

NEWS KIDS CAN TRUST

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR*



First News

Issue 976 £2.95 28 February – 6 March 2025

2.6M READERS*



A SNEAK PEEK BEHIND THE UK'S MOST FAMOUS DOOR WITH

FYI

PRESENTER ROSIE

9

NEWS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT INTERVIEWS PUZZLES COMPETITIONS

LET US PLAY!



by editor in chief Nicky Cox MBE

CHILDREN are spending less time playing, less time outside and less time with their friends, says a new report.

Instead, they are spending more time inside on digital devices at a time when millions of children are growing up unhappy and unhealthy.

A report out this week argues that a National Play Strategy is urgently needed, with around four in ten children living with an unhealthy weight, more than a quarter of children overweight and one in five children and young people in England struggling with their mental health.

The report highlights how:

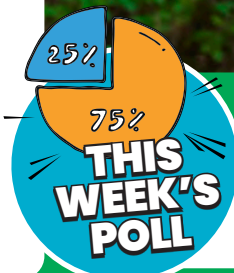
- Time spent playing outdoors has gone down by half since your parents were children.

- At least 400 playgrounds have closed across England between 2012 and 2022.
- More than two million children in England up to the age of nine don't live within a ten-minute walk of a playground.
- There are a growing number of 'anti-play' 'No Ball Games' signs, due to outdoor play being seen as a nuisance.

The report also reveals how play time has been squeezed out of the school day over the last 30 years, losing an average of around 20 minutes a week in break times.

Now, the *State of Play* report from the Raising the Nation Play Commission is calling on the government to "get children playing again" and wants new funding for playgrounds.

Do you get enough play time? Vote in our poll now and share your comments!



Do you get enough time to play?

Vote at first.news/polls



SPECIAL PULL-OUT INSIDE WITH YOUR £1 TOKEN

In partnership with

WORLD BOOK DAY

* 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. World Book Day illustrations ©Vivian Truong 2024. World Book Day® is a registered charity, company and trademark.

MEET THE TEAM



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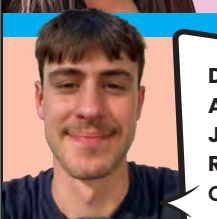
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HAVE YOU HEARD?

Snappy stories to get you talking!



Getty

Elon Musk is the world's richest man

RICH GET RICHER IN RECORD MONTH

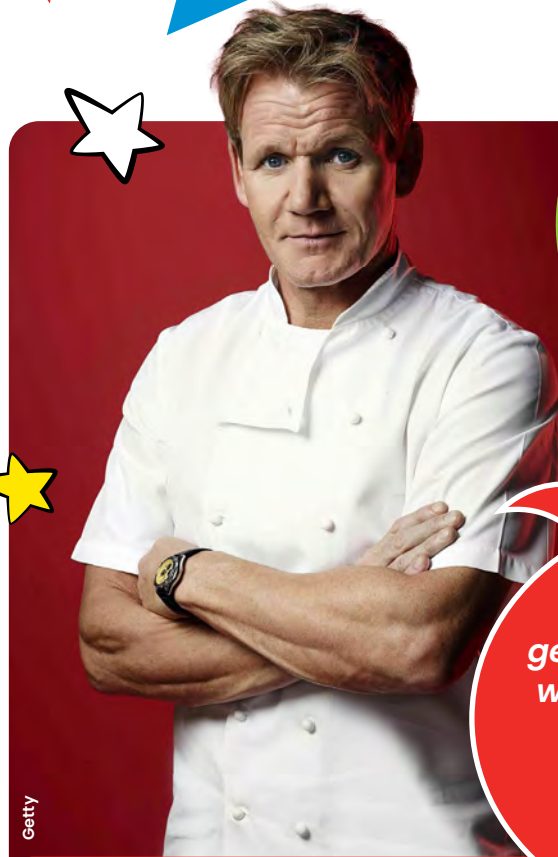
Billionaires gained more money in January 2025 than nearly three billion of the world's poorest people own altogether. The super-wealthy added \$314 billion (£249bn) to their wealth in just one month – about \$10bn (£8bn) every day. This news came as world leaders met in South Africa to discuss ways to make the richest people pay more tax. More than 50 groups, including charities and unions, are asking governments to use this extra money to help fight poverty and climate change.



iStock

KIDS' DENTAL HEALTH CRISIS NEEDS ACTION

A study from the universities of Leeds and Sheffield says that more children need access to supervised toothbrushing in schools. While the number of toothbrushing clubs has risen by 28% (more than a quarter) since 2022, many children in poorer areas still miss out. The research shows that about one in four five-year-olds in England have tooth decay, with this number doubling in less wealthy areas.



Getty

THEY SAID THAT!

"The cats are getting stolen. There were 477 stolen last week – they cost £4.50 each."

– chef Gordon Ramsay

RESTAURANT'S LUCKY CATS GO MISSING

A new restaurant has lost nearly 500 lucky cat decorations to thieves in just one week. Celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay's Lucky Cat restaurant in central London has been hit by customers taking the small Japanese cat statues, which are meant to bring good fortune. The stolen cats have left the restaurant with a loss of over £2,000.



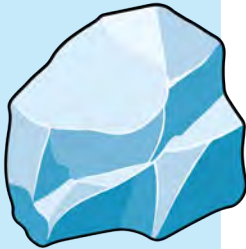
Getty

AMAZON TAKES OVER JAMES BOND

The James Bond movie series is in new hands after nearly 60 years of being run by the same family. Barbara Broccoli and her half-brother Michael G Wilson are stepping down and letting Amazon MGM Studios take control. The change comes four years after the last Bond movie, and means Amazon will get to choose who becomes the next James Bond. Fans are waiting to see how this big change might affect future films and whether there might be any spin-off TV series.

GLACIERS MELT AT RECORD SPEED

Scientists have discovered that glaciers are melting faster than ever before, threatening water supplies for millions of people worldwide. A new study by researchers at the University of Edinburgh and University of Zurich shows that glaciers are losing about 273 billion tonnes of ice every year – equal to all the water used by humans in 30 years. The study reveals that Central Europe has lost 39% (two-fifths) of its glacier ice in the last 20 years.



SaxaVord Spaceport



SCOTLAND JOINS SPACE RACE

A Scottish rocket company is aiming to join Europe's race to space, with plans to launch satellites from UK soil by 2026. S kyrora is building a new 23m (75ft) rocket called XL at its factory in Cumbernauld. The rocket, which is as long as two buses, will be able to carry small satellites weighing up to 315kg into space. The company wants to launch its smaller Skylark rocket later this year from SaxaVord, Britain's first spaceport, though final agreements are still being discussed. If that goes ahead, XL could launch from Scotland next year.



BAFTA SEEKS YOUNG CREATIVE STARS

BAFTA has launched this year's editions of two exciting competitions for young people who dream of working in entertainment. They aim to find the next generation of presenters and game designers aged 10-18. Winners of the Young Presenters contest will get the chance to interview celebrities at BAFTA events and create content for YouTube, while Young Game Designers lets people showcase their original game ideas to industry experts. Entry deadlines are 12 March for game designers and 17 April for presenters. Sign up at [bafta.org/programmes/young-presenters](https://www.bafta.org/programmes/young-presenters).



THE KING MEETS WITH AID GROUPS AT PALACE

King Charles met with leaders from major aid organisations at Buckingham Palace to discuss global humanitarian crises. The Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), which includes 15 charities, has raised over £40 million to help people in Gaza and nearby countries. The King also heard about other DEC projects, including their work helping people affected by war in Ukraine and earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.



NINE
weeks
to go

Hi, guys! I'm Chris, one of your reporters at *First News*. This is week two of my training diary for the London Marathon on 27 April!

It's not week two of my training, though. That began around Christmas time (once I'd had my fill of chocolate, stuffing and pigs in blankets).

After all, you can't go from nothing to running a 26.2 mile race in ten weeks! Or at least, it isn't wise to try.

It was at the end of October that an email dropped into my inbox telling me I'd received a place to run for UNICEF, and it was a special moment. I felt very lucky, like I'd got one of Willy Wonka's golden tickets!

The London Marathon is VERY hard to get into – last year, nearly 600,000 people entered the ballot (lottery) for a place, but only 53,000 got to run it. This year, 840,000 entered the ballot! So it's only getting harder.

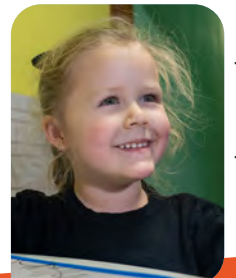
This weekend, I hope to run a 13-mile half marathon. That's far. The reward? I'll know that I'm half-ready for the big day! That... and maybe a bit more chocolate.

Come back next week to see how it went!

Why I'm running for...

unicef 
for every child

For children who are three years old in Ukraine, war is the only reality they have known. These years shape how children move, think and communicate. UNICEF's early learning spaces aim to help with the impact of prolonged distress in early childhood. Since participating, Katya (right) has made friends and speaks more at home.



© UNICEF/JUN1735904/Filippov

Find out more at tinyurl.com/ChrisInTheMarathon

PURRFECT CAT ART SHOW!



London's Cartoon Museum is set to host the UK's largest-ever exhibition of cat-themed cartoons and comics, running from April to September 2025. The show will display over 100 pieces of artwork featuring famous cartoon cats like Garfield and Bagpuss, created by well-known artists including Louis Wain and Axel Scheffler. Visitors can also learn about Battersea Dogs & Cats Home's work in helping thousands of cats each year. The exhibition explores how cats have influenced art and culture, showing why these feisty furballs continue to capture people's hearts.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

March marks Women's History Month – a chance to celebrate the achievements of women throughout history to the present day.

PANCAKE DAY

Pancake Day or Shrove Tuesday is a traditional feast day held before the start of Lent – the 40 days leading up to Easter.

CALENDAR DATES



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

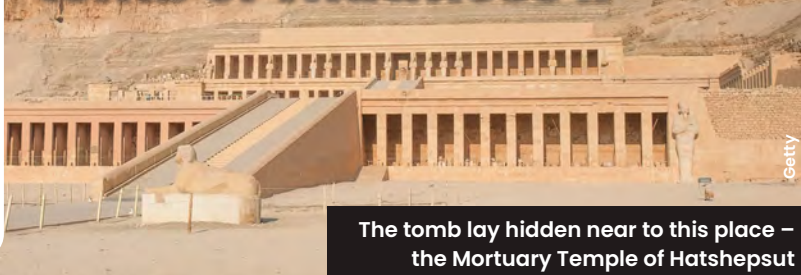


FIND OF THE CENTURY

Archaeologists discover tomb of Thutmose II



Thutmose II (above) ruled Egypt during the 18th dynasty



The tomb lay hidden near to this place – the Mortuary Temple of Hatshepsut

FOR the first time in over 100 years, archaeologists have found a tomb belonging to an ancient Egyptian pharaoh.

The stunning discovery was made by a team led by British archaeologist Piers Litherland. The tomb was hidden behind a waterfall, close to the Valley of the Kings in Luxor, which was once Thebes – Egypt’s ancient capital.

It belonged to Thutmose II, an ancestor of the legendary Tutankhamun. Thutmose II ruled Egypt for a short time until his death at the age of about 30.

At that point (around 1479 BCE), his wife and half-sister, Hatshepsut, took over. Hatshepsut went on to rule for about 20 years as one of Egypt’s greatest-ever pharaohs.

The tomb was first found in 2022, but only now do we know that it belonged to Thutmose II. Inside, researchers found sure signs that it was a royal tomb, including a ceiling painted blue, with yellow stars. Litherland says that such ceilings are only found in king’s tombs.

After making his discovery, he told *the Observer* newspaper: “You dream about such things. Like winning the lottery, you never believe it will happen to you.”

The tomb is in very poor condition. Thutmose II’s mummy was moved six years after his burial, because it was at risk of flooding caused by the waterfall.

A second tomb?

However, Litherland now thinks he has found the second tomb belonging to Thutmose II – and this one could contain his mummy. It’s believed to lie deep under a fake mountain of rock and mud, which had been built by the ancient Egyptians to hide the tomb.

