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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR*



First News

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PAPER.

NEWS **SPORTS** ENTERTAINMENT
INTERVIEWS PUZZLES **COMPETITIONS**

**PRIME
MINISTER
KEIR STARMER**
INVITED US TO
BRING CHILDREN
TO DOWNING
STREET FOR AN
EXCLUSIVE Q&A



8

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ASK THE PM



**SCHOOL
LESSONS**

**POLICE
AND
CRIME**

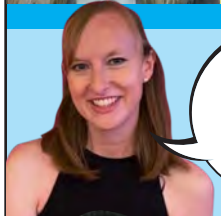
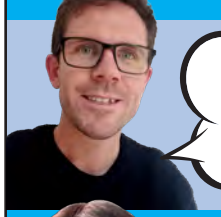
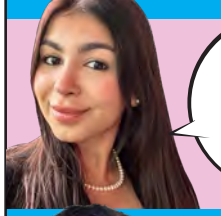
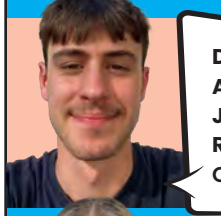
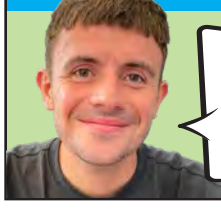
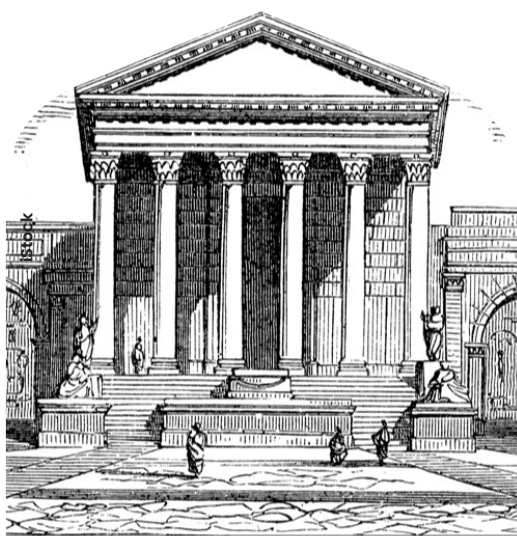
HEALTH

**WHAT WAS
YOUNG
KEIR LIKE?**

**FAMILY
LIFE**

**BUYING
A HOME**

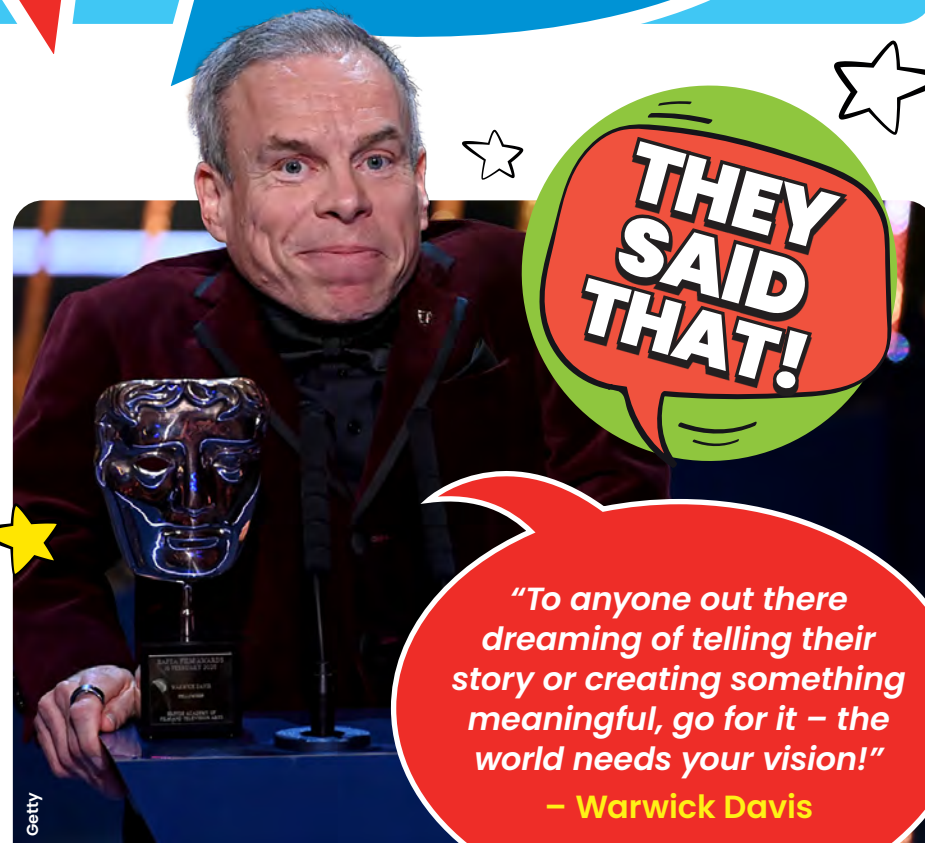
PART TWO NEXT WEEK

**MEET
THE
TEAM****Editor
in Chief**
Nicky
Cox**Editorial
Manager**
Hannah
Timson**Sub**
Steve
Smith**News
Editor**
Ian Eddy**Senior
Reporter**
Chris
Towers**Junior
Reporter**
Safiyyah
Choudry**Digital
Assistant/
Junior
Reporter**
Charlie Baker**Children's
Engagement
Lead**
Milly Rusling**Creative
Director**
Richard
Robson**Senior
Designer**
Dan Jordan**HAVE
YOU
HEARD?**
Snappy stories to get
you talking!**ROMAN RUINS FOUND
UNDER LONDON**

Archaeologists have unearthed the beginnings of ancient London after discovering parts of the city's first basilica underneath an office building. Basilicas were like town halls – places where big political decisions were made. It's hoped the 2,000-year-old building will be able to tell us how London grew to be the capital of Britain. The site should be opened to visitors eventually.

**BARNARDO'S RECORD
DONATION**

Children's charity Barnardo's has been handed £18m, which is the largest single donation it has ever received. The money will be used to create 45 homes for children leaving foster care across the UK. A third of the homes will be built in Lincolnshire, Birmingham and Glasgow, with the rest yet to be decided. The huge donation came from the Katherine Martin Charitable Trust.

**THEY
SAID
THAT!**

"To anyone out there dreaming of telling their story or creating something meaningful, go for it – the world needs your vision!"

– Warwick Davis

WARWICK WINS BIG BAFTA

At this year's BAFTA Film Awards, the *Star Wars* and *Harry Potter* actor Warwick Davis was presented with the BAFTA Fellowship, the academy's biggest honour. The BAFTAs celebrate the best directors, actors and creative people in the film and TV industry. Other awards handed out included best production design and best costume design for *Wicked*, while *Wallace and Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl* also bagged two wins (see page 6).

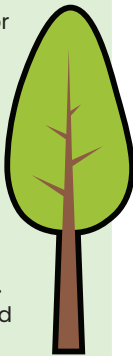
**ENGLAND TO GET
12 NEW TOWNS**

The government has unveiled plans to build around 12 "beautiful" new towns in England. PM Keir Starmer hopes the construction of these towns will start by 2029, as part of a push to build 1.5 million homes by the next general election. Inspired by Nansledan, a sustainable housing project in Cornwall that's been championed by King Charles, each of the new towns will have schools and GP surgeries, and at least 10,000 homes. The aim is to help younger people to own their own places. Specific locations haven't been announced yet but most of the towns are likely to be added on to existing big towns.



VOTE FOR TOP TREE

This weekend is your last chance to vote for the European Tree of the Year 2025. The competition highlights trees with unique stories and strong connections to local communities. This year, 15 countries are in the running. The UK's entry is the 400-year-old Skipinnish Oak in Lochaber, Scotland. Cast your vote at treeoftheyear.org/vote – but you will need an adult to give their email address. The closing date is 24 February, and the winning tree will be announced on 19 March.



MICE WORK!

Beatrix Potter's doll's house is back on display at Hill Top in the Lake District, after having conservation work. Experts from the National Trust took around 300 hours to conserve the house and 73 of the items it contains, including the tiny furniture, plaster food and cutlery. The doll's house forms part of a new display inspired by Potter's children's story *The Tale of Two Bad Mice*.



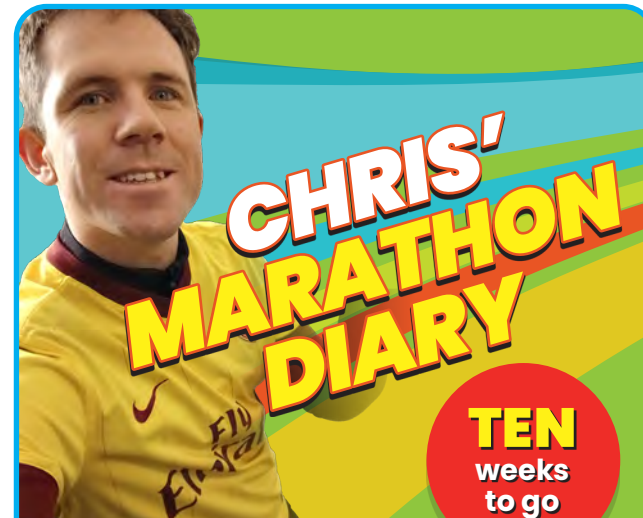
TREND FOR LIVING LONGER CONTINUES

Baby boys born in the UK in 2023 can expect to live to an average age of 86.7, while girls could live to 90, says the latest information from the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The ONS data also suggests that one in ten boys and one in six girls born in 2023 will live to be 100. The survival gap between boys and girls is getting smaller too, because boys are leading healthier lifestyles, experts say.



QUASIMODO COMING TO THE WEST END

Disney musical *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* is set to premiere on the London stage this summer. Fans can look forward to two special concert performances at the Prince Edward Theatre on Sunday 17 August. Casting for the famous tale, based on the book by Victor Hugo, hasn't been announced yet, but tickets are on sale now.



TEN
weeks
to go

Hi, guys! I'm Chris, one of your reporters at *First News*. You might have spotted my name at the top of some of your pages!

I've got some really exciting news to bring you – almost as exciting as the glowing birds on page 11. On Sunday 27 April, I'll be achieving a real lifetime dream of mine – I'm running the London Marathon!

This is something I've wanted to do ever since I was your age. One of my teachers ran it and, one morning, he brought his medal in to show us in our Year 7 assembly. Ever since, I've dreamed of having a medal of my own, and this is the year I'll get one. I'm excited, but a little scared, too!

The race is ten weeks away and, over each of the next ten issues, I'll be keeping you up to date right here with a little training diary. I'll let you know what I've been up to and how I've been gearing up for those humongous 26.2 miles jogging around the streets of London.

I can't wait to share it with you!

Who I'm running for...

unicef
for every child

UNICEF works tirelessly to reach children who've been caught up in wars, providing vaccines, clean water and healthcare. During the winter months, as temperatures drop, UNICEF also provides winter clothing kits to keep children warm and provides education for children who have been missing out due to the fighting.



Find out more at tinyurl.com/ChrisInTheMarathon

A DELICIOUS DISCOVERY



A chocolate bar wrapper dating back at least 54 years has been discovered in Cambridge University Library. Workmen taking down shelves found the Crunchie wrapper (the bar was then made by Fry's) hidden behind some books. The price of 6D means six pennies in 'old money', which was used in the UK before 15 February 1971, the day the country's currency changed to the decimal system we use now.

CALENDAR DATES

● WORLD THINKING DAY 22 FEBRUARY

Girl Guides and Girl Scouts celebrate international friendship, and speak out on issues that affect young women.

● INTERNATIONAL POLAR BEAR DAY 27 FEBRUARY

The day aims to raise awareness of threats facing these majestic creatures in the Arctic.



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



WOLVES COULD RETURN TO SCOTLAND

EXPERTS say that reintroducing wolves to Scotland could help forests to grow again.

The idea is that the wolves would control growing numbers of red deer, which are eating saplings (young trees). Fewer deer would mean more trees could grow. A report in *Ecological Solutions And Evidence* says that bigger forests could take in and store one million tonnes of CO₂ (carbon dioxide) every year, helping in the fight against climate change.

The deer have had no natural predators since wolves were wiped out in Scotland around 250 years ago. The team say the wolves could be reintroduced to areas in the Cairngorms, southwest Highlands, central Highlands and northwest Highlands, to help reverse the loss of native woodland.

The researchers admit that not everyone supports the idea and that many people wouldn't be happy with bringing wolves back, including farmers who may fear for the safety of their animals. But they argue that the benefits of reintroducing wolves need to be considered.

Lee Schofield, a co-author of the study, said: "Human-wildlife conflicts involving carnivores are common," adding they would need to talk to lots of people before the plan could go ahead.

Should wolves be reintroduced in Scotland?

Vote at first.news/polls



THE plan would lead to a population of around 170 wolves.

UN SAYS HOSTAGES AND PRISONERS TREATED BADLY

THE United Nations (UN) has criticised the way that Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners have been treated during the war over Gaza.

