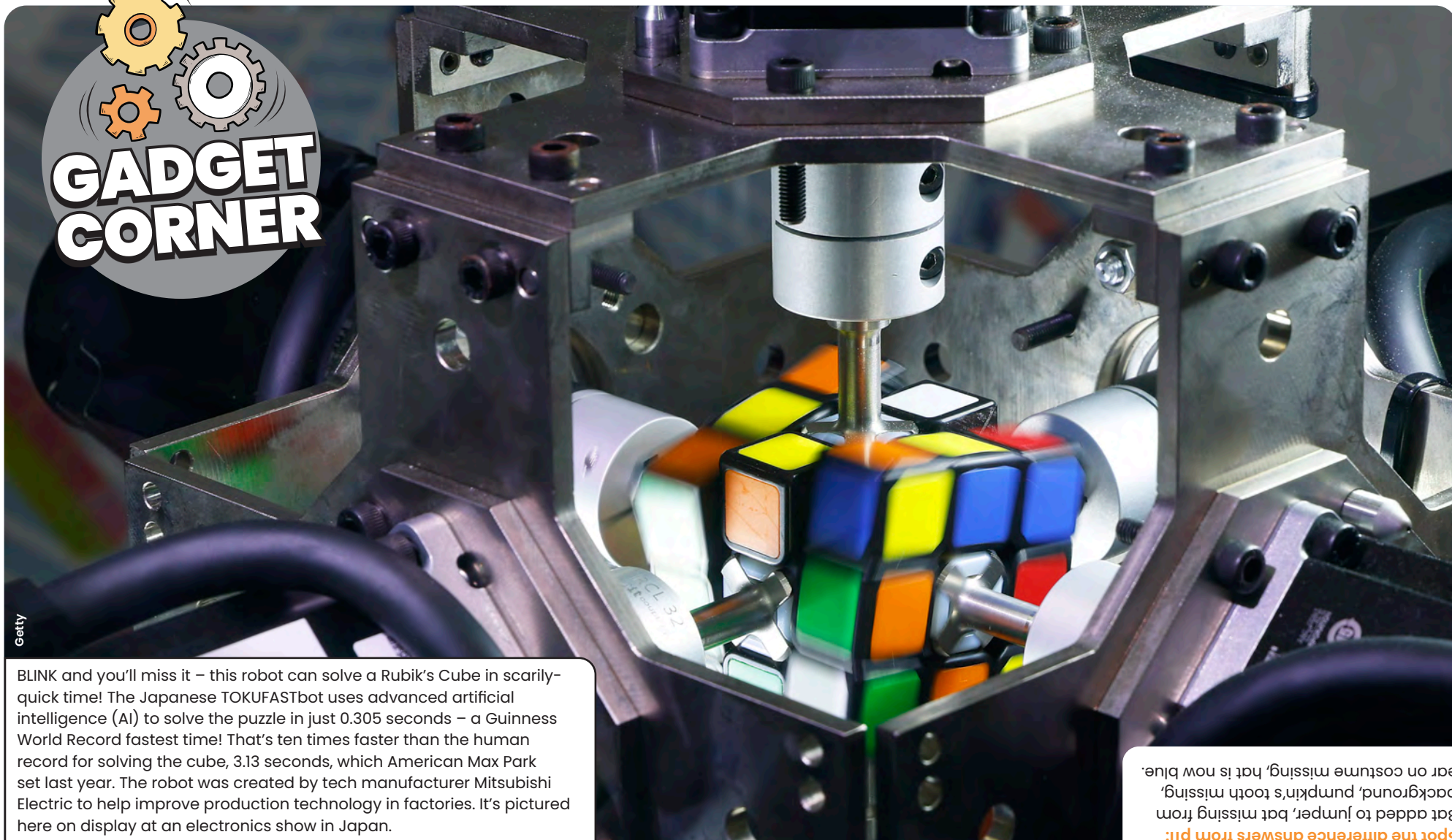
These include thinking, attention, language, learning and memory.

Among roughly 1,000 people who finished all the tasks, playing the games had a positive effect on cognition.

However, videogames aren't a substitute for exercise, which was seen to improve mental wellbeing.

These findings were part of the 'Brain and Body' study, a collaboration between Western University, Canada, and the Science and Industry Museum for the Manchester Science Festival.

More details of the findings will be revealed at the festival, which runs until 27 October.



Getty

BLINK and you'll miss it – this robot can solve a Rubik's Cube in scarily-quick time! The Japanese TOKUFASTbot uses advanced artificial intelligence (AI) to solve the puzzle in just 0.305 seconds – a Guinness World Record fastest time! That's ten times faster than the human record for solving the cube, 3.13 seconds, which American Max Park set last year. The robot was created by tech manufacturer Mitsubishi Electric to help improve production technology in factories. It's pictured here on display at an electronics show in Japan.

Spot the difference answers from p11: But added to jumper, but missing from background, pumpkin's tooth missing, ear on costume missing, hat is now blue.



McDONALD TRUMP!

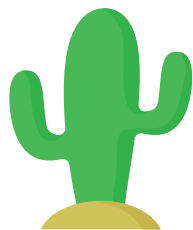
PRESIDENTIAL candidate and former US president Donald Trump was spotted flipping burgers and serving fries at a McDonald's restaurant in Pennsylvania, USA.

The unusual sight drew crowds of curious onlookers. The stunt is believed to be a dig at his rival Kamala

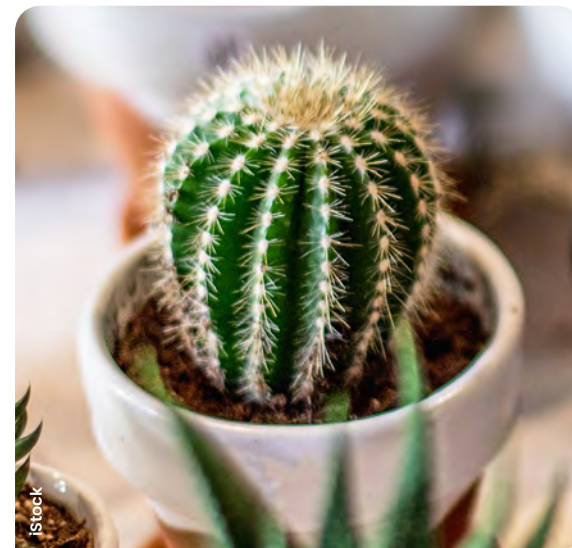
Harris' claims of working at McDonald's in her youth, which Trump claims is a lie.