It’s the last missing pharaoh’s tomb of ancient Egypt’s 18th dynasty. For all the future archaeologists out there, though, don’t worry – there are still tombs belonging to pharaohs of other dynasties that have yet to be found.

EDITOR’S COMMENT



Nicky Cox MBE

THE story on our front cover this week is a sad reminder of how things don’t always improve as years go by.

A lack of places to play and worries about crime, not to mention the internet and phones, mean that many kids now are stuck inside, less healthy and less happy than previous generations.

Lots of the older staff at *First News* will remember spending hours and hours outside, exploring, playing games or going off on their bikes for adventures. I’m sure many of our parents would say it was harder to get us back into the house! So what can be done? We’d love to hear your comments, so let us know at first.news/polls.



There’s less zinc and copper in English rivers



England’s rivers

ENVIRONMENT Agency data shows that a fall in metal pollution in English rivers in the 1990s and 2000s helped wildlife to thrive. A study found that the variety of species in rivers shot up once the country began to move away from coal burning and heavy industry (making lots of large, heavy things in big factories) in the 1980s.



THREE YEARS OF WAR IN UKRAINE

Watch FYI at first.news/tv or on the *First News* app.



Kikhon spoke to FYI

PRIME Minister Keir Starmer repeated the UK’s support for Ukraine on the third anniversary of Russia’s “barbaric” invasion.

Paying tribute to Ukraine president Volodymyr Zelensky’s leadership and the “incredible” response of the Ukrainian people, he said: “We continue to stand with Ukraine for a just and lasting peace.”

To mark the three-year anniversary, *First News*’ Sky Kids partner show, *FYI*, spoke to some of Ukraine’s 3.7 million schoolchildren.

More than 100 underground schools have been built to shelter pupils from Russian attacks. “It’s very fun here,” said one boy, Kikhon. “You can’t hear the explosions, so it’s not scary.” Charities including UNICEF have helped to make sure the classrooms are warm enough and have a water supply. However, some pupils miss having windows to look out of.

“The impact of the war in Ukraine on the wellbeing of young people and children has been immense,” said Toby Fricker from UNICEF. “What [they] need is a chance to get their childhoods back... to be able to grow up like any child should, anywhere.”

MUSIC OF THE FUTURE!

TEN inventors from around the world will meet in Atlanta, USA, on 8 March to show off a series of all-new musical instruments!

They’ll play their cool creations to compete for \$10,000 (£7,900) in prizes.

The finalists include some very wacky instruments.

There’s the **mulatar**, which is an all-in-one slide guitar, harp and percussion box.

The **udderbot** is a ‘DIY flute’ that’s simply a glass bottle filled with water, with a rubber glove ‘bladder’ tied to the end.

Perhaps the coolest, though, is the **dinosaur choir**. Two US inventors have 3D-printed the skulls and nasal passages of extinct dinosaurs. Blow through them, and it produces the sounds each dino made when it walked the Earth!



A fifth of trains were delayed by over 15 minutes



German trains

ANYONE who books a train in the UK knows they’re risking delays and disappointment – but figures show that German trains, once celebrated for their efficiency, are now even more unreliable than ours! In the past year, over a quarter of Deutsche Bahn’s intercity trains failed to arrive within ten minutes of their scheduled time.

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.



CRACKDOWN ON KNIFE SALES

THE government has announced a set of rules that are designed to protect young people from knife crime.

They include stricter rules for retailers that sell knives online, and there are three main things to know:

1 The punishment for selling a knife to under-18s is increasing from six months to up to two years in prison. This could be for the person who processes the sale, or the head of the company selling the knife.

2 Retailers will have to report any suspicious-looking bulk purchases of knives to the police. The aim is to stop people selling knives on to children through social media.

3 A new offence is coming in that means anyone caught carrying

any sort of knife (whether it's a legal one or not) with the intent to cause violence could go to jail for up to four years.

The set of rules is called 'Ronan's Law', in tribute to a 16-year-old schoolboy called Ronan Kanda, who was tragically killed in an attack by two other 16-year-olds near his home in Wolverhampton in 2022.

Yvette Cooper, the Home Secretary (in charge of law enforcement), said: "It is horrifying how easy it is for young people to get hold of knives online."

"This government has set an ambitious mission... to halve knife crime over the next decade, and we'll pursue every possible avenue to save young lives."

SHOCK STATS

If you put 100 children aged 10-15 in a room...

6 have changed their route or mode of transport

7 have avoided going somewhere

9 have avoided travelling alone

...due to worries about people carrying weapons

Source: Office for National Statistics survey of children aged 10-15 in England and Wales, March 2024



NICE MICE TESTS SHOW THEY GIVE FIRST AID TO THEIR PALS!

YOUNG mice have been seen to give 'first aid' to their unconscious friends!

In a slightly strange study, researchers at the University of Southern California ran a series of tests on pairs of mice. One mouse was given an anaesthetic so that it would fall asleep. Then, the other was let in to see how it reacted.

The helper mice tended to spend half their time trying to wake the sleeping mice. They sniffed them, licked their eyes and gently bit their mouth. In over half of the tests, they even pulled out their tongue to clear their airwaves!

In one test, a little non-toxic ball was placed inside the sleeping mouse's mouth. Four out of five times, the mouse giving first aid succeeded in removing the ball.

This behaviour was more common in mice that had shared a cage before.

The sleeping mice that received first aid tended to wake up and start walking around quicker than those that were ignored.

Lead researcher Li Zhang thinks the helper mice were acting on instinct. Two other laboratories have observed similar behaviour. So, although they're not always humans' best friends, it appears that to one another, mice are nice!

Night sky is twice as bright as it was in 2017

LIGHT pollution is causing trouble for the UK's nocturnal (night-time) wildlife.

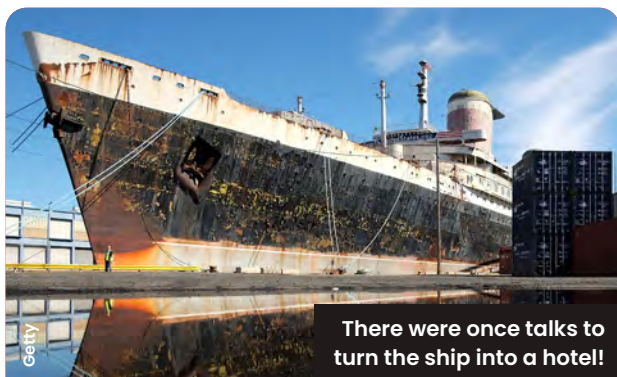
At least two-thirds of invertebrates (animals that don't have backbones) are active at night. However, increasingly bright cities have led to the night sky becoming one-tenth brighter every year for the past ten years. This means that it's twice as bright as it was around seven or eight years ago.

This is changing the behaviour of various invertebrates. Studies have found that bats change their flight paths, while populations of caterpillars – which grow into dark-loving moths – are halved in areas with street lights.

BUT...

WALES last week became the first UK country to publish guidance on how to protect dark skies. It includes things like using lighting only where necessary, making bulbs no brighter than they need to be, and keeping light away from wildlife. The aim is to protect people's mental wellbeing and to help stargazers and wildlife to thrive.

Legendary liner to be world's largest fake reef



There were once talks to turn the ship into a hotel!

A HUGE, 1,000ft (305m) ocean liner is about to be sunk off the coast of Florida to create a paradise for fish.

It's not uncommon for fish tanks to have shipwreck models in them, but imagine that in real life! The SS United States has been towed down the coast from Philadelphia to the Gulf of Florida, and will become the world's largest artificial reef.

She was a famous ship in her day. Built entirely in the USA, she crossed the Atlantic Ocean at a record-breaking average speed of over 41 mph on her first voyage in 1952. The journey took three days, ten hours and 40 minutes, and it's still a record to this day.

There are over 560 artificial reefs off the coast of Florida's Okaloosa County alone. It's hoped that this wreck could generate millions of dollars per year for scuba-diving and tourism industries.



The tiny red speck is the LEGO brick, and the strip next to it is a human hair!



A BRITISH 'micro-artist' has set the world record for the world's smallest handmade sculpture.

It's a red LEGO piece that measures a minuscule 0.02517mm by 0.02184mm. That's roughly the size of a white blood cell, and it's so small that it's invisible to the human eye.

Its creator, David A Lindon (above), said it took months to build, because even the pulse of his heartbeat would nudge him too much.

Mr Lindon said: "It's madness, I know... I love the look of wonder and surprise on people's faces when they see my art for the first time."



Lundy Island, UK



© David Alpert/JUPY2025

THIS image of a curious seal has won David Alpert the crown of British Underwater Photographer of the Year 2025. Alpert says: "British seals are delightfully curious, more interactive than any other species I have dived with around the world." Head over to the *First News* app to discover the overall winner of the Underwater Photographer of the Year 2025.



Illinois, USA



Getty

WINDY City Bulls mascot Gus T Bull dances during an NBA G League basketball game against the Capital City Go-Go.

Jiujiang, China



Getty

VISITORS savour the snowy scenery around a pagoda on Lushan Mountain.



Preston, UK



Preston City Council

HE'S back... but this time it's in bronze form. A statue of evil penguin Feathers McGraw has been unveiled in Preston, the birthplace of Wallace and Gromit creator Nick Park (right). Park was joined by the Mayor of Preston, Councillor Philip Crowe, to celebrate the opening of Animate, the city's new £45 million entertainment and leisure complex. As McGraw was revealed, the crowd started booing light-heartedly. The character recently returned to the series in *Vengeance Most Fowl*. Let's hope he doesn't get too near the city's other bronze statue (below)!

Preston, UK



Preston City Council

THE 1.2m-high (4ft) bronze statue of Feathers McGraw (above) sits close to this existing Wallace and Gromit bronze statue bench at nearby Preston Markets. It was also unveiled by creator Nick Park, back in September 2021.

Las Vegas, USA



Getty

EARTH, Wind & Fire perform at the 28th annual Power of Love Gala, which raises money for people affected by brain diseases.



PMQs WITH KEIR STARMER



LAST week, *First News* and our partner news show *FYI* took some young people to Downing Street to quiz the prime minister about the issues that mattered to them. Watch what happened and get an exclusive sneak peek behind the scenes at 10 Downing Street by going to [first.news/tv](https://www.first.news/tv) – and read part two of our chat here.

SPORT

● I'm a Spurs supporter and I know you support Arsenal – but we can still be friends! I love playing football too, but I'm worried that not all kids have opportunities. Shouldn't the government be investing in more sports facilities like football pitches to give more kids something to do?

Well, Cassius, let me first forgive you for being a Spurs fan! I am an Arsenal fan and I love football. I think it's really important that we have the ability, particularly children, to play football and all sport, actually. Sport gives us the ability to come together and we need real facilities for that. I'm a big supporter of more facilities for football and more facilities for all sports because it's very good for our physical and mental health, but also just the way we react to each other. I think it's really important that we have the ability to come together to work in a team, which is a skill beyond football. There are obviously skills on the pitch, but how do you act with other people? Are you part of a team? That's really important.



Cassius, nine: St Alban's RC Primary School, Hornchurch



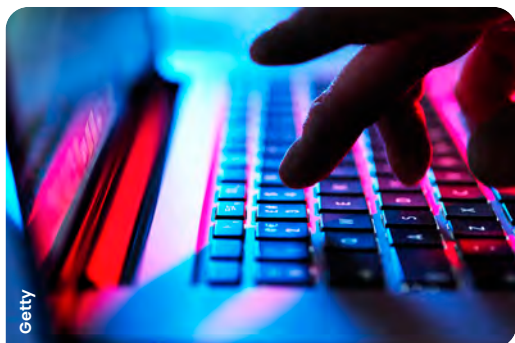
ONLINE SAFETY

● There is so much misinformation and completely fake news online. It feels like other people are trying to force their opinions on us before we've had a chance to form our own. How do you think young people can navigate this?

Well, I think this is really important because you all have access to the online world and you will do even more as you get older. It's important that it's a safe space. That's why we've got what we call the Online Safety Act. It makes sure that what is online is safe and means it can be enforced. So it's coming into force now, which will help you navigate things online, but it is really important that you also think through in your own mind's eye what it is you're looking at, and whether you think there's any misinformation. We have to be really clear to call it out. The online world



Rosie, 12: Knightsbridge School, London



offers us a huge amount of information, which is incredible for knowledge and for learning. But we also need to know that it's not always safe. It's the job of government to make sure it's a safe environment. We all need to be aware that information is not always true and therefore we have to take measures to ensure that we're not getting fed misinformation.