UN Human Rights spokesperson Thameen Al-Kheetan said that the Israeli hostages released by Hamas on 8 February as part of the ceasefire deal showed signs they had been badly treated, and were badly underfed. He said he was concerned about the way the hostages were paraded around in public and forced to make statements during their release.

He also said that Palestinian prisoners released by Israel also showed signs of the severe conditions in which they

had been kept, and was worried about the way they were released, too.

"Israel and Hamas must ensure humane treatment, including freedom from any form of torture or abuse, for all those held under their power," he wrote in a statement on the UN Human Rights website. He also warned that those found guilty of poor treatment will be punished.

Israeli hostages have told the BBC how they were starved and kept in underground tunnels and buildings.

Taking hostages is a war crime, and the UN has called on Hamas to release all remaining hostages, and for Israel to release any prisoners who are being held for no reason.

Pesticides harming hundreds of species

PESTICIDES are having harmful effects on more than 800 species of plants, animals, fungi and microbes.

A study has found that chemicals used on farms, in businesses and homes are causing species to struggle in the wild.

Pesticides are substances used to control pests and are often used by farmers or gardeners to protect their crops and plants.

Scientists have discovered that hundreds of other species are feeling the bad impacts of the pesticides, with many struggling to grow, find mates or even carry out normal behaviours such as catching prey.

In response to the findings, experts have called for the use of pesticides to be cut back and for other methods to be used. For example, farmers are encouraged to change



the timing of when they plant crops, so that they can avoid pests.

The international study was led by East China University of Science and Technology and was published in *Nature Communications*.

EDITOR'S COMMENT



Nicky Cox MBE

THANK you to the prime minister and his team at 10 Downing Street for spending time answering your questions this week (front page).

It's important that you get your say about the issues that matter most to you, from the people in positions of power who can make sure that things change.

You can read some of the questions and answers on page 8 and 9 this week, with more in next week's paper, too.

Plus you can watch a report from our partner news show, FYI, and more from the press conference at first.news/TV.



Guinness World Records



Aaryan's got sum skills!

Human calculator kid

FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD Aaryan Shukla has broken six world records in one day with his speedy maths skills! He has been called a "human calculator" for his ability to do mental maths. One of his records is for the fastest time to mentally add 100 four-digit numbers, which he achieved in just 30.9 seconds.



Poorly opossum

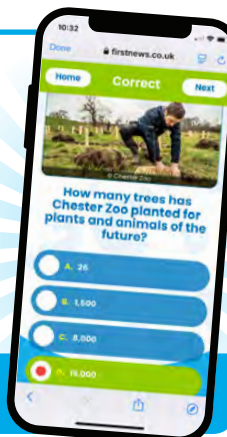
AN opossum had to be taken to hospital in Nebraska, USA, after it ate an entire chocolate mousse cake from a family's back garden! The family took it to the vet for a check-up, where it also needed treatment for high levels of lead, likely from eating too many local insects.



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.





PEACE TALKS BEGIN

...but **Ukraine** isn't invited



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.
Inset: US officials meet with Russia



UKRAINE has demanded that its voice be heard in peace talks with Russia.

On Tuesday (18 February), top US and Russian officials met in Saudi Arabia to discuss a way to end the war after Russia's invasion of Ukraine three years ago.

However, Ukrainian officials weren't invited to the talks, leaving its president, Volodymyr Zelensky, frustrated. He says that his country won't accept any peace agreements that it hasn't been involved in.

The US said that no agreements would be made without Ukraine, and that Tuesday's meeting was just about seeing whether Russia was "serious" about ending the war.

In his election campaign, US President Donald Trump said that he could bring an end to the war between Russia and Ukraine with one phone call. Last week, he said that

he had a "good call" with Russian President Vladimir Putin, before calling Mr Zelensky.

Mr Zelensky visited the US in person last week. He said he trusts Mr Trump, but that he wants a "real meeting" so that they can "make a common plan, and share it with allies, then with Russians, and stop this war."

Mr Zelensky also said that, in the future, Europe can't depend on the USA for support, so its nations should get together to form a new "Army of Europe" to defend itself.

European leaders gathered in Paris on Monday (17 February) to confirm their support for Ukraine. However, they were split on the idea of sending troops to help protect its borders after the war.

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer says he's "ready" to do so. This week, he's flying to the US to discuss Ukraine with President Trump.



Saturday (22 February) marks three years since Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine. In that time, 46,000 Ukrainian soldiers have died.



A BIRD'S FAVOURITE FOOD? CHEEPS!

Cockatoos like to dip their food!

COCKATOOS are fancy birds – and they seem to enjoy making their food a little fancy, too!

That's what scientists in Vienna have found. In a saucy study, 18 cockatoos were given pieces of pasta and potato next to three dips – blueberry yoghurt, plain yoghurt and fresh water.

Half of the birds dipped their pasta and potato into the blueberry yoghurt. It's thought they chose it to

add the most flavour to their food.

"The birds had a problem that their food wasn't tasty enough," said researcher Jeroen Zewald, "so they went to the yoghurt, really dunked it in like we would with fries and ketchup, and then ate it together!"

The birds spent around three seconds dragging, rolling and pressing their food into yoghurt – possibly to scoop up as much fruity deliciousness as possible!

Pope wants billionaires to pay higher taxes

THE Pope called for the world's richest people to pay higher taxes, at a big meeting in the Vatican City last week.

World leaders joined Pope Francis to say that billionaires should be made to pay more of their wealth back to society, in order to prevent their power from spiralling out of control.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez said: "The stakes couldn't be higher..."

without fair taxation, we'll never have the resources to fight poverty or climate change."

The charity Oxfam backed the speech. Its tax lead, Susana Ruiz, said: "The wealth of the super-rich is exploding at a terrifying pace... we're watching, in real-time, as [they] tighten their grip on power and hold entire societies hostage to their greed."

A **tax** is a payment that people give to the government. It's usually a small percentage of their earnings. The government uses the money to pay for things like public services, health and education.



AI CREATES NEW LEVELS FOR GAMES!



What would an AI videogame level look like?

RESEARCHERS have developed an AI tool with the power to create exciting new levels and worlds for existing videogames.

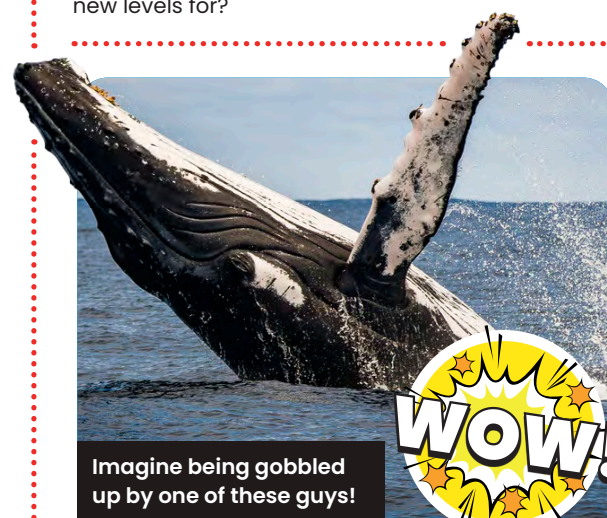
They've called it the World and Human Action Model (or WHAM for short). They say that it can generate new levels in games that are "consistent and diverse", meaning each new level is unique, while remaining true to the original game.

Lots of industries are suspicious about AI, and worry about it replacing human workers.

However, the researchers think that humans should remain in charge of designing videogames. They believe that WHAM should be used only to help them in their job.

They tested WHAM by getting it to create new levels for a multiplayer battle game. They trained it to do so using seven years' worth of human gameplay. Because this was a success, they think it could create levels for other games, too.

Which games would you like to see AI create new levels for?



Imagine being gobbled up by one of these guys!



A KAYAKER has survived after being inside the mouth of a humpback whale in Chile!

Adrián Simancas was out at sea with his father when the whale lunged up while feeding. The 24-year-old kayaker said the whale held him in his mouth for a few seconds before releasing him again, adding: "I thought it had eaten me, that it had swallowed me."

Adrián's dad caught the whole thing on camera, with the footage being shared across the world. Thankfully, both Adrián and his dad were unhurt and able to get to safety.

**London, UK**

IT was a cracking BAFTA awards ceremony for the makers of Wallace and Gromit, who picked up two gongs for their film *Vengeance Most Fowl*. It took home Best Animated Film and Children's & Family Film. Creator Nick Park praised the talented artists at Aardman Studios in Bristol who helped to bring the characters to life. Wallace, Gromit and their smart gnome Norbot (top left) even made an appearance on the red carpet. But hang on, who invited evil penguin Feathers McGraw?!

All pics: Getty

Antalya, Turkey

HUMAN or cake? It's a cake! This edible birthday treat was created by skilled chefs who craft figures using sugar paste.

Catania, Italy

MOUNT Etna spews out smoke and lava in its first eruption of 2025. Etna is Europe's most active volcano, and while flights around the Sicily area have been disrupted, its outbursts rarely cause a lot of damage.

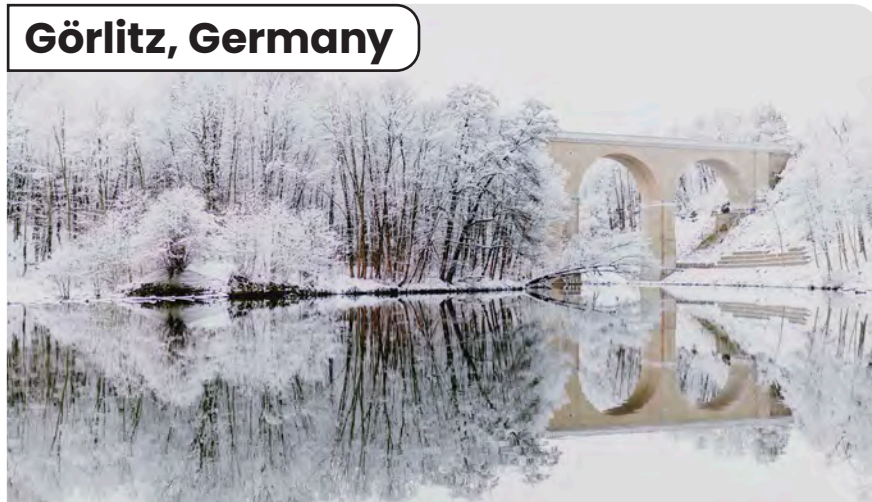


Weymouth, UK



IT looks like we've jumped back in time to the Jurassic period! More than 100 people take part in Chase the Dinosaur, an annual race for charity on Weymouth Beach. The Weymouth Fossil Trail was also unveiled, celebrating the Dorset area's rich Jurassic past.

Görlitz, Germany



A WINTER wonderland is reflected in the Lusatian Neisse river, which forms part of the border between Germany and Poland.

Brussels, Belgium



CHILDREN take a ride through the snow on small ponies.

Hong Kong, China



CROWDS flock to get a glimpse of the new arrivals at Ocean Park – twin panda cubs. The locally-born twins have been nicknamed 'Elder Sister' and 'Little Brother' while the people of Hong Kong submit ideas for their names. The cubs' mother, Ying Ying, is the world's oldest giant panda on record to give birth for the first time. She delivered the cuddly cubs just a day before her 19th birthday.

PMQs WITH KEIR STARMER



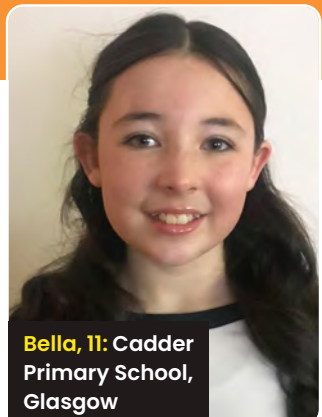
THIS week, *First News* and our partner news show *FYI* were invited to take young people to Downing Street to quiz Prime Minister Keir Starmer, about the issues that mattered to them. Watch what happened at [first.news/tv](https://www.firstnews.tv) and read about it here.

YOUNG KEIR

● What was your favourite thing to do when you were younger? Did you always want to be prime minister and what inspires you now as our PM? When I was growing up, I liked to play football all the time – before school, during breaks, after school. Once upon a time, I wanted to be a footballer, but I soon learned that I wasn't good enough for that! In the end, I became a lawyer and did that for many years before I finally came into politics.



Keir Starmer, aged 12



Bella, 11: Cadder Primary School, Glasgow

What brought me into politics is this sense of belief I have that we can change the lives of millions of people in this country for the better in terms of the economy, the cost of living, whether people feel they are better off, the health service, better schools or making sure that every child gets the best opportunities in life. That's what drives me forward. And, in terms of the job itself, it's a huge privilege to serve as the prime minister of the United Kingdom, to be able to take decisions that have an impact on people's lives for the better.

SCHOOL

● In a recent study of kids, more than three-quarters said they think music is as important as maths, and that it should be taught more in school. What are you doing to make sure that arts subjects like music, drama and art aren't forgotten about?

I think music is really important because there's a lot of joy in music, and there's a lot of joy in learning how to play an instrument, which will stay with you for life. Also, liking different types of music is really important for us when we want to relax and get away from the hard work of being at school. Playing with a group of musicians can be really helpful too, for when you're older. When businesses are trying to decide whether they should take on this or that person for a job, they will often say they need someone who



can work in a team, somebody who can work in a little group of three or four. And I think music gives that as well.