Trump told the owner of the fast-food restaurant: "I'm looking for a job. I've always wanted to work at McDonald's, but I never did. I'm running against somebody that said she did."

Getty



Town's cactus crackdown



THE mayor of Plettenberg, Germany, has banned cactus plants from all public buildings, including schools and daycare centres.

The unusual move came after a man hurt his arm on a cactus in a local school.

The mayor ordered all cacti to be removed right away, calling them health hazards that "cause ugly injuries".

He said: "[The order] has a serious background in terms of protecting the health of all employees and especially children in schools and daycare centres."

Some people think it's a bit silly, but the mayor has insisted that it's for everyone's safety.

Runaway pumpkin causes chaos!



A HILARIOUS video shows a police officer in a small town getting swallowed up by a massive inflatable pumpkin.

The Halloween decoration had blown into the street in Bay Village, Ohio, USA, and was causing traffic problems, so the officer tried to come to the rescue.

But when he tried to move the inflatable, the wind

picked up and the pumpkin collapsed on top of him!

The officer managed to escape after about half a minute and called for backup.

Luckily, another officer and a local resident came to the rescue, and they finally got the runaway pumpkin back to its owner.

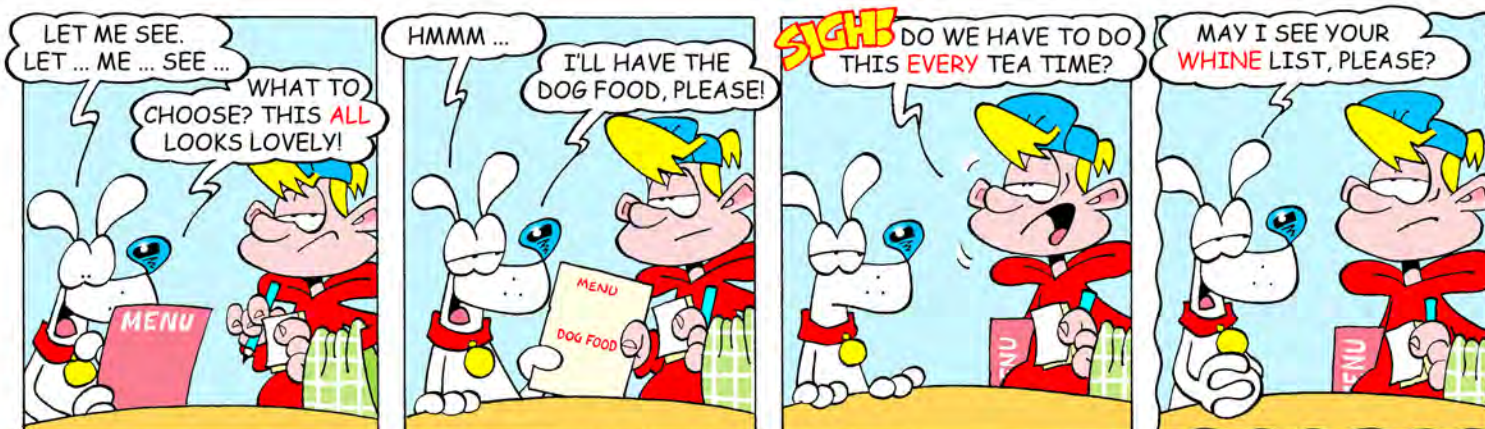
JOKE OF THE WEEK

ha ha ha

What did the pumpkin say to its carver?
Cut it out!



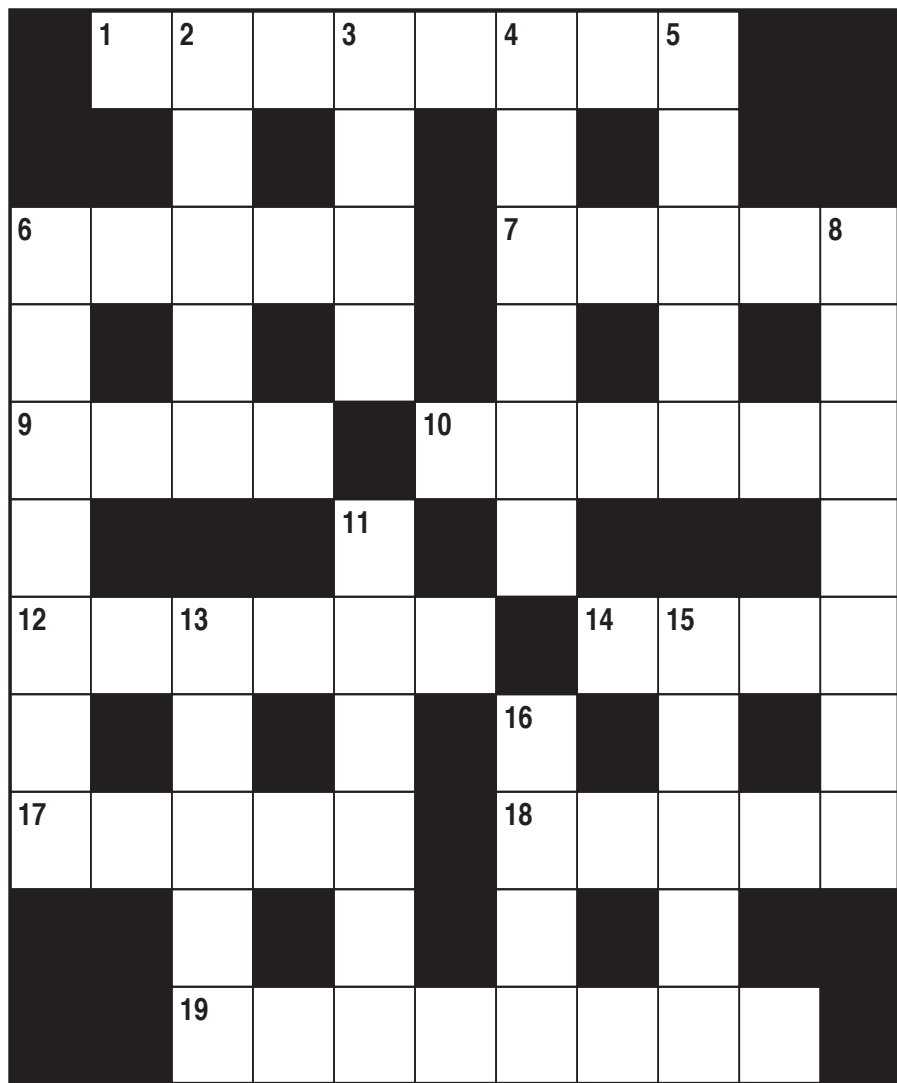
Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer





CROSSWORD

CAN you solve our crossword puzzle using the clues below?



ACROSS

- 1 Kind and giving (8)
- 6 Dog-like African mammal (5)
- 7 Finished (5)
- 9 States (4)
- 10 Shelter for a dog (6)
- 12 Choice (6)
- 14 See; notice (4)
- 17 It makes bread rise (5)
- 18 Watch over in order to protect (5)
- 19 All the bones of the body (8)

DOWN

- 2 All (5)
- 3 Type of Dutch cheese (4)
- 4 Unwrapped a present (6)
- 5 Country in NE Africa (5)
- 6 The study of the past (7)
- 8 Erased (7)
- 11 Container for a drink (6)
- 13 Rips (5)
- 15 A musical instrument (5)
- 16 Mythical monster (4)



Sudoku

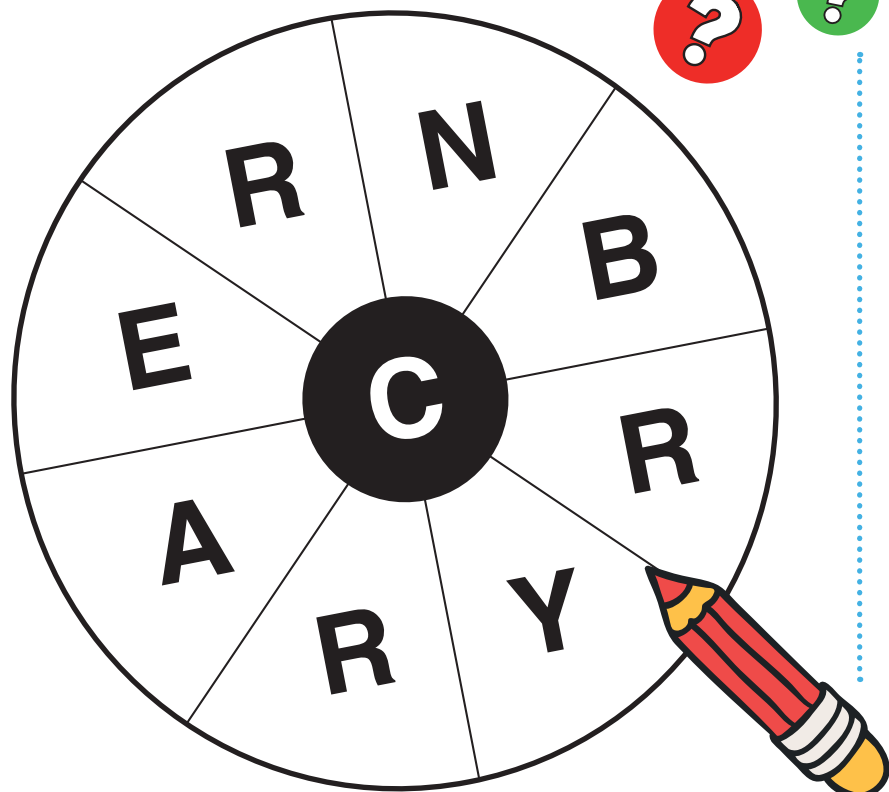
CAN you complete our sudoku puzzle, filling in the numbers one to nine?

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

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.

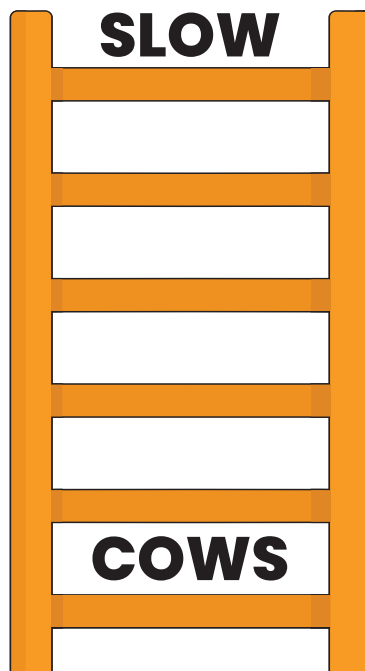
Word wheel

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 957 ANSWERS:

Word wheel: attribute.

Word ladder: boys, bays, rays, rats, rate, race.

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



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



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

Love reading

FirstNews?