ENVIRONMENT

● I love the outdoors. What is the government doing to make the air I breathe cleaner?

Firstly, I think pretty much everybody in the room likes the outdoors, and I think it's really important that children and young people – all of us – get outdoors as much as possible, for fresh air, for enjoyment, for exercise and also to see the beautiful countryside that we've got across the United Kingdom. We do have to make sure that we have clean air for you to breathe, and I think this is really important. I've got two children – a boy who's 16 and a girl who's 14. And the way I see it is this – I wouldn't give them dirty water to drink and I wouldn't want them to breathe in dirty air either. Therefore, it's really important that we make sure our water is clean and our air is clean. That's why we're doing a lot of work to ensure that that's the position across the country. It's always more of a challenge in the city than in the countryside. But we're taking a number of measures to make sure that the air that you breathe is, and remains, clean just as we want the water that you drink to be clean as well.



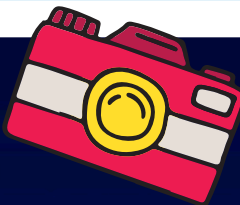
Seren, 11: Ysgol Madras, Wales



Young people put their questions to the PM

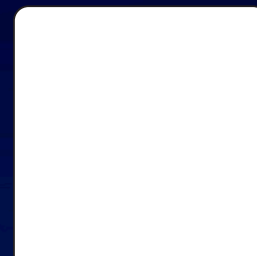


ROSIE'S PHOTO DIARY



FYI

Watch the *FYI* report from Junior PMQs, Rosie's sneak peek inside Number 10 and hear about Larry the cat, by asking a responsible adult to scan this QR code, or at [first.news/tv](https://www.first.news/tv).



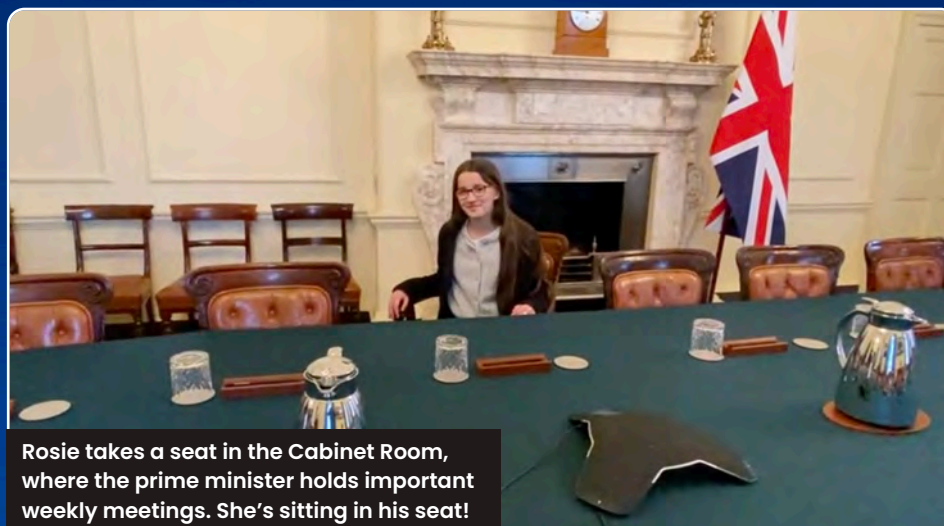
EVER wondered what it's like behind the famous door of Number 10 Downing Street? Well, here's your chance to find out! *FYI* presenter Rosie did some snooping around for us, so check out what she saw!



Rosie poses outside Number 10, before heading inside for a nosey round!



First up, let's meet the Chief Mouser to the Cabinet – Larry the cat!



Rosie takes a seat in the Cabinet Room, where the prime minister holds important weekly meetings. She's sitting in his seat!



It's time to venture upstairs to the State Rooms. Photos of former prime ministers line the famous grand staircase



Rosie checks out the White Drawing Room, one of Downing Street's major state rooms. This room is often used for television broadcasts and interviews



Rosie looks at some memorabilia from the London 2012 Olympics that is kept in Downing Street



Will we see Rosie back as PM one day? Watch this space!

PAISLEY

From bin to beach

A seagull who was rescued from a bin has made a 1,800-mile (2,900km) journey to paradise. The lesser black-backed gull, named Gulliver, was found trapped in the trash in Paisley, Renfrewshire, last May. The distressed bird was taken in by animal charity the Scottish SPCA and brought back to full health. Now, after being fitted with a tracker, he's been spotted sunning himself on a beach in Morocco! Staff said it was "incredible" to find out that Gulliver was doing well on his migration.



Gulliver's travels!

Lynx prey on deer and are not a danger to humans



SCOTLAND

In sync about lynx

More and more Scottish people are in favour of bringing lynx back, a new poll has found. The forest-dwelling felines play a vital role in maintaining healthy ecosystems, but have been extinct in Scotland for over 500 years. It's estimated that the Highlands could support around 250 of the animals, and a poll for the Lynx to Scotland partnership shows that 61% of people would support their return, while only 13% are against it. However, it would need the approval of First Minister John Swinney, who recently said: "My government will not be reintroducing lynx, or indeed any other large carnivorous species, in Scotland."

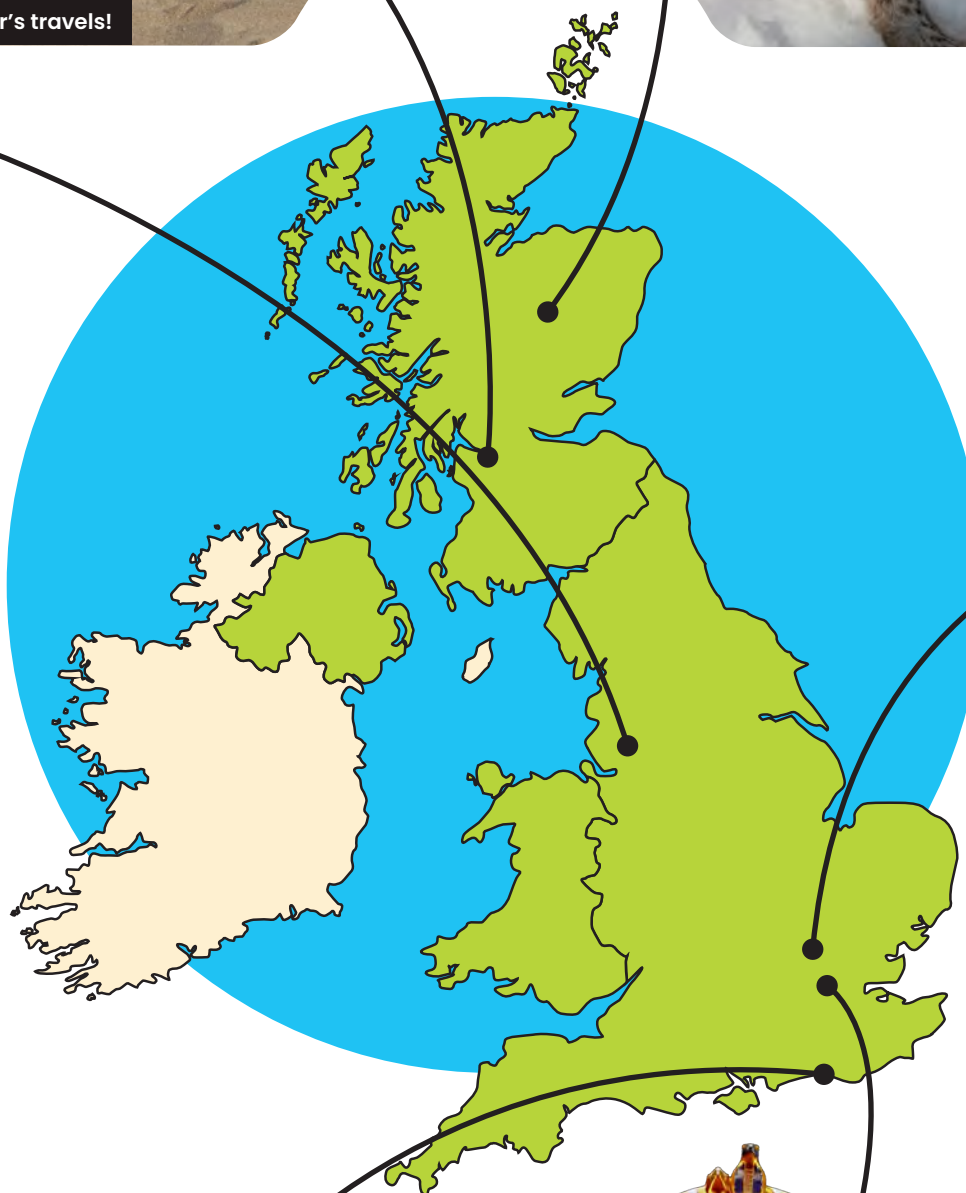
BOLTON

Living the dream

A Twitch streamer who led his local club to glory in a videogame has been asked to run the club in real life. Aaron Hunt has been taking Daisy Hill up the leagues in *Football Manager*. The club plays in the NWCFI First Division North, which is in the tenth level of the English football pyramid. His virtual success caught the eye of Daisy Hill manager Lee Hill, who invited him to be the club's chairman in the real world. Aaron said he was "buzzing" to take the job. He hopes that he can boost the fortunes of the Cutters, who are struggling due to some serious money troubles.



Aaron Hunt has thousands of followers on social media



LUTON

Picture boards allow play for all

The UK's 300th playground communication board has been unveiled. Up to 14 million people in the UK experience communication difficulties at some point in their lives, but these boards make it much easier. They feature picture symbols and large illustrations of playground vocabulary so that play can be more inclusive for people with special educational needs. Created by Widgit, the 300th board has been put up in Wardown Park, Luton. Young people in the park pointed to the symbols to communicate with their friends and share their interests.

BRIGHTON

Marathon record broken

A film-maker has accidentally broken the world record for the fastest marathon on crutches. Chris Terrill took on the Brighton Marathon last year, despite having surgery on his hip just four months before. It meant the 73-year-old had to run it on crutches, but he was determined to raise money for the Royal Navy & Royal Marines Charity, which he has supported with his films for a long time. He completed the race in an incredible six hours, 11 minutes and 11 seconds. The race took place on 7 April 2024, but his Guinness World Record has only just been confirmed.



Chris Terrill

Chris wasn't aware of the record until after the race!



Tutankhamun: The Immersive Exhibition

King Tut's tomb was discovered almost intact and full of treasures in 1922

LONDON

Meet the Boy King

A new exhibition looking into the myths and mysteries of Pharaoh Tutankhamun is opening soon. Tutankhamun, or King Tut as he is also known, ruled ancient Egypt thousands of years ago when he was just a boy. Now, his life will be shown in a whole new light with a mix of interactive rooms and ancient artefacts. Highlights include 360-degree projections of ancient Egypt that soar 8m (26ft) high, and a hologram showcasing the king's mummification – the traditional way of preserving a dead body for the afterlife. Tutankhamun: The Immersive Exhibition runs at Immerse LDN from 28 March – 29 June.



WORLD WILDLIFE DAY

Bake to help critically endangered orangutans



A baby orangutan in Borneo



WORLD Wildlife Day (WWD) takes place on 3 March every year to celebrate wild animals and plants.

It's also about spreading awareness of the ever-growing effects of climate change.

The day isn't about just one event. It's a chance for groups around the world to show their support for wildlife in their own way.

Schools everywhere are being invited to help by the International Animal Rescue charity to take part in their Cakes for Apes fundraiser. Your school can choose to have a bake sale, a bake-off or wear orange or red on a dress-down day.

You can hold your event whenever is best for you; on World Wildlife Day itself, on the tenth anniversary of Cakes for Apes (Saturday 29 March), or on any day during 'Ape-riil', when most of the fun is planned for.

Some of the money you raise can be donated to the charity to help critically endangered orangutans. This will help get them the love and care they need so they can recover and return to life in the wild.