So I'm a big supporter of music and I want to see more of that in our schools. I actually did music all the way through primary school and secondary school, and I've got a life-long love of music, which I hope all of you have, too.

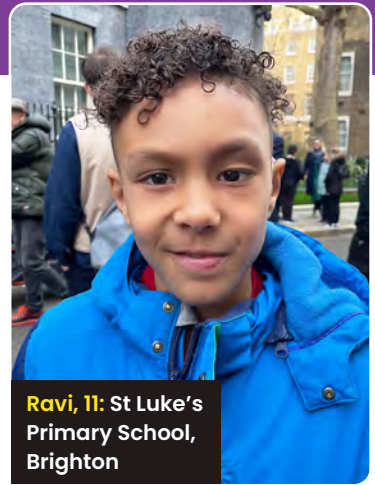


Emma, 11: St Cedd's School, Chelmsford

HEALTH

● Prime minister, my brain tumour was initially missed by my doctors and I ended up having to go to a private doctor who, thankfully, found my tumour before it was too late. What is your plan for increasing confidence in our amazing NHS? First, I think I'm right in saying that your tumour has now been pretty much dealt with? You've been through a huge amount already, so you will know just how important the NHS is. And all of us, I think, have these personal stories of when the NHS has been vitally important for us. This is quite personal for me as well, because my wife works in the NHS, my sister worked in the NHS, my mum was a nurse and my wife's mother was a GP, so we have got the NHS running through our blood, if you like.

So, what we've done, Ravi, is to invest more money in our NHS, because some of the equipment is very expensive and we need specialist staff to deal with operations. We're also reforming and changing the NHS so it works even better for the future. It was set up by a Labour government [in 1948], so it's been with us now for a long time already. I want to make sure it's with us for a long time to come.



Ravi, 11: St Luke's Primary School, Brighton



Young people with Keir Starmer outside the famous door of Number 10 Downing Street



In a huddle in the briefing room!

FYI

Watch the FYI report from Junior PMQs, as well as the full Q&A session with the prime minister, by asking a responsible adult to scan this QR code, or at first.news/tv. And you can read more questions and answers next week, along with photos from FYI presenter Rosie's sneak peek inside Number 10.



HOMES

● I want to buy a house when I grow up, but I know it's really hard to save up enough money. How are you going to fix the housing crisis so more of us will be able to own our own homes one day?

It's a very important question because having your own house is about having your own front door. It's about having a place that you know is yours where nobody can move you out. It's a base camp for life that you can build your opportunities and aspirations around. So we have to make sure that young people get houses as quickly as possible, and I'm really glad that you've already decided that you want to get your own home.

What we're going to do to make that happen is build lots more houses. We don't have enough at the moment, and so we have a mission to build 1.5 million homes. But, also, to make sure that there's enough affordable housing so that everybody can get a house that they can call their own. Keep that dream to have a house alive because it's very, very important.



Adrianna, ten: Lightwoods Primary Academy, Oldbury, Birmingham



FAMILY LIFE

● My dad is a police officer and my mum is a doctor. So, both my parents are working hard to give us a better life. How are you helping working parents juggle their life at work and at home?

This is such a good question and could you say thank you to your mummy and daddy for what they're doing – as all of you must do – because these are really important jobs. My job is to make sure that they have more money in their pockets so they can do the things that they want to do with you and with your family. That means making sure that, however difficult the decisions are that we have to take, we don't increase the tax on working people like your mum and dad, so they've got the money at the end of the month that they've earned doing their job.

To make sure there's support in place for children, we are starting our breakfast clubs, which are clubs where children can come for breakfast before school for support, and to allow parents to drop their children off so they can go to work and get on with their jobs. So there are things like that we can do, and, of course, making sure that the NHS and other services are there for them when they need them. The most important thing is making sure that people are better off because, when people do the little things that matter hugely in life, like what you do for your birthday, where you go on holiday or going out with your mum and dad – these are the things that are really precious to us.



Freya, nine: Ide Hill Primary School, Sevenoaks, Kent

CRIME

● I live in central London and will be going to secondary school in September. What are you doing to tackle anti-social behaviour to keep young people safe where we live and at school?

This is an issue we have to take really seriously because, if there's anti-social behaviour, it means that you don't necessarily feel safe in your community, and that can't be right.

So, the first thing we're going to do is to make sure we've got more neighbourhood police officers. These are police officers who are in, and know, your neighbourhood, making sure that things are safe for you. We will also give them powers to deal with people who are misbehaving. So they'll have what we're going to call respect orders, which means they can do something about people who are misbehaving and causing anti-social behaviour, particularly if it's repeat behaviour. Third, and most importantly, we have to be clear that anti-social behaviour is serious. Some people say to me: "Oh, anti-social behaviour, it's annoying, but it's not really serious." I think it is really serious because it impacts on your life and the lives of people in your community.



Kayla, 11: Eleanor Palmer Primary School, Camden, London



NEXT WEEK: THE ENVIRONMENT, SPORT AND ONLINE SAFETY

**KIRKBY OVERBLOW****Plastic cow on the mooove**

Police are appealing for the return of a life-sized plastic cow that was stolen from a farmer's field. The cow went missing from the North Yorkshire village of Kirkby Overblow between 14-28 January. The farmer, who has not been named, told the BBC that he originally bought the cow as a joke. "It was just a silly, fun thing to make people in the village smile," he said. He added that it would have taken at least three men to lift it, but it must've been taken "very elegantly" as there was no damage to nearby fences.

**A feral pig****CAIRNGORMS****Feral pigs killed**

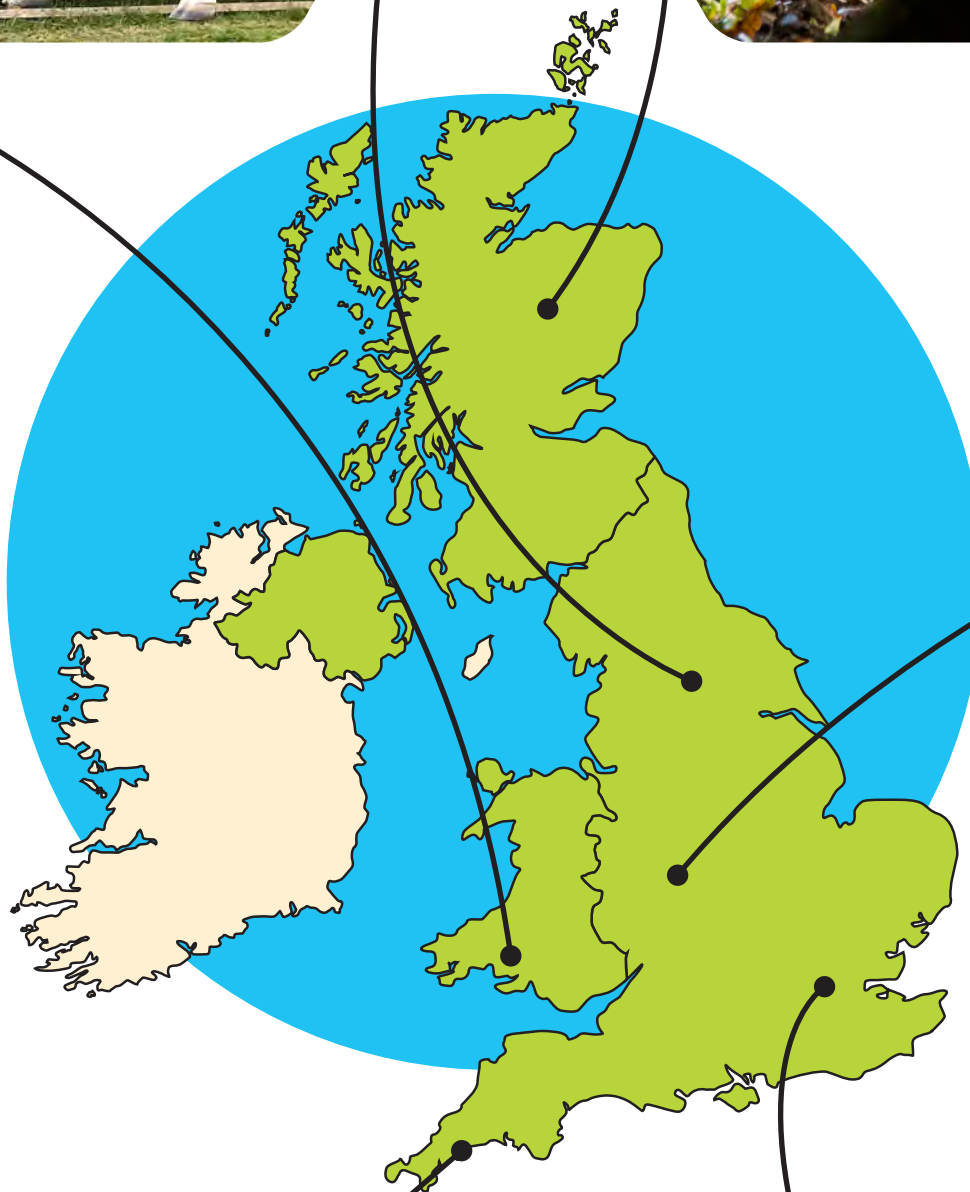
A group of wild pigs that were released illegally have been caught and humanely culled, Forestry and Land Scotland has said. The animals had been spotted roaming the Cairngorms National Park, and park officials said they had been illegally abandoned. Their deaths have caused anger, with many people calling it animal cruelty. Others have pointed out that feral pigs roam freely in other areas of Scotland. However, they are a non-native species and can be harmful to local plants and mammals, and can also spread diseases. The Scottish government says it is down to individual landowners to control pig populations.

SOUTH WALES**Voies on a roll**

New groups of water voles have been spotted in the high-up areas of South Wales. The UK's fastest-declining mammal species is usually found in riverbanks across Wales, but new habitats in the uplands will provide safer surroundings. The numbers of the rodents have gone down partly due to threats from the non-native American mink, which tend to avoid the upland areas that the voles are moving into. Research by the Initiative for Nature Conservation Cymru (INCC), has so far found 20 new water vole colonies. They will play a vital role in keeping upland ecosystems healthy.



Water voles are literally back on top!



Sarah Ansaf was named the UK Young Scientist of the Year 2024

**BIRMINGHAM****Science on show**

Registrations are open for the UK's largest celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). The Big Bang Fair will welcome more than 20,000 pupils aged 10-13 to Birmingham this summer. The free event is designed to ignite a passion for STEM and highlight the careers in these sectors. Pupils can show off their achievements in STEM in The Big Bang UK Young Scientists & Engineers Competition, with winners announced at the fair. Find out more at thebigbang.org.uk. The Big Bang Fair takes place from 17-19 June at the NEC in Birmingham.

CORNWALL**Paw-some plants**

Five vibrant Australian plants have gone on display at the Eden Project. The kangaroo paw (*Anigozanthos*) plants were grown in the botanical garden after arriving from Western Australia as tiny fragments of plant tissue. They are believed to be the first of their kind to be on public display in the UK. Among the colourful collections are the Masquerade (right) and Carnivale varieties. The exhibit highlights how these plants are used by indigenous (native) people back home in Australia. The plant gets its name from its kangaroo paw-like flower head.



Kangaroo paws being planted

LONDON**Library leaders**

The achievements of pupils in their school libraries will be celebrated at a special event in the capital. Now in its 12th year, the UK Pupil Library Assistant of the Year Awards recognise extraordinary primary and secondary school pupils who have contributed to their libraries. Pupils from Cheshire to Cornwall and beyond will talk about the importance of having a library in every school, and the skills and confidence that libraries build. Eleven finalists have been announced, with eight in the Secondary category and three in Primary. The awards ceremony takes place on 25 March.





THE BIRDS THAT GLOW!

An emperor bird of
paradise and (inset)
biofluorescence
seen on its feathers

istock

A NEW study has shown that most birds of paradise can glow to make themselves look even more striking.

Birds of paradise live across eastern Australia, Indonesia and New Guinea, and are well known for their brightly coloured, flamboyant feathers.

But now researchers in America have discovered that, in 37 out of 45 species, the birds' feathers are able to appear even brighter and more eye-catching, thanks to biofluorescence.

Biofluorescence is when a living thing absorbs light, then emits it as

a different colour. It's been seen in everything from coral to sharks.

The study showed that when the birds are placed under blue or ultraviolet light in a dark room, their plumage glowed yellow and green.

The researchers think the birds use their fluorescent feathers to make themselves look more attractive and help them to find mates.

Birds have more sensitive eyes than humans, so they see this emitted light as a kind of glow that makes the feathers look bolder and brighter.



© Rene Martin

The study's lead author, Rene Martin, said: "It seems fitting that these flashy birds are likely signalling to each other in additional, flashy ways."

The bats are back!

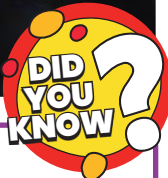
LONGLEAT Safari Park has seen the arrival of 42 Egyptian fruit bats for the reopening of its Bat Cave.

