

NEWS KIDS CAN TRUST

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR*



First News

2.6M READERS*

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NO TREES ARE
HARMED IN
THE MAKING
OF FIRST NEWS.
IT'S MADE FROM
100% RECYCLED
PAPER.

NEWS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT
INTERVIEWS PUZZLES COMPETITIONS



TEEN RUNS 4-MINUTE MILE



by editor in chief Nicky Cox MBE

A TEENAGER has become the youngest person in history to run a mile in under four minutes.

New Zealand's Sam Ruthe, 15, ran a record time of three minutes 58.35 seconds at Auckland's Mount Smart Stadium, even though the track was wet.

Sam has broken running records before but says this is the best yet: "This was probably my favourite goal I've reached. I've definitely enjoyed this one the most, with all the people here supporting me."

There was a time when it was thought it would be impossible for a human to run a

four-minute mile. It was just over 70 years ago, on 6 May 1954, that the UK's Sir Roger Bannister, then aged 25, was the first person to do it on a windy day at Oxford University.

World Athletics President Sebastian Coe, who won 1,500m Olympic gold twice, says he thinks Sir Roger's four-minute mile is at the top of all sporting achievements in the last 100 years.

He says people don't understand the mental barrier that Sir Roger would have had to break through. He was a doctor and used to read articles in medical magazines that said: "If anybody tried it, they would probably die in the process."

INSIDE!
EASTER FUN
PULL-OUT



DON'T FORGET!

The clocks go forward one hour at

01:00

on Sunday 30 March

MEET THE TEAM



Editor in Chief
Nicky Cox



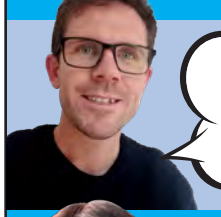
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Hannah Timson



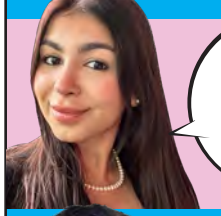
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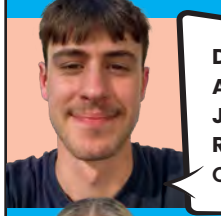
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Ian Eddy



Senior Reporter
Chris Towers



Junior Reporter
Safiyyah Choudry



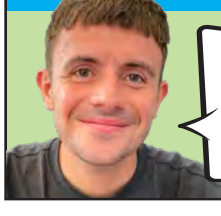
Digital Assistant/
Junior Reporter
Charlie Baker



Children's Engagement Lead
Milly Rusling



Creative Director
Richard Robson



Senior Designer
Dan Jordan

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Snappy stories to get you talking!



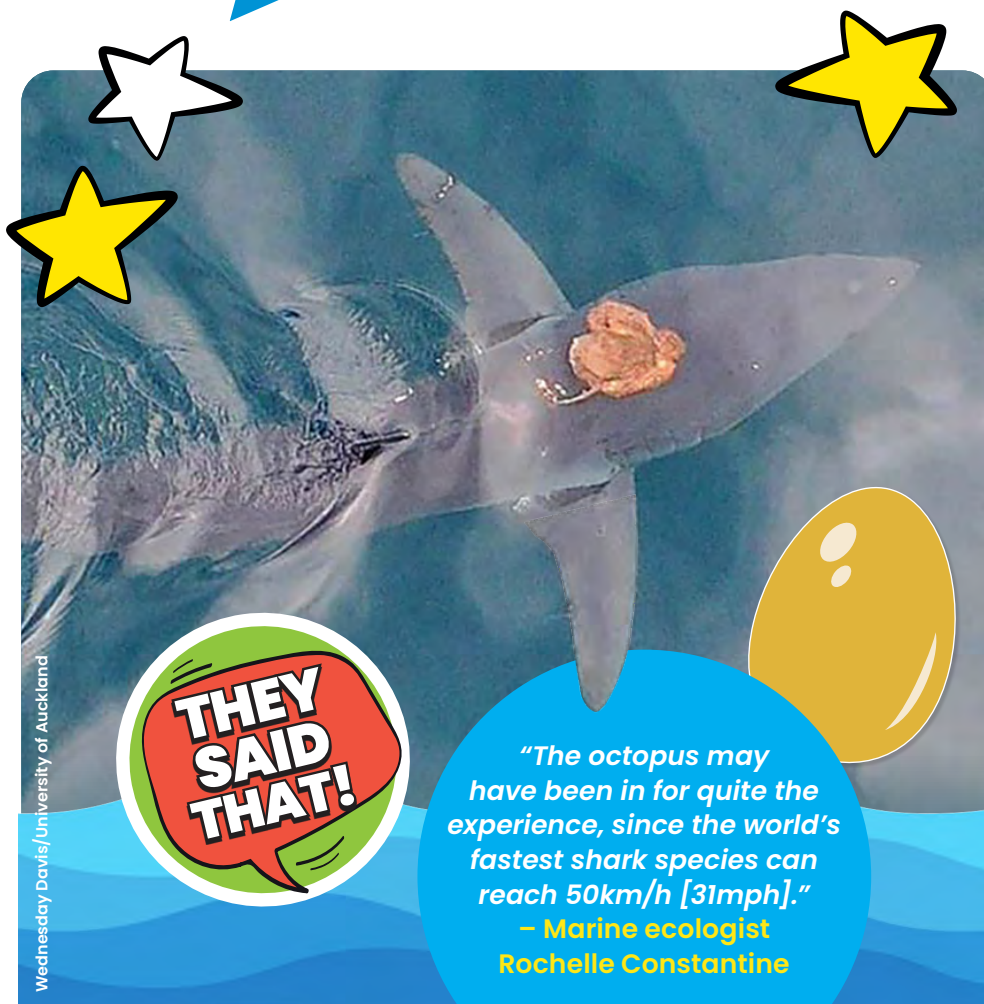
NEW GCSE IN NATURAL HISTORY

The government has confirmed that it will bring in a new natural history GCSE to help teenagers learn about wildlife and the environment. The course will teach students about local animals and plants and how to protect them. Mary Colwell, who first suggested the idea in 2011, says this is "hugely good news" and will help young people understand nature better. Students in England, Wales and Northern Ireland will be able to study outdoors and learn about wildlife in their area. The government will ask people what they think should be included in the course later this year.



FRIENDS BETTER THAN SOCIAL MEDIA FOR WELLBEING

New research reveals that strong friendships have three times more positive impact on teenagers' mental health than time spent on social media. The US study of nearly 1,000 young people aged 13-18 found that those with supportive friends were likely to be mentally healthy regardless of their social media use. Scientists writing in the *Journal of Adolescent Health* say that, while teens spend almost five hours a day on social media, having good friends matters more for their wellbeing.

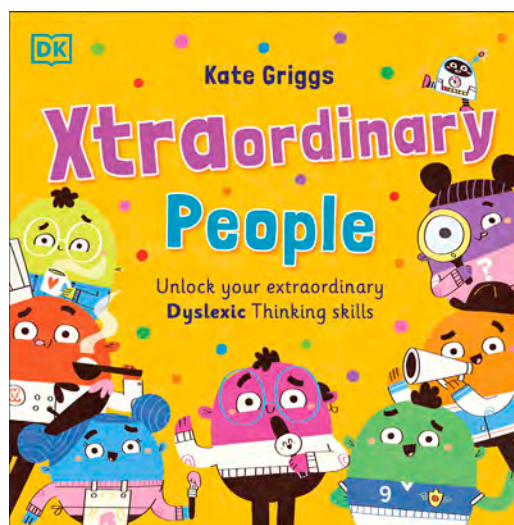


THEY SAID THAT!

"The octopus may have been in for quite the experience, since the world's fastest shark species can reach 50km/h [31mph]."
— Marine ecologist
Rochelle Constantine

'SHARKTOPUS' SPOTTED!

Researchers in New Zealand were left gobsmacked after seeing a mysterious orange blob on top of a mako shark swimming near the surface. After launching a drone, they saw that an octopus had hitched a ride on the shark's head! The scientists nicknamed the unlikely duo 'sharktopus'. It's a real mystery how they came together, as mako sharks don't usually visit the bottom of the ocean where octopuses tend to hang out.



EMPOWERING KIDS WITH DYSLEXIA

As International Children's Book Day approaches, Kate Griggs is launching her latest book *Xtraordinary People*, aimed at helping young readers discover their 'dyslexic thinking' skills. The book reveals seven types of dyslexic thinking and features thoughts from successful dyslexic people such as Keira Knightley and Richard Branson. Look out for our interview with Kate, who is the founder of global charity Made By Dyslexia, in next week's issue of *First News*.

PLASTIC BEACH LITTER RISES

Volunteers collected more than 764,000 pieces of rubbish from UK beaches in 2024, says a new survey from the Marine Conservation Society (MCS). Its annual clean-up found an average of 170 items per 100 metres of shoreline. The most common items were plastic fragments, followed by snack wrappers and bottle caps. Plastic waste increased by 9.5% (nearly a tenth) compared to 2023. "This shows how urgent it is to reduce single-use plastics," said Lizzie Price from the MCS. "Everyone has a role to play in protecting our oceans, and we urge the public to support stronger action against plastic waste."



UK MUSEUMS SEE RECORD VISITORS

The British Museum has kept its crown as the UK's most popular tourist spot, with nearly 6.5 million people walking through its doors in 2024. The Natural History Museum came in second place with 6.3m, while Windsor Great Park took third spot, with 5.67m exploring its grounds. The most visited attraction outside England was the National Museum of Scotland, which welcomed 2.3m people and moved up to 11th place.

MILLIONS RAISED FOR RED NOSE DAY



Comic Relief's Red Nose Day 2025 has raised an impressive £34 million so far through the efforts of fundraisers across the UK. Communities came together to support those in need, from schools to workplaces. The charity also celebrated its 40th anniversary this year, with loads of celebrities helping to raise money for good causes.