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

DAILY NEWS

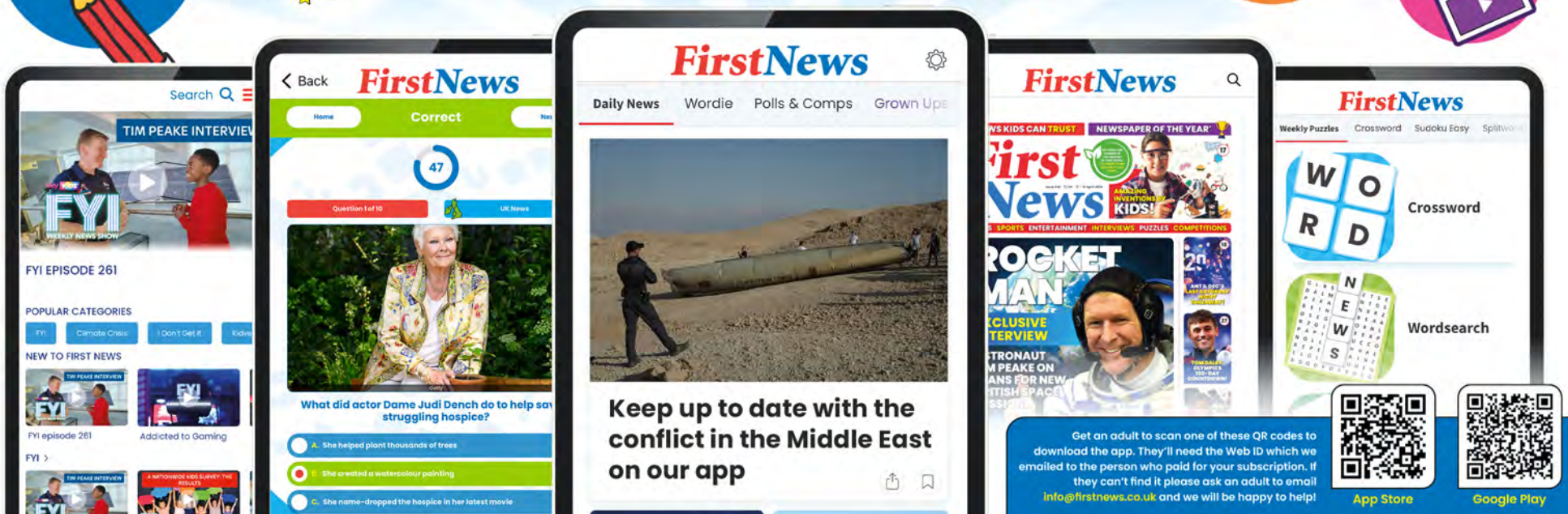
PLAY FUN GAMES

AWESOME PUZZLES

WATCH SKY FYI

PLAY OUR BRAND NEW WEEKLY NEWS QUIZ!

VIDEOS



IN NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE!

TALK MONEY WEEK



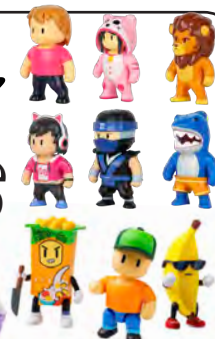
MTV EMA 2024



THE PADEL CRAZE!

DON'T MISS IT!

WIN! STUMBLE GUYS BUNDLES



DIVE into the chaotic world of Stumble Guys!

Whether you're a seasoned fan or new to the game, bring the action-packed excitement of *Stumble Guys* to life with the new, colourful and creative collection of toys featuring fan-favourite characters (aka "Stumblers") in the form of blind bags, collectable figures and huggable plushes. With an assortment of characters as diverse as the *Stumble Guys* world, you'll love to collect them all! Available at The Entertainer.

To celebrate, we're giving five lucky readers the chance to win an exclusive branded box of official *Stumble Guys* toys containing the following goodies. Each box is worth £70.

- Five blind boxes
- A five-pack blister
- A clip-on plush
- A 20cm plush
- An action figure

All you have to do is answer this question:

- Who wrote *The Creakers*?
- a) Tom Fletcher
 - b) Charles Dickens
 - c) Michael Morpurgo



ENTER NOW!
MARK YOUR ENTRY STUMBLE GUYS

first.news/comps or see page 20. The closing date is 8 November.



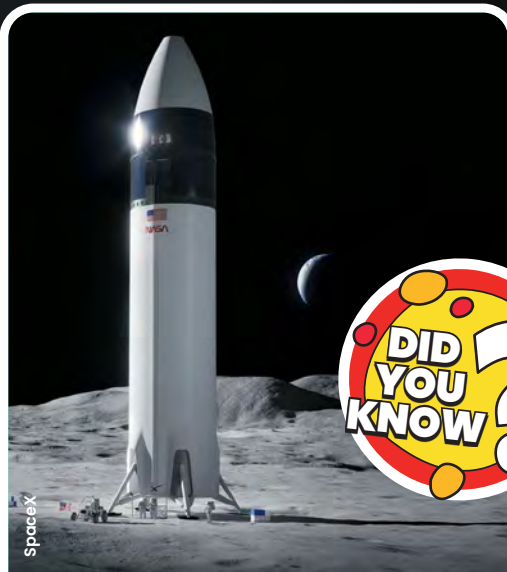
FROM CATWALK TO MOONWALK

THE astronauts who are due to land on the moon on NASA's Artemis III mission should be more comfortable than the original moonwalkers, thanks to this new Prada-designed spacesuit.

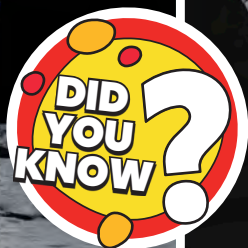
The cool design was unveiled by Axiom Space and Prada at the International Astronautical Congress in Milan, Italy, last week.

The two companies said that the Axiom Extravehicular Mobility Unit (AxEMU) will "protect astronauts against the unique challenges of the lunar environment and visually inspire future space exploration".

Spacesuits aren't exactly known for being cosy, so Prada's expertise with materials and sewing techniques was used to make these new suits more flexible and comfortable, which will make astronauts' jobs easier.



NASA'S Artemis III mission is scheduled for the end of 2026 and will be the first time that humans have set foot on the moon since the last Apollo mission in December 1972. The crew is expected to include the first woman and first person of colour to stand on the moon.



The new spacesuit designed by fashion label Prada

Invasive snake is as safe as houses

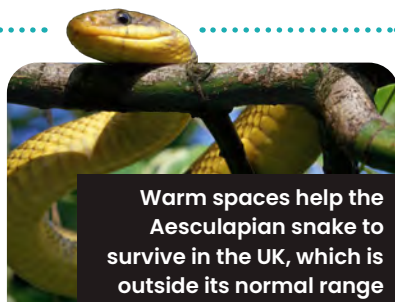
A NON-NATIVE snake species is surviving in the UK because it's learned to take advantage of human spaces, such as lofts, wall spaces and even compost heaps.