The cave has had a makeover as part of the zoo's mission to protect the species and educate visitors. The Egyptian fruit bat is hunted for food and seen as pest by farmers.

Park keeper Nadia Rozkoszek said their fruit bill had rocketed since the bats returned. She added: "We are feeding them a lot of fruit because their metabolism [chemical reactions in the body] is so high. This species also has a long tongue, so they can drink nectar from plants and flowers."



Tom Anders



**Weekly, the
bats are eating:**

- 98 apples
- 84 bananas
- 47 carrots
- 35 pears
- 28 tomatoes
- 14 honeydew melons
- 7 mangos
- 6 ears of corn
- 4 cucumbers
- 4 sweet potatoes



Jo Howell / Melbourne Zoo

A plains-wanderer

A 'golden' discovery

ONE of Australia's rarest birds has been spotted west of Melbourne for the first time in more than 30 years, thanks to AI.

The critically endangered plains-wanderers have been found living in two areas of grassland, following a project to rediscover the species.

Zoos Victoria set up 35 audio recorders called song meters, which collected thousands of hours of recordings. The zoo then used AI to go through them to see if they could hear any sounds made by plains-wanderers.

Chris Hartnett, from Zoos Victoria, said they managed to detect the birds' soft and low calls at two sites in Melbourne, adding that the discovery felt "like finding gold".

The aim now is to protect the birds and continue searching the area to see if there are more.

**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...

TIGER SHARK



istock

HABITAT:

- Tropical and subtropical waters throughout the world.

FUN FACTS:

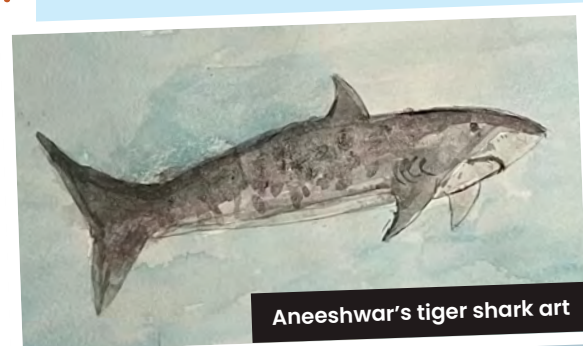
- Tiger sharks are named for their dark, vertical stripes, making them look like the giant cat.
- They have sharp, jagged teeth and powerful jaws that let them crack the shells of sea turtles and clams.

SPECIAL SUPERPOWER:

- Tiger sharks aren't fussy eaters. This solitary, nocturnal hunter is known as the "dustbin of the ocean" as it eats everything, including other sharks, seabirds, dolphins, rays and turtles.

CONSERVATION STATUS:

- Near threatened, says the International Union for Conservation of Nature.



Aneeshwar's tiger shark art

We're asking you to send in photos of your own drawings or paintings of wildlife to add to an online gallery. Ask a parent, guardian or teacher to send in your photos by emailing them to yournews@firstnews.co.uk. You can view the gallery by asking a responsible adult to scan this QR code.





The Easter season drives up egg prices, too

Eggs-tremely expensive...

Eggs have become more expensive than ever in the USA, mostly due to an ongoing outbreak of bird flu, which has led to shortages. The average price of a carton of 12 Grade A eggs in US cities in January climbed to \$4.95 (£3.90) – more than double the average of \$2.04 (£1.60) for a dozen in August 2023. In some areas of the country, they're being sold for a feather-ruffling \$10 (£7.95)! In the UK, it's around £3.15 for a dozen large eggs. To protect supplies, some shops are asking customers to buy no more than one carton. The bird flu outbreak in America began in 2022. Some very large egg farms can have millions of birds – however, the rule is, if bird flu is detected in just a single chicken on a farm, that entire flock has to be killed to stop it from spreading. The Department of Agriculture says 23 million chickens were slaughtered in January alone.



FRANCE

Teeth of ancient monsters found by border cops

French border officers found nine ancient animal teeth in a truck that was on its way to Italy. They were wrapped in two parcels, and belonged to creatures from the Late Cretaceous period, 72 to 66 million years ago. Five came from a *Dryosaurus* (an ancient ancestor of crocodiles), while the other four were from sea creatures – a *Zarafasaura oceanis* and a *Mosasaurus*. The truck had come from Spain, and the driver was delivering them to people in the Italian cities of Milan and Genoa. The officers sent them to be examined at a museum in nearby Menton.



A licence is often needed to export fossils



JAPAN



The bun stops here!

Woman arrested for bun squash

A woman in Fukuoka is said to have been arrested for squashing a cream cheese bun at a convenience store and leaving without paying for it. The 40-year-old woman told the police she "only checked the firmness of [the bun] by pressing lightly with my hand". The shop owner said that her actions meant the whole bag had to be taken off the shelf. He said that he had asked the woman to pay for the bag of buns, but she refused and that's why he called the police. The woman was arrested for criminal damage.



BRAZIL

Intense heatwave shuts schools

The new school year began in Brazil last week – but not for students in the state of Rio Grande do Sul. They were stuck at home, as a heatwave kept their classrooms closed. The teachers' union has said that the state's schools don't have enough ventilation or water supplies for students, and that more than seven in ten schools don't have air conditioning. The Olindo Flores school had been hoping to finally welcome its students back, after its classrooms were wrecked by floods last May. Its start of term was knocked back a week, instead.



In the city of Quaraí, temperatures hit 43.8°C



AMSTERDAM ISLAND

Fires burn half of research island

A month-long wildfire has burned more than half of a small French island in the middle of the Indian Ocean. Amsterdam Island has no permanent residents, but researchers use it to study the Earth's atmosphere. In January, the fire broke out near an observatory and strong winds caused it to spread. A passing lobster fishing boat evacuated 31 people and took them to another French island, Réunion. One scientist told *Le Monde* newspaper that it was "incredibly lucky" for them that the boat was nearby. However, there are worries about the impact of the fire on the seals, penguins and albatrosses that use the island.



The red shows the burned area



SUDAN



Two-thirds of the population needs emergency aid

UN asks world for urgent support

The United Nations (UN) has launched an urgent appeal to the world to raise \$6 billion (£4.8 billion) this year to help nearly 26 million people caught up in war in Sudan. Fighting has raged for nearly two years between two rival parts of the military. The violence has resulted in hospitals being destroyed, the deaths of innocent civilians and 12 million people having to flee from their homes. Famine is taking hold in the country, too. "The suffering is appalling. But our plan is a lifeline to millions," said Tom Fletcher, who co-ordinates the UN's emergency relief.



BROWNIE RETURNS HOME!

BROWNIE the Jellycat bunny has been reunited with her owner after enjoying an epic adventure at London's Savoy Theatre.

The cuddly brown bunny was left in the theatre after a performance of the *Mean Girls* musical back in January.

Staff posted on Instagram about the little lost toy they'd found and asked their followers to try to find the owner. The post was accompanied by a

slideshow of pictures and captions of the bunny around the theatre, helping to mend objects, sitting at the ticket office, becoming a stage performer and eating lots of ice cream!

Eventually, the power of social media worked and a girl named Amy commented on the post.

Brownie and Amy have now finally been reunited, and Brownie has returned home having enjoyed a fabulous theatre experience.

Cake and cuffs

A 104-year-old woman from New York celebrated her birthday by going to jail!

Loretta told her nursing home that she'd love nothing more than marking her epic day by spending time down at the local Livingston County Jail, as she'd never been inside one before. Thankfully she wasn't put in handcuffs, though!

Instead, the Sheriff's Office kindly agreed to give Loretta a private tour of the facilities and even treated her to some cake and coffee.

Loretta told the Sheriff that the secret to living a long life is to "mind your business!"



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer



Danes to bring "bike lanes to Beverly Hills"?



A JOKEY petition has been set up in Denmark to buy the state of California, after Donald Trump said he wanted to take over Greenland, which Denmark has owned for hundreds of years.

The petition appears to mock the US president's plan, saying: "Have you ever looked at a map and thought: 'You know what Denmark needs? More sunshine, palm trees and roller skates?'"

It adds that the Danes would change the name California to New Denmark, and Disneyland would be renamed "Hans Christian Andersenland", after the famous children's author.

"Mickey Mouse in a Viking helmet?" the petition says. "Yes, please."



TECH INNOVATION POWERING THE TCS LONDON MARATHON!

THE TCS London Marathon is one of the world's most iconic races, where thousands take on the challenge of running 26.2 miles – some in serious running gear, others dressed as giant bananas or superheroes! That's because it's not only about the running, but it is also a huge fundraising event, with millions of pounds raised for charity each year.

CAN I JOIN IN?

Schoolchildren can take part in the TCS Mini London Marathon in schools! It's the chance to experience the excitement of race day and run, jog, walk, wheel or be guided around a two-mile course within your school. More than one million children have taken on the challenge since 2020. What's more, your school gets a trophy for taking part! Find out how to enter at londonmarathonevents.co.uk.

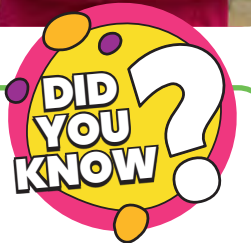
SO, WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH TECHNOLOGY?

You may not believe it, but technology and running go hand in hand. TCS has been the London Marathon's technology partner since 2016 and their title partner since 2022!

TCS designed the TCS London Marathon app, which helps runners track their progress and lets friends and family follow along. The app was downloaded nearly 390,000 times when it launched in 2022! Tech is super important in sports, helping to improve training techniques, tracking times and fitness levels, and allowing fans to watch events on their phones.



TCS LONDON MARATHON FACT FILE



- The first TCS London Marathon was in 1981.
- The TCS London Marathon is the world's largest annual one-day fundraising event – it has raised a whopping £1.3 billion since it started.
- Sir Mo Farah and Keely Hodgkinson are among the superstars to have taken part in the TCS Mini London Marathon in the past.
- Thanks to a record number of sign-ups, more than 53,000 runners finished the TCS London Marathon in 2024!
- In 2024, 12,904 young people completed the TCS Mini London Marathon.
- For every young person who runs the TCS Mini London Marathon, the title partner, TCS, donates £10 to their school!

TEAM TCS TEACHERS

In 2023, Team TCS Teachers was launched in London to celebrate amazing teachers who go the extra mile – literally! This team takes on the TCS London Marathon while inspiring their students to get active, especially through the TCS Mini London Marathon. Cel Smith, a teacher from Clapham, started running with Couch to 5K during lockdown: "I wasn't good at sports, but running changed my life! It showed me that anyone can take on a challenge and enjoy being active." Now, every year, 15 teachers join the team to prove that running is for everyone.



tinyurl.com/goitlondonmarathonchallenge



goIT TCS LONDON MARATHON CHALLENGE 2025

A HEALTHIER future for all:
Design an app that inspires ALL young people in your community to get more active.

WHAT IS THE goIT TCS LONDON MARATHON CHALLENGE?

The goIT TCS London Marathon Challenge is calling on young people aged 7-14 to get creative and design an app that helps ALL kids get more active in their community! As the title partner of the TCS London Marathon, TCS wants to see your most innovative ideas. Let's get creative and share your app idea in a three-minute video pitch by **19 March 2025**.

PRIZES GALORE!

The best ideas will go head-to-head and be judged by a panel of tech experts from TCS and the team at London Marathon! The winners of the goIT TCS London Marathon Challenge have the chance to win some great prizes, including a goody bag and certificate!



WHO CAN TAKE PART AND HOW?

Any young person aged 7-14!

1 Register for the challenge

Ask your parent or teacher to sign you up for this year's goIT TCS London Marathon Challenge.

2 Identify your problem around SDG 3

Choose your focus. Will your app help bring new sports to your local area, will it support young people with access to safe spaces to play sport or will it promote an active lifestyle through rewards?

3 Think of an app that could solve this problem

Your app could be anything from a fitness challenge with friends to an app that helps people find fun activities nearby – the possibilities are endless!

4 Design a prototype

This should be a storyboard (a series of illustrations) that showcases the features of your app. Think about who your app is for and what it will do. Think about how your app can be inclusive of all young people.

5 Create a three-minute video pitching your app idea

For inspiration, visit the goIT TCS Monthly Challenge to see past winners' pitches – your pitch should include slides that explain your app idea.

6 Submit your entry

Once you have filmed your three-minute pitch, ask your parent or teacher for help submitting it to the website by 19 March 2025! Visit tinyurl.com/goitlondonmarathonchallenge.

Terms and conditions apply. Please see website above.



WHAT ARE THE SDGs AND WHY DO THEY MATTER?

WHAT ARE THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (UN SDGs)?

The Sustainable Development Goals are 17 global goals aimed at protecting the planet from climate change, as well as making it a fairer place to live. This is a mission that needs to be reached by 2030. The goals impact us all, even you! The UN believes that if humans caused these problems, the good news is that we can also be the ones to fix them!

ABOUT SDG 3 – GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The third sustainable development goal is Good Health and Wellbeing. We all want to live long, happy and healthy lives, and that's exactly what SDG 3 aims to achieve for everybody around the globe! Physical health is just one key focus of this goal.