LAST CHANCE TO ENTER STABILO COMPETITION!

Take a quiet moment to think about what you'd begin today if you could – it could be anything from learning to play chess or reading one book every month. Once you have an idea, put your pen to paper and write a short poem about your idea, what it means to you, and why. Once you're happy with your work, ask an adult to take a photo of your entry or type it out and send it to win@firstnews.co.uk, putting STABILO in the subject line. Entries close soon, on 4 April 2025.

CLOCKS TO GO FORWARD

People across the UK will need to set their clocks forward one hour on Sunday 30 March, marking the start of British Summer Time. But why do we do this? The change was first introduced during World War One to save energy by making better use of daylight. By moving our clocks forward in spring, we get more light in the evenings when most people are awake and active. While some people might feel tired from losing an hour of sleep, the good news is we'll have brighter evenings for playing outside, having barbecues and enjoying outdoor activities.

An easy way to remember the way clocks change is: 'spring forward, fall back'



MINI MAYOR WANTED

LEGOLAND Windsor Resort has launched a nationwide search for a young Mini Mayor to help design its revamped Miniland London display, which has new additions like the 'Cheesegrater' building. Children aged 5-12 can put forward creative ideas to add, or change, something in the miniature city scene, with the winning design being built in LEGO. The winner will receive a hotel stay and park tickets, and see their creation displayed in Miniland. Apply at tinyurl.com/LEGOMinimayor by 15 April.



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

This week's front page story, about 15-year-old Sam Ruthe, has me thinking about what I was like at school.

I don't know if you are, but I wasn't like Sam. I loved running around outside at break times, but I lacked sporting skills. I was short and I had asthma, too.

I thought that I was quick when my 100-metre sprint helped my class to win sports day in Year 6 (still my greatest sporting achievement) – until I got selected for district sports, and I was left eating the dust of the faster boys in other local schools! Still, though, running was probably what I was best at and over time, as I grew older at secondary school, I got quicker, too.

That said, for me and thousands of other people, the marathon won't be about speed. I'll be eating dust again – and that's fine, it won't matter one bit.

It's all about going the distance, crossing the line... and getting a new greatest sporting achievement!

Why I'm running for...

unicef
for every child

Following ten years of conflict in Yemen, one in two children under five are acutely malnourished. This occurs when a child's diet doesn't have the right amount of nutrients and energy. UNICEF's energy-packed paste made using peanuts, sugar, milk powder, oil, vitamins and minerals provides essential nutrients so children like Bothaina can survive and thrive.



Donate at tinyurl.com/ChrisInTheMarathon

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ZERO WASTE 30 MARCH

A day to focus on producing things sustainably and to try to reduce wasteful practices that may harm the planet.

WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY 2 APRIL

Celebrates World Autism Month and promotes awareness and understanding of autism.

CALENDAR DATES



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



CLAW, BLIMEY!

New dino found in Mongolia

A NEW species of dinosaur found in Mongolia has the biggest preserved claw ever found.

Duonychus tsogtbaatari lived 90 million years ago, in the late Cretaceous period – when the likes of *T-rex*, *Triceratops* and *Ankylosaurus* walked the Earth.

It was around three metres long and weighed 260kg (more than the biggest African lions), and it had two gigantic, 30cm-long claws on each hand.

It was related to *Therizinosaurus*, a dinosaur that featured in the 2022 movie *Jurassic World Dominion*.

If the events in *Jurassic Park* ever came true, though, and you found yourself face-to-face with a *Duonychus*, you needn't fear – it was a herbivore (plant-eater)!

Scientists think that it used its claws to pull leaves and branches closer to eat. "Three fingers might have just gotten in the way, while two provided a more precise and efficient grasp," said Yoshitsugu Kobayashi, from Hokkaido University in Japan.

Its mighty claws were covered in keratin – the same stuff our fingernails are made from.

The fossil also included parts of the arms, spine and pelvis, and was found on a building site in the Gobi Desert in 2012. Only now has it been revealed what scientists think the giant creature looked like.

Duonychus is Greek for 'two claws'



LIKE *Duonychus*, *T-rex* also had just the two claws on each hand.

EDITOR'S COMMENT

SOCIAL media should be a fun, informative and kind place. Often it isn't.

So, it's no surprise that many young women are quitting these online platforms (this page).

People can be mean and spread hurtful things. They will say things online that they would never say in the real world. It's disappointing because social media has so much potential for good – bringing people together, spreading kindness and sharing interesting information.

If only everyone used it to lift others up instead of tearing them down.

For now, users – beware.



Nicky Cox MBE



BYD cars

CHINESE electric vehicle maker BYD has overtaken rival Tesla. The firm sold \$107bn (£83bn) of its cars in 2024, compared to just under \$98bn (£76bn) of Elon Musk's Teslas. BYD has also just launched a lower-priced car to rival Tesla's Model 3.



Women quit social media due to hate



Only half of Gen Z Brits think social media is a safe space

A NEW survey has revealed that toxic and hateful posts are driving young people away from social media.

Research gathered by the charity Amnesty International spoke to more than 3,000 British Gen Z users of social media (those aged between 16 and 25).

Three-quarters of them said that they'd witnessed misogyny (hatred of women and girls) on their platforms, and half of them saw it on a weekly basis.

Young women also revealed that:

- Over half (53%) of them had been sent inappropriate comments.
- Four in ten had been body-shamed.
- Three in ten had been stalked online.

Many users said they cope with the abuse by switching their accounts to private or blocking people who post

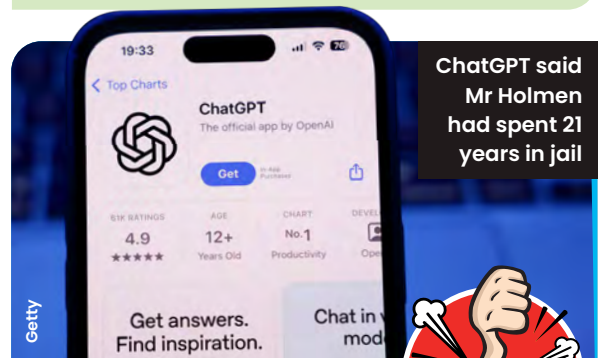
hateful content.

However, a fifth of users who have experienced misogyny have avoided or quit platforms altogether.

One user explained: "As a woman... I no longer post on social media due to the constant hate and negativity. Even seeing... hate directed towards somebody else is soul-destroying."

A lot of users said that political leaders and influencers are fuelling online hatred with the way they speak and behave in real life – including the likes of Andrew Tate and US President Donald Trump.

TikTok was seen as the worst platform for misogyny. Chiara Capraro, from Amnesty International UK, said that all tech platforms need to "step up" and protect their users, because "online misogyny does real-world harm".



ChatGPT said Mr Holmen had spent 21 years in jail



ChatGPT

A NORWEGIAN man has complained to his country's authorities after ChatGPT falsely said he'd killed his own children. It's an example of an AI hallucination – where AI chatbots invent something and present it as fact. Arve Hjalmar Holmen said: "The fact that someone could read this output and believe it's true is what scares me the most." OpenAI says that it's now updated ChatGPT to be more accurate.

UN says fashion costs the Earth

THE head of the United Nations (UN) wants the world to join together to make fashion friendlier to the planet.

Sunday 30 March is the UN's International Day of Zero Waste, and this year's focus is on fashion and textiles.

"Earth is a fashion victim," said António Guterres. He said that the chemicals used to make clothes are often harmful to humans, wildlife and the environment.

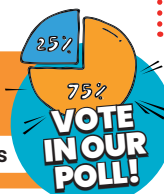
He also said that every second, enough clothes to fill a garbage truck are burned or sent to landfill. However, he said there are signs of hope, because "consumers are increasingly demanding sustainability".

One easy way to reduce our textile waste is by recycling clothes, and buying them second-hand from the likes of eBay, Oxfam and Vinted.

In 2019, we asked *First News* readers whether they bought or owned second-hand clothes, and seven in ten said they did. We'd love to know if that's changed, so please vote in our poll!

Do you wear second-hand clothes?

Vote at firstnews.com/polls



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.





FINLAND FEELS FINE

(STILL!)

It's the happiest country on Earth while UK slips to 23rd!

FINLAND has been ranked as the happiest country in the world for the eighth year in a row.

The snowy country, squigged between Sweden and Russia, is famous for lakes, Lapland and the northern lights – but it's the nature, the education system and the culture of calmness that keep Finnish folk feeling fine.

The World Happiness Report is revealed each year on 20 March to mark the UN's International Day of Happiness. It builds its rankings by asking people to rate their lives out of ten. Over a three-year average, Finland's score is the highest, at 7.736. Its neighbours, Denmark, Iceland and Sweden, are second, third and fourth.

The UK slipped down to 23rd – one spot above the USA, which is in its lowest position ever.

What makes people happy?

Central American nations Mexico and Costa

Fabulous Finland facts!

- There are five million people... and about 1.5 million saunas! They're found in many homes.
- It's the most heavily-forested country in Europe – seven-tenths of it is woodland.
- It has almost 190,000 lakes, while its coastline features almost 180,000 small islands.
- Its wildlife includes reindeer, bears and seals.
- It's the global capital of heavy metal music!

Rica rose into the top ten for the first time, which experts put down to strong family bonds.

The report also found that sharing meals together was linked to wellbeing, and that households of four to five people had the highest happiness levels in Europe.

A drop in happiness and trust in the USA was linked to more division in society.

THE TOP 25

1. Finland
2. Denmark
3. Iceland
4. Sweden
5. Netherlands
6. Costa Rica
7. Norway
8. Israel
9. Luxembourg
10. Mexico
11. Australia
12. New Zealand
13. Switzerland
14. Belgium
15. Ireland
16. Lithuania
17. Austria
18. Canada
19. Slovenia
20. Czechia
21. UAE
22. Germany
23. UK
24. USA
25. Belize



A bit of what they found!

