NEWS KIDS CAN TRUST

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR'



Issue 963 £2.95 29 November – 5 December 2024

INEWS

NEWS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT NTERVIEWS PUZZLES COMPETITIONS

YOU'REWELCOME.

SAYS MOANA 2 STAR DWAYNE JOHNSON



by Chris Towers

MOANA 2 sails into cinemas today (29 November), and its superstar actor, Dwayne Johnson, hopes you'll all be singing along to its songs!

Johnson, who plays the demi-god Maui in the film, isn't talking about singing in the car, at home or in the playground. He says it's perfectly okay to belt out some tunes in the cinema, if you feel like it.

"Sing!" he told the BBC at the UK premiere of the movie. "You've paid your hard-earned money for a ticket, and you've gone into a musical, and you're into it. Sing. Especially if you love music, that's the fun part."

How far will you go?

The first *Moana* movie introduced a wave of wonderful new Disney songs into our ears, such as *You're Welcome*, which Maui sings to Moana when the two first meet.

The sequel also has a raft of catchy tunes, and *Wicked*, another movie that's out now, features songs that its fans know and adore, too.

But cinemas are usually quiet places where you get shushed for talking or even munching your popcorn too loudly. Is it really okay to sing, or do you think it would ruin people's enjoyment?

Have your say in our poll – we'd love to hear your thoughts!



HOW DID DINOS RULETHE WORLD?







Quick News

Snappy stories to get you talking!



Chris

Junior Reporter Safiyyah Choudry

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Engagement Lead

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Creative

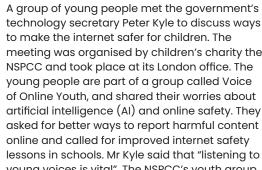
Director

Richard

Robson

Designer

Dan Jordan



Voice of Online Youth calls for internet safety





Kids demand more climate education

A new survey by the Leadership Skills Foundation (LSF) has found that most young people believe climate education is just as important as core subjects like maths. The study of 1,500 UK students aged seven to 17 shows that six in ten kids want environmental lessons to be a key part of their education. Surprisingly, almost half think they know more about climate change than their teachers. The findings come as the RSPB and WWF join forces with the LSF for a new Environment Leaders Programme, helping students run local green projects.





Global conflict reaches new high

One of eight new stamps released by Royal Mail that celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Sir Winston Churchill

A new report reveals that areas affected by war and fighting around the world have grown by two-thirds (65%) in the past three years. The increase is so large it could cover twice the size of India. Experts say that wars in places like Ukraine and parts of Africa have also become worse since 2021. The study, called the Conflict Intensity Index, showed that nearly 470 million children are living in areas affected by war.



"Children in conflict-affected areas are at risk of losing family care if their homes are destroyed, parents are killed or if they become separated when fleeing violence."

- Angela Rosales, head of charity SOS Children's Villages International

Quick News

Stars raise £670,000 for children's charity



Actors and TV stars came together on World Children's Day to raise money and champion the voices and rights of children around the world. The Once Upon Our Time Gala featured celebrities including Olivia Colman and Gemma Chan, and helped raise £670,000 for UNICEF. Over 200 guests listened to stories about the everyday lives of children who need help in different countries. Colman said: "Hearing inspiring stories from around the globe tonight, it's proof that no matter where children are or the tragedy they are facing, UNICEF will be there to protect them, so they can simply be children." The money raised will help UNICEF provide education, food and safe places for children in difficult situations across the globe.



Lions saved from war rehomed in Scotland

Two four-year-old lioness sisters have found a safe home at Five Sisters Zoo near Edinburgh after being rescued from the conflict in Ukraine. Luna and Plusza made the journey across Europe, travelling through Ukraine's capital Kyiv, Poland and Belgium. The big cats finally arrived at their Scottish sanctuary, where zookeepers had prepared a special enclosure with tasty meat treats to help them feel at home. Zoo expert Adam Welsh says the sisters are "very bold" and expects their playful personalities to shine through as they settle into their peaceful new home.



Al helps protect red squirrels

Conservationists are using an artificial intelligence (AI) tool that can tell the difference between common grey squirrels and the UK's native red ones, which are endangered in England and Wales. The system, called Squirrel Agent, automatically controls access to feeders, allowing only reds to access food. Grey squirrels are given a paste that stops them having babies and controls their population, as they hugely outnumber reds. Greys also carry a virus they are immune to, but that is lethal to reds. The tool's developers say Squirrel Agent is 97% accurate. "It's a real showcase of what AI can do," said Emma McClenaghan, cofounder of the company that makes it.



Children in crisis get help through play

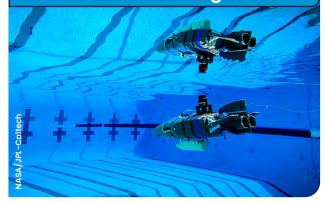
A charity called Right To Play has started a new project to help children living in dangerous places around the world. The project, called Play Your Part, aims to create safe spaces where children can play and learn, helping them deal with stress and difficult experiences. Recent figures show that one in every six children lives in an area affected by war or fighting and 43 million have been displaced (forced to move). Through games and activities, the charity helps these children cope with their feelings and continue their education, even in tough situations.



Girlguiding gets new badges

Girlguiding is to introduce 72 new badges in summer 2025. The additions, including bee rescue and thrift (awarded for learning how to customise, repurpose, and recycle), have been designed with input from 20,000 Girlguiders.

NASA tests swimming robots



NASA's Europa Clipper spacecraft is due to fly past Jupiter's moon Europa in 2030 to scan from above for signs of life, but NASA scientists are already developing a new generation of underwater robots the size of mobile phones to explore ocean moons. The project, called Sensing With Independent Microswimmers, or SWIM for short, would see robots work together in groups to search below the surface of Europa and other watery worlds in our solar system. In recent tests at a swimming pool in California, USA, larger prototypes of the robots (pictured) successfully moved independently through water and even spelled out letters.



A British schoolboy is hoping to become the youngest person ever to visit every country in the world! James Meconi, eight, has already explored 85 countries and is about to complete his journey to all seven continents by visiting Antarctica on a research trip with scientists. James studies while traveling with his mother Hayley, learning from scientists and local communities. His adventures include helping build a school in Tanzania and living with Maasai warriors.

Eat less sugar for the environment, say scientists

Scientists are warning that our sweet tooth is causing big problems for both our health and the planet. Globally, people are eating four times more sugar than they did 60 years ago, which has led to habitat loss and pollution from the increase in plantations to supply the sugar. Experts say that using sugar for other purposes, like making ecofriendly plastics or protein-rich foods, could help solve both these problems, providing food for over 520 million people while helping to protect the environment.

BLACK FRIDAY

29 NOVEMBER

The popular shopping day started in America and is now big news in the UK too.



• INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY 5 DECEMBER

The United Nations day aims to highlight how important volunteers are to organisations and projects across the world.



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



by Mike Eames, WWF

COP29 was nicknamed 'the finance COP' as it had to produce a new deal to find the money for poorer countries to speed up climate action, cut pollution and better protect people from climate change.

This was because the original agreement to provide them with \$100 billion (£79.5 billion) per year is coming to an end in 2025.

The talks were due to finish on Friday 22 November, but went on until after 3am the next day. While there was some

WHAT WAS AGREED?

A fund of £1 trillion for poorer countries to cope with climate change by 2035

However...

Poorer countries wanted a promise of how much money would be paid by richer countries. COP29 agreed the existing £80 billion per year would be trebled to £240 billion per year, but it's unclear how that money will be found. progress, there was a feeling among poorer countries that they were forced into a deal they didn't like, and many of them voiced their anger after the deal was done.

Overall, COP29 didn't deliver on finance or send a strong signal on the need to rapidly reduce pollution and phase out fossil fuels.

Was there any good news?

Yes. While the finance deal was disappointing, there was an agreement to look at it again in two years, so there's still hope that we can find the trillions we need.

Also, the UK demonstrated leadership at COP29 with a new 2035 climate target. The UK must put forward a strong national climate plan early next year to deliver it, and to beef up its climate finance offer to support global communities.

Brazil will host COP30 in the Amazon rainforest – it's being called 'the nature COP'. We can expect that countries will be working to protect and restore nature, and working hard in the coming months to prepare the money we need to ensure a successful outcome at COP30.

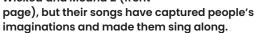


"The world has been let down by this weak climate finance deal. At this pivotal moment for the planet, this failure threatens to set back alobal efforts to tackle the climate crisis. The science remains the same we must accelerate action in this decade to prevent climate change spiralling out of control."