MEET SUSANNA SULLIVAN



Susanna Sullivan isn't just a teacher – she's also a pro long-distance runner and Team TCS Teachers Ambassador. Susanna has some impressive achievements under her belt, including being the tenth fastest all-time American female in the marathon and coming top ten in three World Marathon Majors in a row (sixth in Chicago 2022, tenth in London 2023, seventh in Chicago 2024).

Whether it's on the track or in the classroom, Susanna embodies everything about SDG 3: Good Health and Wellbeing!



MAKING A SPLASH!

SWIMMING is considered an important life skill. It's not only great for health and fitness, but it can also help to keep you safe in and around water. To celebrate one of the world's biggest fundraising swims – the Swimathon – returning to the UK next month, we decided to find out why learning to swim is so valuable and why Olympic gold medallist and Swimathon President Duncan Goodhew loves it so much!

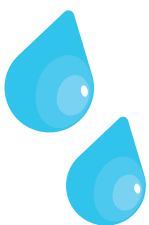


iStock

The benefits of swimming

Swimming provides all sorts of things:

- A new skill that stays with you for life
- Water safety
- Future job opportunities
- Keeps you healthy
- Gives you a sense of achievement
- Allows you to have lots of fun!



**Meet Olympian
Duncan Goodhew**

Where's the craziest place you've swum?

In the Serpentine in London's Hyde Park, where I swim throughout the winter. Once I'm in and I see the swans around me, I feel a wonderful sense of being at one with nature – while in the middle of a city! It's surreal.

When did you decide you wanted to become a professional swimmer?

When I was 15 years old, I swam with an Olympian. It got me thinking and dreaming about swimming for Great Britain at the Olympic Games, where the whole world comes together to compete under one roof where there is one common language – sport!

How often do you swim now?

A one-swim day is a good day, but a two-swim day is a great day! Sadly, I can't swim every single day, but every day that I do, I feel better for it and more alive.

What's the furthest you've ever swum?

I'm a sprinter and my event was 100m – two lengths of an Olympic-length pool – so I find long distances challenging! The furthest I've swum in a pool without stopping is 5,000m, which I try to do every year for Swimathon. The furthest I've swum in open water is 14 miles around the beautiful island of Alderney, part of the Channel Islands.

What's been your best swim?

I would have to say my 100m breaststroke swim at the Moscow Olympic Games in 1980 where I won my gold medal. I keep it at home in a special box!

Duncan's top swimming tips

- Before jumping in the water, always take a moment to look at the colour, movement and beauty of the water! Also think about how much fun you're going to have when you get in.
- When you're in the water, relax, relax and relax. The more relaxed you are, the easier it is to move through the water.
- When you leave the water, look back and think about how much fun you've had, how great you feel, and say to yourself: "I'll be back!"

The Swimathon Challenge

Swimathon is splashing back into action for its 40th anniversary this year!

What is Swimathon?

Swimathon started out as an idea to get more swimmers in local pools and has since grown into one of the world's biggest fundraising swimming events! It has brought together over 750,000 people to enjoy the benefits of swimming and raised more than £55 million for a variety of charities, including the NSPCC, The Prince's Trust (now The King's Trust), Cancer Research UK and Marie Curie.

When and where is it happening?

Swimathon will take place at over 480 pools nationwide from 28 to 30 March 2025. Find your nearest venue at swimathon.org/venues.

How far do I have to swim?

You can take on an individual challenge, which starts at 400m, or enter as a team and take on a longer race with friends and family, such as the 1.5k distances. Or, if you can't make the date, you can also take part virtually with MySwimathon, Swimathon's virtual challenge that lets participants swim any distance, at any time, and at any venue of their choosing between 21 March and 6 April 2025.

How do I get involved?

Find out how to take part at swimathon.org. *First News* readers can also get 50% off the registration fee with these codes: **FIRSTNEWS50** for individual entry, or **FIRSTNEWSTEAM50** for team entry.

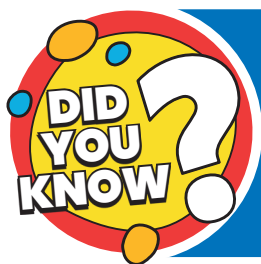


iStock

Other sports you can enjoy

Once you can swim, you can take part in tons of other activities, too. This includes:

- Kayaking and canoeing
- Surfing and bodyboarding
- Scuba diving



IF you ever get into difficulty in water, the best thing to do is float. Lean back and use your arms and legs to help you float, then get control of your breathing before calling for help or swimming to safety.

SWIMATHON





WE'RE ALL DOOMED!

(NOT REALLY, BUT WE GOT YOUR ATTENTION, DIDN'T WE?)

Most asteroids either pass miles past Earth or burn up harmlessly in the atmosphere

WE'RE not all doomed, obviously, but that's the impression you might have got from reading some headlines and news stories about a big bit of rock over the past weeks.

Everything's going to be okay – but that's not the sort of thing that's going to get quite as many clicks or retweets.

Some sections of the media were almost frothing at the mouth after NASA said that the chances of asteroid 2024 YR4 hitting Earth on 22 December 2032 had almost doubled to 2.3% from 1.3%. Stories talked about a "city-killer" asteroid "hurtling" through space towards us, with threats of an explosion "150 times greater" than an atomic bomb, and quotes from people saying things like: "If that was to hit Ireland, the total country is gone." Spoiler alert: no, it wouldn't be. Our personal favourite was the headline that honked about a "terrifying interactive map" that showed what would happen if the asteroid hit the UK.

That last one is especially nonsensical, because even if the asteroid did hit Earth (which it almost certainly won't), NASA says it'd be somewhere within a 'risk corridor' that stretches across the eastern Pacific Ocean, northern South America, the Atlantic Ocean, Africa, the Arabian Sea and South Asia – which are all pretty far away from the UK.

Water, water, everywhere

Also, just because the chance of an impact has doubled, the chance of it missing hasn't halved. It's still only a 2 in 100 chance that it will reach Earth, but a 98 in 100 chance that it'll sail harmlessly past us.

The other thing to remember is that around 71% (seven tenths) of Earth's surface is water, and a lot of land is taken up by things like forests and deserts, which is why most asteroids plop harmlessly into the water or other uninhabited areas. Well, it might not be harmless for the fish or birds that are unlucky enough to be in the way, but you get the idea.

Why don't we know for certain?

Because the asteroid is travelling on a path that takes it on a loop of millions of miles around the sun, experts need lots of observations over a long time to calculate its exact route. So as we get more data, the probability of a collision with Earth could increase, but it's also much more likely that we'll see it won't come anywhere near us.



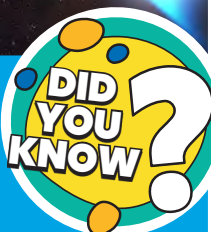
NASA/JPL-Caltech/UCLA/MPS/DLR/IDA

ASTEROIDS are bits of rock left over from the formation of our solar system 4.6 billion years ago, and most of them orbit the sun in the main asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. Vesta is the largest asteroid there, measuring around 530km (330 miles) in diameter. However, the largest object in the belt is Ceres (pictured), which is about 950km (590 miles) in diameter, or about a quarter of the size of our moon. Over the years, Ceres has been classed as a planet, a minor planet then an asteroid up until 2006, when experts decided to reclassify it as a dwarf planet.

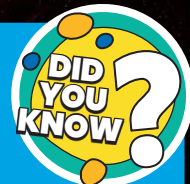


An artist's impression of DART

ON 26 September 2022, a NASA mission called DART smashed into an asteroid called Dimorphos. DART was a 'kinetic impactor' that changed Dimorphos' orbit and shape, after slamming into it at 14,000mph (22,530km/h). It helped us to learn more about what asteroids are made from, but also proved that we can successfully deflect an asteroid if we ever need to. An asteroid strike is "the only natural disaster humanity now has sufficient [enough] technology to completely prevent," said Lindley Johnson, NASA's planetary defence officer.



In a few months' time, 2024 YR4 will be too far away for telescopes on Earth to see it. However, the James Webb Space Telescope is due to study it in March and May with its infrared camera, which should give us a more accurate idea of how big it is. From observations of the asteroid so far, experts estimate that it's about 40-90m (130-300ft) wide.



This report is from the Science Museum Group

SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

DESPITE its name, this Bond car wasn't a special vehicle made for spies; Bond Minicars were very popular in the UK in the 1950s and 1960s.

Designed by Lawrence Bond, this car was easily recognisable due to its three-wheel design. Its minimal features allowed it to be cheap, accessible and easy to drive; you only needed a motorcycle licence to get behind the wheel, as it was limited to speeds of 30-40mph (nowadays, cars on the motorway drive twice as fast).

The top of this model could also be pulled back, turning it into a convertible.

All of this made it very attractive after World War Two, and over 24,500 Bond Minicars were built in these years.

The Bond Minicar was a bit cooler than Del Boy's three-wheeler



Science Museum Group



ALONGSIDE the eight main characters, there are lots of people to meet in the show – including a fortune-telling kid who loves to drink orangeade. Burp!

DID YOU KNOW?

GAME ON!

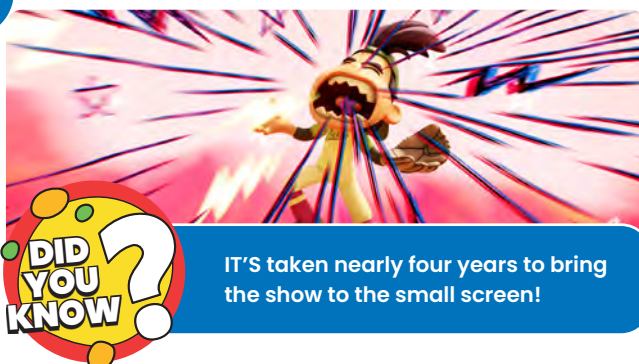
WIN Or Lose is an all-new animated series from the artistic whizzes at Pixar. Adam Tanswell heads behind the scenes to find out more...

WHAT'S IT ABOUT?

"The show follows a lot of characters in the story, but it's all linked to the idea of walking a mile in somebody else's shoes," explains *Win Or Lose* producer David Lally. "Each episode follows a character in the run-up to a big championship softball game."

TEAM PICKLES

Pickles is the nutty name of the school softball team at the heart of *Win Or Lose*. "We thought up a bunch of different names for the main team in the story and most of them



DID YOU KNOW?

IT'S taken nearly four years to bring the show to the small screen!

were food-related," remembers David. "I think we were all probably hungry! When Pickles came up, it seemed like a very charming and silly name for the main team."

SERIOUSLY SOFTBALL

A talented team of 60 artists and animators immersed themselves in softball for the show. "We visited a lot of local softball fields and we talked to a lot of kids who play on teams," explains David. "We talked to a lot of coaches and parents, too. We discovered there's a lot more drama surrounding Little League sports than you might expect."

EAGLE EYES

We have a bunch of secret Easter eggs for audiences to find," reveals David. "There are Easter eggs from past Pixar movies and some from our upcoming movies, as well as others from our short films. We've also hidden the Pizza Planet truck from the *Toy Story* movies in every single episode of *Win Or Lose*. We challenge our viewers to find them all!"

Catch all eight episodes of *Win Or Lose* on Disney+ now.



Britain's Got Talent kicks off!

One of our favourite TV talent shows returns this weekend (22 February) and we're already excited to see what the UK has to offer! Head judge Simon Cowell teased fans on Instagram, saying: "The acts were really, really brilliant. You're in for a lot of surprises, trust me. I hope you enjoy it."



A scene from *Birdboy*

New dance venue!

A brand-new theatre dedicated to dance has opened in London. Sadler's Wells East in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, Stratford, is home to everything from hip-hop and ballet to rave and rumba. To celebrate the new venue, we spoke to dance choreographer Emma Martin all about her fascinating job and her show *Birdboy*, which is showing from 20-22 February. Read the interview over on our app!

FIVE MINUTES WITH...



GLADIATORS' NITRO

GLADIATORS star Nitro (aka Harry Aikines-Aryeetey) might be injured this series, but that hasn't stopped him from being a prankster. He's now fronting a new show called *Gladiators: Epic Pranks*. We spoke to him to find out what we can expect to see...

Hi, Nitro! Tell us about the new show.

It's just pure enjoyment. We get to see the *Gladiators* in a different light, maybe a bit more vulnerable. We've got some games, we've got some competition between the *Gladiators*. Ultimately it's all about me pranking the *Gladiators*, getting them dressing up in all sorts of silly things, like Bionic in a bunny outfit or Dynamite dressed up as a banana. We get to prank the audience too, as they're watching the *Gladiators* in the arena.



Who was your favourite Gladiator to prank?

Diamond. I had her down to the studio, where she thought she was filming a piece for live TV. I'm obviously in the ear of someone who she thought was her co-host. You can imagine I was telling them to be as disruptive as possible. I don't want to give too much away, but it was honestly just so funny!

Who got the most annoyed?

Athena! She was like: "Nitro, I trusted you!"

Did anyone manage to prank you?

Not at all, but I'm waiting for it!

Have you always been a bit of a joker?

Yes, this is the perfect role for me. Something that not a lot of people know is that behind the scenes of *Gladiators*, I do a lot of teasing and playing silly games. It's a bit like team bonding.