Scientists play ice-spy

SCIENTISTS have found a hidden world of ancient sponges, corals and new species on an area of seabed that was, until recently, covered by ice.

In January, a huge iceberg called A-84 broke away from the George VI Ice Shelf in Antarctica. A team from the Schmidt Ocean Institute wasted no time in sending a robotic submarine down to see what had been lying underneath it.

For eight days, they saw a range of remarkable sealife, including icefish, giant sea spiders and octopuses.

The researchers took samples and think that they might have found at least six new species of life.

Little is known about life underneath Antarctica's ice shelves. The ice of A-84 was 150 metres (500 feet) thick, making the seabed very hard to reach.

"We didn't expect to find such a beautiful, thriving ecosystem," said one researcher, Dr Patricia Esquete. "Based on the size of the animals, the communities we observed have been there for decades, maybe even hundreds of years."

A new forest for England

THE government has revealed plans to create a new national forest.

The Western Forest will stretch from the Cotswolds to the Mendip Hills, across Bristol, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and Somerset. It will generate a new area of woodland that's as big as 3,000 to 4,000 football pitches.

It's the first of three new national forests that the Labour government promised when they were elected into power last year. Nature Minister

Mary Creagh says that its creation will help the country to meet its green targets. "We'll plant 20 million trees in the Western Forest to bring nature closer to people, prevent flooding and support wildlife," she said.

It's also hoped that the forest will create jobs, improve the lives of local people and draw new visitors to the region.



TikTok tea prank raises alarm!



A PRANK about Britain's love of tea has gone viral, with firefighters, the RNLI and even the government getting in on the action!

Videos recently began appearing on the app to trick Americans into thinking the UK had a daily 'tea alarm' – and that, when it sounds, we have to drop what we're doing and stop for a cup of tea.

The prank got more convincing when official accounts created their own videos about it.

The government showed off a fake national 'tea alarm button' and pretended that more information can be found on the gov.uk site.

The RNLI shared a video of a rescue team returning to shore for their tea and said: "In 201 years of the RNLI we've never missed a tea alarm".

People have commented to say that they've been fined for missing the alarm, and to share their top tips, like carrying a flask for emergencies.

Another account to join the fun belonged to an outdoor activity company, Hangloose Adventure.

Karis Lawer from Hangloose said: "Most of our [TikTok] views come from the UK, so it's basically just English people laughing at ourselves and how funny we are. It's... just trying to poke fun at Americans really – but also finding ourselves really funny!"



That's am-AI-zing!

IN a world-first, a newspaper in Italy has been produced using only AI.

Il Foglio Ai was an experimental four-page version of the regular *Il Foglio* paper. AI created the words, headlines and quotes, with the journalists only asking AI to do the work, then checking its answers.

The AI did its own review of its work and said: "Writing well is not yet journalism. AI... can't make a phone call to a deputy minister, nor can it tell if a statement is a half-truth or a complete joke. AI can be a useful newsroom companion. But heaven forbid we think it is the newsroom."

Ukraine peace talks

Head to the *First News* app for updates on the ongoing talks for a ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine, as they happen.





Rottingdean, UK



GLADIATORS Phantom (back row, left) and Dynamite (back row, third from left) surprise school competition winners. Pupils from Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School designed a winning fitness gadget for the Gladiators in the BBC micro:bit competition. Their creation focused on measuring hit power and grip strength, both useful for the Duel event. Dynamite said: "I thought it was really cool – something that could really help us."

Cosford, UK

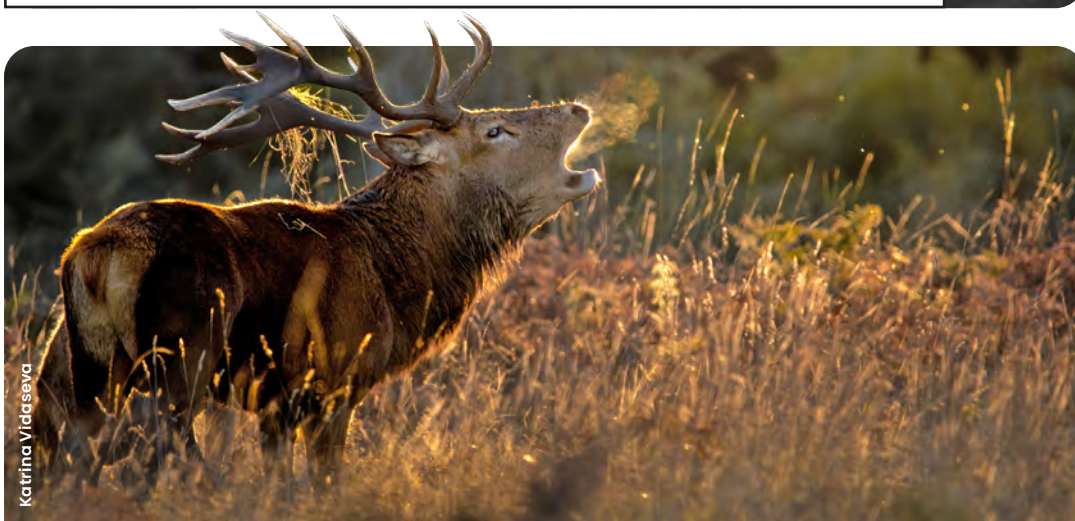


WHO you gonna call? Dustbusters! A team with a head for heights carries out the annual spring cleaning of the displays at the RAF Museum Midlands. They had to climb up the building and abseil down from up to 30m (100ft) in the air, all while giving the aircraft a good dusting.

Hangzhou, China



GIANT panda Chun Sheng celebrates his fifth birthday with a cake at Hangzhou Zoo.



THIS photo of a 'fire-breathing' stag has won Katrina Vidaseva the Young Mammal Photographer of the Year 2025 award. The 16-year-old wanted to capture the breath of a roaring stag illuminated by golden light.



WHAT IS THE FESTIVAL OF CHILDHOOD?

DAME Rachel de Souza is the Children's Commissioner for England, which means it's her job to speak to children and young people and make sure their voices are heard by important decision-makers in government. Here, she tells us about her first ever Festival of Childhood.

3 APRIL

**CHILDREN'S
COMMISSIONER**

**OUR FUTURE
OUR VOICE**

A FESTIVAL OF CHILDHOOD

TELL ME MORE

I AM so excited to be hosting my first Festival of Childhood this week at Young V&A museum in London. The theme of this year's festival is Our Future Our Voice and it explores the joys of childhood. I will be bringing together children, young people, politicians, and people who make decisions about children's lives to share some of the key issues that children have told me they need for a happy childhood.

What matters to young people?

Since becoming Children's Commissioner four years ago, I have heard from more than a million children and young people, and they have told me what they need to improve their lives and the lives of other young people – from having a good education, a loving family, access to good healthcare, being safe in their community and having the right support to achieve your dreams.

The Big Ambition and the Festival of Childhood

A year ago, I shared some of the findings from my last survey, The Big Ambition – a survey you might have even taken part in – with the readers of *First News*.

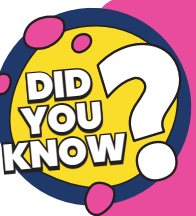
The Festival of Childhood will build on The Big Ambition and look at what younger children, as well as older children, need to thrive today. While every young person is different, I have heard from hundreds of thousands of young people about the importance of getting the right support in order to thrive.

I want to use the Festival of Childhood to ensure that adults who make decisions properly listen to young people. This is important as only one in five young people feel like politicians listen to them, and I want to change this.

My goal

As Children's Commissioner, I want to make sure young people's voices are heard. I will be making sure that every politician and adult who makes decisions about your life listens and acts on what you say – because you deserve to grow up feeling heard, valued and supported.

Look out for more on the festival over on Sky Kids' FYI!



ONE in five children in England believe their views are important to the adults who run the country, but only one in ten teenagers believe they have the power to influence the issues they care about.



Dame Rachel de Souza (centre) with her Young Ambassadors, who are campaigning for your rights across the country

**We want to hear
from you!**

- What would make England a better place to be a child?
- If you wanted to tell the prime minister one thing, what would it be and why?

You can share your thoughts by filling out the short survey at tinyurl.com/the-big-conversation.



**EDINBURGH****Message in a bottle**

Taking the stage spotlight this week is a bottle that's been hidden for 119 years! The bottle was found by historian Mike Hume during a special behind-the-scenes tour of Edinburgh's King's Theatre. It was hidden inside a plaster crown above the stage. When the bottle was opened, the Capital Theatres team found a piece of paper dating back to 1906, the year the building opened. The note features the names of the men who designed and built the theatre. The bottle and paper will eventually be put on display. Check out a video of the bottle opening on the *First News* app!