– Manuel Pulgar-Vidal, WWF's global climate & energy lead

EDITOR'S COMMENT

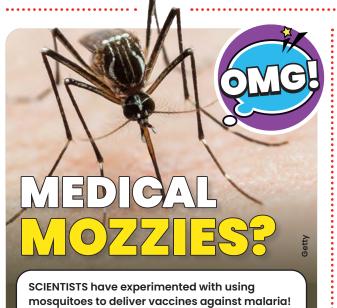
ADMITTEDLY, there are more important things going on in the world than Wicked and Moana 2 (front



But many people are already angry about behaviour in cinemas, with complaints of people talking or eating loudly, or looking at phones – and even making phone calls! Some think these are all getting worse, so is singing along to a film a step too far? If you've paid your money, can you do what you want, or should you pipe down and let people listen to the professional actors and singers do the job instead? Let us know!



A SINGLE gold coin from 1870 sold for a whopping \$1.44 million (£1.15 million) at an auction in the USA. There were once 3,789 of the rare \$20 coins. They were created at a time when lots of gold was discovered in California, bringing wealth to the area. Today, fewer than 50 of them remain.



Mosquito bites are usually the main spreader of malaria – a dangerous disease that infects 250 million people every year. However, scientists are exploring new ways to fight it.

In a study, they allowed a small group of people to be bitten by mosquitoes that were carrying a modified 'vaccine' version of malaria parasites. The same people were then bitten by mosquitoes carrying regular malaria parasites.

Just one in ten of them caught the disease, says the report in *The New England Journal of Medicine*. The scientists' research continues.

The problem with parents' porkies

PARENTS should think twice before lying to their children, a senior researcher at the University of Oxford says.

As we get older, we begin to learn that parents tell us little white lies to try to keep us happy and healthy.

It may be to stop us from eating too much sugary food, to make us behave or to protect us from upsetting news.

"Parenting can be exhausting, and lying is the easy option," says Rebecca Brown. But is it the right option?

She warns that if kids find out they're being deceived, it may damage the trust they have in their parent. Shielding children from upsetting news may also prevent them from understanding the world, and learning to manage their emotions. What do you think?





new versions of its famous red lorry Christmas ads using artificial intelligence (Al). They feature Al-generated animals and people, but the fake feeling to the ads has fallen flat with fans online, who have called them "disturbing" and "creepy".

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quiz, included with every
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family, friends or by yourself.
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Ask a grown-up/bill-payer for your <mark>WEB ID</mark> to use the app.





SCIENTISTS are using fossilised dinosaur droppings and vomit to discover how the giant lizards came to rule the world.

The first dinos appeared around 230 million years ago, at the start of the Triassic period, but it took them another 30 million years to become the dominant creatures on the planet.

During that time, dinosaurs grew bigger and evolved into lots of different types, while many other land animals vanished.

Dino domination

To find out why this happened, a team of researchers and scientists studied more than 500 bromalites – poo and vomit fossils – found in Poland.

Then, using skeleton and footprint fossils from the same period, they matched the bromalites with the type and size of creatures that made them.



They decided that dinosaur dominance began with dinos that ate both plants and meat (omnivores). These dinos slowly replaced other types of land creatures because they benefited from being able to eat a wide variety of food.

After that, volcanic activity and climate change introduced a wider range of plants to the world. This helped plant-eating dinosaurs to grow larger... and in turn, bigger meateating dinosaurs arrived.

This, the researchers write in the science journal *Nature*, is what may have led dinos to global domination!



THE International Criminal Court (ICC) has issued warrants for the arrest of Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, and his ex-defence minister, Yoav Gallant, accusing them of war primes.

There's also a warrant to arrest Hamas leader Mohammed Deif, who Israel says was killed in July.

The ICC is an international court based in the Netherlands that investigates people it believes are responsible for serious crimes.

Israel and Hamas, the terrorist group that runs Gaza, have been at war since Hamas attacked Israel on 7 October last year. Over 1,200 people in Israel and around 44,000 in Gaza have died.

The court believes that all three men bear responsibility for crimes during the war, including murder, taking hostages and starving civilians.

The warrants mean that they may be arrested if they enter the ICC's member countries. While the UK and the USA are both allies (friends) of Israel, the UK is a member of the ICC and the USA isn't.

What has the UK said? A spokesman for Prime Minister Keir Starmer said the UK would "always comply with its legal obligations as set out by... international law". This suggests that Mr Netanyahu may be arrested if he enters the UK.

What has the USA said? President Joe Biden called the warrant against Mr Netanyahu "outrageous" and said: "We will always stand with Israel against threats to its security."

The UK drinks around

98 million cups of

coffee per day

Pupils demand apology for black boxer



SCHOOLCHILDREN in Wales have demanded an apology for a British boxing hero who was banned from some fights because of the colour of his skin.

Cuthbert Taylor was born in Wales in 1909 and boxed for Great Britain at the 1928 Olympic Games. However, he was banned from competing for British titles by the British Boxing Board of Control (BBBC).

From 1911 to 1948, the BBBC had a 'colour bar', which ruled that boxers had to have two white parents to compete. Taylor, whose dad was from the Caribbean, was judged "not white enough" to be British.

The shocking story has been told in a play that's on at a theatre in Swansea, called *The Fight*. After seeing the play, more than 300 children from 13 schools have sent messages to the BBBC demanding an apology to Taylor's family.

Dinosaurs existed

on Earth for around

165 million years. Our

first ape ancestors only

appeared 25 million

years ago!

One wrote: "The colour bar was horrendous, horrific and disgraceful. It was not right then and it is not right now."

The BBBC says that while the colour bar was wrong, it was introduced "at the request of the [UK] government", and that the board members of today shouldn't have to apologise.

USA's "shocking" gift to Ukraine

HUMAN rights group Amnesty International has slammed US President Joe Biden for sending landmines to Ukraine.

A lot of western countries have been gifting weapons to Ukraine to help it to fight back against Russia's invasion, which started in February 2022. Last week, Mr Biden agreed to send more landmines to Ukraine, but Amnesty International called this decision "shocking".

There are different types of landmines. Usually, they are planted in the ground and explode when a person steps on or drives over them. They're a serious risk to innocent and defenceless civilians, including children, so many countries have signed a treaty

(agreement) promising never to use them.
US officials say their landmines are safer
because they lose their power to detonate

because they lose their power to detonate over time, and that using them is a "good idea" to slow down Russia's invasion.

But Ben Linden from Amnesty International called the shipment "devastating", adding that landmines "maim and kill civilians long after conflicts end and should not have a place in the arsenal of any country".

Last year, landmines caused 580 injuries and deaths in Ukraine.

 Turn to page 15 to see which country is the most dangerous in the world for landmines.



up to August 2024



1. USA £48.6 billion

2. Germany £9.1 billion



£8 billion

THE World Food Programme (WFP) has revealed that it needs £13.5 billion in 2025, in order to tackle rising world hunger.

On the face of it, it's a lot of money, but surprisingly it's the same amount that the

world spends on coffee in just two weeks.
In other words, if everyone had a coffeefree fortnight and donated their savings to the
WFP instead, it would help to feed 123 million
of the hungriest people in the world next year.



343 million people, across 74 countries, didn't have stable access to food this past year.



A NICE surprise as actor Jeff Goldblum (inset) performs songs from the new *Wicked* movie in front of lucky Londoners. Goldblum, who plays the Wizard, showed off his skills on the piano underneath a special *Wicked* Christmas tree. The magical movie is out now in cinemas – check out our interview with stars including Goldblum on the *First News* app!



US President Joe Biden peeks over a basketball gifted to him by the Boston Celtics, the NBA champions. He invited the whole team to the White House.

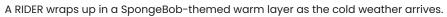




MEMBERS of Ankara Women's Orchestra, which was founded by 19 women from a diverse range of backgrounds. They perform concerts to female-only audiences.













SCOTTISH BORDERS

Boost for golden eagles

The golden eagle is set to spread its wings in England and Wales once again, following a successful Scottish project. Widely regarded as Scotland's unofficial national bird, the golden eagle hasn't been seen in England since 2015, and in Wales since the 19th century. However, thanks to the pioneering South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project, that could be about to change. For the past six years, experts have been relocating golden eagles from the Highlands to areas of the Borders and to Dumfries and Galloway. Numbers in the south of Scotland have since soared from just a handful to around 50, with sights now set on other areas in Britain.



The tree-mendous giant redwood will look a bit like this!

NORTHUMBERLAND

Tallest Christmas tree

Cragside will be home to the UK's tallest living Christmas tree this year. Standing 42 metres tall, the giant redwood is the height of ten doubledecker buses! The 160-year-old tree will be decorated by more than 2,000 bulbs stretching over 1,000 metres. It will take five people around 12 hours to hang them all! This winter, the National Trust is featuring the massive tree in its Spirits of the Forest, an immersive experience that imagines Cragside House being reclaimed by the surrounding plants and woodland. The programme runs from Saturday 30 November to Sunday 5 January.