Catch *Gladiators: Epic Pranks* now on BBC iPlayer, CBBC and BBC One.



IT'S POKÉMON DAY!



POKÉMON

LEGENDS



Some of the Pokémon announced for *Pokémon Scarlet* and *Violet* on Pokémon Day 2022. This year, we're likely to learn more about *Pokémon Legends: Z-A*

ONE of the best days in the gaming calendar is here!

Pokémon Day is celebrated on 27 February every year to mark the anniversary of the first Pokémon game.

Twenty-nine years ago, *Pokémon Green* and *Pokémon Red* were released in Japan. The series then expanded worldwide and gave us the videogames and films that will last for generations to come.

But 27 February isn't just an excuse to look back at the past. It's an opportunity for The Pokémon Company to reveal some of the most exciting new features that we can expect to see in the year ahead, in its annual Pokémon Presents livestream.

In 2024, *Pokémon Legends: Z-A* was revealed. It was the big talking point, but with no update since then, fans are expecting more news on the new game. Due for release this summer, could it be made available on the new Nintendo Switch 2 console? Only time will tell!

We're likely to have a whole host of celebration events to play through in the *Pokémon GO* and *Pokémon TCG Pocket* apps too. Pokémon also revealed that 2025 is the Year of Eevee, which could involve lots of merch drops for fans of the fluffy Generation 1 species. Outside of the games, we imagine we'll get some anime news too.

Overall, 2025 is set to be a massive year for Pokémon!



Glover is back!

POKÉMON Day (left) isn't the only exciting thing happening on 27 February – it's also the day when *Glover* returns!

Originally released in the late '90s for the Nintendo 64, *Glover* tells the story of a wizard who loses his enchanted gloves. A mysterious potion turns one of them evil, so players must control the good glove, Glover, to save the kingdom! QByte Interactive is now releasing the game on PS4/5, Xbox One and Series X|S, and Nintendo Switch on 27 February!



Lead the glove to glory!



THE BIG PICTURE

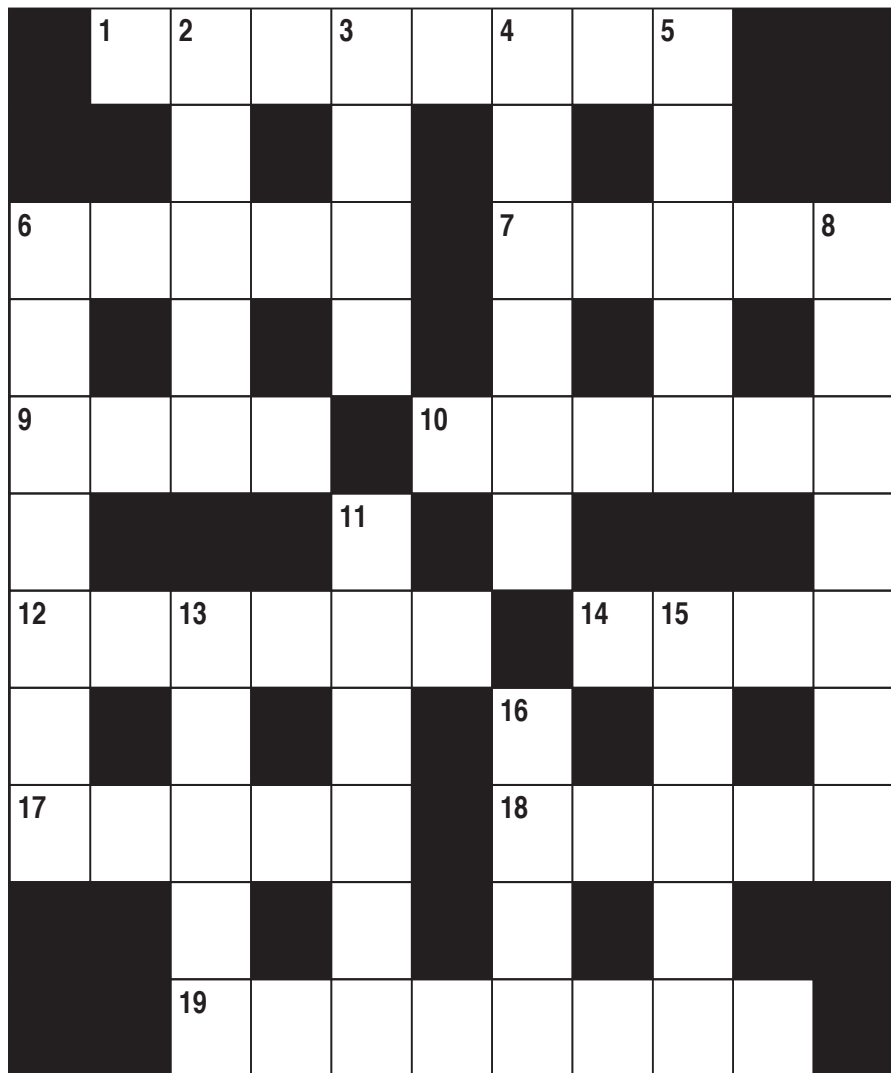
WHEN life gives you lemons... make a UFO!

The Fête du Citron (Lemon Festival) is a carnival held at the end of every winter in Menton, southern France. Let's just hope these aliens didn't leave feeling sour!



CROSSWORD

CAN you solve our crossword puzzle using the clues below?



ACROSS

- 1 A red beetle with black spots (8)
- 6 Type of book updated daily (5)
- 7 Memos (5)
- 9 Animal doctors (4)
- 10 _____ card: means of payment (6)
- 12 Period of instruction at school (6)
- 14 Large primates (4)
- 17 Living thing that grows in soil (5)
- 18 A piece of writing (5)
- 19 Well known (8)

DOWN

- 2 Modify or adjust (5)
- 3 Children's toy (2-2)
- 4 Disregard or refuse to acknowledge (6)
- 5 Old-fashioned (5)
- 6 Change and grow (7)
- 8 Fulfil a need or desire (7)
- 11 Opposite of top (6)
- 13 This keeps your neck warm in winter (5)
- 15 Italian food (5)
- 16 E.g. lunch or dinner (4)



Sudoku

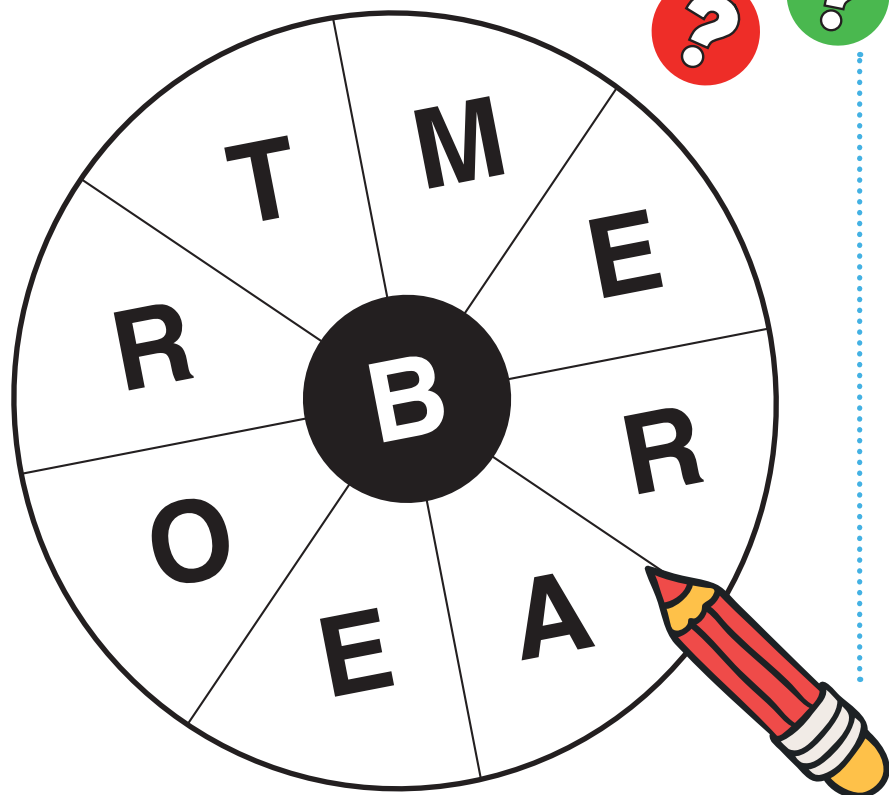
CAN you complete our sudoku puzzle, filling in the numbers one to nine?

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

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.

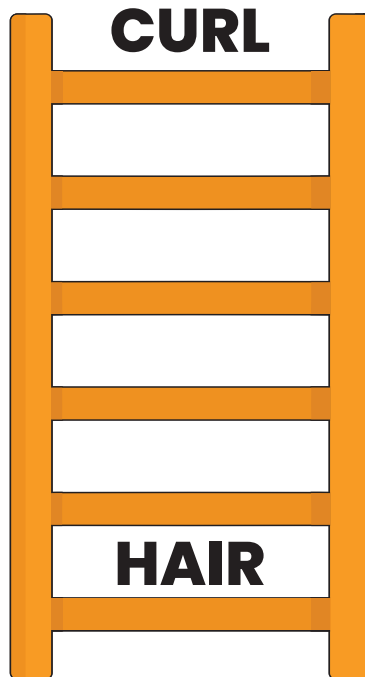
Word wheel

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 974 ANSWERS:

Word wheel: annoyance.

Word ladder: dock, deck, peck, peak, leak, leaf.

Spot the difference: 1) Purple trousers are now blue 2) Lorry wheel removed 3) Tree added 4) Man on the crossing removed 5) Extra box on postman's trolley 6) Line removed from crossing 7) Runner is wearing blue hat 8) Boy's bag removed 9) Red car has turned blue 10) Small red car is bigger.

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

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

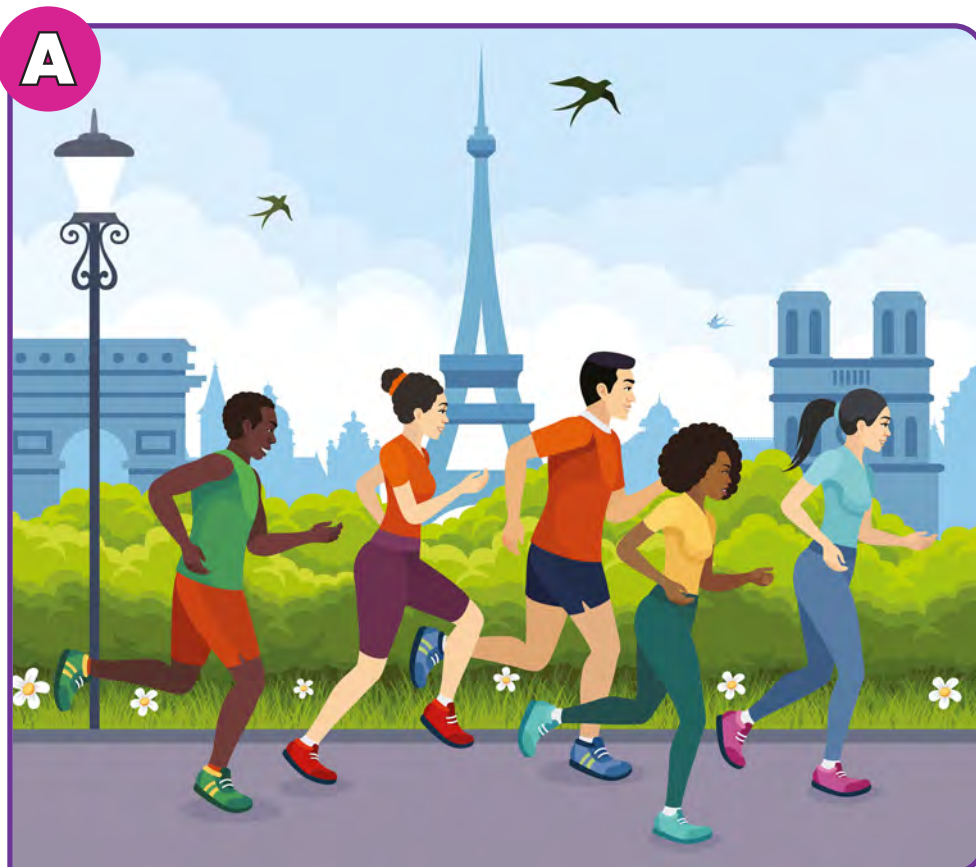


Enjoying the puzzles?
See the First News app for more fun, quizzes and games!
This QR code should be scanned by a responsible adult.



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

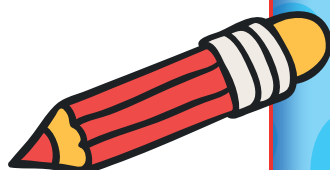
CAN you spot the ten changes we've made to this race?



Wordsearch



CAN you find all of these track and field events? Tick them off as you go!



- ☐ Hurdles
- ☐ High jump
- ☐ Relay
- ☐ Sprint
- ☐ Pole vault
- ☐ Shot put
- ☐ Discus throw
- ☐ Heptathlon
- ☐ Javelin
- ☐ Marathon



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



THE HIGH LIFE!