The Aesculapian snake is harmless but can grow to 2m long, which is about double the size of the UK's biggest native species, the grass snake.

There are three populations in the UK – one near London Zoo, and two in Wales. One of those is in Bridgend, but it was the one

near the Welsh Mountain Zoo in Colwyn Bay that's been studied by scientists led by Tom Major at Bournemouth University.

They put tracking devices on 21 snakes and found that the males especially liked sheltering in lofts and wall cavities in houses. The females seem to especially like resting in compost heaps. They also use them to lay their eggs in, as well as in piles of wood chippings or vegetation, and even a dung heap at the zoo!



Warm spaces help the Aesculapian snake to survive in the UK, which is outside its normal range

The UK has only **three** native species of snake

The adder is the only venomous one, but only **14** humans have been killed by them in the UK since **1876**, and the last death was in **1975**

But around the world, **110,000** people are killed by snakes every year

Can humans make hurricanes?

IF you read last week's issue, you'll have seen our story about the theories that the recent hurricanes in the US were deliberately created by the government.

If you wondered why on earth anyone would believe such nonsense, two psychologists who specialise in conspiracy theories have explained.

Daniel Jolley and Iwan Dinnick research where these theories come from, and they say they often emerge when people feel unsafe and want to get back a sense of control over their environment.

Studies have shown that those who are more likely to be affected by a hurricane are more likely to believe conspiracies that it was man-made.



Hurricane Milton as it passed over the Gulf of Mexico

The researchers say the big problem is that the more people believe in climate-related conspiracies, the less likely they are to take action on climate change. But as climate change gets worse, the more natural disasters there'll be, so this will only make more people turn to conspiracies in the future.

Exercises that get people to think critically about fake news and conspiracies can reduce these beliefs, but getting enough people to take part in them in the first place isn't very easy.

This report is from the Science Museum

SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

AT just 18 years old, Mary Shelley created one of the earliest and most iconic examples of science fiction in her book *Frankenstein*.

Published in 1818, the novel tells the story of Victor Frankenstein, who became obsessed with science and tried to create the perfect being from body parts. Unnamed in the book, the monster is nowadays known by the name of its creator.

While the creature came from Shelley's imagination, she was inspired by the science discoveries of her time. She took inspiration for Victor Frankenstein from Humphry Davy, a famous chemist who had carried out revolutionary experimental work on electricity. Davy's lectures were famous and hundreds of people, including Shelley, would cram into lecture theatres to see him speak and demonstrate experiments.



Humphry Davy giving a lecture in around 1810



WILL HARRIS TOP TRUMP?



DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATE: KAMALA DEVI HARRIS

Age: 60

Political experience: She's the current vice president and, before that, was a senator for the state of California. She has also been the state's top legal advisor.

Policies: Harris says she wants to lower energy costs and tackle the climate crisis; invest in affordable childcare; bring down the cost of healthcare; stop big business from unreasonably increasing the cost of groceries; and she says she wants to lower taxes for working people.

Best crowd-pleaser: Picking Tim Walz as her running mate, the person who'll become vice president if she wins the election. Walz is seen as someone with 'big dad energy' who'll appeal to working-class voters in rural parts of the US, such as Nebraska, his home state.

Weak spot: Critics mock her baffling attempts to make a point in speeches. These 'word salads' are one reason why many voters haven't connected with her.

What's unique about her: She's the first woman, first black American, and first South Asian American to be US vice president.

ON 5 November, people in the US will head to the polls to decide who they want to be their next president, and the whole world will be watching. But why should we care?

What's it all about?

Every four years, the US gets to vote for their president. The current big cheese, Joe Biden, isn't standing again, so the choice is between the current vice president, the Democratic Party's Kamala Harris, or the Republican Party's Donald Trump, who's been president once before. There are also some independent candidates, but none has a hope of winning. The US has only ever had one president who didn't belong to a political party – George Washington, who was the first ever president, back in 1789!

Why should I be bothered?

Although there are countries around the world that are very negative towards the US, the country has a lot of power and money, which give it a huge influence in global politics. That's especially relevant to the Middle East conflict right now, as the US has been the main supporter of Israel for many years, which has allowed Israel to build up its military and defend itself from attacks.

How will it work and what could happen?

The US election is complicated, but each of the 50 states have their own elections. People's votes technically go towards choosing 'electors', and there are 538 in total across the country. That means a candidate needs to get the votes of 270 electors to become president. Most of the states lean towards Democrat or Republican, so the result is only really in doubt in a handful of 'battleground' or 'swing' states. The seven states that could decide the result this year are Nevada, Arizona, Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Georgia.



REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATE: DONALD JOHN TRUMP

Age: 78

Political experience: He was president from 2017 to 2021, but before that had no political experience. His term in office included having to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic.

Policies: Trump's '20 core promises' include to seal the borders and stop the "migrant invasion"; "prevent World War Three"; cancel the government's targets for electric vehicles; and to cut the taxes that ordinary workers pay.

Best crowd-pleaser: He regularly gets a big cheer for his slogan of 'Make America great again'.

Weak spot: When Trump lost the 2020 election, he claimed that the results were fixed and encouraged his supporters to march on the Capitol, the US parliament building. They caused more than a million dollars' worth of damage and five people died, but no evidence of fraud was ever found in the election. His opponents won't let him forget it.

What's unique about him: Before he became president, Trump fronted the US version of the TV show *The Apprentice* and turned "You're fired!" into a globally-recognisable catchphrase.

HOW DOES THE US GOVERNMENT WORK?

THE government in America is kind of similar to the Houses of Parliament in the UK, which has MPs in the House of Commons plus peers in the House of Lords to keep the government in check.

The US Congress

Congress is made up of the House of Representatives and the Senate. There are 100 senators, two from each of the 50 states, and 435 members of the House of Representatives, who look after smaller local areas in each state.