WREXHAM



connects'

Big brick campaign

A campaign has been launched to add the Pontcysyllte [Pont-ker-sulth-tay] Aqueduct to LEGO's 'global collection', which includes iconic landmarks such as Big Ben, Old Trafford and Tower Bridge. A 1.8m (6ft) model of the aqueduct, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is on display at Tŷ Pawb in Wrexham. LEGO was manufactured in the city between 1962 and 2000. At least 10,000 votes are needed for the model to be considered by LEGO to be added to the collection. Anyone can vote for the aqueduct at ideas.lego.com.



A rare 17th century Dutch atlas of the stars and planets is due to be displayed for the first time by the National Trust's Blickling Estate following its restoration.

Blickling Estate following its restoration. Harmonia Macrocosmica was created in 1661 by map-maker Andreas Cellarius. The atlas includes illustrations alongside many theories about the stars and their movement. Only about 20 copies are thought to survive worldwide. It's a prime example of map-making in the Dutch Golden Age, the time period when Dutch art and science flourished. Many of the atlas's pages were torn or crumpled, and it took three months to restore it.



An illustration from the atlas, which will be on display from 30 November to 5 January

BRISTOL

Gromit's got disco fever!

Gromit is back for another takeover of the streets of Bristol. Gromit Unleashed is a series of trails through the city where Wallace and Gromit were created. Gromit Unleashed 3 will take place from 30 June to 31 August 2025, and will take visitors on a journey through the movies, featuring sculptures of the characters – including a disco Gromit! Since the first trail in 2013, the project has raised over £20 million for The Grand Appeal, the Bristol Children's hospital charity. And if you can't wait until next year, Aardman's new film, Wallace & Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl, is on the BBC this Christmas.





LONDON

Spurs backs multibanks

Premier League club Tottenham Hotspur have announced their support for Multibank UK this Christmas. A multibank invites people to donate hygiene items for young people in need. A shocking one million children in the UK today are believed to be attending school in dirty uniform, with 400,000 households without soap or toothpaste. Spurs are supporting The Felix Project's network of charities and other important groups in north London. Donation banks at their upcoming home game against Fulham (Sunday 1 December) will accept indate items including soaps and shower gels.

BABY SEAL BORN ATHISTORIC SITE



THE first baby grey seal of the season has been spotted at a former military base in Suffolk.

The pup was born at Orford Ness, which used to be a secret military testing area but is now a peaceful nature spot.

The National Trust says that more than 130 seal pups were born there last year.

There are more than 400 adult seals this year, showing how well the colony is doing.

Baby seals are born with white fluffy fur and spend around three weeks on the beach before they head out to sea for the first time.

Experts are asking visitors to stay away during breeding season to help protect the animals. A better place to view grey seals is Donna Nook in Lincolnshire, where mothers and new pups happily sleep on the sand just centimetres away from visitors!

Ocean plastic waste worsens



SCIENTISTS have discovered a worrying increase in plastic waste in a part of the Pacific Ocean known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.

A seven-year study shows that the number of small pieces of plastic has grown nearly five times, from 2.9kg to 14.2kg per square kilometre.

The team found billions of tiny plastic pieces floating in the water, which can harm sea life by getting into their food. These plastics come from waste that has broken down over many years and been swept towards this part of the Pacific.

Experts say this discovery shows we need to act quickly to clean up our oceans and stop more plastic from entering them.

The study was published in the journal *Environmental*Research Letters.

Scientists win rainforest prize

A GROUP of scientists and engineers have won a huge cash prize for creating a clever way to study rainforests.

Team Limelight Rainforest took home the first prize of \$5m (£3.9m) in the XPRIZE competition for using a drone to explore rainforest canopies, saving humans the effort of climbing trees.

Their invention uses light traps to attract insects and specialised microphones to record animal sounds.

In just one day, it found over 250 different species in the Amazon rainforest. This is much faster than traditional methods, which can take years to get similar results.

The runners-up, Map of Life Rapid Assessments, won \$2m (£1.6m) for their fleets of drones that can automatically spot thousands of plants and animals.





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

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

AMUR LEOPARD



HABITAT

Mixed forests of Russia, China and possibly North Korea, where they are the apex (top) predator.

FUN FACT:

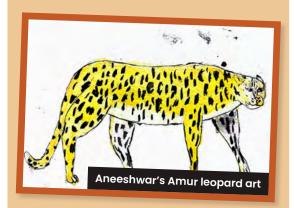
Unlike many other cats, Amur leopards love swimming in water.

SPECIAL SUPERPOWER:

Their beautiful, spotted fur. But, sadly, they are hunted for their fur and bones to make traditional medicines with no scientific basis.

CONSERVATION STATUS:

The International Union for Conservation of Nature says they're critically endangered.



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. You can view the gallery by asking a responsible adult to scan this QR code!





It's a scream!

•••••

IF you think the sound of a whistle can be a bit screechy or annoying, it's nothing compared to the terrifying howl of an Aztec death whistle.

drive that they rev the engine before the

car has even been put on the ground! But

our favourite detail is that if they're given

taking a longer route to drive to it, they'll

often hop in the car by choice!

a choice of walking to a Froot Loop treat or

Scientists at the University of Zurich have been studying the strange skull-shaped whistles, which are thought to have been used to prepare human sacrifices for their journey to Mictlan, the Aztec underworld.

By studying ancient whistles and replicas, the researchers found that it's their two sound chambers that create the unique screaming sound, which is unlike any other known instrument.

Listeners rated the sound as being very natural, like a human scream, and the scientists say it was common for ancient cultures to recreate natural sounds with instruments. The sound is so realistic that volunteers said they sounded "extremely chilling and frightening".



THE Aztecs ruled what's now central and southern Mexico in the 15th and early 16th centuries. The image on Mexico's flag represents the myth of how the Aztec empire began, as the site of their capital city, Tenochtitlán, was said to have been chosen when a prophecy came true. When people saw an eagle with a snake in its beak, on a cactus surrounded by water, that's where the people were meant to make their home.





Although the Aztecs could be incredibly violent, they were also innovative farmers. They perfected the method of using man-made islands in shallow lakes to grow crops, and some of these chinampas can still be seen in Mexico today

This report is from the Science Museum Group

SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

side). These rats prove to

be better at solving puzzles

and doing other tasks that

require a bit of brain power.

YOU'VE heard the word astronauts, the name we give to scientists who travel on spaceships to explore the moon, the stars and Earth from orbit. But did you know they can also be known as cosmonauts or taikonauts?

While the job is the same, their job title changes depending on which space agency is training them. Each name contains 'nautos', the ancient Greek for sailor.

American, European and Japanese space agencies have astronauts (from the Greek 'astron', meaning 'star'), while the Russian space agency sends cosmonauts to space (from the Greek 'kosmos', meaning 'universe'). Chinese agencies call them taikonauts, from the Mandarin 'taikong', meaning 'space'.

So, depending on where you do your training on Earth, when you leave on a spaceship you'll either be a star, universe or space sailor!





BACK in October, Recycle Your Electricals launched The Great Cable Challenge for International E-Waste Day. Since lots of us will be getting more electrical items for Christmas, we caught up with the campaign's supporters, Amy and Ella Meek from Kids Against Plastic, to find out how recycling old cables and electricals can make a huge difference this festive season.

WHAT IS E-WASTE?

E-waste describes electrical items that haven't been properly discarded after we're finished using them. And it's a big problem – did you know that there are 7.5 million unused electronic or battery-powered toys gathering dust in our homes?

Often, these are trendy items that are sold to us as the latest gadgets. We all love the coolest tech, so these hyped items could include popcorn makers, chocolate fountains, ice cream makers and soda machines. Dubbed 'FadTech', 92% of UK households own some kind of FadTech, but nearly half say their once-trendy items are now lying unused.

But what you may not realise is that these



battery-powered toys and electrical gadgets contain incredibly useful materials like gold, steel, aluminium and copper. That means they can be recycled into something more useful, or if they're still in working condition, they can have a second life when donated to a charity shop.

WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO TO HELP THIS CHRISTMAS?

Another way you can help the environment this Christmas is to cut down on single-use plastic.

- Start by getting inventive with your gifts.
 Presents don't have to cost the Earth! Choose a gift that lasts by giving something with purpose or meaning.
- Make your own presents for people. Show that you have spent time and effort in creating something you think they'll love. A great homemade gift is food, especially sweet treats! Cookies and Christmas? The perfect combo.
- Think about your wrapping. At Christmas, we use an average of four rolls of wrapping paper per household – that's a crazy amount! So, if you want to ditch the wrapping paper altogether, wrap your presents in pretty cloths and ribbons that can be used again!