NEW book *Diary of a Future Billionaire* is the story of a working-class boy named Ben who lives in a council block and starts a bunch of barmy businesses in a bid to get rich! What's cool is that its author, Pamela Butchart, grew up in Dundee, in a block of flats, just like her character Ben – and as it happens, she had no shortage of adventures herself...



Little Pamela!

Pamela says: "I grew up on a council estate and it was brilliant! Living in a block with loads of other kids meant you could run in and out of each other's houses and get up to all sorts. You're never an only child growing up in a council block! There were always other kids to play with – or to start a business with..."

The mud pie business

"We sold 'mud pies' at the entrance of the flats. This was actual mud, fashioned into shapes and sprayed with perfume one of the kids stole from their mum's bedroom. A few folk paid us to stop... so we made some money!"



The lemonade business

"We tried to sell awful 'lemonade'. I'd seen American kids on a TV show selling delicious, fresh lemonade from their driveway. But ours was brown and flat, and packaged in old milk bottles. I hope we didn't sell any!"

The tuck shop business

"We used to steal whatever we could from our kitchens when our mums weren't looking and set up a (very popular!) tuck shop out the back. KitKats, Breakaways, Club bars and Jammie Dodgers were our best sellers!"



Diary of a Future Billionaire by Pamela Butchart is out now



Pamela says:

"Often, books about kids growing up like I did are stories based on hardship and sad issues. *Diary of a Future Billionaire* is very much a feel-good, funny book. It's about dreaming big, friendship and being brave (and realising that your parents are just people who make mistakes like everyone else)."

Meet the author

MC Grammar, author of *The Adventures of Rap Kid*

What were you like as a kid?

Very shy. If you were to ask a seven-year-old Jacob (my real name!) to imagine himself rapping in front of thousands of people, he wouldn't have believed you.

What's your best-ever memory?

Going to America to rap on TV is a tough one to top!

If you had £1 million, what's the first thing that you'd buy?

I'd love to take my whole family away on a cruise to celebrate and just be together. That'd be amazing!

What's your favourite book of all time?

Wowza! I love so many... my favourite chapter book is *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

Tell us a cool fact about yourself!

I used to be a primary school teacher. That's where all of my educational raps began, my YouTube channel and MC Grammar.



What do you do outside of writing?

Loads! I love making music and I love, love, love football! Any Arsenal fans out there like me reading this? Come on, you reds!

Describe *The Adventures of Rap Kid* in three words.

Loud, LOL and lit!

Can you tell us about the main character?

Z is a kid who loves to rhyme... until it gets him in trouble. But it's not all doom and gloom, my friends – when the Royal Rap Rumble comes to town, it's the perfect opportunity for Z to shine!

What's your favourite bit in the book?

There are tons of interactive elements so you can get involved, too. I think you'll enjoy becoming part of Rap Kid's amazing adventure!

The Adventures of Rap Kid is out now.



Recommended reads

in partnership with Peters



Caught in conflict

MONDAY week (24 February) marks three years since Russia invaded Ukraine. The conflict has forced many Ukrainian children to miss school, leave their homes and part with friends – much like the brave children in the books below...

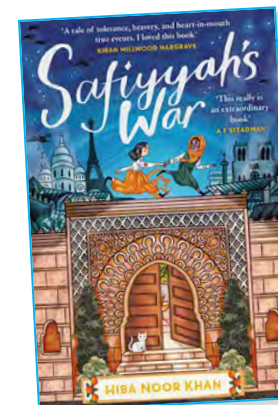


Boy, Everywhere by AM Dassu

A 13-year-old boy called Sami and his family face a dangerous journey to flee their war-torn home country in order to start a new life in the UK.

Blitz: One Family's War by Martin Impey

Two siblings watch their ordinary world change when World War Two breaks out, and they must live under the threat of air raids and loss.



Safiyyah's War by Hiba Noor Khan

Inspired by real events in World War Two, a young girl must find courage and help the Jews who are seeking sanctuary at Paris' Grand Mosque.

The Kites Are Flying! by Michael Morpurgo

Journalist Max strikes a friendship with Palestinian boy Said, and learns the true importance of Said's kites in the shadow of a dividing wall.



Code Name Kingfisher by Liz Kessler

When Liv finds a secret box from her grandmother's childhood, she uncovers an extraordinary war-time story of resistance, bravery and betrayal...

★ **WRITE US A BOOK REVIEW!** ★

WHETHER it's fiction, non-fiction, a comic book or an audiobook, we'd love to hear about it! Simply send a review of 100-120 words, along with your name, age and, if you like, your photo (with your parents' permission) to bookreviews@firstnews.co.uk and we may pop it in the paper!



THINK OUTSIDE THE BOOK



FIRST News supporter and student Jai wrote in to tell us how important it is for children and young people to see themselves in the books they read, and why there needs to be characters from all sorts of different backgrounds, cultures and religions. He shares more with us here.

What does **representation** mean?

Representation refers to different groups in society. Some of these groups aren't written about very often or fairly. This can include:

- People of colour
- People from the LGBTQ+ community
- People with disabilities, including learning disabilities and disorders
- People from different cultures or religions

Why is representation important in children's books?

It's important that all types of people are written about in books because it gives you:

- a sense of identity. You can read about others with similar lives and experiences to yourself.
- role models to look up to who look and act like you, proving you can achieve different things.
- a sense of empathy – the ability to understand and share the feelings of others.

Jai's recommended reads

Jai said: "I believe that in order for literature to be properly delivered in a classroom, a wider array of texts must be explored through different styles, and from authors of a more diverse background. Here are a few books that I think explore modern-day diversity, yet also have historical and cultural significance."



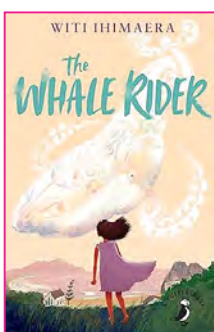
Ages 9–11

For Every One by Jason Reynolds
This book encourages readers to embrace the difficulties in their life journeys. It explains how dreams can evolve, and how life is a continuous process. The author, Reynolds, says it's "for dreamers of all ages". The book's unusual poetic structure is approachable and engaging, and

can open up readers to other forms of literature instead of just the traditional novel.

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander

This novel is written entirely in free verse (a type of poetry) and follows 12-year-old Josh Bell as he navigates growing up, alongside his passion for basketball. The clever structure chosen by Alexander lets the book use rhythm and wordplay, which at times mirrors the energy of a basketball game. Josh's bond with his brother shifts and tension in his family mounts, with basketball becoming an outlet for Josh's frustration. Hip-hop and basketball hold much cultural significance within African-American communities.



The Whale Rider by Witi Ihimaera

This novel is a story that explores themes of female empowerment and the Māori culture. It follows the young Kahu, great granddaughter to the village chief Koro Apirana, who clings to the strict Māori belief that leadership must be passed on to a male descendent. Kahu fights against such a tradition, and the book follows her journey through this, trying to appease her grandfather and her culture. The book also features lots of Māori folk stories and connects nature and culture, making interesting points about how humans treat our environment.

Ages 12+

American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang

This is a graphic novel that blends together three seemingly unrelated stories. There's the story of Jin Wang, an American born Chinese child who is struggling to fit in in a mainly white school; the story of the Monkey King, a legendary Chinese folk tale; and the sitcom-style story of Chin-kee, a character who is an exaggerated caricature of harmful Asian stereotypes. Each story unfolds and often overlaps with another as they explore themes of identity and racism in unique ways. This book was the first-ever graphic novel to win the Michael L Printz Award (awarded for the "best book written for teens, based entirely on its literary merit"), and has been celebrated as a book that recognises diversity in a fresh and distinctive way.



**ELLA
DOVE**



AUTHOR, journalist, inspirational speaker and amputee Ella Dove talks to us about the launch of her debut children's book, *How To Roller-Skate With One Leg*.

● **Hi Ella! Can you tell us how you lost your leg?**

In 2016, I was out running with my sister when I tripped over. The pain in my right leg was immediate and severe – I knew immediately that I couldn't get up. However, I assumed I had simply broken it. It wasn't until I got to hospital that the medical team discovered it was far more serious. Eventually, amputation below the knee was the only option left. I now walk with a prosthetic leg.

● **What is *How To Roller-Skate With One Leg* all about?**

It follows 12-year-old Maya Bright, who is going back to school following a car accident that has resulted in her losing her right leg. And when she starts back, she quickly realises that lots of things have changed – not just physical things like climbing the stairs to lessons, but also her friendship group. There are so many unknowns, but Maya is determined to prove everyone wrong, which is why, when she finds a list she'd made pre-accident of all the things she wanted to achieve before turning 13, she decides that with the help of her loyal friends Vita and Miles, she HAS to complete it.

● **How important is it for disability to be represented in children's books?**

It's vital. I firmly believe that disability is not inability – and yet there are frequently so many judgements and assumptions made about what disabled people of all ages can and can't do. Characters like Maya are key for encouraging resilience [strength] in young readers, showing them that there are always ways to tackle the challenges they face. No-one should be excluded from the book world.



How To Roller-Skate With One Leg is published this spring.





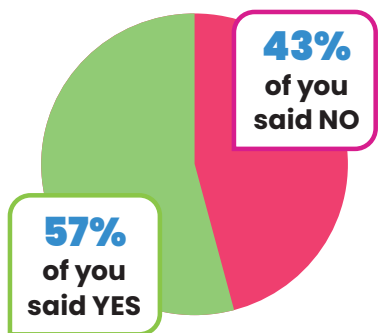
HELLO! I'm Milly, the leader of the *First News FYI News Club*.

This week's poll is: Should singing in the cinema be allowed? And although I love singing, I have to say that I'd be voting no on this one! It's really hard not to sing along sometimes, especially watching films with big musical numbers in, like *Wicked*. But personally I think it ruins the experience a bit. What do you think? Don't forget to vote in our polls to have your say!

THIS WEEK'S POLL!

We asked 4,303 of you:

Should singing in the cinema be allowed?



MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

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

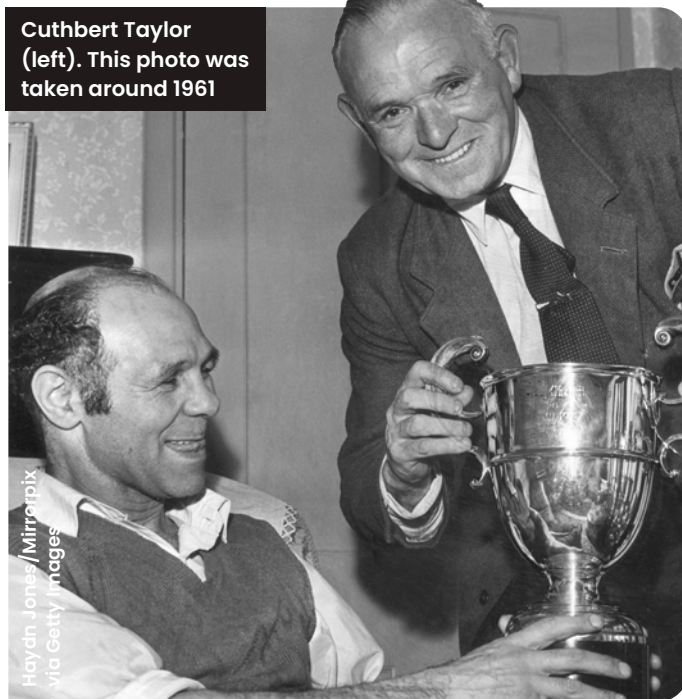


THE FIGHT FOR A BOXER



Pupils at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Santes Tudful want the British Boxing Board of Control to apologise to Cuthbert's family

Cuthbert Taylor (left). This photo was taken around 1961



Haydn Jones/Mirrorpix via Getty Images

THE Fight is a play about Cuthbert Taylor, a boxer from the early 1900s who was denied the right to fight for the British title in 1928 because the colour of his skin was not "white enough". Pupils at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Santes Tudful in Wales couldn't believe it when they heard about this, and wrote to the British Boxing Board of Control (BBBoFC) to demand an apology for Cuthbert's family.

by Hope, Oliver, Gwen, Isabella, Meg and Aria

This year we have been learning about Cuthbert Taylor, a boxer who lived in Merthyr Tydfil in Wales. We felt inspired by his story after we went to the theatre to see a drama about his life called *The Fight*, put on by Theatr na nŌg.

Cuthbert, an extremely talented boxer, was denied the chance to compete for a British title because of the colour of his skin. After learning about how unfairly he had been treated, we decided to write letters to the BBBoFC. We felt passionate enough to write the letters because we couldn't believe how unfairly Cuthbert Taylor had been treated. Even though he has now died, we believe that his family still deserve an apology.

We have received a response from the BBBoFC, but are disgusted and disappointed with the reply. Even though they agree the way he was treated was wrong, they will not apologise to Cuthbert's family. We hope that one day his family will get the apology they deserve.