How many parties are there?

The US really only has two parties – the Democrats and Republicans. In the whole of Congress, only four independent senators don't belong to either of those two. At the moment, control of Congress is about as close as it's ever been, with the Democrats having a slight advantage in the Senate, while the Republicans have an eight-seat majority in the House. However, that could all change after 5 November, as the election isn't just for the president – every seat in the House is also up for grabs, as well as a third of the seats in the Senate.



WILL FAKE NEWS BE AN ISSUE?

DONALD Trump probably did more than anyone else to make the term 'fake news', famous, but he's also been accused of spreading it – a lot.

It's already played a part in this election, after Trump helped to spread the lie that Haitian immigrants in Springfield were eating people's pets. The local police, mayor and governor all said there was no truth in it, but the lies led to bomb threats against schools and other buildings.

Add in all of the convincing 'deepfake' videos, pictures and audio that AI (artificial intelligence) has helped to create, and is there a worry that voters will be taken in by fake news?

Thankfully, the evidence so far suggests we don't need to worry about all this stuff changing the result of an election. That's partly because most of it is only seen by a small group of people who already agree with the messages that the fake news is trying to spread anyway.

Experts say the main worry is that this kind of thing widens the divisions that are already present in society, which could make it harder to bring people together to solve a country's problems.



Haitian migrants in the US protest against the hatred that's been shown towards them



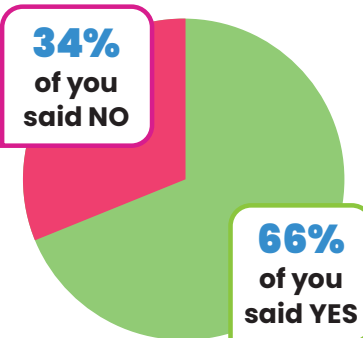
HELLO! I'm Milly, the leader of the *First News FYI News Club*.

On Your News this week, we hear from Ams, who uses music to help her stay calm. Life can be stressful sometimes, and it's really important to find ways to relax. Like Ams, I also find music calming, especially singing and playing piano! I also love walking and spending time in nature. What helps you to stay calm? Let me know and send in your stories. You might just end up on Your News! You can find out how to do that on the top right of these pages.

THIS WEEK'S POLL!

We asked 2,456 of you:

Are the Red Arrows' CO₂ emissions worth it?



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Vote at first.news/polls



BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS, ONE BRICK AT A TIME

GEORGE was born with spinal muscular atrophy type 2, a condition that causes muscle weakness. He's spent a lot of time campaigning for people with disabilities and recently won an award for it!

by George

I'm proud to campaign for better accessibility and more acceptance for people with disabilities. I love doing this and was amazed to win the Positive Role Model for Disability award at this year's National Diversity Awards.

I travelled all the way from Kent to Liverpool Anglican Cathedral for the event. The atmosphere was electric, with nothing but good vibes and amazing music, including children's and adult choirs.

Clare Balding hosted the awards and I went on stage to receive mine. I talked about the change I want to see and explained how sometimes it feels that the wall we need to break down is too big. It frustrates me that it cannot just be knocked down. But like all those who fought before us, moving one brick at a time makes a difference. Every brick removed allows a piece of light to shine in. I'm so proud that I have moved one of those bricks to help create a more inclusive and accessible world.



Kirsty Garland

George with his Positive Role Model for Disability award

HEAR MORE FROM GEORGE



Find out more about George's story in *FYI Investigates: Disability and Me* by heading to first.news/disabilityandme or getting a responsible adult to scan the QR code.

Drumming keeps me calm!



Ams playing drums

A COUPLE of weeks ago in our poll, we asked you if you thought music was as important as maths, and Ams is someone who definitely thinks it is. She uses drumming to help keep her calm and tells you all about it below.

by Ams

I started drumming about a year ago and I still leave every lesson buzzing. Playing my favourite songs always cheers me up and helps me take my mind off things. As an AuDHD girl (somebody with both autism spectrum disorder and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) who also has a panic disorder, I have panic attacks a lot! A while ago I had panic attacks basically everywhere. I even felt one start in my drum lesson, but the second I started drumming, I calmed down.

Drumming became the only space where I didn't have panic attacks. I thank my teacher, Lee, for that because my drum lessons at MD MusicLab are always a safe space where I can talk about my struggles or just drum. I can take a breather whenever I want to, although I have never needed to. Drumming helps me release any bad emotions and put them into my favourite songs!

NEWS CLUB SHOUT-OUT!

THIS WEEK WE'RE GIVING SHOUT-OUTS TO... Castle Court School, Craigmarloch School, Palmers Green High School, Greenbank Preparatory School and William Austin Junior School!

A night at Wembley for the Eras Tour



JUNIOR JOURNALIST

SYLVIE'S dreams came true when she went to see Taylor Swift at Wembley Stadium for the Eras Tour. Find out what she thought of it below!

by Sylvie

On the way to Paddington station we could see other people on the train going to the concert too. You could tell by the bracelets on their wrists. There are no words to describe the crowds on the Tube – it was so busy that we could barely get a spot. Whoever got a seat was very lucky, besides the fact they were probably getting squashed!

When we got to Wembley ('we' meaning me and my mum), we could see everybody smooshed together, covering all the space on the pathway. As we started walking I noticed a stall and I bought a big pink, sparkly, fluffy cowboy hat! I do regret buying it because it did not fit me at all! It wasn't a big queue to get in through the gates, but the security was taken very seriously.

We could see the stage quite well from our seats. When Taylor came on, everyone was so excited and screamed so loudly, but I didn't need my ear defenders.

My personal favourite song was *We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together* and my favourite outfit was the *Reputation* costume, but they were all amazing.

Everyone was so friendly and chatty and dressed up. I traded my bracelets and danced a lot – it was so cool. Taylor Swift played for over three hours! By the time we got home it was about 1am and I was very tired but very happy.

WANT TO FEATURE ON YOUR NEWS?

FirstNews FYI NEWS CLUB

sky kids

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 asking 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/fyinewsclub.