WHAT IS RECYCLE YOUR ELECTRICALS?

Recycle Your Electricals is a UK-wide campaign aimed at making it easier for everyone to reuse and recycle unwanted electricals. We found over ten cables throughout our house, plus our drop-off recycling point was only five minutes away! It was such an easy process.

Anything with a plug, battery or cable can be recycled and there's always somewhere near you! Just pop your postcode into Recycle Your Electricals' recycling locator to find your nearest recycling point: tinyurl.com/recycle-locator.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO RECYCLE BEFORE CHRISTMAS?

It's easy for toys and the latest gadgets to build up in our homes, and that means that when it gets to Christmas, it can be tricky to make room for more! We live in a culture where we're always excited about the newest additions to playtime, even when there is a perfectly working toy stuffed under our bed or a popcorn machine in the kitchen cupboard that hasn't been touched.

These toys and gadgets can get used for a short period, before being forgotten or chucked away.

We're working with Recycle Your Electricals to help families to free themselves of unused tech and discover just how easy it is to donate or recycle.

TELL US MORE ABOUT KIDS AGAINST PLASTIC

We started our charity Kids Against Plastic (then a tiny youth social action campaign) back in 2016, when we were 12 and ten and first discovered the scale of plastic pollution. Now we are all about supporting other people in their environmental work. A lot of young people really do care about the environment and the issues facing it, and they just need encouragement and help in getting started, which is exactly what we try to help them with.



IN the UK we bin or stash away 627 million cables – enough to go to the moon and back!



COMPLETELY

A BANANA taped to a wall has sold for \$6.2 million (£4.9 million) at an art auction in New York, USA.

The artwork, titled Comedian, was sold at Sotheby's to entrepreneur and art collector Justin Sun for more than four times what was predicted, making it a very expensive piece of fruit!

The art piece comes with a certificate of authenticity that lets Mr Sun tape the banana to a wall and call it Comedian. There are also instructions included for replacing the banana when it goes off.

The controversial artwork became a viral hit after its creator, Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan, first displayed it at the Art Basel Miami Beach show in 2019. It sold for \$120,000 (£95,000). Cattelan says the banana, which is intended to be duct-taped onto the wall as part of the concept, is meant to make people think about what art means, and why some artworks cost so much money to buy.

This particular banana was bought earlier in the day for just 35 cents from a nearby fruit stall in Manhattan!



A PLANE was grounded for four days after 132 hamsters escaped from their cages on a flight from Portugal.

The rodents were on a passenger flight from Lisbon, to be delivered to a pet shop in the Portuguese Azores. Airport staff only realised the little furry creatures were missing when they unloaded their transport boxes in the hold and found them damaged and empty.

It took them four days to catch all the hamsters, and the plane wasn't allowed to fly as there were fears the hamsters could chew through important cables.



THE world's shortest and tallest women shared tea in London to celebrate Guinness World Records Day.

Jyoti Amge, who measures just 62.8cm (2ft 0.7in) tall, and Rumeysa Gelgi, who's an astonishing 215.16cm (7ft 0.7in), became fast friends despite their height difference!

The pair bonded over their love of make-up and nail polish, showing that friendship comes in all sizes.

Rumeysa said: "It was so amazing meeting Jyoti for the first time. It was difficult for us to make eye contact at times due to our height difference, but it was great."





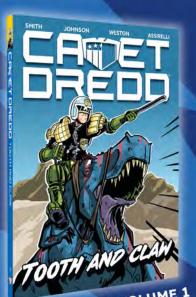








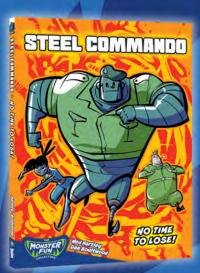




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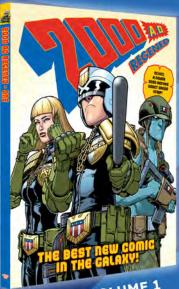
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ACTION-PACKED GRAPHIC NOVELS!
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CANADA

Christmas cards at risk due to post workers' strike

Over 50,000 postal workers across Canada have been on strike to demand more pay, better conditions and the choice to work additional shifts on weekends. Canada Post (the Canadian version of Royal Mail) has warned that the strikes "would affect millions of Canadians and businesses". It's hardly the best time of year for all this, with Christmas cards, online shopping and letters to Santa flooding into postboxes! The Canadian government has stepped in to try to help Canada Post and its workers to reach an agreement. The union that represents the workers said: "Our demands are reasonable: fair wages, safe working conditions [and] the right to retire with dignity."







The mayors of Westminster (left) and Oslo cut the tree

A Norway spruce is on its way to England to become Trafalgar Square's famous Christmas tree, after it was felled in a ceremony in Oslo. Norway gifts a tree to London each year to thank Britain for its support during World War Two. At the ceremony,

the British ambassador to Norway, Jan Thompson,

Trafalgar Square tree toppled

said: "It isn't Christmas in the UK until the Trafalgar Square tree arrives!" It's being driven between the country's capitals by electric truck to be environmentally friendly, and its lights will be switched

on this Thursday (5 December).





USA

Voice of Milhouse quits The Simpsons



The woman who provides the voice of Milhouse in The Simpsons has quit the show. Pamela Hayden played the part of Bart's bluehaired best buddy for 35 years, since the cartoon's launch in 1989 (even though the character has always remained ten years old!). Hayden appeared in almost 700 episodes, and also voiced other

characters, like Ned Flanders' sons, Rod and Todd, and school bully Jimbo Jones. "The time has come for me to hang up my microphone," she said. "It's been an honour and a joy to have worked on such a funny, witty, and ground-breaking show." Producers are now on the hunt for a new voice actor to play Milhouse.



SOUTH SUDAN

Better boats save trees – and boost business!

The United Nations (UN) is running a project that helps boatbuilders to tweak the design of their canoes - and save trees in the process. Traditionally, the canoes are made from hardwoods like mahogany or teak, which absorb water, making them heavy. As a result, they become tricky for fishers to steer down the River Nile. They also only last five years before more trees have to be chopped down to build new ones. Under the UN's scheme, though, the canoes are coated in the same type of resin used on Formula One cars. This extends their lifespan to around 20 years and allows cheaper wood to be used. Matt Walsh, a fisheries expert who works with the UN, says that fishers are "willing to pay more" for the new canoes, and "have shown interest in buying them from 100km [62 miles] away."





SURINAME



Every adult to get a cash gift after oil and gas find

The president of Suriname, Chan Santokhi, has announced that every adult in the country will be sent money after new oil and gas was found off the country's coast. Experts say that the fossil discovery could make \$10 billion (£8 billion) for Suriname over the next 10-20 years. "Everyone shall benefit... no-one will be left behind," said Mr Santokhi. "You are co-owners of the oil incomes." Each adult will bag a payment of around £600. Suriname's neighbours, Guyana, announced a similar oil bonus for its citizens a month ago.

d News

ITALY

Tomb raiders get busted!

Police in Italy have recovered a bounty of treasure worth £6.5 million that was illegally taken from an underground tomb in Umbria. Among the relics were ancient beauty accessories, eight urns and two sarcophagi (coffins), one of which contained human remains. Two 'tomb raiders' had posted photos of the loot online, hoping to sell it to overseas buvers. However, Italy's art crime squad tapped their phone lines and tracked them down. The relics date back to the Etruscan civilisation, which existed in Italy until the arrival of the Roman Empire in 27 BCE.





Two bears were among the gifts from Vladimir Putin (right)

Russian President Vladimir Putin has sent a gift of over 70 animals to a zoo in Pyongyang, North Korea. They included two brown bears, two yaks, an African lion and a variety of birds, all transported by plane, accompanied by vets from Moscow Zoo. Russia and North Korea have built a strong relationship. Earlier this

year, both countries agreed to help each other with military aid, and since then, thousands of North Korean soldiers have been flown to Russia to boost its illegal invasion of Ukraine. They've also agreed a new tourism deal, which could see more flights and people travelling between the two countries for holidays.



JAPAN

Russia gifts animals to North Korea

Record number of visitors hit Japan

Japan welcomed 3.31 million foreign visitors in October - the highest ever number in a single month. The previous monthly record, 3.29 million, was set in July. Holidaymakers have been drawn to the country for its beautiful autumn colours, plus the fact that Japan's currency, the yen, is weak at the moment, which means that foreigners can get a lot for their money. Most recent figures reveal that visitors spent 5.86 trillion yen (£30 billion) between January and October, which is already more than they did in all of 2023. It's great news for Japan's economy, although there is a worry that over-tourism could spoil the country's natural wonders.