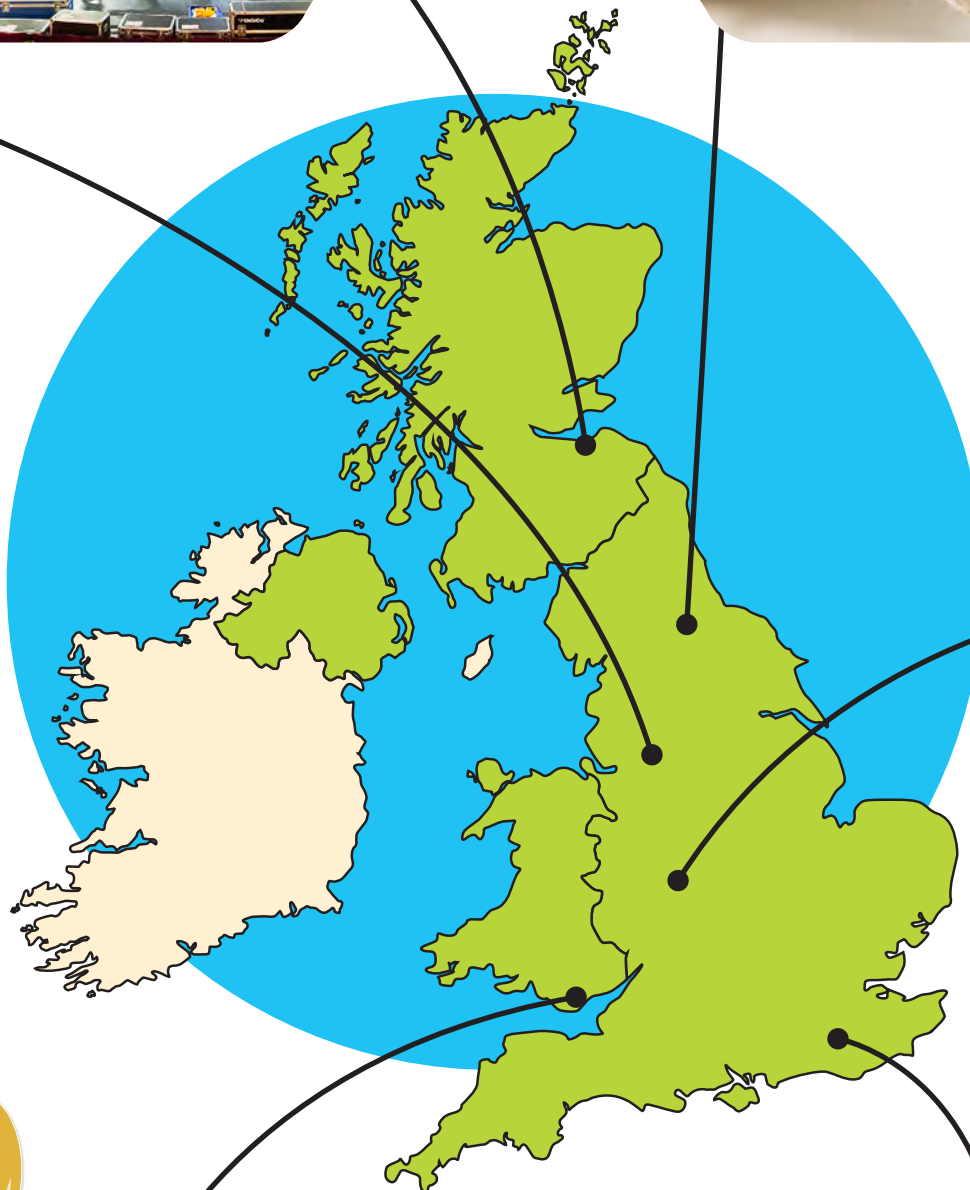
The items were first found by a metal detectorist

**MELSONBY****Iron Age time capsule**

A huge stash of items has been discovered that could give us a much clearer idea of how people lived 2,000 years ago. The Melsonby Hoard has been described as one of the most important Iron Age finds in the UK. Found in North Yorkshire, it's made up of more than 800 items, which have a total value of £254,000. Among the finds are spears, harnesses for ponies and a cauldron (pictured). While some of the objects match examples previously found in Britain, others have stronger links to Europe. This suggests long-distance connections and shared technology at the time.

MANCHESTER**Smoke-free success**

Greater Manchester is one of three cities that have been honoured for helping to prevent diseases. The annual Partnership for Healthy Cities Summit in Paris recognised Manchester for its growing number of smoke-free spaces to help reduce smoking. This includes the opening of its first smoke-free park. The other two cities that were awarded the prize were Córdoba in Argentina and Fortaleza in Brazil. Córdoba is getting rid of sugary drinks from all schools by 2026, while Fortaleza is making strides to reduce air pollution.

**BIRMINGHAM****Bins bring big rats**

High piles of rubbish and rats the size of cats are filling the streets of Birmingham because of a bin strike. Rubbish collectors have been refusing to work since 11 March as they're not happy about how much they get paid. This means that bins haven't been emptied for weeks, blocking pavements and creating lots of worries about public health. MPs and local people have said that the number of huge rats roaming the streets is rising. Talks are taking place between Unite, the union whose members are on strike, and the city council, but no deal has been made.

CARDIFF**Tidy record for Wales**

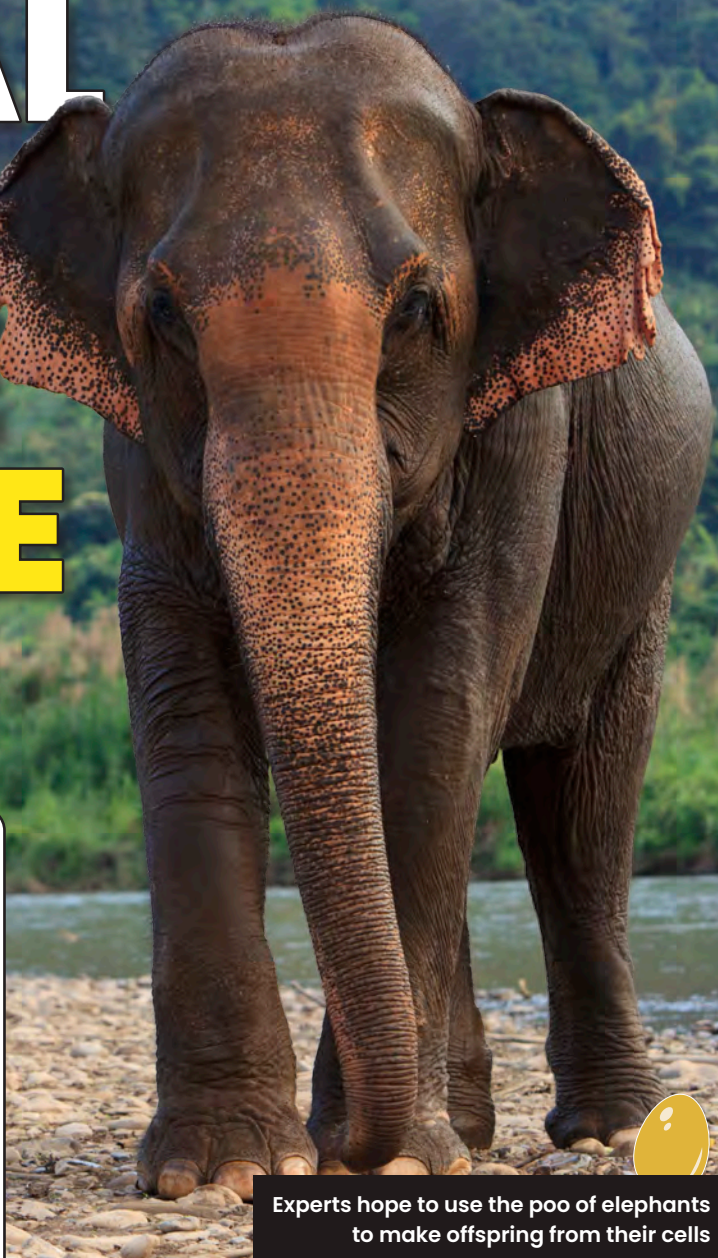
Volunteers have smashed the world record for a river clean-up. Last Friday (21 March) 1,327 people gathered along different locations on the River Taff, including Cardiff, Pontypridd and Brecon. Among the volunteers were pupils from local schools, who scrambled to pick up litter for 30 minutes. The effort beat the previous Guinness World Record of 329 people, which was set on the River Ganges, in India, in February. The Taff Tidy project was organised by Kate Strong, who already holds her own world cycling records. She posted: "A new world record & a much cleaner river!!!!"

**WEST SUSSEX****Don't be a Twit!**

An iconic Roald Dahl book is being brought to life this Easter, surrounded by spring colours. At Wakehurst, Kew's wild botanic garden, families will need to complete interactive activities to outwit the Twits. Nature Heroes badges are waiting to be collected, if you can combat the rotten behaviour of Mr and Mrs Twit by showing how to care for the natural world. The trail includes the Roly-Poly Bird, wormy spaghetti, mud pie-making in the Mud Kitchen, and the fantastic illustrations of Quentin Blake. *The Twits* trail at Wakehurst runs from 4-22 April.



ANIMAL POO TO THE RESCUE



SCIENTISTS have discovered that animal droppings could help save endangered animals from dying out.

Researchers say that living cells in fresh animal poo could be used one day to help create new animals in laboratories, such as by cloning (making an exact replica of an animal).

The “poo zoo” project at Oxford University has already found living cells in elephant and mouse droppings.

This new method is helpful because scientists don’t need to catch or disturb wild animals to collect their cells.

However, experts say that protecting animal homes in nature is still the best way to save species.

Experts hope to use the poo of elephants to make offspring from their cells

Wildlife success brings hope!

A MAJOR study has found that conservation efforts are helping to save endangered animals from extinction, even as global biodiversity continues to fall.

Scientists looked at more than 67,000 animal species and discovered that targeted protection measures can bring species back from near extinction.

Examples include the Iberian lynx, whose population has grown from a few hundred to thousands, and the return of humpback whales after whaling was banned. However, researchers warn that six times more species’ populations are falling rather than increasing.

The study was published in the journal *PLOS Biology*.

Iberian lynx populations are growing



‘Ugly’ blobfish wins contest

A DEEP-SEA creature that is mocked for its squishy appearance has won New Zealand’s Fish of the Year competition.

The ‘ugly’ blobfish beat other underwater creatures in a public vote of more than 5,500 people.

The jelly-like fish lives deep in the waters around New Zealand and Australia. It looks quite ordinary until it’s brought to the surface, where low pressure gives it what looks like a sad, melting face!