Find out more at cakes4apes.org.

World-leading dog show is back

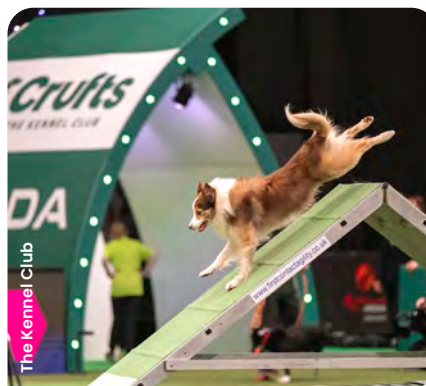
CRUFTS is one of the largest dog events in the world and it's back at the NEC in Birmingham from 6 to 9 March.

It's a celebration of all dogs. That includes the 223 pedigree breeds who are competing to be named Best in Show, and the nominees for The Kennel Club Hero Dog Award who have gone above and beyond for their owners and communities. There are also crossbreeds to look out for in the final of the Scruffts Family Crossbreed of the Year competition, and rescue dogs in

the Rescue Dog Agility competition.

You will be able to see the many skills of our four-legged friends in competitions such as agility, flyball and heelwork to music.

This year, following criticism, some breeds such as pugs and bulldogs need to have breathing tests before they can take part. Charities like the RSPCA want flat-faced breeds banned completely, because they say overbreeding causes extreme features, which can lead to dogs suffering.



ANEESHWAR'S ANIMAL OF THE WEEK

MULTI-WORLD RECORD HOLDER!

ANEESHWAR Kunchala is a ten-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...

STOAT



HABITAT:

- Woodland, grassland, farmland and upland.

FUN FACTS:

- Stoats and weasels look almost the same, but stoats have a black-tipped tail.
- Stoats are sandy-brown with white-cream underparts. They don't hibernate over winter, instead their coat turns almost completely white (apart from their tail tip) to blend in with the snow. Their white fur is known as ermine.

SPECIAL SUPERPOWER:

- Stoats can take prey as big as rabbits, which are more than five times their size.

CONSERVATION STATUS:

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



Aneeshwar's stoat artwork

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.





GERMANY



Birkenstock had taken three companies to court for copying their sandals



Margot Robbie

Barbie's sandals aren't art, say judges

Top judges in Germany have ruled that sandals made by the country's famous brand, Birkenstock, don't count as works of art. The decision has upset Birkenstock – if their sandals did count as art, it would have forced rival companies to stop copying their iconic shoe design, with its comfy sole and leather straps. The brains behind the design, Karl Birkenstock, is still alive and, in Germany, works of art get copyright protection for 70 years after their creator's death. He launched his first pair of sandals in the 1960s, but the brand's popularity received a big boost in 2023 when actor Margot Robbie wore a pink pair in the final scene of the *Barbie* movie.

PORTUGAL

"Cover up", topless tourists told

Albufeira is looking at banning tourists from walking around town in their swimwear. "Urgent" new rules could be introduced that would see visitors face a fine of up to €1,500 (£1,240) if they fail to cover up properly in public areas. The seaside city is a favourite for UK holidaymakers – the Algarve region of Portugal had a record 5.2 million visitors last year, and 4.4 million came from Britain. Albufeira mayor José Carlos Martins Rolo says he wants to cut the city's "dependence" on UK visitors and make it a top international destination.



Swimwear is still fine on the beach!

CHINA



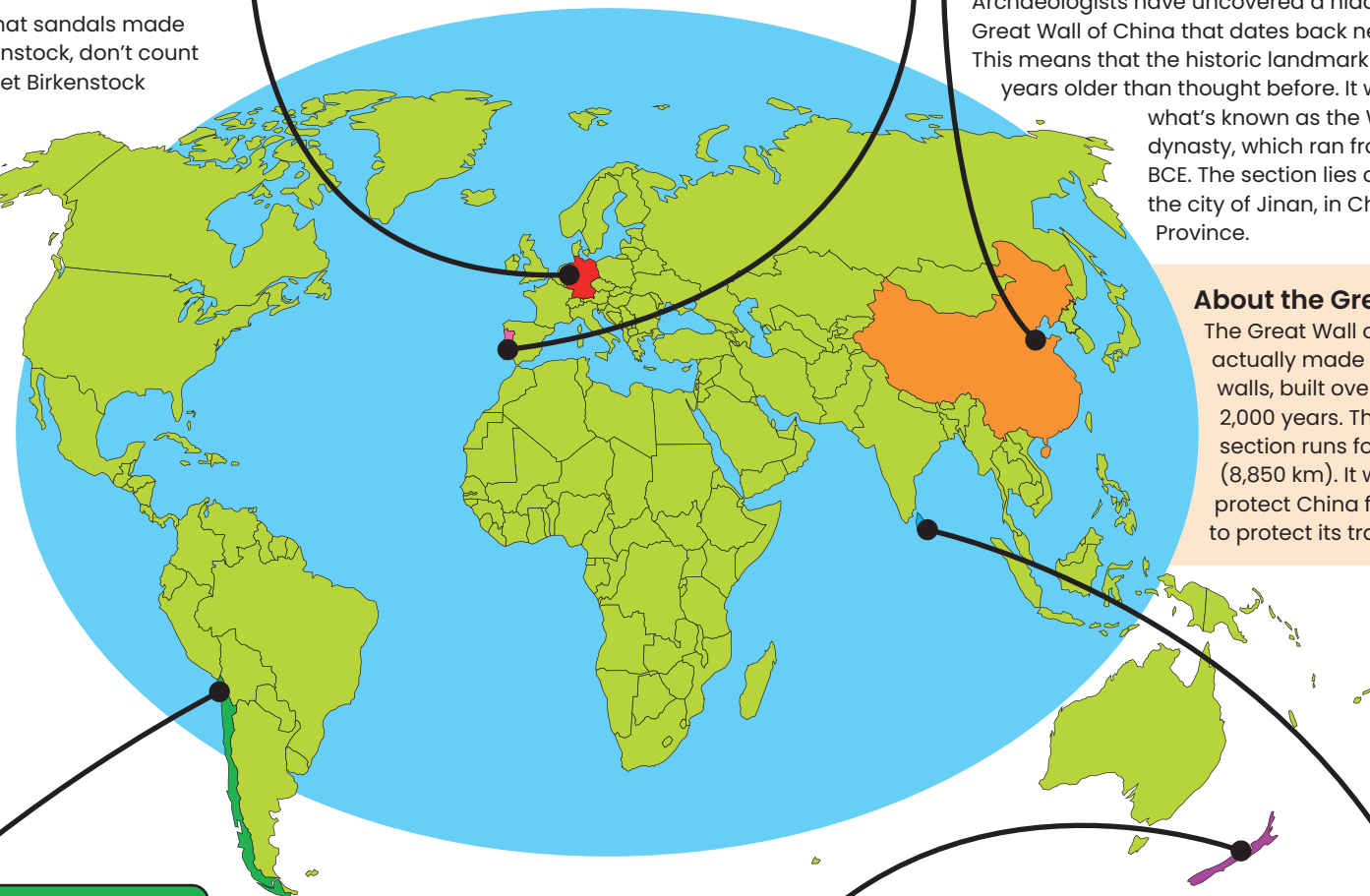
The world-famous wall

Archaeologists find 3,000-year-old part of Great Wall of China

Archaeologists have uncovered a hidden section of the Great Wall of China that dates back nearly 3,000 years. This means that the historic landmark is actually 300 years older than thought before. It was built during what's known as the Western Zhou dynasty, which ran from 1046 BCE to 771 BCE. The section lies on the outskirts of the city of Jinan, in China's Shandong Province.

About the Great Wall

The Great Wall of China is actually made up of several walls, built over a period of 2,000 years. The best-preserved section runs for 5,500 miles (8,850 km). It was built to protect China from invasion and to protect its trade and culture.



CHILE

Drinking water taken from fog!

Scientists think that 'harvesting' water from fog could provide all the drinking water needed in one of Chile's driest cities, Alto Hospicio. To harvest water, a mesh sheet is hung between two poles. When fog passes through it, droplets form, then fall into storage tanks. Some towns around the world already harvest water from fog, but the researchers think it could be done on a larger scale. Alto Hospicio isn't connected to any water networks, so 300,000 litres of it is delivered by trucks each week. The scientists think that 17,000m² of mesh could catch enough water to meet that demand.



The city sits on the edge of the bone-dry Atacama Desert

NEW ZEALAND

Goopy worm wins bug of the year

While actors fuss over Oscars in Hollywood this week, one of the most highly prized titles of the bug world has been handed out – the New Zealand Bug of the Year. It's gone to a creature that attacks its prey by shooting sticky goo from its head, then drinking the dissolved critter like soup – yummy! It's a type of velvet worm called



Look at those cute lil' legs!

Ngāokoeko in the Māori language. They're not actually worms, but lie somewhere between a worm and an insect. They're also old – so old that they're classed as 'living fossils' and have barely changed in about 500 million years. Around 30 types of velvet worms live in New Zealand's forests, but they're hard to study because they're tricky to find.

SRI LANKA



The train came off the tracks

Elephants hit by passenger train

In sad news from Sri Lanka, six elephants were killed when they were hit by a passenger train near the central city of Habarana. Two more elephants were receiving treatment. The accident forced the train to derail, but no passengers were harmed. There are about 7,000 elephants in Sri Lanka, and 20 of them are killed by trains each year. However, local police told the news agency AFP that this was the worst such accident that the country had seen. Train drivers have been asked to drive slowly and sound their horns to warn animals of their approach.



A BOOK FOR EVERYONE!



GRAB your book tokens and pop on your best costumes, because this Thursday (6 March) is World Book Day 2025. We're celebrating the epic annual event with this special pull-out, diving into this year's £1 books, meeting the authors, and having some fun along the way!

In partnership with

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**



WHAT IS WORLD BOOK DAY?

WORLD Book Day is an epic celebration of reading right across the UK and Ireland.

Its aim is to spread the message that reading can change your life, and to get books into the hands of as many children as possible!

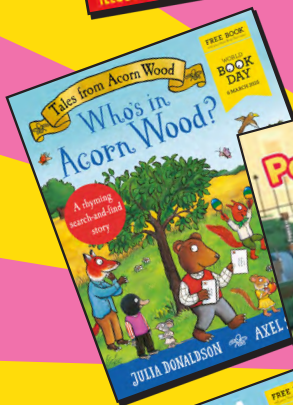
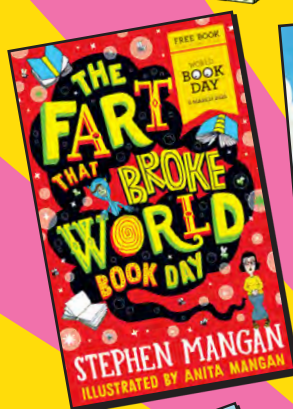
Research has proven that reading helps children become happier and more successful, but did you know that almost a million children in the UK don't own a book? It could be that they're yet to discover the joy of reading, or it could be that they just don't have books around them, or the money to buy one.

World Book Day gives all kids in the UK the chance to choose a book of their own from a range of £1 books, using a free £1 token (yours is on page 16)!

There are loads of different ways that you can celebrate World Book Day. You could take a trip to the local library, set up a classroom display of famous literary characters, or ask your teacher if you could do some book-themed lesson activities.

However you celebrate, have a fabulous time!

THIS YEAR'S £1 BOOKS



BOOK BATTLE ⚡ MEET THE AUTHORS ⚡ POKÉMON HOW-TO-DRAW ⚡ £1 BOOK VOUCHER



STEPHEN

STEPHEN AND ANITA MANGAN'S

BOOK BATTLE!

ONE brother, one sister. One author, one illustrator. They teamed up to create a special £1 book, *The Fart That Broke World Book Day*. Now, they're taking on our quick-fire questions!