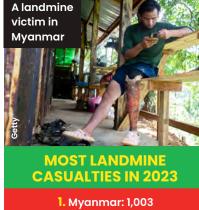




MYANMAR

Myanmar tops list for landmine casualties

Myanmar has overtaken Syria as the country with the highest number of casualties (deaths or injuries) caused by landmines and old war explosives. The Landmine Monitor 2024, a report by the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), found that there were 1,003 official casualties there in 2023. Landmines are weapons that explode when people step on them. They've been used in Myanmar in fighting between military fighters and resistance groups. Around the world, the total number of landmine casualties rose from 4,709 in 2022 to at least 5,757 in 2023. However, the 33 countries that are working to remove landmines succeeded in clearing a record 281.5km² of land containing 160,566 mines.



. Syria: 933 3. Afghanistan: 651 4. Ukraine: 580 5. Yemen: 499



Snake slithers onto a plane!

A Virgin flight from Broome to Perth in Western Australia was delayed when one of the passengers spotted a snake on board! The slithery stowaway was a non-venomous Stimson's python, which are common in the north of Australia, but it still caused quite the shock. Oddly, it was a TV personality who came to the rescue – Andre Rerekura, who hosts Shipwreck Hunters Australia on Disney+, scooped it up and carried it off safely. Rerekura, who described the python as "super shy" and "crazy cute", was cheered by his fellow passengers and rewarded with a free soda water from the airline crew.









CHRISTMAS is less than a month off, and those of you who celebrate might be pestering your parents to put up a tree and decorations.

Or maybe you have your decorations up already! But

have you ever stopped to think - why do we bring a tree inside at Christmas?

This week on FYI, presenter Jeriah heads to Windsor Castle to find out!

FYI is a weekly news show from Sky Kids that helps you to stay up-to-date with what's going on in the world. You can watch loads of cool videos from them by heading to first.news/fyi or on the First News app.

IT ALL BEGAN WITH THE ROYAL FAMILY

To find out why we bring Christmas trees inside, we have to go all the way back to the 1800s. It all started with Queen Victoria, who spent lots of time at Windsor Castle with her husband Prince Albert. It's Albert who is credited with creating many Christmas traditions. For years, British people had brought plants such as holly, ivy and mistletoe into their homes during the festive season, but bringing a Christmas tree inside began in Germany. Prince Albert was German and introduced the idea at Windsor Castle for the first time!



NEWSPAPERS MADE THEM POPULAR

Have you ever read something in First News that has inspired you to do something? Well, that's sort of how Christmas trees became popular. Prints of Prince Albert's Christmas trees ended up going in newspapers at the time. People who read them caught onto the idea, and adopted the tradition for themselves. The trend spread and became popular, and today, people all over the country put up trees each year to celebrate Christmas.

DIFFERENCES IN DECORATIONS!

Back in Victorian times, Christmas trees were decorated very differently to how they're decorated today. Nowadays trees have electric lights, baubles and tinsel, but these things were either not as common back then or just didn't exist! Take a look at Prince Albert's tree pictured on the left, which shows the kind of traditional decorations they used at the time. How many of these things can you spot? Candles

- Nuts, sweets and other small edible
- Toys these were often positioned at the bottom of the tree, with a few hung on the branches

THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS TREE AT WINDSOR

This year's Christmas tree was specially picked from the private grounds at Windsor Castle called Home Park. It's a living tree, which means that it will be replanted once Christmas is over.



8in) tall. That's about the same height as the average house in the UK!







FEATURE ON THE SHOW!

Want to be in an episode of FYI? Just ask your teacher to set up a First News FYI News Club at your school. You could take part in a Your Shout to have your say,

or create your own report for the show. You might end up on TV, or here in First News! Just ask your teacher to head to first news/FYInewsclub to find out more.



BAGISTO BAGISTON OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPER

WANT the lowdown on Disney's magical new musical *Moana 2*, which sails into cinemas this week? *First News'* Adam Tanswell heads behind the scenes to find out everything you need to know...

A new adventure

Film fans are in for a treat, as this madcap movie sequel features slick new songs, wise-cracking comedy and a host of quirky new characters. "As a character, Moana is so cool, strong and independent – and she gets to go on an even bigger adventure this time," says the movie's writer and co-director Dana Ledoux Miller. "Plus, she meets some really fun people along the way, including some exciting new demi-gods."

Thrilling surprises

"We have so many fun creatures to meet in *Moana* 2," reveals co-director David G Derrick. "I can't wait for audiences to see them all. There's everything from crazy little mudskippers through to a huge giant clam. Oh, and some monster eels as well." Eek!

• Meet Moana's sister

We're introduced to Moana's younger sister, Simea, who is three and a half years old. "It's great that we get to show someone who is young and scrappy – and very similar to her older sister. Simea is a kindred spirit to Moana. She wants to be just like her," says David.





MORE than 700 people worked on the movie, including around 100 animators!

• Maui is back

The magical musical sequel sees the return of Dwayne Johnson as the voice of the demi-god Maui (below), alongside Auli'i Cravalho as the voice of Magna





A LIVE-action version of the original *Moana* movie is currently being filmed in Hawaii. It'll be released in cinemas in 2026!

Mega music

Co-director Jason Hand revealed: "We have incredible new songs that I think people are going to be singing and playing on repeat." Dwayne Johnson's solo song is going to have everyone singing along in the cinema!

Groundbreaking animation

"We have a shot in *Moana 2* that has 27,000 characters in it," says Dana. "We think it might be a Disney record." Look out for lots of Easter eggs (secret Disney references), too!

Moana 2 is in cinemas now



THIRTEEN-year-old Eleanor is the star of a new My Life film on CBBC titled *How I See It*. The film follows Eleanor, who is blind, as she takes on the challenge of doing live audio description of *The Witches* at the National Theatre. Here, she tells us more.

• Hi Eleanor! Tell us about The Witches.

I love going to the theatre and we try to get to as many audio-described shows as we can. I was invited to consult on the audio description script for *The Witches* by an audio describer we have met many times and then, after a meeting with the team at the National Theatre, I was asked if I'd like to actually deliver it live. Of course, I said yes!

• What is audio description?

Audio description, in a theatre environment, is where a visually impaired person will wear a headset during the show, and between dialogue, a live audio describer will say what is happening on stage so that the visually impaired viewers can enjoy the show just as much as everyone else.

• What did it mean to you to do this?

It meant so much for me to do this because I know how much audio description helps me, so it was important for me to bring this to many others who are like me.

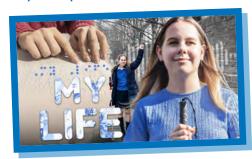
• Do you think theatre needs to be more accessible to everyone?

It's a place for everyone, so it should be made more accessible, so as many people as possible can enjoy it.

Have you been rooting for Chris McCausland on Strictly Come Dancing?

Of course! He is proof that blind people are often underestimated and that with help – of course the expertise and patience of his amazing partner Dianne – he has shown the country just what he is capable of.

My Life: How I See It is on CBBC and BBC iPlayer from 3 December, the International Day Of People With Disabilities.





New movie trailers released!

Next year sure is shaping up to be a good one at the cinema! This week, as well as being treated to a new trailer for A Minecraft Movie and Disney Pixar's Elio, we've also been given a first look at the new live-action remake of How To Train Your Dragon. The movie is based on the best-selling book by author Cressida Cowell and tells the story of a young Viking called Hiccup who is sent on a mission to kill a dragon. Instead he befriends one called Toothless and trains him up. The magical movie arrives on 13 June 2025.



TYS A WICKED SUCCESS!

IT'S all anyone's talking about – the new Wicked movie. First News' Safiyyah sat down with actors Jonathan Bailey, who plays Prince Fiyero Tigelaar, and Jeff Goldblum, who plays the Wizard, to get the inside scoop on the movie that's breaking box office records!

• Hi Jonathan and Jeff! You both play super-cool characters. What drew you to your roles?

Jonathan: They both have a big sense of personality and play, and when you first meet them there are a lot of things going on behind closed doors, right?

Jeff: I think with all the characters in the story, what you see is the tip of the iceberg. Things are not what they seem, and people are always made up of a complication, like a Cobb salad, which has lots of different ingredients and elements.

What's it like being in such a big budget and famous musical?

Jonathan: Well, Jon M Chu, the director, managed to keep a very intimate set, as if it was like a workshop version. And I think the fact that he maintained that intimacy meant that we could all be quite brave

and go for gold. So, it was an amazing thing for me to train and perform something like Fiyero's song *Dancing Through Life* over eight days. It's definitely a celebration of theatre and the original production.

• Can you share any funny or memorable moments from working on the set?