COMPETITION WINNERS TOUR PARLIAMENT



EARLIER this year, *First News* teamed up with the British Chambers of Commerce to launch a competition to find four inspiring entrepreneurs. Recently, the winners got to redeem their prize – a tour of the Houses of Parliament!

L-R: Maya, Liberty, Ravi and Patrick were awarded with their certificates in the Palace of Westminster



PLAN YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE

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

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

THIS week on *FYI*, presenter Jeriah celebrates Black History Month with the Great Big Live Assembly. You can watch the full clip and more at [first.news/TV](https://www.firstnews.co.uk).

OCTOBER is Black History Month. You might have celebrated it at home or school already but, if you haven't, you can find out more on this week's *FYI*!

● **What is Black History Month?**

Black History Month happens every October. It gives people an opportunity to learn about and celebrate the lives of black people throughout history.

● **What is the Great Big Live Assembly?**

The Great Big Live Assembly is run by a charity called the Sanctuary Foundation. To celebrate this year's Black History Month, it live-streamed an assembly to 203,000 people in 1,100 schools!

● **How was Jeriah involved?**

Jeriah was asked to help present the Great Big Live Assembly. He spoke about his black heroes in honour of this year's Black History Month theme, 'Reclaiming



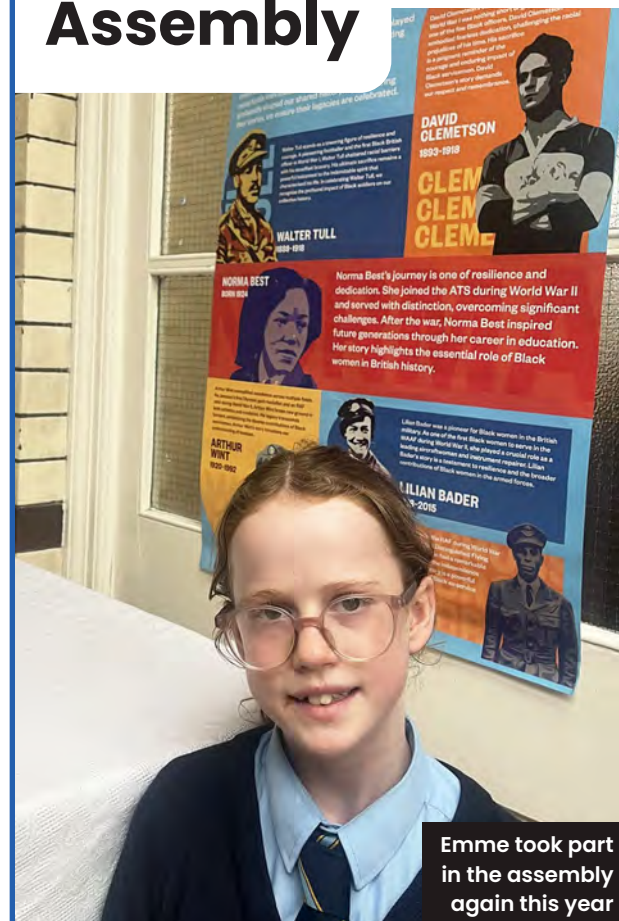
FYI's Jeriah talked about his heroes – read on below to find out more!

Narratives'. You can find out more about them below!

● **How can you get your school involved?**

Although you've missed the live assembly, it was recorded, meaning you can still watch the full thing on YouTube. Just get your teacher to follow the links below. For primary schools, go to tinyurl.com/gblprimary. For secondary schools, go to tinyurl.com/gblasecondary.

Taking part in the Great Big Live Assembly



Emme took part in the assembly again this year

EMME took part in the Great Big Live Assembly with her school. She tells you how they got on and how they have been celebrating Black History Month.

by Emme

Each school year, we have a different Black History Month theme and we take part in the Great Big Live Assembly. Last year, the theme was 'Saluting Our Sisters' and our main focus was on inspirational black British women. Their stories were unbelievable! We researched their backgrounds, and found out about the inequalities they faced and how they persevered!

This year, the theme is 'Reclaiming Narratives'. We've learned about many impressive black figures' stories from their perspective. These people range from scientists, judges, authors and teachers, to people who work in the army.

We have thought deeply about their successes and what they have been through, and this has grown our own awareness.

The Great Big Live Assembly was great and I liked hearing Letitia Wright, a British actor, speak about her life. In the assembly, we heard about the riots in Liverpool this summer. It looks like we still have a lot of work to do against racism.

Who are your heroes this Black History Month? Let us know by writing in to yournews@firstnews.co.uk.

Jeriah's heroes

JERIAH spoke about his Black History Month heroes in the Great Big Live Assembly. His three heroes were Ruby Bridges, Anthony Joshua and Baroness Floella Benjamin.



RUBY BRIDGES

- In 1960, she was the first African-American to go to an all-white school. Before that, black and white children learned in different schools and some people believed that was the way it should stay
- Aged six, with US Marshals protecting her, she had to walk to school past protesters shouting horrible things at her
- She fought for her education and continues to campaign for children to have equal rights in education today



ANTHONY JOSHUA

- Anthony Joshua is a famous boxer
- He is one of the UK's most successful boxers
- He has had 28 wins and just four losses in his career so far
- Even during hard times, he shows resilience. He always finds a way to bounce back and step into the boxing ring again

BARONESS FLOELLA BENJAMIN

- Baroness Floella Benjamin started out in the world of presenting for children's TV, just like Jeriah!
- She won a BAFTA Fellowship award for her contributions to the television industry



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FirstNews Quiz

THE answers to all these questions can be found in the pages of this issue. Why not set yourself, or your friends and family, a time challenge to see who can get the highest score in the quickest time? See how well you did by checking the answers at the bottom.

1 US presidential candidate Donald Trump was spotted working in which fast-food restaurant?

2 The Royal Mint has unveiled new coins featuring animals from what historical age?



3 Which English club did footie legend Trevor Francis lead to European glory?



4 A video from the US shows a man getting swallowed by a huge inflatable what?

5 This weekend, do the clocks go forward or back?

6 The Inírida flower features on the logo of what upcoming climate conference?



7 *The Creakers* has been turned into a stage show. Which author and singer wrote the book?