Despite their unusual looks, blobfish play an important role in ocean life and need protection from fishing nets that can accidentally catch them.



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...

CARDINAL



HABITAT:

Commonly found in shrubland, forests, and parks of the United States and Canada.

FUN FACTS:

- The northern cardinal is the state bird of seven US states.
- They are monogamous birds, meaning they pair up for a year or longer. However, some couples mate for life.

SPECIAL SUPERPOWER:

Cardinals have strong cone-shaped bills that help them crush seeds.

CONSERVATION STATUS:

The northern cardinal is of least concern, says the International Union for Conservation of Nature.



Aneeshwar’s cardinal 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.



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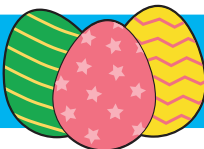


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Go to: rspca.org.uk/subscribeFN

Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals 0300 1230 346 rspca.org.uk
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RSPCA 



CHICKIE CHUCKLES!

What's an egg's least favourite day?
Fry-day!



CRACKING GOOD FUN!

CHICKIE CHUCKLES!

What do you call a bunny with money?
A millionhare!

WHO'S hoppy that the Easter holidays have arrived?! We sure are! That's why we're celebrating with an eggs-tra special pull-out packed with some of our top books, days out and movie picks! Tuck in, folks (to *First News* and those choccy treats!), and enjoy!

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

CAN you spot the ten changes between these two Easter pictures?

A



B



CHICKIE CHUCKLES!

What's the Easter Bunny's favourite sport?
Basket-ball!



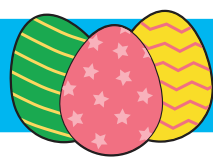
WORDSEARCH

CAN you find all of these Easter-themed words in the wordsearch?

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

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eggs | <input type="checkbox"/> Bunny | <input type="checkbox"/> Bonnet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chick | <input type="checkbox"/> Basket | <input type="checkbox"/> Daffodil |





EASTER FUNNY!

THREE activities for the holidays that could have you cracking up quicker than a chocolate egg!

NO.1 DRAW A CARTOON YETI

with
HUGH RAINE

creator of the
Beano comic strip
Betty & the Yeti

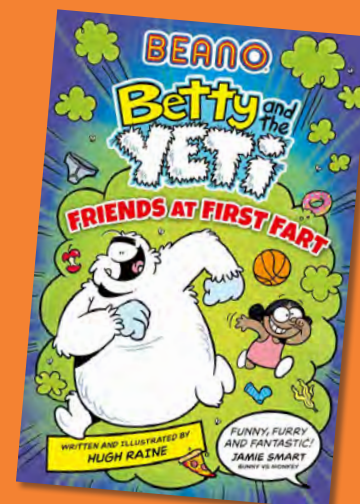


HUGH SAYS...

"COMICS and graphic novels are so utterly unique! The perfect combination of words and art.

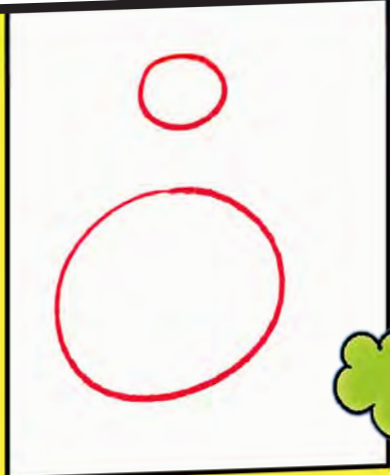
"I've been writing and drawing for the *Beano* for nine years. The way I got into the comic industry was by beaver away at my own comics all my life. You keep creating and putting your work out into the world for people to see and, eventually, the right person will get to see it.

"So, keep making your art, chiefly for your own enjoyment, but who knows? Maybe you could end up doing what you love as a job!"



Betty and the Yeti: Friends at First Fart, written and illustrated by Hugh Raine, is out now.

1 In pencil, draw a small circle for Yeti's head and a big circle for the belly.



2 Mark out a squashed circle where Yeti's chinny beard is, then join the head to the body.



3 Give Yeti some big, muscly arms and two stumpy legs.



4 It's time for the details! Give Yeti a silly grin, then add all the hairy bits.



5 Use a black pen or felt tip to neaten up your pencil sketch, then rub out the pencil with an eraser to finish the drawing.



6 Finally, add some colour to your yeti! You could even add coloured fur, spots... a fart cloud! It's totally up to you!



NO.2 PLAY THE NAME GAME

THERE'S no shortage of games you can play at the table after an epic Easter dinner, but this might be the easiest – and most addictive! It needs at least two players, but there's no limit to how big the group is.

HOW TO PLAY: Pick a person to go first by naming a one-word type of food. Whatever the last letter in their word is, the next player's item of food needs to begin with that letter (see right) – and the game goes on like that! If someone is stuck or hesitates for too long, they're out.

You could play the game with food, but you could play with places, footballers, musicians or anything else, too.

Bread...

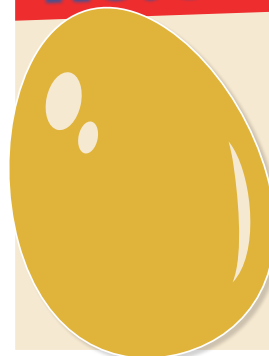
...doughnuts...

...soup...

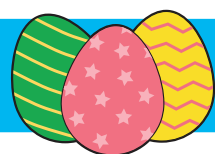
...pizza...

NO.3 FIND THESE EGGS!

We've hidden ten of these golden *First News* eggs throughout the issue. Tick a box each time you spot one. Ready... set... hunt!



1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10



Easter Special!

Issue 980 **FirstNews**
28 March – 3 April 2025



BRILLIANT BOOKS FOR EASTER



EASTER is a cracking time to break out a book, and we've picked out a pair of brilliant new releases for your holidays. Each one is positively packed with fabulous facts to entertain your family on a long car journey, to surprise and shock your friends, or just to glance at and enjoy all to yourself while letting the chocolate go down!



Gross FACTopia!

by Paige Towler

Now in paperback, discover the disgusting truth about everything from real-life slug soup and sneezing dinosaurs, to those Easter essentials – eggs! Every foul fact in this book is linked to the next in an ingenious trail of information, so you can slither from topic to topic in surprising and stomach-churning ways.

Out now

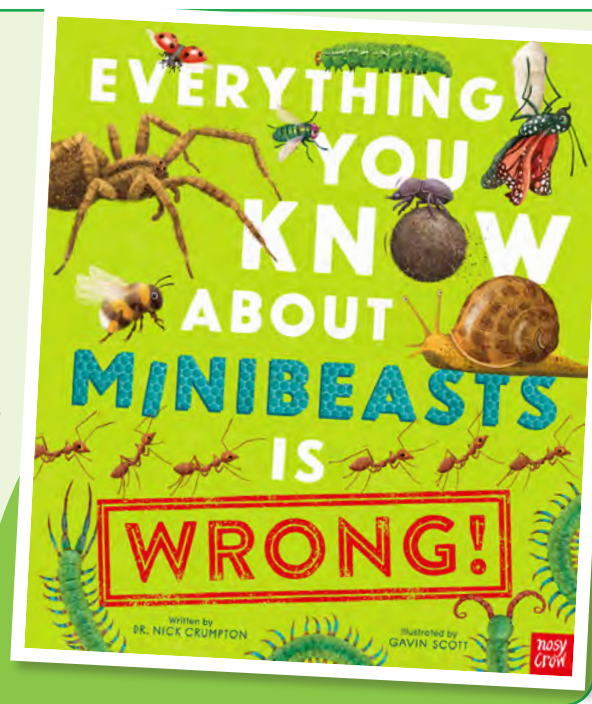


Everything You Know About Minibeasts is WRONG!

by Dr Nick Crumpton
and Gavin Scott

Become an expert on all things cool, small and crawling! From incredible insect architects to eating spiders in your sleep, discover how everything you think you know about minibeasts is actually untrue in this in-depth, ingenious book, brought to life with amazing artwork!

Out now





JOIN ROSE AYLING-ELLIS, HER COOL CAT HALO, and their magical tour guide, PERKY THE PIGEON, on a time-travelling, globetrotting adventure to explore the story of communication as never before



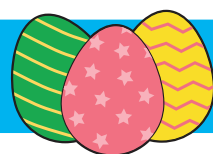


www.dk.com @dkbooks
Illustrated by Lena Addink



FIND OUT MORE
QR code should be scanned
by a responsible adult

by Hannah Timson



Easter Special!

Issue 980 **FirstNews**
28 March – 3 April 2025

EGG-CELLENT EASTER ACTIVITIES

THERE are loads of family-friendly events hop-enig (get it?!) across the UK this holiday. Here's a pick of some of our favourites!