Billie Charity

ANITA

<p><i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i> – I loved the upside-world where the child was the sensible one and the adults were bonkers.</p>	<p>What was your favourite book to read as a child?</p>	<p>Anything by Roald Dahl, but <i>James and the Giant Peach</i> was a particular favourite because it was so surreal and magical!</p>
<p>I think in my back garden on a sunny day is my absolute favourite. I won't read while walking down the street, like some do, as I'd keep bumping into lampposts.</p>	<p>What's your favourite reading spot – on the bus, on a bench, on a beach, in bed?!</p>	<p>I love reading in bed, but the danger is, it's so comfy, I fall asleep!</p>
<p>Probably space! I'd love to know more about what's out there. In another life I'd love to be an astronaut.</p>	<p>If you could read a non-fiction book on one subject, what would it be?</p>	<p>I really enjoy reading books about writing, by writers! I've read Philip Pullman and Stephen King's books on writing. It's fascinating how different people write stories.</p>
<p>Definitely a bookmark. If I can't find one I'll use a piece of paper or a leaf or a bit of string or even a sock, but I NEVER fold the corner!</p>	<p>Do you use bookmarks, or are you a corner-folder?</p>	<p>I always use a bookmark, even if it's an old receipt or a tissue – an unused tissue, by the way! I don't like to ruin any pages of my books – they're precious objects!</p>
<p>We have the same sense of humour and have been making each other laugh since we were children. I love seeing how she draws the characters I invent.</p>	<p>What's the best thing about creating a book with your sibling?</p>	<p>I don't need Stephen to explain any jokes to me because I get his bonkers sense of humour – because I have it as well!</p>
<p>Now we do book events for children, Anita tells them lots of embarrassing stories about growing up with me!</p>	<p>...and what's the worst thing?</p>	<p>There's no worst thing about working with Stephen – he's the greatest brother in the world. (Note: he made me say that. No he didn't. I made it up, tee-hee!)</p>
<p>Anita has a very sensitive nose, and used to sniff a scented pencil whenever she smelt farms on car journeys. Luckily our books aren't scratch and sniff...</p>	<p>Tell us an embarrassing story about them from when they were a kid!</p>	<p>When our little sister was born, Stephen was upset that he wasn't getting attention, so did lots of handstands and shouted: "Look at me, look at me!"</p>
<p>When the children work out why their teachers are farting uncontrollably – but you'll have to read the book to find out why!</p>	<p>What's your favourite bit in <i>The Fart That Broke World Book Day</i>?</p>	<p>The scene in the dinner hall is my favourite – but I can't say any more, I don't want to give the story away.</p>

THEY AGREE ON TWO THINGS...!

First... just how important it is for children to lose themselves in books.
 "You can meet amazing new characters, go anywhere and experience life from new angles," says Stephen.



Second... the other £1 book they're most looking forward to reading is *This Story Is A Lie* by Benjamin Dean, and for the same reason:
 "The title's so intriguing!" says Anita!





KIRAN MILLWOOD HARGRAVE

Author of *The Wolf Trials*

● **What's your book about?**

The Wolf Trials introduces a world where warriors ride wolves, castles are built of broken boats, and a rebellious princess tries to change her destiny...

● **What's your favourite thing about books and reading?**

If you can read, you can learn anything. All the information of the world is open to you. I also love the escapism and excitement I get from stories, but in today's world of 'fake news', I think it's so important to be an independent, informed thinker.

● **How do you feel about having a book included in World Book Day?**

I became slightly delirious when I heard the news! World Book Day was like bookish Christmas for me growing up. It feels like the sort of wild, wonderful thing that kid-Kiran would never have dared imagine, to be a World Book Day author.

● **What would you say to encourage someone who struggles with books?**

There's a story out there that will change your life or make you see the world in brighter colours. It's easy to give up, but reading is worth sticking with – you won't regret it.



JENNIFER SWANSON

Author of *LEGO: Our Amazing Universe*

● **What's your book about?**

The *LEGO: Our Amazing Universe* book offers readers a way to connect with our very own planet and the universe – by building it! Get ready to dive into some engineering fun.

● **What's your favourite thing about books and reading?**

Books take you to the most amazing places! They allow you to learn, investigate, and experience so many different emotions and ideas without leaving the comfort of your room.

● **How do you feel about having a book included in World Book Day?**

Having a book selected for World Book Day is a HUGE honour. I am thrilled and very excited to be part of this prestigious event. Yay for science and literacy!

● **What would you say to encourage someone who struggles with books?**

I'd find a book about their favourite activity and give them some really cool fun facts about it. Triggering someone's curiosity is a great way to get them reading.



BENJAMIN DEAN

Author of *This Story Is A Lie*

● **What's your book about?**

Secrets of the popular kids in school are revealed by an anonymous blogger, as they compete to win a spot on the prestigious Rising Stars programme to help make their dreams come true.

● **What's your favourite thing about books and reading?**

I think reading is essential to building empathy and kindness towards others. It also allows you to escape from reality... I wanted to dedicate *This Story Is A Lie* to anybody who needs that. Sometimes you just need a break from the real world!

● **How do you feel about having a book included in World Book Day?**

It feels so surreal to be part of this year's incredible line-up! Every year growing up, I looked forward to trading in my token for a new £1 book. To be a part of it years later is a full-circle, pinch-me kind of moment.

● **What would you say to encourage someone who struggles with books?**

Find the stories that interest you the most – like adventure, mystery or romance... books, audiobooks, poetry or chapter books. Choose something that's perfect for you!



In partnership with

WORLD BOOK DAY

TOM PALMER

THE author of £1 book *The Soccer Diaries: Rocky Takes the Lead* shares his love of footy, libraries and World Book Day!

by Tom Palmer

MY first experience of reading wasn't books. Not at first. For me, it was newspapers and magazines.

Newspapers and magazines about football!

Because I loved football. I looked up to footballers and wanted to know about them. And reading things that were shorter in length worked for me. I was reading what I was interested in. And, to be honest, I found books quite difficult at first. They were long and needed a lot of concentration and confidence. Confidence I didn't have.

But, through newspapers and magazines, I built up my reading ability, and that led me to reading books too – football autobiographies and fact books, then, onto a range of other subjects. I was a book reader.

I started going to the library then. Now I saw myself as a book reader, I wanted to get at lots of books. But I couldn't afford to buy them all – so I borrowed them!

And the great thing was that, if I didn't like a book, I could take it back and get a different one. Thanks to libraries, I was learning what I liked to read and what I didn't like to read. And which authors.

Suddenly, I looked up to those authors like I looked up to footballers. And the truth was I couldn't be a footballer. But maybe... just maybe... I could be an author?

"The best buzz is seeing a child dressed as one of my characters on World Book Day!"

Using libraries and finding the right books for me was the foundation to me becoming an author. I remember finding books that were set where I live. Or were by people from where I lived. This astonished me – that you could read a story set in your home town or city, or a book that was written by someone who had lived down the road.

I'll never forget that feeling – seeing my world in books that other people had written. Seeing myself in books. That's why I make sure to include the lives of lots of different children in the books I write, so that my readers might see themselves in stories too.

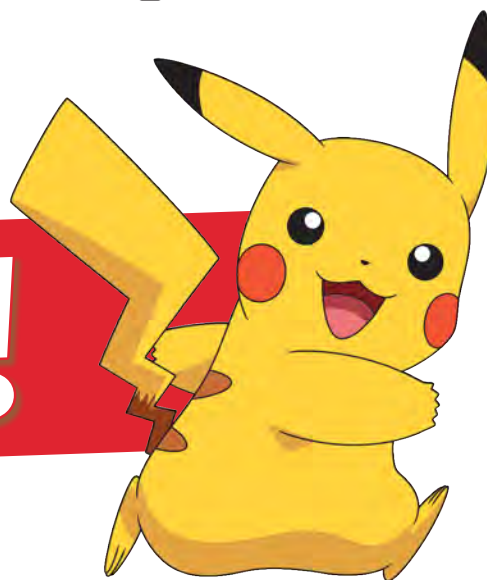
I love it when children actually tell me they like my books. The best buzz is seeing a child dressed as one of my characters on World Book Day. One of my characters stood next to a Harry Potter or a Matilda. How amazing is that?

So now, when I start to write a new book, I take that feeling with me. That buzz. The confidence that some children enjoy my books.

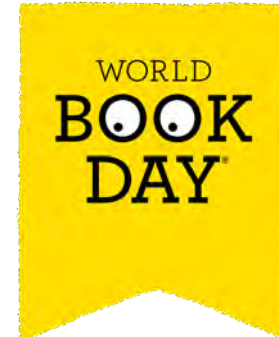
Because authors need confidence. Just like readers need confidence.



DRAW PIKACHU!



In partnership with



THE team behind the £1 book *Pokémon: The Epic Pocket Guide* show us how to draw the perfect pika-pika-picture of the legendary Electric-type Pokémon!

STEP 1

Lightly sketch two criss-crossing guidelines for the body. Then, draw a circle for the head. Most of the circle should sit above the horizontal guideline. When you're ready, draw a curved line on the face where the eyes will be.

STEP 4

Connect the tail shape to the body with zigzagging lines. Can you spot the zigzags in Pikachu's paws as well? Don't forget circles on its cheeks or the curved line inside its mouth for the tongue!

STEP 2

Use this step to block in the simplest shapes. Pikachu's body looks a little like a jellybean. Draw this shape around the horizontal guideline. Then, draw two circles for eyes and a wavy line for the top of the mouth.

STEP 5

Time for finishing touches including colour and background! But, first, rub out the lines you don't need and make any changes. If you use markers for colour, prevent bleeding by letting the yellow dry before adding darker colours.

STEP 3

Draw a starter shape for the tail behind Pikachu's right ear. Then lightly sketch the right hand and foot. Add details including the bottom curve of the mouth, the circles in the eyes and the stripes on Pikachu's back.

DRAWING TIP!

Practise your Pikachu by tracing the final drawing a few times before you go freehand. Tracing isn't cheating – it's just another way to practise!

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6 MARCH 2025

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Valid from 13 February – 23 March 2025

First News wishes all of our readers a very happy World Book Day!

For more information, visit worldbookday.com



IS IT **FAKE** OR **FACT**?

FOR the last month, we've been asking you if you can tell if a story is the real deal or made up. This week, we're looking at some useful tips you can use to help separate fact from fake.

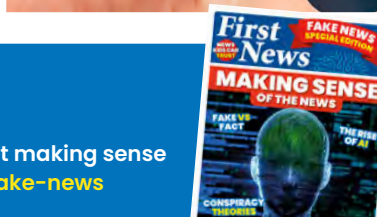


OUR TOP FIVE TIPS:



Some fake news stories are totally made up, while others might only have certain elements that aren't true. But how can you tell? Ask yourself:

- Is the story from a reliable news source, like a trusted newspaper or website? If you've read something on social media, check if it's on any respected news sites too.
- Who are the quotes from? If you read "a source says..." you might question its truth. More reliable/official sources are quoted with their full name and company or place of work.
- Is the story news or opinion? News should rely on facts, whereas opinion pieces are, well, opinion.
- Does the story justify the headline? Websites often have shocking headlines that they use to draw people in and increase the number of clicks on their site, as this helps them to make more money from advertising. But do the facts in the story back up what the headline claims?
- Where is the picture from? Does the story credit an official photographer or organisation? For instance, in *First News* you'll often spot the credit Getty, which is one of the world's biggest photo agencies. Reliable news sites won't use photos that don't have a reliable source.



Check out more on spotting fake news at:

- [first.news/fakeorfact](https://www.first.news/fakeorfact)
- [first.news/spotfakenews](https://www.first.news/spotfakenews)

Or get yourself a free copy of our updated 28-page special edition, all about making sense of the news, how to spot bias, fake news and much more! Go to [first.news/fake-news](https://www.first.news/fake-news)

IN NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE!



DON'T MISS IT!



AMAZING SCIENCE,
MIND-BLOWING
MYSTERIES
AND BREATHTAKING
ADVENTURES AWAIT ...

ISAAC TURNER • INVESTIGATES



NEW!

BLOOMSBURY

Eduardo Aracua/Nickelodeon
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THE THUNDERMANS GO UNDERCOVER!

THE Thundermans are back and they're on a mission! The brand-new Nickelodeon superhero series sees Phoebe, Max and Chloe Thunderman tasked to go undercover to investigate a new threat in the town of Secret Shores. We spoke to stars Kira Kosarin (Phoebe) and Jack Griffo (Max) to find out all about it.