8 Visitors to China's Xiaomeisha Sea World were shocked to find that the giant whale shark was what?



9 Which London train line has been awarded a prestigious architecture prize?

10 Greenpeace now says that protecting 30% of the oceans won't happen until what year?



11 The Japanese TOKUFASTbot can solve which puzzle in record time?

12 To try to control a disease called bovine tuberculosis (bTB), which animals are being culled?

13 The Grand Egyptian Museum has opened some of its galleries. But in which city, known for its pyramids, is it in?



14 Which voice assistant has been giving its users wrong information?

15 Which fashion label has designed a spacesuit for the Artemis III mission?

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](https://www.firstnews.co.uk/quiz) and on the *First News* app!

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

Question 1 of 10: Which sport was recently featured in the headlines for the Winter Olympics?
A. Skiing

KIWIS SOAR TO NEW HEIGHTS!



Melie Kerr was the star of the final, scoring 43 runs and taking three wickets

NEW Zealand have won their first ever Women's T20 World Cup title, after they pulled off a surprise 32-run victory over South Africa.

New Zealand had lost ten games in a row coming into the tournament, so to rack up 158, the second-highest total ever in a final, showed how much they've managed to turn things around.

It makes New Zealand only the fourth team to ever get their hands on the trophy – their neighbours Australia

have won six out of nine tournaments, while England and the West Indies are the only other winners.

It was also a big moment in another way for New Zealand's Suzie Bates, who racked up her 334th international appearance across T20 and one-day matches. That makes her the most-capped female player ever.

And in case anyone's thinking that we're idiots, we know kiwis can't fly – our headline was meant as a joke!

Braydon's on the ball



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

Arsenal's unbeaten start came to an end at Bournemouth, where the Cherries took the points in a shock 2-0 victory. Arsenal were again reduced to ten men early on, when William Saliba was shown a red for a clear and deliberate foul on Evanilson, and from there Bournemouth took full advantage. Goals from Ryan Christie and Justin Kluivert put Bournemouth in 11th place, while Arsenal will know they can't afford many more results like that if they're to challenge for the title.

Liverpool remain on top, with Arne Slot's outstanding start continuing with a 2-1 win over Chelsea, and he becomes the first Liverpool boss to win ten of his first 11 games. Impressive stats from the Dutchman, who has started life in Liverpool with some confidence. Curtis Jones was their star man and scored what turned out to be the winner early in the second half. Chelsea are much improved from last season and I still think they'll challenge for a top-four finish.



Curtis Jones celebrates his winning goal

Man City are now the only remaining unbeaten Premier League side, but they left it very late to break down a stubborn Wolves defence. As the game entered the very last seconds, up stepped John Stones with a header to break the hearts of the Wolves fans in the 95th minute. The goal went to a VAR check but referee Chris Kavanagh gave the goal and City celebrated in front of their delighted fans at Molineux.

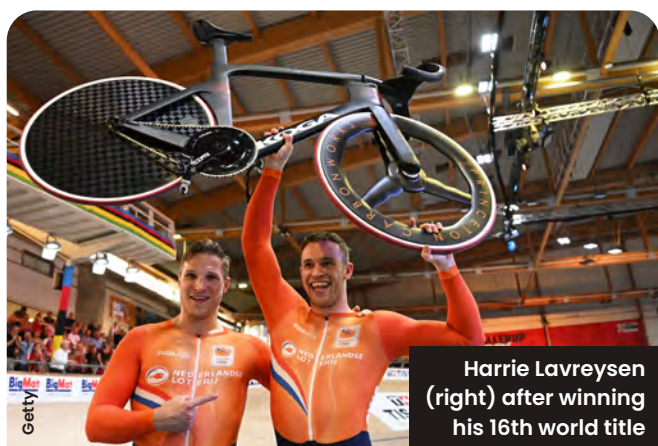
Leicester take **Centre Stage** this week, having fought back from 2-0 down at Southampton to win 3-2. Another late goal, this time from Jordan Ayew in stoppage time, gave them a dramatic victory, and they were inspired by a brilliant display from sub Abdul Fatawu. For the Saints it's another disappointing week and they're still looking for their first win.

In the WSL, it was business as usual for the top two, with wins for Man City and Chelsea, and Brighton and Man United shared the points in the other top game of the weekend.

Braydon's Team of The Week: Bournemouth. A great performance and result for them.

Braydon's Player of The Week: Abdul Fatawu, who came on for Leicester and changed the game.

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



Harrie Lavreysen (right) after winning his 16th world title

Britain's cyclists won four golds, four silvers and five bronzes to finish second overall at the UCI Track World Championships in Ballerup, Denmark. The Netherlands finished top, level on four golds, but with one more silver. Dutch legend Harrie Lavreysen won three of those golds, putting him on 16 world titles – that's two more than any other rider in history.



Tough guy Ricky Pearsall must be as hard as nails. The American football rookie made his debut in the NFL this week, less than two months after being shot in the chest when a gunman tried to rob him. And the 24-year-old was only in hospital for one night!

World football bosses at FIFA have been asked to drop Saudi national oil company Aramco as a sponsor. More than 100 professionals from the women's game signed an open letter criticising Saudi's treatment of women and LGBT+ people, and Aramco's role in fuelling climate change. The letter asks FIFA to drop "this nightmare sponsor".



Alex Yee celebrates on the podium

Olympic triathlon champion Alex Yee made a fantastic year even better by winning the world title for the first time. He's just missed out on winning the season-long series in previous years, but finished third in the final race of the season to seal his place at the top of the leaderboard and win the overall title. "There's always going to be pressure in these races... but pressure makes diamonds," he said.



Ben Ainslie's attempt to help Britain win the America's Cup for the first time has ended in defeat. New Zealand dominated the best-of-13 sailing series, winning 7-2 to retain their title.

Issue 958 | £2.95