Horrible Histories' TERRIBLE THAMES, London

Enjoy a hilariously historical boat tour on the famous River Thames. The Horrible Histories team will share the history of the Thames with the nasty bits left in – eww! terriblethames.com



Egg-stravaganza at Whipsnade Zoo, Whipsnade

The UK's largest zoo is hosting a Zoonormous Egg Hunt! You'll be tasked with cracking a secret code to be rewarded with a tasty treat. whipsnadezoo.org



Easter trails with the National Trust England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Take part in all sorts of Easter trails inspired by nature, wildlife and history. Complete fun outdoor activities and pick up an egg at the end! nationaltrust.org.uk/easter



Moomin ABC exhibition, Gloucester

Explore a magical world inspired by the Moomins at the Museum of Gloucester. In this interactive exhibition, you can go on an amazing adventure with the likes of Moominmamma, Sniff, Stinky and Little My. museumofgloucester.co.uk/moomins



Easter at the Eden Project, Cornwall

Celebrate the joys of spring with a giant egg hunt! Visitors can enjoy family games and discover colourful wildflower art. www.edenproject.com



Hoppy Easter at Conifox Adventure Park, Kirkliston

The Easter bunny has arrived at the park! Find all of the colourful eggs, take part in the Easter-lympics and check out the maze trail! conifox.co.uk



Chitty Chitty Bang Bang at Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff

The most fantasmagorical musical of all time is flying into Cardiff. The show tells the story of inventor Caractacus Potts, who restores a broken-down old racing car, only to discover it has magical powers! wmc.org.uk



Easter Fireworks Eggstravaganza, Isle of Wight

Sandown Pier is playing host to a spectacular fireworks display during the Easter weekend. The display kicks off on 19 April at 8.30pm and it's free! sandowncarnival.com



Easter Egg Hunt at RHS Bridgewater, Salford

Giant eggs are taking over the garden! Can you crack the egg-nigma code to receive a chocolate goody? There's also storytelling, workshops and a trail to follow. rhs.org.uk



The Big Egg Hunt, London

The world's biggest egg hunt is taking place across London and you're invited to join in (for free)! More than 100 giant decorated eggs can be found hidden in different locations around the city. How many will you spot? elephant-family.org



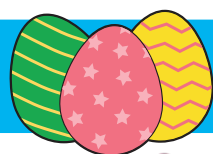
Easter adventures with English Heritage, England

Explore over 400 historic places, where you'll find tons of Easter activities including LEGO brick building and adventure quests! english-heritage.org.uk/easter



Pig Heart Boy, Coventry and Wolverhampton

Malorie Blackman's novel *Pig Heart Boy* is taking to the stage! The show follows Cameron, who has to make a difficult decision about his health and the future. pigheartboyplay.co.uk



A BRAND-NEW drama has arrived on BBC iPlayer, following the lives of Little Bit and his friends who live on the chaotic Crongton estate. We caught up with some of the cast – Samson Agboola (Little Bit), Nielle Springer (Venetia King) and Noah Cox (McKay Tambo) to find out more.

● **Hi guys! So, how would you describe your characters?**

Samson: Little Bit is creative, artistic and kind of weird!

Nielle: Venetia is sporty, smart, kind and fierce but respectful.

Noah: McKay is the clown of the group. He may be the funniest but he's also the caring one. He cares about all his friends and will always be there for them. He's quite sensitive too.

● **What are some of the biggest challenges your characters face in the show?**

Samson: Little Bit is working for Manjaro, a gang member, and he keeps doing stuff for him. He eventually tells McKay that he won't do any more work after this last job, but he doesn't and it breaks up the friendship group. They start ignoring Little Bit. Eventually, by the end, it all works out.

Nielle: Venetia's cousin was killed and when Venetia finds out that Little Bit has been doing things behind her back, she feels a little bit betrayed. She's shared with Little Bit

what happened to her cousin and she feels that he didn't listen.

Noah: There are two big struggles for McKay. One is his physical appearance and how he looks and what others think of him. The second struggle is that his mum sadly passed away and his brother and his dad aren't really there to support him. He relies on his friends.



● **What was your favourite scene to film?**

Samson: The water fight. It was so fun!

Nielle: All of the dances we do together are my favourite.

Noah: I think filming *Crongton* in general was my favourite. Just being with everyone and filming the future best TV series you can think of!

● **What would you say are the key themes in the show?**

Noah: I think the key thing is probably about making decisions and making the right decisions and, between them, you've got to think about other people too.

Catch *Crongton* on BBC iPlayer now.

DID YOU KNOW?

THE show is based on the best-selling books by Alex Wheatle.



● **Calling all young songwriters!**

This weekend is your last chance to enter your songs into the Young Songwriter 2025 competition. Find out all the info and how to enter at

www.songacademy.co.uk/says25.

The closing date is 31 March.



● **Andy and the Band is back!**

Ten brand-new episodes of our favourite musical show are here! Fans can expect more epic songs and hilarious comedy as Andy and co battle to save a school threatened with demolition. Look out for all the new stars joining the cast, including guitarist Buzz Fletcher! Catch *Andy and the Band* on CBBC and BBC iPlayer now.

Our Easter movie picks!



Snow White

Disney's live-action *Snow White* is packed with magic and mystery! Can Snow White (played by Rachel Zegler) and the seven dwarfs defeat the Evil Queen? Get set for some seriously catchy tunes along the way!



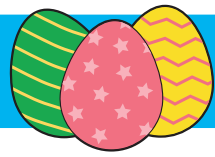
A Minecraft Movie

The first ever big-screen, live-action adaptation of *Minecraft* hits cinemas on 4 April. Starring Jason Momoa and Jack Black, the film follows four misfits on a journey into the Overworld. The only way to get back home is to master this world!



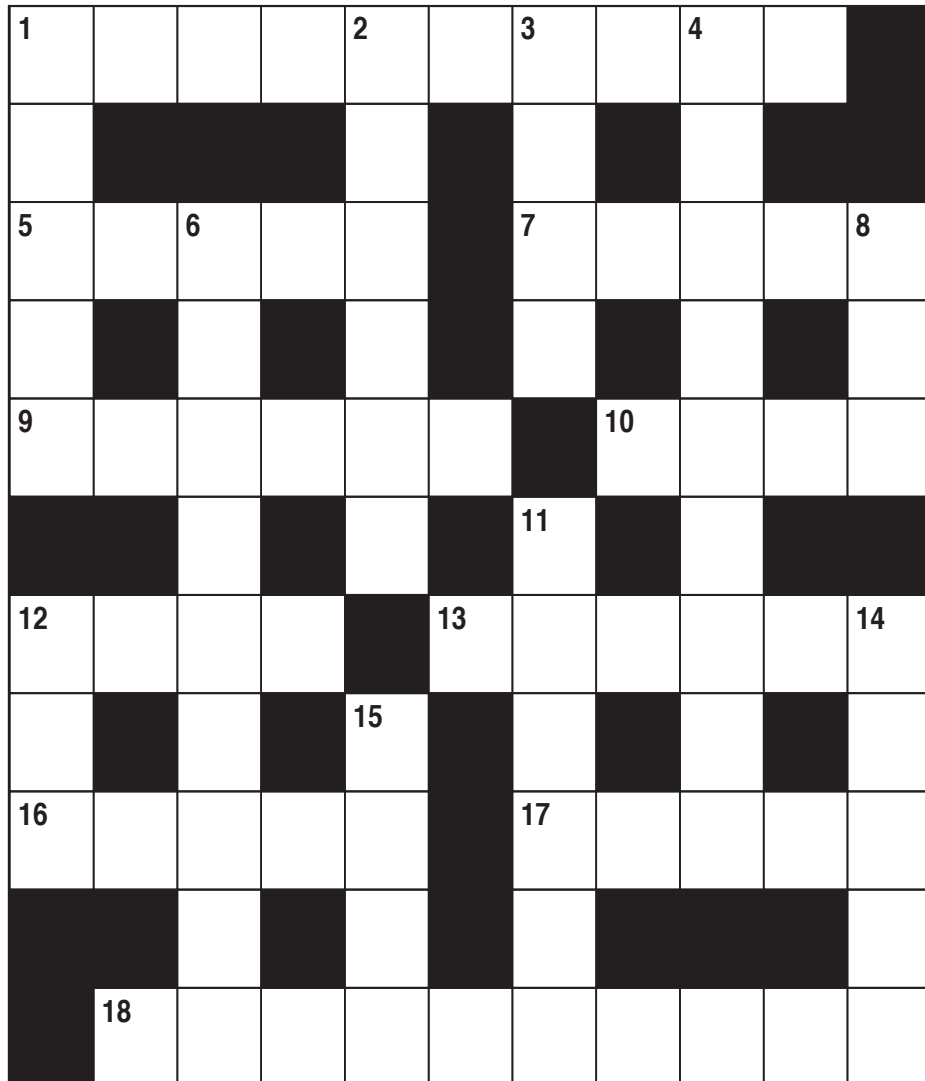
Moana 2

If you missed this amazing sequel in cinemas, now's your chance to watch it on Disney+! The film sees Moana journey to the far seas of Oceania and into dangerous, long-lost waters for another colourful adventure.



CROSSWORD

CAN you solve our crossword puzzle using the clues below?



ACROSS

- 1) Number of people who live somewhere (10)
- 5) Chase (anagram) (5)
- 7) Nearby (5)
- 9) Strong desire or craving for food (6)
- 10) Cry heavily (4)
- 12) These are used to row a boat (4)
- 13) Type of insect (6)
- 16) Move quickly to avoid something (5)
- 17) Small green plant growing on lawns and pasture (5)
- 18) Considerate (10)

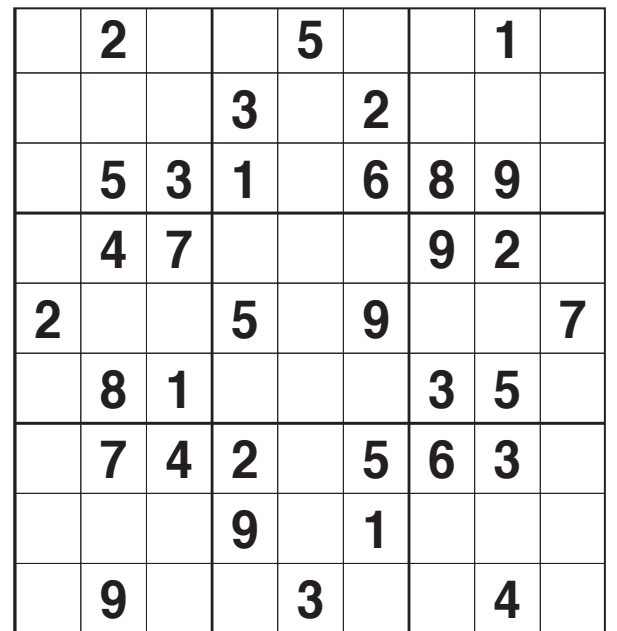
DOWN

- 1) Juicy yellowish-pink fruit (5)
- 2) Hear (6)
- 3) Of greater than average height (4)
- 4) Arrangement of musical instruments (9)
- 6) Next after the ninety-ninth (9)
- 8) One circuit of a race track (3)
- 11) How long something is (6)
- 12) Weird or strange; not even (3)
- 14) Wooden frame for holding an artist's work (5)
- 15) List of food items at a restaurant (4)