● Hi guys! How excited are you for the world to see *The Thundermans: Undercover*?

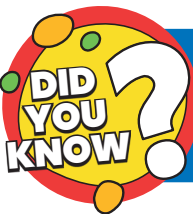
Kira: So excited! We shot the whole show in four and a half months, doing two episodes a week, which was really fast.
Jack: We're out of that bubble now, so it's really surreal!

● The original series started in 2013, so what can people expect if they haven't seen *The Thundermans* before?

Jack: I think we strike a great balance between a family show and a superhero show. There's always a moral to every episode, and our characters really grow a lot – especially in the original series. My character Max went from evil to good, and now we're stepping into these parental roles to our sister Chloe.

● What was it like to work with Maya Le Clark (who plays Chloe) all over again?

Jack: She's grown so much and we're really proud of her. She's 13 now, and being 13 can be crazy even when you're not starring in a TV show!



MAYA Le Clark (top) also played Chloe Thunderman in the original series, when she was just three years old!



WHAT do Thundermans have for breakfast? Head to the *First News* app for the full interview with Kira and Jack to find out!



First News reporter Charlie chatted with Jack (left) and Kira!

● What were your favourite scenes to film?

Kira: We can't reveal too much, but my favourite is a wedding between two characters that you would never expect to get married!

Jack: I like the goofy stuff, so for me it's a dramatic scene between Max and Phoebe. It made our showrunner cry!

● How would you describe the series in three words?

Kira: Exciting, heartfelt...

Jack: Family, extraordinary...

Both: Funny!

Catch *The Thundermans: Undercover* on Nickelodeon UK and Paramount+ now.

You can also watch every episode of *The Thundermans* on Paramount+.



Jack Whitehall

THE BRITS ARE HERE!

THE biggest night in music is back on 1 March and we're already excited! Here's our lowdown on this year's BRIT Awards...

● Jack is back!

Comedian, actor and presenter Jack Whitehall is back to host the famous ceremony. He called the BRITs "my favourite night of the year".

● The nominees

Billie Eilish, Central Cee, Chappell Roan, Charli XCX, Dua Lipa, Raye, Stormzy, Sabrina Carpenter, Taylor Swift and Becky Hill are all up for awards.

● Headline performances

Jade, Myles Smith, Sam Fender and Teddy Swims have all been confirmed to perform on the night.



Taylor Swift and Sabrina Carpenter

● Rising star

Myles Smith has received the BRITs Rising Star award. The *Stargazing* singer revealed that he got his first guitar from his mum when he was nine and has loved performing ever since! Previous winners of the award include Adele, Rag 'n' Bone Man and Sam Smith, so we have high hopes for Myles' career!



Myles Smith

The BRIT Awards take place at London's O₂ arena on 1 March and will be broadcast live on ITV1 and ITVX.

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Pixar. All Rights Reserved.

● All hail the Oscars!

Stars will be out in force for the 97th Oscars ceremony, which takes place on 2 March in Hollywood. Among those nominated for gongs are *Wicked* actors Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande. *Inside Out 2*, *Wallace and Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl* and *The Wild Robot* are all competing for Best Animated Feature.



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RESCUE THE VILLAGERS!



A BRAND-NEW *Minecraft* experience is set to spawn in the UK.

Minecraft Experience: Villager Rescue is an immersive adventure that will allow fans to become real-life heroes. Let's take a closer look at the interactive quest...

7

Visitors will have seven different *Minecraft* rooms to explore. In each room, there'll be ingredients to gather. But what are we cooking up? A potion to rescue the village, which is under siege from a zombie attack! Don't dilly-dally though, because the 45-minute clock is ticking.

The Orb of Interaction

Visitors will be armed with only their wits and a glowing handheld device, known as the Orb of Interaction. This guides the user from room to room, helping you explore breathtaking biomes that hold the key to the potion. Starting in the forest, you'll be guided by characters Tobin and Dayo. The instructions for the quest are then handed out in the village room, before you set off on your heroic mission.



Use your Orb to lead the way

Creeper chaos!

*Minecraft*ers will say hello to friendly pandas and dolphins, but lots of not-so-friendly things lie in wait too. Ever heard of creepers?! These hostile mobs will be joined by skeletons and spiders that will do all they can to delay your important mission.



There could be a creeper around any corner



MINECRAFT is the best-selling game of all time, with more than 300 million copies sold. First released in 2009, it was created by Markus 'Notch' Persson and Swedish video game developer Mojang Studios.

A *Minecraft* Movie

As well as an interactive experience, *Minecraft* is getting the Hollywood treatment this year! Produced by Warner Bros, *A Minecraft Movie* follows a group of human misfits who find themselves in the mysterious Overworld. They must team up with expert crafter Steve, played by Jack Black (below), to master the world and get back home. *A Minecraft Movie* is set to be released on 4 April in the UK.



Minecraft Experience: Villager Rescue opens on 4 April at Corner Corner, a new venue in London.

FirstNews WEEKLY NEWS QUIZ!

Leaderboards

Rank	Name	Score
1	Tommiac	790
2	Lychee	553
3	Ems	535
4	Nina	399
5	EESHEE	383

Question 1 of 10

SPORT

Which sport was recently featured in the headlines for Winter Olympics?

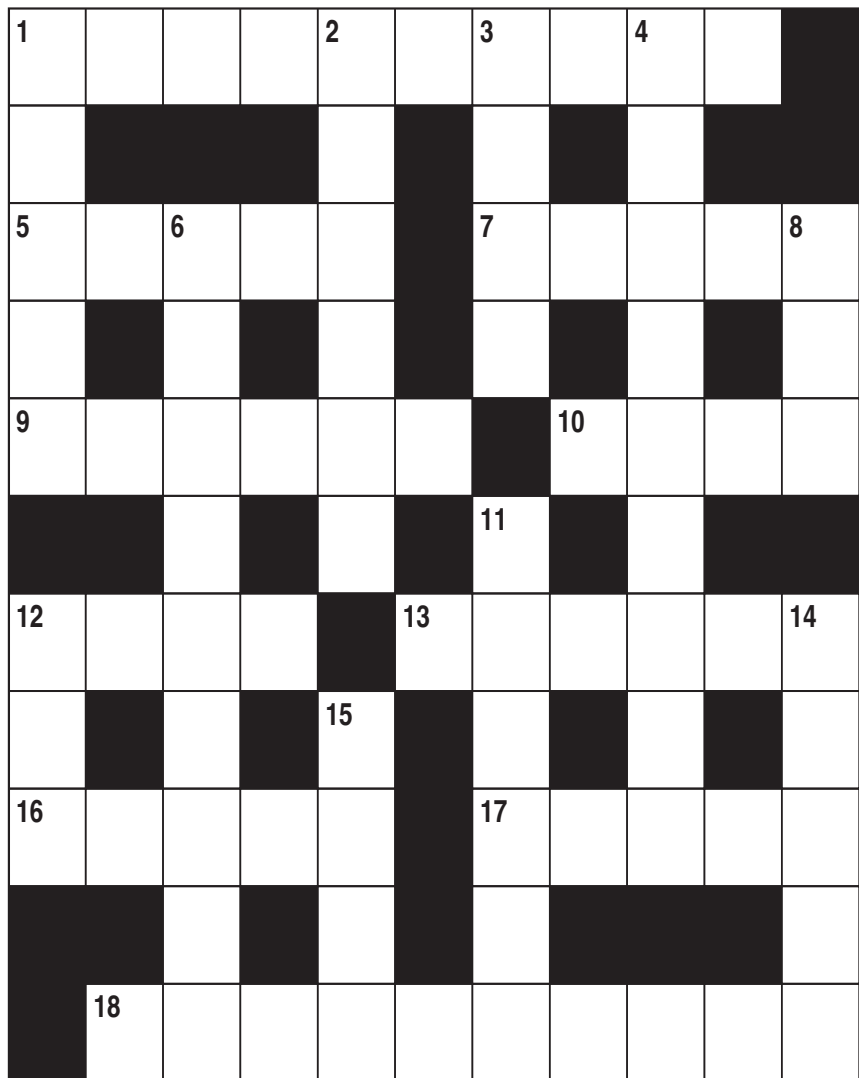
YOUR BRAIN VS THE NEWS!

Think you've got what it takes?



CROSSWORD

CAN you solve our crossword puzzle using the clues below?



ACROSS

- 1 Number of people who live somewhere (10)
- 5 Room inside the roof of a building (5)
- 7 Loosen a knot (5)
- 9 Thieves (6)
- 10 A lasting mark on the skin (4)
- 12 Retain possession of (4)
- 13 On all occasions (6)
- 16 Sketches (5)
- 17 Rubbish (5)
- 18 Very tall building (10)

DOWN

- 1 Takes part in a game (5)
- 2 Inhabitants of a particular place (6)
- 3 Opposite of false (4)
- 4 The place you go to for an eye test (9)
- 6 Place with rides and fun things to do (5,4)
- 8 Body part used to listen to things (3)
- 11 Plant such as a rose or tulip (6)
- 12 Baby goat (3)
- 14 Guide a vehicle (5)
- 15 Puts a question to (4)



Sudoku

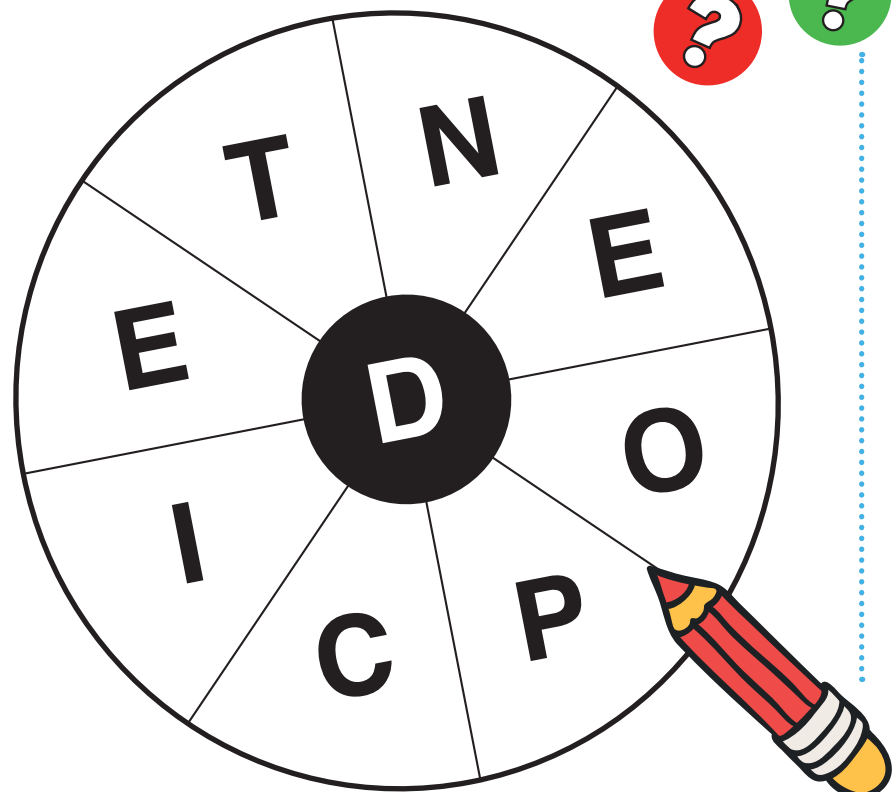
CAN you complete our sudoku puzzle, filling in the numbers one to nine?

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

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

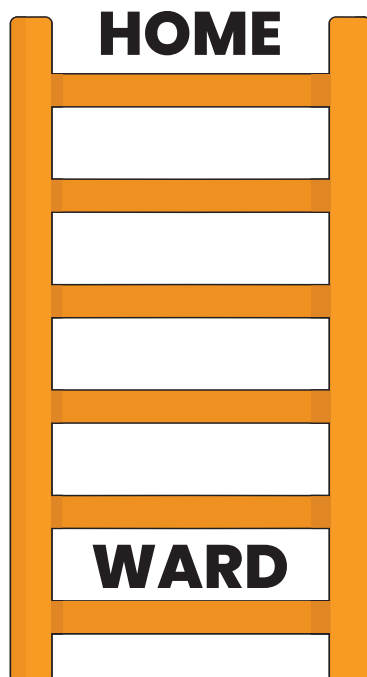
Word wheel

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 975 ANSWERS:

Word wheel: barometer.