Jonathan: Yes, there were lots of buttons popping off our costumes because they were fluttering from all the dancing!

Jeff: I remember meeting Ariana Grande for the first time and she made her dressing room her own, with a nice touch. There was incense, flowers, lowered light and it smelt nice. There was already a kind of a magical, intoxicating experience from seeing her the first time. That was memorable.

The movie is packed with all the tunes from the hugely successful stage show. Fans can sing along to stand-out song *Defying Gravity*, as well as *Popular* and *Dancing Through Life*. The official soundtrack features vocals from the cast and is available now, and *Wicked* is in cinemas now!





Disney UK

Advertisement feature

WIN! A Star Wars: Skeleton Crew prize bundle for you and your crew!

TO celebrate the launch of *Star Wars: Skeleton Crew*, streaming soon on Disney+, Disney UK are offering you the chance to win a truly epic prize bundle! All you need to do is answer this question:

What is the name of the brand-new spaceship in the new Skeleton Crew series?

a) Lynx Ember b) Onyx Cinder c) Cyber Spark

There's a clue in the prizes!

THE PRIZES

One lucky reader will take home:

- A Samsung TV
- A Samsung soundbar
- A LEGO Onyx Cinder set





In a story that could only be told in a galaxy far, far away... four kids living on a seemingly safe and solitary planet are suddenly thrust into an action-packed journey through space with no map or parental supervision. This holiday season, experience the galaxy through new eyes in Star Wars: Skeleton Crew as four unlikely heroes band together to dodge treacherous pirates, explore new planets and make unexpected friends on their race to get back home.







ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY SKELETON CREW

first.news/comps or see page 21. The closing date is 13 December

DISNEY DUN

DISNEY, ESPN and the NBA have teamed up to create the first real-time animated NBA game!

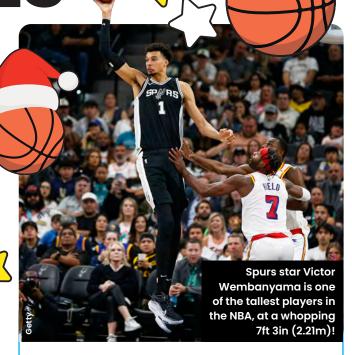
Dunk the Halls will see the Christmas Day game between the New York Knicks and San Antonio Spurs transformed into animation using Sony's game-changing Beyond Sports technology.

Stars such as Victor Wembanyama (right) will turn into cartoons in real time alongside Disney's Donald Duck and Mickey Mouse, as New York's iconic Madison Square Garden court becomes Disney World's Main Street, USA.

It will be an optional version of the game, meaning that fans can switch between reality and the AI version. It will also be the first NBA game to stream on Disney+.



Mickey and friends take to the court this Christmas



Also, keep your eyes peeled for:

- Christmas cameramen as Santa's elves record the game. The big man himself will be on ESPN's SkyCam
- A Disney delight at half-time, with Mickey Mouse and co taking part in a slam-dunk contest
- Special speeches and tree decorating
- And most importantly, how many churros can Goofy eat?!



Real-world scenarios in FC 25

EA Sports is bringing even more realism into FC 25 with the introduction of Live Start Points.

This addition, available now in Manager and Player Career Modes, allows you to jump into realworld events that appear in the game.

Ten of the top leagues in the world will eventually have Live Start Points, including the Barclays Women's Super League. Scenarios will be updated throughout the rest of the 2024/25 season.



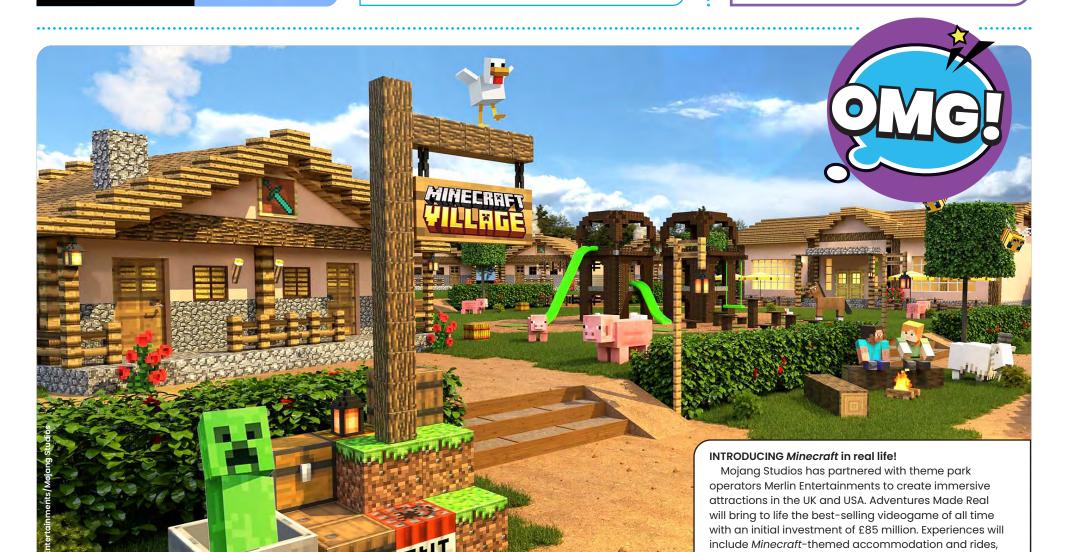
Pac-Man gets live experience

A LIVE Pac-Man experience is coming to Manchester.

Set to open on 22 March 2025, visitors will navigate a glowing maze in a recreation of the famous arcade game.

with special food and drinks. The first two attractions are

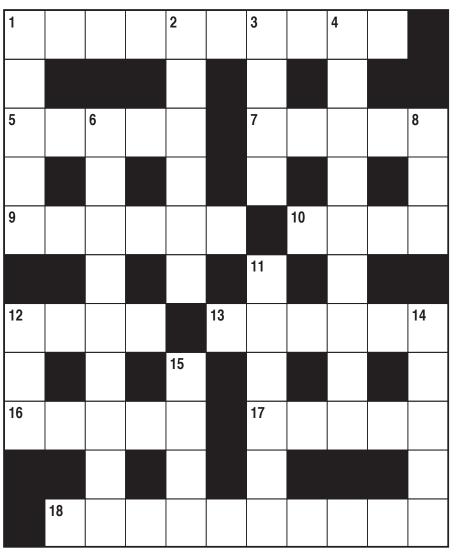
expected to launch between 2026 and 2027.





CROSSWO

CAN you solve our crossword puzzle using the clues below?



ACROSS

- 1 Exercises that develop physical agility (10)
- 5 Large stones (5)
- 7 Toys that are small models of humans (5)
- 9 Alternative to a bath (6)
- 10 Follow an order (4)
- **12** Nuisance (4)
- 13 A part of a country (6)
- 16 Entire; complete (5)
- **17** Perhaps (5)
- 18 Exciting journeys or experiences (10)

- 3 Regular movement

- 8 Watch someone secretly (3)
- 11 Puppet frog and famous Muppet (6)
- 12 Animal foot (3)
- 14 Requirements (5)

DOWN

- 1 Bacteria (5)
- 2 Reply to a question (6)
- of the sea (4)
- 4 Famous person (9)
- 6 This type of puzzle (9)

- 15 Where you are now (4)

Sudoku

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

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

COMPETITIONS: To enter, email us at win@firstnews.co.uk putting competition name' (e.g. Holiday), in the subject box or visit first.news/ comps. 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

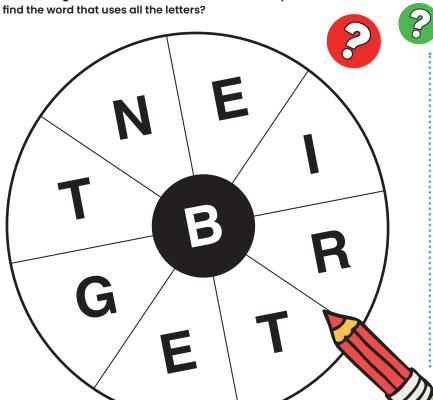
ISSUE 962 ANSWERS:

Word ladder: quit, suit, slit, slip, slop, shop.

Word wheel: appointed.







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.