Sudoku

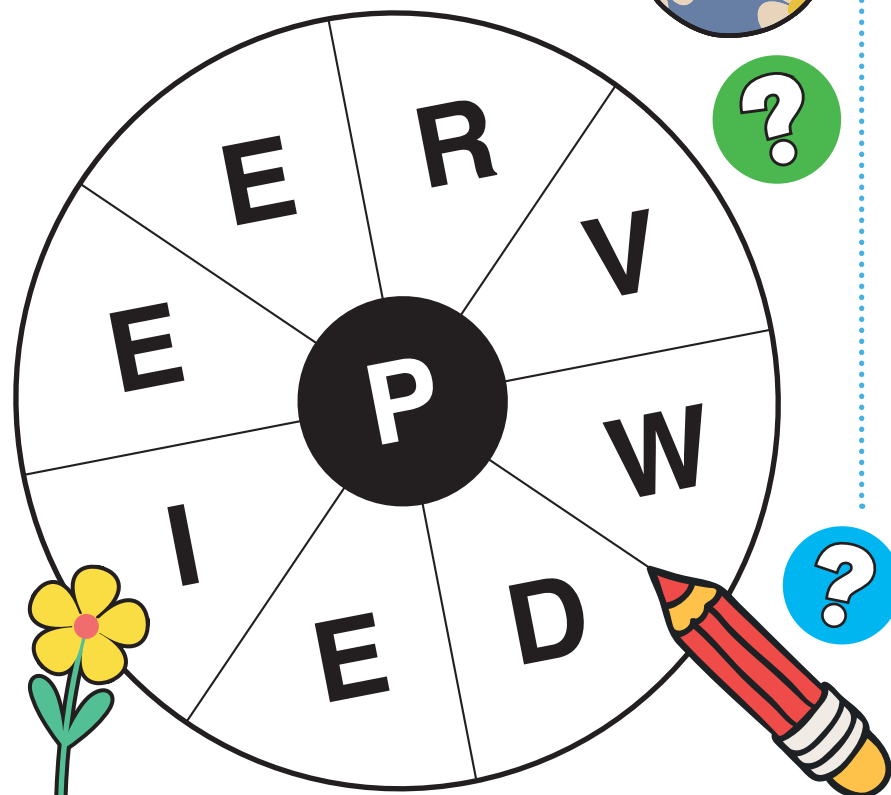
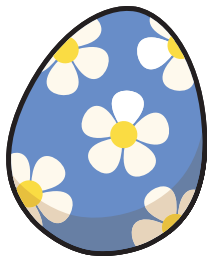
CAN you complete our sudoku puzzle, filling in the numbers one to nine?



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.

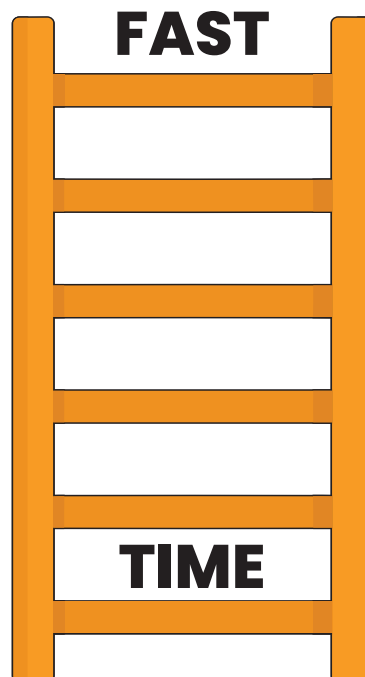
Word wheel

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

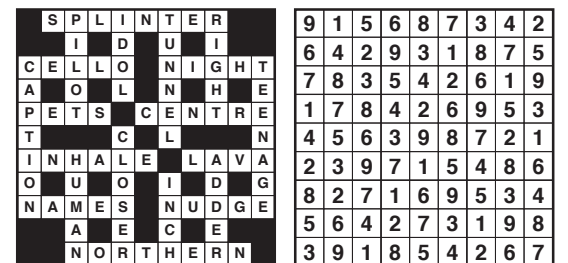
SEE if you can get from the top of the ladder to the bottom by changing one letter at a time to make a new word.



ISSUE 979 ANSWERS:

Word wheel: inflation.

Word ladder: pets, pens, fens, fend, fond, food.



EGG HUNT ANSWERS:

In your Easter pull-out in this issue, we challenged you to find ten special golden eggs hidden throughout the paper!

The eggs can be found on these pages:

1, 2, 8, 9, 11, 14, 21, 25, 26 and 27.



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



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 story, then turn the page upside down to see if you were right.

WHAT A SCRAMBLE!

EASTER SPECIAL!

VILLAGERS in Haux in France aren't eating chocolate eggs on Easter Monday, but rather real ones – whipped up in a giant omelette! More than 4,500 eggs are cracked into a huge pan to create the omelette, which is shared among more than 1,000 people in the main square.

Check out more on spotting fake news at:
● first.news/fakeorfact ● 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
Residents in Haux celebrate Easter Monday with an unusual tradition, but one that brings everyone together. We like the sound of it, how about you?

IN NEXT WEEK'S **ISSUE!**



SOCCER AID FOR SCHOOLS



CHRIS' MARATHON COUNTDOWN



DON'T MISS IT!

A MINECRAFT MOVIE

Do you want to write for

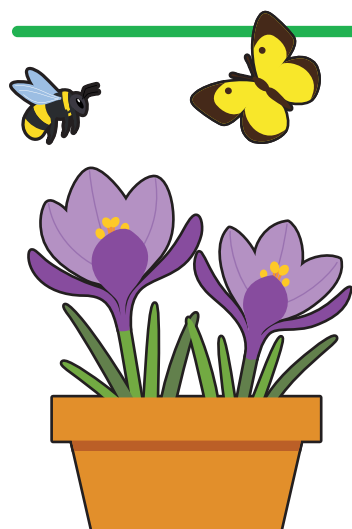
FirstNews?

Look out for opportunities on the Your News page **every week!**

SNAPPED

JUNIOR JOURNALIST





SPRING HAS SPRUNG!

AS the days get warmer and the evenings become lighter, put a spring in your step and take a moment to bathe in blossom, spot snowdrops or drift through daffodils at an amazing National Trust property!

IN PARTNERSHIP

**First
News**
NEWS KIDS CAN TRUST

 Visit
nationaltrust.org.uk/blossom


JOIN #BLOSSOMWATCH

IN April, the National Trust's yearly celebration of blossom returns! Why not take a picture and ask your parent or guardian to upload it to social media using the hashtag #BlossomWatch? You'll be joining thousands of people capturing the joy of seeing trees and hedgerows burst into bloom!

April is also tulip season, where displays of bright flowers fill the terraces and gardens cared for by the National Trust.

You'll also see daffodils coming to life in places like Cotehele in Cornwall, which is home to 300 different varieties dating back to the 17th century.

By the end of spring, bluebells will spread across woodland floors. The Great Wood on the Blickling Estate in Norfolk offers one of the best places to see bluebells in the East of England.

To find where nature is springing near you, visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/blossom.



Dizzy for daffodils

Anglesey Abbey, Gardens and Lode Mill, Cambridgeshire

Thousands of daffodils are set to appear across the estate, with over 40 different varieties on display! This spring, you can also enjoy a baa-rilliciant Shaun the Sheep sculpture trail and an Easter egg hunt!



National Trust Images/Mike Selby

The best blossom

Powis Castle and Garden, Powys

The apple trees in the Edwardian Formal Garden were planted 120 years ago by Lady Violet, Countess of Powis. They are famous for their vibrant pink blossom in spring! Join in on a fun-filled, Easter trail through the world-famous gardens, where you can also test your skills by stacking wood and building bridges.



National Trust Images/Paul Harris

Tulip mania

Dyrham Park, South Gloucestershire

With 22,000 tulips on display, Dyrham Park turns into a wonderful rainbow of flowers for visitors to enjoy! You can also take part in an Easter trail featuring ten activity stations including games and challenges.



WIN! A TWO-NIGHT STAY IN NORFOLK AND A PRIVATE TRIP TO SEE THE SEALS!

DON'T forget to enter our Nature Around Me photography competition with *First News*!

● **The task:** While enjoying your Easter holidays, we want you to take a photo of what nature means to you. That can be flowers in bloom, woodland creatures or unique trees. Your photo can be black and white or colour, landscape or portrait and can be taken on a phone, camera or tablet. Please make sure your entry contains no identifiable faces and is taken in the UK, featuring UK wildlife and nature.

● **The prize:** The lucky winner and their family will get a two-night stay in a National Trust holiday cottage worth over £350! You'll get to spend a summer's weekend at 4 Cart Lodge Barn in

Norfolk, a wonderful cottage by the sea, and explore Sheringham Park. Plus, we're giving you a trip on a private chartered boat to Blakeney Point with a National Trust ranger to see the amazing seals and their pups! You'll also get a *First News* subscription for yourself and your school and a Wi-Fi bird box.

Two runners-up will win a *First News* subscription for themselves and their school and a Wi-Fi bird box.

● **How do I enter?** Ask an adult or teacher to upload your entry at www.firstnews.co.uk/national-trust. The closing date is 4 May 2025.