Word ladder: curl, hurl, hull, hall, hail, hair.

Spot the difference: 1) bird missing 2) extra level on tower 3) woman's orange hair band gone 4) man's shorts are now green 5) extra flower 6) spike gone from top of lamppost 7) extra top bit on building 8) woman's shoe is a different colour 9) man's hair now orange 10) middle of lamppost missing.

L	A	D	Y	B	I	R	D												
D	O	G	A																
D	I	A	R	Y	N	O	T	E	S										
E	P	O			O	E	E	A											
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O	C	T			M	A				F									
P	L	A	N	T		E	S	S	A	Y									
R	O				A					T									
F	A	M	I	L	I	A	R												

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



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



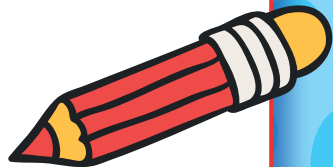
SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

CAN you spot the ten changes we've made to this carnival scene?



Wordsearch

Can you find all of these pancake toppings? Tick them off as you go!



- Jam
- Sugar
- Chocolate
- Lemon
- Blueberries
- Honey
- Peanut butter
- Bananas
- Bacon
- Cheese



z x t q z o z x o j v o a q b k p u t n b g p c r
 a g l a p u c m e m n w n k u b x r b l s j d o w
 n p o i c x y q s n m c v s i w c p u q y e r t q
 c f r h h q w o t r r t d i a e y h s s u g a r t
 b o i m e v n m z v o r v k h g v a o v t f c n q
 o f q q k a t s e e u f v p p n x y p c e m k q j
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 l f w b s n l o h l s n a d f k f z j q o l i y l
 t u t i a v z y w h w n c l b b d z n f h n a q i
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 n b r o c h e e s e b j o e j u o m k r b r u m h
 j y m s c g h n c q w w m m a y f w f d o y o j y
 q e v e m l w g o u n h e r m c t h j i w w n l n
 l z b u v f m v c p b k f q q d l e g x q h k f p
 t y f r e m s g q o y p e a n u t b u t t e r m h



FISH IN SPACE!

THIS spectacular image was captured by Martin LaMontagne on his iPhone earlier this month.

But there's no need to worry about little green men invading Earth in a big white fish, it's just the plume left behind by a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket that was launched from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California.

The pointy front bit of the fish shape is the upper stage of the rocket, and the whole thing is made much brighter and more dramatic because it's being lit up by the setting sun.

A similar rocket that was launched at the start of the month was also in the news this week, but that was rather less positive for SpaceX. The rocket's second stage was meant to crash into the Pacific Ocean but, when the engine failed, it led to an uncontrolled re-entry into Earth's atmosphere. Flaming chunks of it were spotted in the skies over northern Europe, including the UK, before bits of it crash landed in Poland and Ukraine but, thankfully, no-one was hurt.



The SpaceX launch was captured in this picture taken near Phoenix, Arizona

How to train your ears

UNTIL now, experts thought that having 'perfect pitch' was something that only musically gifted people had.

Perfect pitch (or 'absolute pitch' as scientists call it) is the ability to identify a musical note that's played on its own, but a new study has shown that even adults can be trained to learn this skill.

Even many professional musicians don't have perfect pitch, so it's surprising that people can develop this skill with the right training. It's also usually said that adults can't pick up new skills as easily as children can.

Scientists gave 12 musicians an eight-week training programme that involved 21 hours and 15,000 tests. All of them improved dramatically, and two got so good that their performance in the tests was as good as people who have perfect pitch.

"It is never too late to learn and improve, no matter what you think might hold you back," says lead researcher Yetta Kwailing Wong from the University of Surrey.

MUSICAL pitch is related to the frequency of the note, but frequency is a physical property that can be measured. People's sense of the pitch of a note can vary depending on lots of factors, including their culture and physical properties of their ears.



A street cleaner in India burns a pile of plastic bags that he's just swept up

Plastic: a burning issue

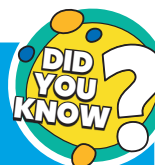
A GROWING number of people around the world are burning waste plastic for heating and cooking, releasing toxic fumes into their homes and neighbourhoods.

A report in *Nature Cities* says that the increase is partly due to poverty, as many people can't afford gas or electricity. Another problem is that, as towns and cities spread out, it becomes harder for people to collect firewood, and also makes plastic waste easier to find.

"Many governments are not addressing the issue effectively because it's usually concentrated in areas such as slums, which are often neglected," says one of the study's authors, Professor Peta Ashworth. "A ban on plastic burning might not help if people have no other option to keep warm and cook their food."

The scientists say that governments should help to make cleaner fuels cheaper for poor people, improve rubbish collection, and educate people on the dangers of burning plastic.

IN Guatemala, more than seven in ten households get rid of their rubbish by burning it. Some of the toxic chemicals given off by burning plastic include hydrochloric acid and formaldehyde.



This report is from the Science Museum Group

SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

IN the 19th and 20th centuries, train passengers could often run into some of the most beloved station employees: railway collection dogs.

With a box strapped to their back, these dogs raised money for charities. A regular sight on the platforms, they could also board trains to encourage passengers to donate money.

Laddie, pictured here, was an Airedale terrier, born in 1948, and one of the last railway dogs. He collected money for the Southern Railway Servants' Orphanage and worked at Waterloo Station in London for seven years. His good services lasted beyond his lifespan: after his death, he was stuffed and put in a glass case on the Wimbledon train platform, where he kept encouraging passengers to donate to charity for another 30 years!

Laddie: a very good boy





WHEN I GROW UP...

DO you know what you want to do when you finish your education? There's no rush to decide, but it's always helpful to know what sort of jobs are out there. From journalists and doctors to zoologists and rollercoaster testers, there's a whole world of exciting careers for you to explore. Here we find out a little more for National Careers Week.



What is National Careers Week?

National Careers Week runs from 3–8 March. It aims to help young people think about their future careers and get excited about what's to come. This week is your chance to think about:

- your skills and interests.
- the different options open to you – would you like to go to college or university? Or would you rather do an apprenticeship or go straight into work?
- all the different jobs and careers that are available.

What's your dream job? Meet three people who turned their childhood dreams into successful careers...



Tim Peake, ESA astronaut

Tim always had a passion for adventure and flying, joining both the Cub Scouts and school Cadet Force as a young boy. At the age of 13, his dream of becoming a pilot became a reality when he took control of an aircraft for the first time! He later went on to serve in the Army for 18 years before leaving to work as a senior test pilot for AgustaWestland (now Leonardo Helicopters). Then, in May

2009, Tim's dreams reached new heights when he was selected as a European Space Agency (ESA) astronaut. In December 2015, Tim was launched into space, becoming the first British ESA astronaut ever to visit the International Space Station. His Principia mission lasted six months. Tim's achievements meant he was given the Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) in the Queen's 2016 Birthday Honours for services to space research and scientific education.

Nicky Cox MBE, Editor in Chief of First News

Nicky helps to write and edit the newspaper that you're reading now – in fact, the whole paper was her idea! She said: "I had worked at the BBC for 14 years as editorial director of children's publishing. Before that I had been a journalist at national and local newspapers. It had always been my dream to create a children's newspaper.

I believe that for the world to become a better place, the next generation must be better informed than the last. My advice to anyone wanting a job like mine is to read a lot. Write a lot. Know what is going on in the world. See if you can get work experience on your local newspaper. Or, perhaps, start your own blog. Concentrate hard in English lessons to develop a good style of writing. Pick subjects like English, journalism or politics for higher education. And look out for trainee positions or graduate schemes, such as the BBC's. Contact the NCTJ (National Council for the Training of Journalists) for advice."

Marc Abraham aka Marc the Vet, veterinary surgeon

Marc is a veterinary surgeon, which means he cares for animals when they're sick or in need. He told us: "Quite simply, I really like making animals better. From a very young age I only ever wanted to help animals, so I'm very proud to live my dream every day – at three years old I removed a maggot from a nasty wound on my pet tortoise's leg using a twig! I love operating too; there's no better feeling than watching an animal that arrived in your clinic ill, leaving feeling better and wagging its tail!"



THE LOWDOWN

What's work experience?

Work experience gives you the chance to see first-hand what it's like to work within different companies and organisations. You can learn from experts, have a go at a range of jobs and discover different working environments. For example, being a teacher in a school will be very different to being a keeper working in a zoo or a journalist working in an office. Lots of you will do work experience placements at secondary school.

What about apprenticeships?

An apprenticeship offers you the chance to work and study at the same time. You'll be paid to learn while on the job, but you'll also get dedicated time out to study towards a qualification. Lots of companies now offer apprenticeships for those over the age of 16.



And what's a CV?

A CV (curriculum vitae, which is Latin for 'the course of one's life') is a document that you give to employers to tell them what your skills and qualifications are and why you'll be good at the job. It's wise to join clubs and take up hobbies when you're young, so that you can add them to your CV and show what kind of person you are.



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

This week, Lexi wrote in to tell us how she maintains good mental wellbeing. It's really important to have hobbies that help our mental health. Mine are walking and running in the countryside, reading, and I also love to sing and dance. What are yours? Write in to let me know and you could feature here on Your News. You can find out how to do that in the top right of the opposite page.

20 YEARS ON FROM NELSON MANDELA



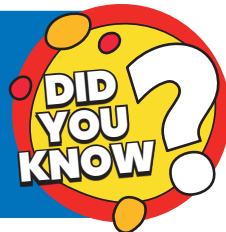
ON Tuesday 11 February, global leaders, activists and campaigners gathered in London's Trafalgar Square to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Nelson Mandela's speech calling on the world to "make poverty history". Everyone gathered to reflect on the progress that has been made and to warn of the need for more action in the future. Arielle Lentin and Astrid Curati Jeffries were in the crowd to witness the rally.

by Astrid and Arielle

We joined the anniversary rally because it's important to learn about historical figures and the impact they had on the world, but it's even more important to keep their legacy alive. We were both only five when Nelson Mandela died, but it's been interesting learning about his achievements and what he strived for.

Twenty years on from Mandela's iconic speech, poverty still exists, and it's up to us now to take action. It's not enough to just say: "I want things to change" – you have to actually do something about it. New public polls have shown that Gen Z is twice as likely as all other age groups to think the UK should engage in global issues. That's why we went to the rally and have also signed the Make Poverty History pledge.

NELSON Mandela was president of South Africa between 1994–1999. He is known for fighting against something known as apartheid – a racist system of separating white people from non-white people.

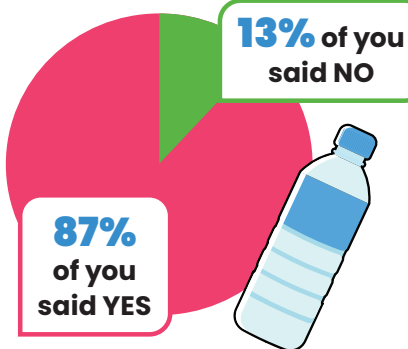


Astrid and Arielle

THIS WEEK'S POLL!

We asked 5,092 of you:

Do you use a reusable water bottle?



MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

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

Hobbies for mental health

LEXI wrote to us asking to write an article all about the importance of having hobbies to improve your mental wellbeing. Here's what she has to say.

by Lexi

Mental health is a part of everyday life. It affects various things such as feelings and emotions and can sometimes be difficult to manage, especially with rising expectations to always look and act happy.

This is why it is important to find hobbies that can positively

benefit us. Spending time in nature is fantastic for when we feel upset or down. Personally, I find that strolling through my local park helps me to feel relaxed and cheerful. I also like to learn the piano in my spare time, which is really fun, especially when I get to perform in front of family and friends.

There are endless possibilities for creative hobbies, ranging anywhere from reading to learning how to master the art of sketching or even writing a poem or book. Remember to find a hobby that you enjoy doing and find fun.



Lexi



NEWS CLUB SHOUT-OUT!