My experience filming with the BBC

TEGAN recently won the BBC Young Reporter Competition for her report about self-defence classes for girls and why they're important.

by Tegan

Recently, I became the West Midlands regional winner for the BBC Young Reporter Competition. My report focused on the lack of self-defence classes for girls. I thought of the idea after reading *The Lovely Bones*, which made me question why schools aren't teaching girls to defend themselves. I really wanted to draw attention to this issue, and was lucky enough to win!

The BBC came to my school to film my report, then I went to BBC Birmingham to edit it and see it come to life. It was an amazing experience, especially as I'd love a career in broadcasting and presenting. I saw the studios, met the presenters and watched the evening news being aired. Last October, my report appeared on the BBC News website and on BBC Midlands Today.

I hope my report helps to get self-defence taught in schools. I'd love to know what *First News* readers think.

**The Lovely Bones* deals with some tricky topics and is best suited to older readers.



Tegan at BBC Midlands Today

NEWS CLUB SHOUT-OUT!

THIS WEEK WE'RE GIVING SHOUT-OUTS TO... Istituto Comprensivo Don Raffelli, Cité Scolaire Internationale Europeole, Merchant Taylors' Prep School, Chesnut Lodge School and Stepney Park Primary School!



Big love for *Pig Heart Boy*

FIRST News reader Heidi recently went to check out a new play at the Unicorn Theatre. Here's what she thought of it!

by Heidi

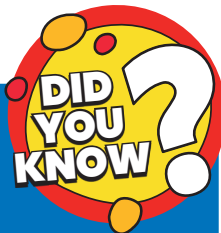
I went to go and see *Pig Heart Boy* at the Unicorn Theatre and really enjoyed it.

I arrived at the theatre to a VIP welcome and received a copy of the script for the play which, excitingly, the lead actor Immanuel Yeboah had signed for me!

Pig Heart Boy started dramatically with a loud beating heart. The play was thrilling to watch as it was interactive and engaging. The actors spoke directly to the audience and asked us questions. Some of the characters, such as Trudy the Pig, even came into the audience! *Pig Heart Boy* is hilarious but also has some sad moments.

After the play had finished, I interviewed Immanuel and asked him: "What is your favourite part of the play?" He said: "I enjoy interacting with the audience and asking them questions." He also told me he liked his costume. I was amazed to find out his real age is 23, as he was acting as a 13-year-old in the play. He did it so well!

Definitely go and see *Pig Heart Boy* if you can!



Pig Heart Boy is originally a book by author Malorie Blackman. It follows the story of 13-year-old Cameron who has a heart transplant and gets his new heart from a pig!



Heidi at *Pig Heart Boy*



Meeting lead actor Immanuel Yeboah

More than a game

THE Invictus Games is a sporting event for wounded, injured and sick members, or ex-members, of the armed forces. It was set up by Prince Harry and takes place every two years. This year it was held from 8–16 February in Vancouver, Canada. Honor was lucky enough to attend and wrote to tell you all about it.

by Honor

The Invictus Games is more than just a competition – it's a global showcase of resilience, courage and the unbreakable spirit of wounded servicemen and women. Teams from 23 nations come together to push themselves to their limits, support each other and inspire the world through sport.

From the moment I arrived, the sense of resilience was evident in the teamwork and compassion of the competitors. The team sports were incredibly thrilling, with everyone giving their all and celebrating each other's victories, no matter the outcome of the matches.

Gratitude filled the air, especially towards Prince Harry, whose vision made the Invictus Games possible. The Invictus spirit is unstoppable, and if you haven't experienced it yet, you might have a chance! The next Invictus Games takes place in Birmingham, UK, in 2027. Whether you compete, volunteer, cheer from the stands or simply watch, you can be part of something extraordinary. See you there!



Honor went to the Invictus Games this year

FEATURE IN YOUR NEWS

If you want to be a junior journalist for First News and go to cool press events or write something on a topic that you're passionate about, get in touch by asking a trusted adult to email us at yournews@firstnews.co.uk.

FirstNews Quiz

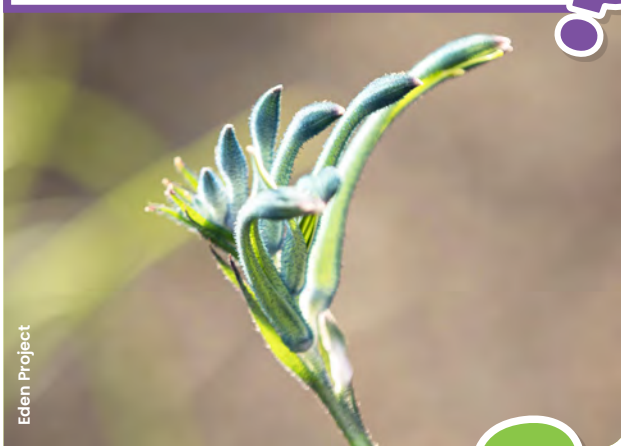
THE answers to all these questions can be found in the pages of this issue. Why not set yourself, or your friends and family, a time challenge to see who can get the highest score in the quickest time? See how well you did by checking the answers at the bottom.

1 Harry Potter actor Warwick Davis was celebrated at which awards ceremony?

2 What's the name for a bit of rock left over from the formation of our solar system?



3 What animals are the new Australian plants at the Eden Project named after?



4 Who wrote *The Adventures of Rap Kid*?

5 Due to an outbreak of bird flu, what has become more expensive than ever in the USA?

6 A 104-year-old woman from New York celebrated her birthday by going where?



7 Which country is record-breaking runner Jakob Ingebrigtsen from?



8 Longleat Safari Park has reopened a cave for which animals?

9 How many new towns is England set to get?

10 What fruit would you find at France's Fête du Citron?



11 A heatwave shut schools in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, but in which country is it?

12 A kayaker has survived after being inside the mouth of which species of whale?

13 Which TV talent show returns this weekend (22 February)?



14 What race is *First News* reporter Chris running this April?

15 What was the record-breaking score in the Super League match between St Helens and Salford Red Devils?

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!



Answers:
1 The BAFTAs 2 An asteroid 3 Kangaroos 4 MC Grammar 5 Eggs 6 To jail 7 Norway 8 Bats 9 12 10 Lemons 11 Brazil 12 Humpback whale 13 Britain's Got Talent 14 London Marathon 15 82-0

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

CAN you tell if a story is the real deal or made up? Every week, we'll be challenging you to see if you can sniff out the news from the nonsense! See what you think of this pet plan, then turn the page upside down to see if you were right.

WORLD'S FIRST LAB-GROWN MEAT FOR PETS?

PET treats made with lab-grown meat have launched in the UK. The treats are called Chick Bites and include chicken cells grown in a laboratory, so no chickens have to be killed. Meatly is the first company in the world to get approval for this type of meat to be used in pet food. The new treats are currently only available in Pets at Home in Brentford.



Check out more on spotting fake news at:

• first.news/takeorfact • 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



This story is TRUE. The treats have been produced in collaboration with pet food brand The Pack and are only limited at this stage. Meatly says the lab-grown meat is tasty and nutritious for our pets, but also sustainable and good for the planet.

IN NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE!



WORLD BOOK DAY PULL-OUT!



WORLD WILDLIFE DAY

THE BRIT AWARDS



DON'T MISS IT!

FirstNews WEEKLY NEWS QUIZ!

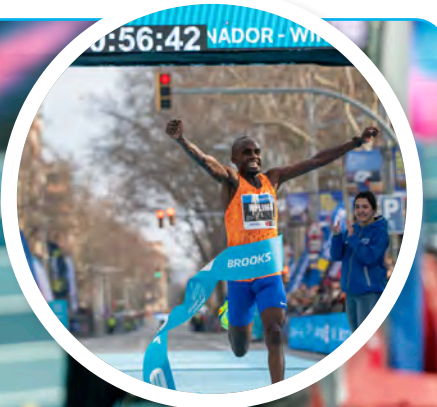
YOUR BRAIN VS THE NEWS!

Think you've got what it takes?



RECORDS TUMBLE

Getty



Main: Jakob Ingebrigtsen on his way to two world records. It was a big week for athletics, as Uganda's Jacob Kiplimo (above) also destroyed the world half marathon record, knocking nearly 50sec off the previous best!

WE'RE used to Norway's Jakob Ingebrigtsen doing great things, but this week he managed to smash two world records... in the same race!

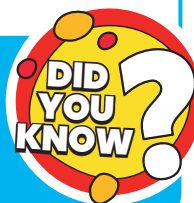
Competing in the mile race at the World Athletics Indoor Tour Gold meeting in Liévin, France, Ingebrigtsen finished in 3min 45.14sec, knocking 1.49sec off the world indoor record that had only been set five days earlier.

But even more impressive is that Ingebrigtsen did the first 1,500m in 3min 29.63sec, which was almost a second faster than his own 1,500m world record from

three years ago on the same track.

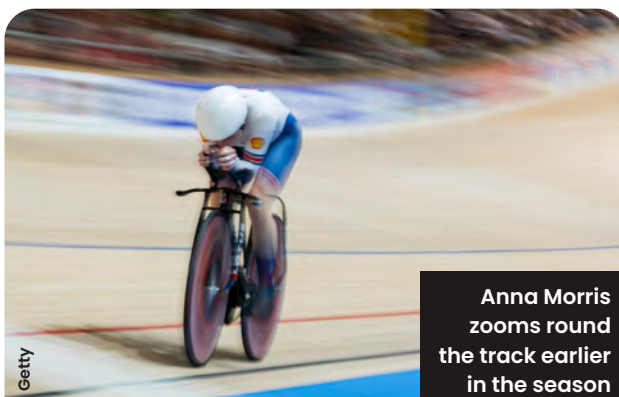
It makes Ingebrigtsen the first athlete since 1954 to set world records for the mile and 1,500m in the same race.

AMERICAN athlete Grant Fisher also set two world indoor records this week, in the 3,000m and 5,000m. His time in the 5,000m broke a record that was set back in 2004.



Zoe Atkin celebrating her gold medal win at a previous World Cup event

The UK's wonderful winter brought more trophies this week, firstly in Switzerland as Corie Mapp won his first ever Para-bobsleigh World Championships title, to add to the World Cup trophy that he bagged at the start of the month. Then over in Canada, Zoe Atkin and China's Li Fanghui shared the Freeski Halfpipe World Cup title. It's the first time the trophy has been shared, as the two were exactly even at the end of the series of races.



Anna Morris zooms round the track earlier in the season

On her way to winning gold in the individual pursuit at the European Track Cycling Championships in Belgium, Britain's Anna Morris broke the world record twice! GB's other gold medal went to Josh Charlton in the men's individual pursuit, which left the country third in the medal table. The Netherlands finished comfortably on top, with an impressive eight golds.



The USA's JT Miller (left) and Canada's Colton Parayko do their bit for international affairs

The bad relations between the US and Canada spilled over onto the ice this week, with three fights in the first nine seconds of an ice hockey match between the two countries! Since US President Donald Trump said that Canada should become the 51st state of the US, Canadian fans have been booing the US national anthem at games.

Salford Red Devils were on the end of a Super League record 82-0 pasting from St Helens, after putting out a reserve team due to salary cap restrictions. Officials at the RFL said they're investigating whether the Red Devils have "brought the sport into disrepute [disgrace]".



MAN City goalie Ederson has become the first keeper ever to get three assists in a Premier League season. He now has six overall, which means he also has more assists than any other keeper ever in the league. Only five City players have more assists in the league than Ederson this season!



Braydon's on the ball



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

Omar Marmoush announced his arrival in the Premier League in some style, with an incredible 14-minute first-half hat-trick for Man City at the weekend. Marmoush, who joined for £59m from Eintracht Frankfurt, was on fire as City put Newcastle to the sword with one of their best performances of the season so far. City are up to fourth, but only six points separate City from Villa in ninth. All of the teams in that group are in with a shout of a place in the Champions League.



Omar Marmoush celebrates City's second goal

Liverpool and Arsenal both picked up maximum points, with narrow victories against sides battling at the bottom. Two late goals gave Arsenal a win at Leicester, while a nervous Liverpool beat Wolves at Anfield. Neither team had a comfortable day but will be more than happy with the results.

At the bottom, Man United are sinking further down the table, and are now 15th. A 1-0 defeat at fellow strugglers Spurs means that United are being slowly dragged into a relegation battle, though I do think that they'll have enough to give them some breathing space. For United, the season can't end soon enough, and a summer of transfer activity is desperately needed to give Ruben Amorim a chance to turn things around.

Centre Stage this week goes to Everton, where new manager David Moyes has made a positive impact. The Toffees followed up the dramatic midweek derby draw with a 2-1 win at Palace, which is always a tough place to go. Carlos Alcaraz scored the winner on his first Premier League start, as Everton look to finish the season strongly before saying farewell to Goodison Park.

In the pick of the other games, Bournemouth are still flying high, beating Southampton 3-1, and Brighton brushed Chelsea aside with ease at the Amex Stadium. Ipswich grabbed an unexpected point at Villa to close the gap on Wolves, despite playing more than half of the game with ten men.

Braydon's Team of The Week: Everton. In good form and looking up the table rather than down.
Braydon's Player of The Week: Omar Marmoush. A hat-trick and a player for the future!

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

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