WISE

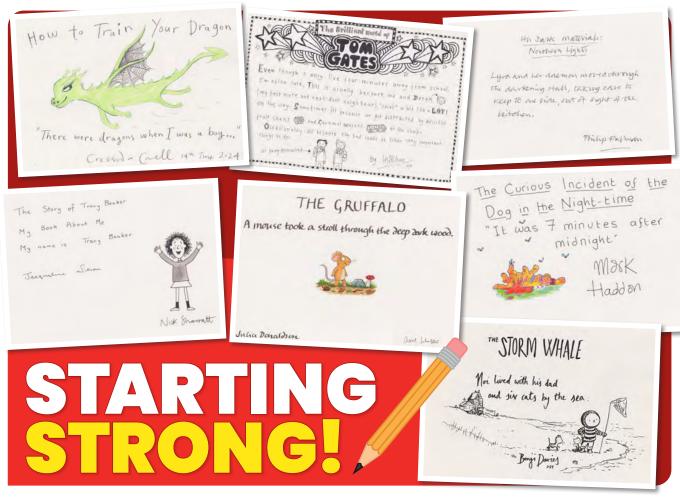
POET







be scanned by a



"ONCE upon a time..." is the first line of a lot of stories we read when we're young – but after a while, it starts to lose its impact a little!

If you really want to grab a reader's attention, the best writers get a tad more creative. Above are some examples dreamed up by the genius creators of some of the most-loved children's books around.

How many do you recognise?

These very special 'First Lines', hand-written by their original authors, are just some of the 46 that are up for auction to raise money for the charity Three Peas, which helps refugees. Bidding starts at £100 each, and the auction ends on 8 December.

Discover them all at jumblebee.co.uk/thefirstline.

MEET THE AUTHOR!

Cariad Lloyd, author of The Christmas Wish-tastrophe

- Hi Cariad! What were you like as a kid?
- I was quite shy and quiet until you got to know me. Then I was very loud.
- What was your favourite subject at school?
 Drama was best... but, anything that wasn't maths.
- What's your best-ever memory?

The first time my mum let me make a cake by myself. I realised, if I just ate it out of the tin before she came into the kitchen, I could just eat the whole thing myself!

• Who's your favourite (other) author? I'm a huge fan of Nadia Shireen and her amazing *Grimwood* series, and Tove Jansson who wrote the beautiful *Moomin* books.

Tell us a cool fact about yourself!

I am the voice of Prunella (below) in the *Tabby McTat* cartoon.



• What snack can't you live without when you're writing? Chocolate! I love chocolate very much and I think it should be part of your five-a-day.

• Can you describe The Christmas Wish-tastrophe in three words?

Magical, silly and heartfelt.

Can you tell us about the main character?

Lydia Marmalade
is a young girl who's
not very good at doing
what she's been told to do.
Her best friend is a sausage dog
called Colin.

• Which character in the book is most like you?

Probably the winter sprite, Bel. She's quite impatient, likes sleeping and throws things when she's annoyed.

• What was the hardest part of writing it?

Having to remember people didn't have the internet in 1812. Or cars. Or electricity. Luckily, there was still magic...

- What are you hoping for from Santa this year?
 A film my whole family agree to watch together!
- What's your favourite Christmas song? Deck The Halls is a banger, but you can't beat Santa Claus Is Coming To Town.
- What's the best thing in a Christmas dinner?

Cranberry sauce (see right). It's an underrated sauce that raises the mild turkey dish into a meal of greatness.

The Christmas Wish-tastrophe is out now.



Recommended reads

in partnership with Peters



Feeling festive!

CHRISTMAS is set to hog a lot of the limelight over the next month – but let's not forget about all the other fab festivals happening now and throughout the year. Learn about them all in these books!



The Big Book Of Festivals by Marita Bullock and Joan-Maree Hargreaves, illustrated by Liz Rowland

Who knew we had so many festivals? Dive into some of the world's most incredible cultural and religious celebrations.

Lunar New Year Around The World, by Amanda Li, illustrated by Angel Chang

Join colourful parades and lantern festivals from China to Canada and learn about all the different traditions for Lunar New Year!





The Miracle of Hanukkah by Malachy Doyle, illustrated by Christopher Corr

Discover the story behind one of the most important celebrations in the Jewish year in this

exploration of Hanukkah.

Diwali by Sital Gorasia Chapman, illustrated by Darshika Varma

With fun activities to try and yummy food to bake at home, join Sonali and her brother as they celebrate the festival of lights.





A Year Full Of Celebrations And Festivals by Christopher Corr and Claire Grace

Time-travel through a year and explore the wide range of religious and just-for-fun festivals

that are celebrated each season.









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

I'm a big fan of musicals, and this week my favourite musical features on Your News – Six. Libby has done a great review of it!

If you've been to a show that you've enjoyed, or to any other event that you want to recommend, why not write in to tell us? You could feature here, on these pages!

Just ask an adult to email us at yournews@firstnews.co.uk. Or even better – get your teacher to sign up to the First News FYI News Club to get exclusive opportunities to go to cool press events! Ask them to head to first.news/fyinewsclub to find out everything they need to know.

THIS WEEK'S POLL!

We asked 4,450 of you:

Would you eat food grown in human poo?

37% of you said YES



63% of you said NO

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

Cast your vote in our polls at first.news/polls



WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY

HOW YOU CELEBRATED

IT was World Children's Day on 20 November, and we asked you how you were marking it. Kai and Amelia, who are part of the News Club at Redden Court School, wrote in to tell us what they're passionate about.



by Kai

I have an autistic brother and although he did well in primary school, when he got older, there were fewer opportunities available for him. He was either too old to participate in events, or they catered for younger children rather than children of his age. Even in school now, his work leans towards life skills such as cooking (which he hates), or basic functional skills. This is adequate for some, but for my brother and so many others, they still have the capacity to learn and deserve the right to further learning.

My point is that autistic teenagers should be able to experience opportunities that are educational and fun, much like retail work experience, or other services that stopped after Covid-19.



by Amelia

World Children's Day is all about celebrating children's rights, learning about how they have evolved over time and spreading awareness to address global issues that affect children. I want to consider how we can change the world to make it a better place for children and for everyone!

Since 7 October 2023, children – particularly those in Gaza – have been suffering from war. Thousands have died from the conflict and it needs to be stopped. This is just one example of how children are submerged into the sea of war, stripping them of their rights, including the right to receive an education and the right to feel safe.

So, what can we do? We can spread awareness, donate money to charities that help and sign petitions. No child should have to suffer because of war.

Windmills of peace

THE journalist team at St Cedd's School in Chelmsford, Essex, created peace windmills to send to their partner school in India.

by Dylan and Rafael

For this year's International Day of Peace back in September, our 'Young Journalists' team made peace windmills.

To make them, we had to decorate a square piece of paper with messages and symbols of peace. We made them colourful and vibrant so everyone would notice them and then turned them into windmills and planted them in soil around the school.

Our hope was that our messages of peace would blow all the way to our partner school in Delhi, India, where the children at Indraprastha World School had also planted windmills, in the hope that their messages would blow all the way to us in England.

It is important for us to work together on different projects to celebrate our similarities and differences. Our next project together will be making collages about how to be kind.



► NEWS CLUB SHOUT-

HIS WEEK WE'RE GIVING SHOUT-OUTS TO... Endeavour Academy, British School Jakarta, Lady Eleanor Holles School, John Port Spencer Academy and Prior Park School!



Six the musical

YOU might have learnt about the infamous Henry VIII at school. One thing he is well known for is having six wives! But all most people know about them is one line to sum up what happened to them – 'Divorced, beheaded, died; Divorced, beheaded, survived'. Six the musical changes that. Libby went along to check it out for you.

by Libby

Six the musical was really good! It's a story all about Henry VIII's wives. It puts them in the spotlight and gives them the chance to shine!

My favourite wife was Catherine Howard (the fifth wife of Henry VIII) because she was so sassy (a bit like me), and I loved her song.

My favourite thing about the performance was the music, especially the first and last songs where all the queens sing together! At one point, they even chose two people from the audience to dance with them!

The Vaudeville Theatre (where the show was performed) was good for people with disabilities. There's a machine to help wheelchair users get up and down the stairs easily and people at the theatre were so kind. The whole experience was amazing!



BE A JUNIOR JOURNALIST!

If you'd like to get opportunities to go to cool events like Libby here, get your teacher to sign up to the News Club at first.news/fyinewsclub

MOST bowling pins are plain white, but Daisy entered a competition to design one exactly the way she wanted, and she won! She tells you all about it.

by Daisy Chick

I was really excited to win the Design A Pin competition for Hollywood Bowl. I loved watching lots of the Paris Olympics on the TV this summer, so I decided to design a pin with lots of balls and trophies from different types of sports I had seen. I also chose my favourite colours (blue, red, green and yellow) for the background because they are bright and colourful.

My design was made into a real pin! I love bowling and am enjoying using my new annual bowling pass to practise my bowling skills. I'm even having my eighth birthday party at Hollywood Bowl! Last time I went bowling I scored 83 points, so hopefully this time I will beat my score!