THIS WEEK WE'RE GIVING SHOUT-OUTS TO... St Margaret's Church of England Primary School, Ferndown Middle School, Winmarleigh Church of England Primary School, Belford Primary School and St Clement's Church of England Primary School!



How to turn £1 into one million!



Arosh with Emmanuel Asuquo

RECENTLY, Arosh's school had a visit from financial advisor Emmanuel Asuquo to learn more about his new book, *The Ultimate Guide to Money*.

by Arosh

On Tuesday 4 February, Emmanuel Asuquo visited my school and I had the chance to spend some time talking to him. I go to Bow School and Emmanuel actually used to go here too, back when it was known as Bow Boys' School! He is now a successful financial advisor and appears on television. We learned that he was the youngest financial advisor at Barclays bank at the age of 22.

Emmanuel gave a very inspirational talk to years 7 and 8. He talked to us about developing our business ideas and advised us on how to turn £1 into £1,000,000 (one million). He suggested that we should have jobs that can make money, such as car washing, dog walking and doing chores. We asked him what advice he would give to us and he said we should figure out our learning styles to help us achieve our goals.

I learned a lot from the visit about money and he gifted us all a signed copy of his book, *The Ultimate Guide to Money*.

WANT TO
FEATURE ON
THESE PAGES?

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.

A 'rubbish' night out!



JAMIE enjoyed an epic night in London seeing the musical family show *TRASH!* Check out his review!

by Jamie

I play cymbals in a marching band and was lucky enough to be invited to the Peacock Theatre to review *TRASH!* – a percussion show by an award-winning Spanish theatre company.

Percussion is anything that you can make a noise with by hitting it.

The show's about four men who work at a recycling plant and make instruments from junk, including bottles, bins, umbrellas and metal lights that swing out towards the audience.

It's a high-energy performance full of slapstick comedy, and we laughed a lot. The cast made funny faces, or one of them would pretend to do something wrong while the others all stared at him. They use gestures and few words so that anyone can understand.

The audience are encouraged to join in by clapping, stamping, copying rhythms and finishing off snatches of popular songs. My favourite part was when one performer showed off some cool tricks with a basketball.

I definitely recommend *TRASH!* for a fun night out.

Jamie at *TRASH!*



"SWEET AND SPICY" MUMMIES

NEW research has shown that ancient Egyptian mummies smell "woody", "spicy" and "sweet".

"Trained, human sniffers" took part in a unique study to learn about the scents of nine mummified bodies.

Researchers hope the work will help them better understand the techniques used to wrap the dead bodies, particularly the oils and balms that would

have been used during the mummification process.

They think that smell was important to the ancient Egyptians when preserving their dead, and say the aroma is still "pleasant" 2-3,000 years later due to the use of resins such as pine, cedar and juniper.

The study was published in the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*.

Prankster marshal



RUNNERS at a 10k race in Glasgow were sent in the wrong direction by a prankster who pretended to be an event marshal.

Race organisers Acorn Trails said about 30 of the 115 participants were sent on a 2.5km (1.5-mile) detour by the woman, who had buried route markers.

They said it was "hard to laugh off the incident" because the runners had been sent away from medical help, and might have needed it. The runners affected will get half-price entry to their next event.

Shoplifters clean up their act!

If you've ever washed your parents' car, you'll know it can be a bit of a chore – so imagine cleaning a car park full of them!

That's the unusual punishment that awaits shoplifters who are caught stealing from the US superstore chain Walmart this spring.

Jeffrey Clothier, a judge in the state of Michigan, has begun ordering thieves to give free car washes to other Walmart customers, because he thinks that the physical demand of the task – and the humiliation – will put them off stealing again.

"I don't think everybody that steals is a bad person... but there are going to be consequences when you break the law," he said.

Clothier calls his punishment the "Walmart wash". He expects that 75 to 100 people will be out cleaning cars at weekend events in March and April, and says that Walmart has agreed to provide the water and supplies.

And just to prove that he's a good sport, he added: "I will be there washing cars with them."



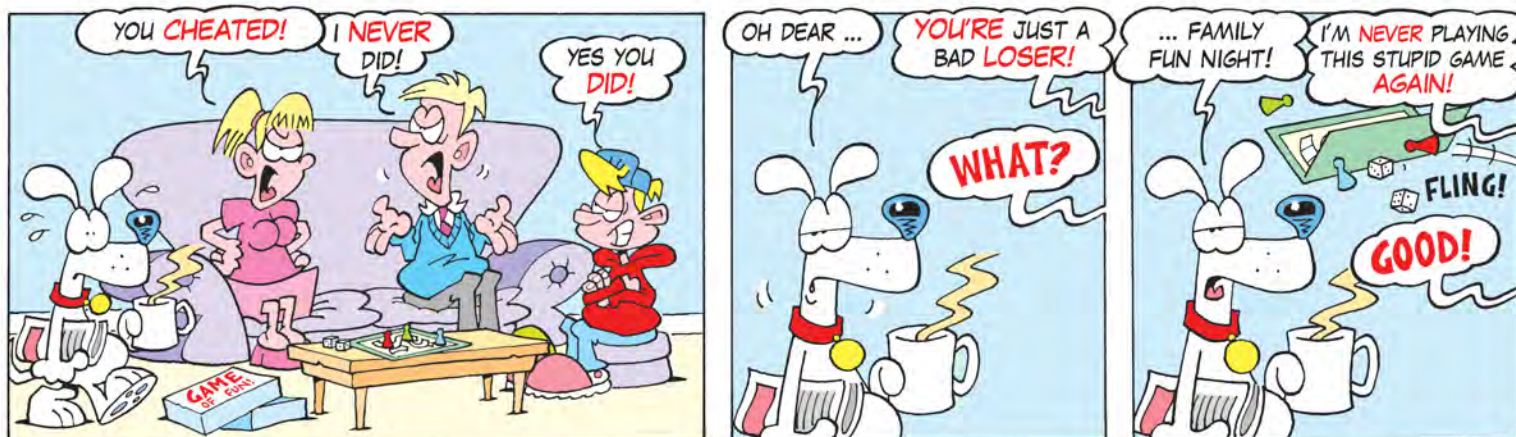
JOKE OF THE WEEK

hahaha

Why are mummies such great spies?
They keep things under wraps!

Paper Boy!

Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer



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 Nearly 500 lucky cat decorations have been stolen from a restaurant opened by which celebrity chef?

2 Archaeologists have uncovered a hidden section of which famous wall?



3 What is the name of this comedian who is back to host the BRIT Awards this year?



4 Which company has taken over the James Bond movie series?

5 A streamer was asked to run his local football club after finding success on what videogame?

6 What is the name of the Chief Mouser to the Cabinet in 10 Downing Street?



7 This spectacular image shows a rocket launched by which space company?



8 What is the name of the dog show returning to Birmingham this March?

9 How many years has it been since Russia's invasion of Ukraine?

10 Scottish people are in favour of bringing back what forest-dwelling felines?



11 Which country do Birkenstock sandals come from?

12 What huge celebration of reading takes place this Thursday 6 March?

13 Finn Russell missed crucial kicks for which country at the Six Nations?



14 Which actor is playing expert crafter Steve in *A Minecraft Movie*?

15 Which animals were found to give 'first aid' to each other by researchers working in southern California?

If you enjoyed this, why not 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!

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

Answers:
1 Gordon Ramsay 2 The Great Wall of China
3 Jack Whitehall 4 Amazon 5 Football Manager
6 Larry 7 SpaceX 8 Crufts 9 Three years 10 Lynx
11 Germany 12 World Book Day 13 Scotland
14 Jack Black 15 Mice

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MIGHTY MIKAELA



Main: Shiffrin celebrates her 100th win. Inset: zooming down the hill to victory

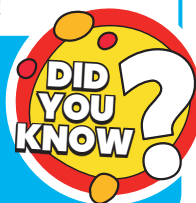
THE extraordinary career of Mikaela Shiffrin reached new heights this week, as she became the first skier in history – male or female – to get 100 World Cup wins.

The American star had been out for over two months with what the US ski team called a “brutal injury”, but her win in Sestriere, Italy, set off a barrage of comments from skiers who were overawed at Shiffrin’s incredible achievements on the slopes.

“How has she been there all these years... this is crazy. Nobody can do it again,” said Federica Brignone.

“One thing is certain for me; Mikaela is and will remain the best ever,” said Austrian legend Annemarie Moser-Pröll, who bagged 62 World Cup wins herself, so knows what she’s talking about!

AT the age of 16, Shiffrin reached her first World Cup podium. Just a year later in her second season, she won the slalom World Championship and World Cup!



Morris helped Team GB to win bronze in the team pursuit in the Paris Olympics last year

We told you last week that GB cyclist Anna Morris had broken the individual pursuit world record twice, but it seems like she’s just taking the mickey now, as she smashed it again this week! At the British Track Championships in Manchester, she knocked more than a second off her previous best to win the national title.



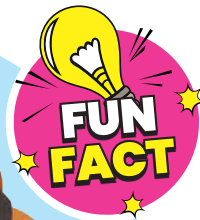
Finn Russell curses his luck against England

Ireland, France and England all won their Six Nations matches at the weekend, so will all be hoping they can clinch the title. England can count themselves lucky though, as it was only Finn Russell’s three missed conversions that allowed England to beat Scotland by a point. Russell only missed one out of 24 kicks last year, but he’s duffed five out of eight so far this year.

The big news in baseball is that the New York Yankees have dropped a 49-year-old ban on players and staff having beards! Team owner Hal Steinbrenner won’t accept his team looking like a bunch of scruffy rockers though, saying he wants any facial hair to be “well-groomed”.



Devin Williams hasn’t wasted any time growing some face fuzz!



To mark 200 days until the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo, organisers revealed the name of the event’s mascot: Riku One. The sporty pup is based on Japan’s popular shiba inu breed. ‘Riku’ is the Japanese word for athletics, while ‘one’ sounds like the ‘wan’ sound that the Japanese use to describe a dog’s bark.

Braydon’s on the ball



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

It already looks like Liverpool have one hand on the Premier League trophy. In a weekend where the rest of the top four all dropped points, Liverpool strengthened their grip on the crown with a 2-0 win over Man City. Liverpool’s dominance of the season leaves them 11 points clear, with nearest challengers Arsenal losing to West Ham. The Gunners’ lack of firepower and new signings looks to have left them short, as they struggled to create chances. Jarrod Bowen was the match-winner, with the decisive goal coming on the stroke of half-time.



Mo Salah was on target against City again

City’s defeat completed a miserable week that left them with just the FA Cup and a top-four finish to play for. They’ve looked way off their best this season and Liverpool were worthy winners, with goals from Mo Salah and Dominik Szoboszlai. Salah continues to shine, and this was his 30th goal of the season. Surely he has to be in contention for player of the season and perhaps the Ballon d’Or, especially if Liverpool progress to the late stages of the Champions League.

Centre Stage this week is the much-debated incident at Goodison Park. Ashley Young seemed to have been pulled down in injury time to give Everton a chance to win the game with a penalty, but ref Andrew Madley went to the VAR monitor and overruled his decision. Some argue it was a clear penalty, while others seem to feel that Young went down too easily. I think if you’re an Everton fan then you’re right to feel upset about it.

In the pick of the rest, Newcastle and Forest shared a seven-goal thriller. Newcastle were leading 4-1 at half time but Forest fought back to set up an interesting last few minutes. Newcastle held out and move up to fifth, with Alexander Isak celebrating his 50th Premier League goal.

In the WSL, Chelsea remain unbeaten thanks to a 93rd-minute winner against Everton and could be on for an Invincibles season, while Arsenal thrashed Spurs 5-0. Man United remain second following their 3-1 win over bottom-placed Palace, and Man City beat Liverpool 4-0.

Braydon’s Team of The Week: Liverpool, going clear at the top.

Braydon’s Player of The Week: Mo Salah, 30 goals and counting, with surely more to come!

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

THERE seem to be some who think Liverpool’s Mo Salah is past his best, but he’s created more chances in open play (58) than any other player in Europe’s five big leagues this season. He’s also now scored and assisted in 49 league matches in those five leagues – only Lionel Messi (102) and Cristiano Ronaldo (65) have done it more times.