YOUR Christmas celebration wouldn't be complete without unwrapping a fantastic range of Aardman products, featuring such iconic characters as Wallace & Gromit and Shaun the Sheep.

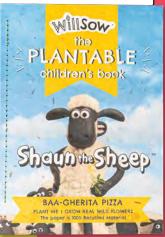
To celebrate some of our favourite children's shows, we're giving three lucky winners the chance to win a Willsow x Shaun the Sheep plantable book, a Gromit mug and Feathers McGraw water bottle from Half Moon Bay and a baaa-rilliant Shaun the Sheep night light from Lights4Fun.

All you have to do is answer this question:

What type of animal is Feathers McGraw?

a) Dog b) Penguin c) Panda





ENTER NOW! MARK
YOUR ENTRY AARDMAN

first power/company of see pages 21. The closing data is 13 December



The Week That Was

Issue 963 **FirstNews** 29 November – 5 December 2024

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.

How many hamsters escaped from their cages on a flight from Portugal?



2 The idea of bringing a Christmas tree indoors originated in which country?



Which dog has had a makeover here ahead of a new family trail?



What animal swam on a mega journey from Antarctica to Australia?



Mickey Mouse will be taking to an animated court in which sport on Christmas Day?

6 The first baby grey seal of the season has been spotted at which former military base?



What instrument did *Wicked* star

Jeff Goldblum play for fans in London?

New stamps have been released to celebrate how many years since the birth of Sir Winston Churchill?



9 Which drinks company's remake of its famous Christmas advert has been called "creepy"?

What birthday did Colorado Buffaloes superfan Miss Peggy recently celebrate?



Russia has gifted over 70 animals to which country?

12 A campaign has been launched to add the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct to which company's 'global collection'?





What does Norway gift the UK every year for the festive season?



How many F1 titles has Dutch driver Max Verstappen now won?

Do you love our quiz? Check out our Quiz that you can play online as an individual or with your family! You can find it at firstnews.co.uk/quiz and on the First News app!





13 UNICEF 14 A Christmany 3 Gromit 19 Her 100th birthday 11 North Korea 12 LEGO 10 Her 100th birthday 11 North Korea 12 LEGO 13 UNICEF 14 A Christmas tree 15 Four

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First News is published by First Group Enterprises Ltd, 58 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SEI 0AS. Printed by Reach Printing Services, St Albans Rd,

Watford WD24 7RG. Distributed by Marketforce (UK) Ltd, 3rd floor, 161 Marsh Wall, London, EI4 9AP. Tel: 0330 390 6555.

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WHY IS PESO IMPORTANT FOR EVERYONE?

THE Government is currently reviewing the national curriculum and ParalympicsGB is calling for PE to be made a core subject for all children. Here's why.



WHY DO WE NEED PE?

PE has so many benefits, including:

- Keeping your body strong and healthy
- Making you feel good and happy
- Teaching teamwork and improving communication skills
- Improving focus in other lessons
- Helping to build self-discipline





HOW CAN SCHOOLS MAKE PE MORE INCLUSIVE?

Sometimes, PE classes in schools focus too much on established sports like football or netball. This can make it harder for young disabled people to join in and enjoy being active. When PE is limited like this, some children miss out on activities that match their abilities and interests.

ParalympicsGB wants to encourage schools to think differently about PE, encouraging a wider view called physical literacy. This means finding fun and different ways to be active in PE lessons that everyone can enjoy, especially disabled young people. Being active isn't just about sports, it's about moving, staying healthy, and feeling good mentally and physically.

WHAT IS THE EQUAL PLAY CAMPAIGN?

ParalympicsGB's Equal Play campaign calls for four changes to be made to ensure PE and sport in schools supports everyone to be active. These changes are:

- Trainee teachers learn how to understand disability and work with young disabled people. They're taught how to adapt PE activities, so that everyone feels included.
- Current teachers get extra training on how to make PE and sports more inclusive, along with easy-to-use resources to help them create lessons that work for everyone.
- The PE curriculum is updated to go beyond just traditional sports. It includes fun games, creative movement and a wider range of activities that are inclusive for all.



ONLY one in four disabled young people take part in PE and school sport all of the time.

 More disabled people are encouraged to become teachers so that schools have better representation and role models for everyone.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED IN THE EQUAL PLAY CAMPAIGN?

As young people, you too can play a role in the Equal Play campaign by working together with other young people in your class and supporting each other during PE activities. Some of the things you can do are:

- During teamwork games, make sure everyone has a role to play, especially disabled children in your class.
- Discuss ideas as a class about how to adapt different sports and activities for different impairments.
- Pair up with disabled young people in your class and learn all about their capabilities and encourage each other.
- It's all about making sure everyone feels included, builds friendships and has fun while being active together.

DID THE PARIS 2024 PARALYMPIC GAMES INSPIRE CHANGE?

The Paris 2024 Paralympic Games have been fantastic at showcasing the range of inclusive and accessible sports available for all. Many of these sports are offered in the community too. Lots of sports organisations and local clubs will have been inspired to think how they can make their activities more welcoming and accessible for disabled children.







MAX Verstappen has won his fourth F1 title, and he only needed to finish in fifth place in Las Vegas to get his hands on the trophy.

That's because Lando Norris was behind him in sixth place, so Verstappen is now 63 points clear with only 60 left to play for.

The Dutch driver's fourth title puts him alongside fellow F1 legends Alain Prost and Sebastian Vettel, with only three drivers ahead of him on the all-time list. Argentina's Juan Manuel Fangio won five world titles in the 1950s, and two drivers are tied at the top with seven - Germany's Michael Schumacher and Britain's Lewis Hamilton, who last won the title in 2020.

Verstappen's team-mate Sergio Perez hasn't been able to get the best out of the Red Bull car, so he was full of praise for how Verstappen won the title.

"Congratulations to Max, I think he has had the best season I have ever seen from a driver, because a lot of the time we did not have the best car and Max made the difference a lot of weekends." he said.



It was a very good week for Italian tennis fans, as their country won the sport's two major team competitions. The women won the Billie Jean King Cup thanks to a 2-0 win over Slovakia, which was quickly followed by the men retaining the Davis Cup by beating the Netherlands by the same 2-0 margin. Italy had to wait 47 years for their second Davis Cup win last year, so to win it again so soon is incredible for Italian tennis.



If you thought Nelly Korda's cheque for \$487,500 last week was a huge amount of money, Jeeno Thitikul has just won the biggest prize in the history of women's golf, an astounding \$4 million (£3.18m). The Thai golfer is just 21 but is already set for life after she claimed the cash by winning the Tour Championship in Florida.



Scotland just missed out on a fourth European Curling Championship in a row, with Bruce Mouat's rink (team) losing 9-7 to Germany on the final stone. In the women's tournament, Switzerland managed to beat Sweden to hold on to the title they won last year.



Middlesbrough fans haven't had a lot to shout about since they got relegated from the Premier League in 2017, but Michael Carrick's team are serving up a feast of goals for fans right now. Their 6-2 win at Oxford is the first time in 64 years that Boro have scored six in an away league match, and they've netted 15 times in three games for the first time since 1947!

UNTIL this month, Man City boss four games in a row, but a 4-0 thrashing by Spurs has made that five. It makes City the first reigning champions since Chelsea in 1956 to lose five in a row in all competitions.

But Pep's points per game average is so good that City could lose the next 25 league games in a row and he'd still be the top Premier League boss ever

Braydon's on the bal

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



It was only the second time that Pep Guardiola had lost a home game by four goals in his managerial career and City's biggest home defeat since a 5-2 loss to Leicester in 2020. But City went on to win the league that season, so I wouldn't write them off just yet!



Liverpool stretched their lead to eight points, thanks to a 3-2 win at Southampton. Mo Salah's 83rd-minute penalty gave the Reds victory, and with a game against City coming up this Sunday, they'll be confident of extending that lead.

Ruben Amorim's reign at Man United took Centre Stage and he got off to a flying start when they took the lead after 81 seconds at Ipswich. But any thoughts of instant success soon vanished, with Ipswich dominating the game as the sides shared the points in a 1-1 draw. Ipswich will be wondering how they didn't win and United have André Onana to thank for a string of fine saves. A new manager but not much change on the field for United, and Amorim will have to be given plenty of time to make his mark at Old Trafford.

In the pick of the rest, Brighton continued their great form with a win at Bournemouth and Wolves won convincingly at Fulham to lift themselves out of the bottom three, while Arsenal and Chelsea picked up maximum points to retain the pressure on the top four places.

Braydon's Team of The Week: Spurs. Not many teams do that to City, especially at the Etihad. Braydon's Player of The Week: Matheus Cunha of Wolves. Two goals this week and a real star for them. I'm sure the top teams will be keeping an

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£2.95 Issue 963