National Trust Images



Please note: This competition is 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, the National Trust and any associated companies and their families. The prize must be taken on 5 July 2025. Travel is not included. No cash alternative for any prizes will be offered. For full terms and conditions, visit www.firstnews.co.uk/national-trust.

ENTER AT www.firstnews.co.uk/national-trust



CELEBRATING RAMADAN

Getty

IT'S currently Ramadan, a holy month in the Islamic faith that's important to Muslims all over the world. So, Maya headed to a London mosque (Muslim place of worship) to find out more.



FYI

sky kids

WATCH THE VIDEO

Learn more about Ramadan and the Big Iftar by scanning the QR code!



What is Ramadan?

Every year, Muslims all over the world take part in Ramadan. It is one of the holiest times in the Islamic calendar and is a month for fasting, worship, charity and studying the Koran (the Islamic holy book).

When is it?

The dates for Ramadan change every year depending on the cycle of the moon, but it usually lasts between 29 and 30 days. This year Ramadan started on 28 February and is expected to end on 30 March.

Why is Ramadan important to Muslims?

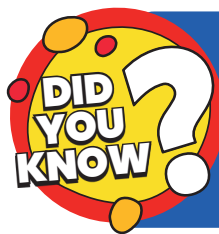
Ramadan is important to Muslims because it's a time when they can focus on their faith. During Ramadan, Muslims practise self-reflection and gratitude and often think about and give to those who aren't as fortunate as they are.

The importance of fasting

A big part of Ramadan is fasting. This is where Muslims don't eat or drink from dawn to sunset (from the time the sun rises to when the sun sets). That includes water!



A big part of Ramadan is fasting



YOU may not realise it, but you technically fast every night when you go to sleep. The word breakfast actually means what it says, to break fast, as it's the first meal you have after waking up!

The main reason for fasting is that it allows Muslims to devote themselves to their faith. Most Muslims fast, although there are some exceptions for those who aren't fit enough, like the elderly, young children and babies, and for those who have certain medical conditions or are pregnant. The meal before fasting begins is known as suhoor and the first meal after breaking fast is known as iftar. Iftar is often shared with family and friends at home or in mosques.

The Big Iftar

In this week's episode of FYI, Maya heads to the Big Iftar, an extra-special event held at a big mosque in London. People from all across the country from different backgrounds attend to learn about the spirit of fasting and togetherness. As the sun goes down, everybody breaks their fast together to eat!



Masroor (left) helping to serve food at the Big Iftar

What do children at the Big Iftar think about it?

Maya speaks to some of the children at the Big Iftar. Here's what they had to say!

Masroor: We are serving food for iftar. It feels nice because we are serving food to people who need to break their fast. When I do it, I feel more sympathy for the people who don't have food.

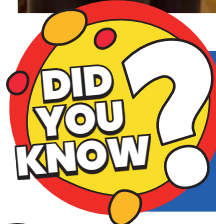
Noha: I'm Muslim and this is a very important event for us.

Hoi Lam: I've learned that they [Muslims] fast to experience other people's struggles who don't have food.

Mohammed: What I most enjoy about the Big Iftar is people coming from different races and communities. The spirit of togetherness.



Maya speaks to children at the Big Iftar

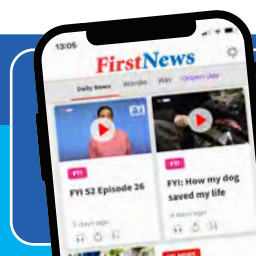


YOU can wish your Muslim friends and family a blessed Ramadan by saying: "Ramadan mubarak."



FEATURE ON THE SHOW!

Want to be in an episode of FYI? Just ask your teacher to set up a **First News FYI News Club** at your school by heading to first.news/FYInewsclub to find out more.



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

**GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS**

The Galápagos Islands are a treasure trove of amazing wildlife

Traffic gives birds road rage

A rise in humans and road traffic on the Galápagos Islands is causing one of its bird species to get angry, a study has found. Male yellow warblers sing to mark their territory but, when their calls are interrupted by the sound of engines and horns, they behave more aggressively – flying closer to the source of the sound, and back and forth to defend their turf. However, Dr Çağlar Akçay, from Anglia Ruskin University, warned: “Some of these birds will have territories on either side of the roads, so they’ll actually have to fly over the road and they get killed by the vehicles.” His team’s study, published in *Animal Behaviour*, said that the yellow warbler is the most commonly killed bird on the main road of Santa Cruz island.

23

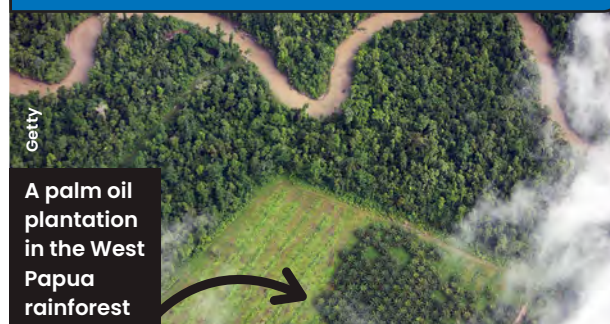
cars on Santa Cruz island back in 1980. By 2013, this had risen to 1,326!

**NORWAY****Miracle man survives avalanche**

The mayor of Lyngen has described a tourist’s survival as a “miracle” after he was trapped in an avalanche. The middle-aged man was buried 1.5 metres (5 feet) under the snow in an air pocket, and managed to call the police. He was found by a dog handler called Kristian Midtgard and his dog, Whiskey, seven hours later. “People who survive an avalanche usually suffocate within ten minutes,” said Dr Audun Hetland, from the Arctic University of Norway. “Some survive longer. But seven hours is almost unique in history.”



Lyngen

**INDONESIA**

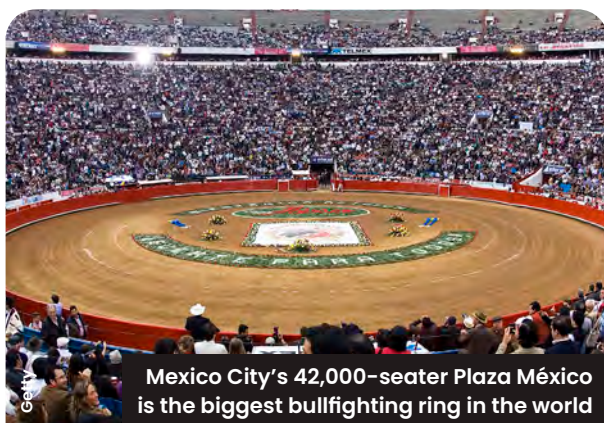
A palm oil plantation in the West Papua rainforest

Tribes want us to boycott KitKats

More than 90 native tribes in West Papua want people to boycott (stop buying) snacks owned and made by Nestlé and Mondelez. This includes lunchbox favourites like KitKats, Smarties, Oreos and Ritz crackers. Campaigners say that the palm oil used in them comes from clearing thousands of hectares of West Papua rainforest. Raki Ap, from the United Liberation Movement for West Papua, said: “West Papuans are being forced, with violence, to get off the land where they’ve lived for thousands of years.” West Papua is the west half of the island of New Guinea. It’s home to some of the Earth’s biggest gold and copper mines and its third-biggest rainforest, and it’s been under Indonesian control since 1963. West Papuans say that over half a million of their people have been killed in that time, and that their lands have been destroyed to make money. A spokesperson for Nestlé said: “Nestlé has strict standards towards ensuring a deforestation-free palm oil supply chain. Allegations are taken very seriously and duly investigated.”

**MEXICO****Traditional bullfighting banned**

Mexico’s capital, Mexico City, has banned traditional, violent bullfighting, and will replace it with a bloodless version where the animals aren’t killed. There will be no spears or swords to hurt the animals, and their horns will be protected, too. Now, matadors will only use capes to draw the bulls to charge at them. Animal rights groups celebrated the ban. “Bulls will no longer be subjected to the brutal cruelty of being... killed in the ring,” said Anton Aguilar, the executive director of Humane World for Animals Mexico. However, for the animals’ welfare, he still wants to see bullfighting banned altogether.



Mexico City’s 42,000-seater Plaza México is the biggest bullfighting ring in the world

**SOUTH AFRICA****No-fishing zones to help endangered penguins**

Environmentalists who are trying to prevent the African penguin from going extinct are celebrating after no-fishing zones were set up near six of their big colonies. Two of the zones have been set up around the colonies on Robben Island and Bird Island. If humans aren’t taking the sardines and anchovies, then there are more for the penguins to eat, which helps them to survive. African penguins are on course to go extinct by 2035 if their numbers continue to fall at the rate they are now. There were one million breeding pairs of the penguins 100 years ago, but now there are fewer than 10,000 breeding pairs left.



An African penguin on Robben Island

**MARSHALL ISLANDS**

The country lies two metres above sea level

Date set for very first footy game

A tiny country in the Pacific Ocean has set a date for the first 11-a-side football games in its history. The Marshall Islands will face the US Virgin Islands, the Turks and Caicos Islands and Guam in a mini-tournament called the Outrigger Cup in August. The matches will be staged in Arkansas, USA – 10,000 kilometres (6,214 miles) from home. The Marshall Islands is made up of five main islands and more than 1,000 very small ones. It’s called itself the last country in the world without a football team. It’s now fundraising for its trip, as it isn’t backed by FIFA.



HOW **AI** CAN PREDICT THE WEATHER BETTER

EXPERTS in AI (artificial intelligence) and weather have worked together to create an AI forecasting system that's more accurate and uses much less computing power than the best methods used right now.

The Aardvark system was revealed in the science journal *Nature* last week. Weather forecasting usually relies on hours of time with supercomputers and large teams of people, but the developers say that Aardvark can run on a standard desktop computer in minutes – and it only needs less than a tenth of the data that current systems need to make their predictions.

The system could save lots of time and money, and could also save lives if information about storms and flooding is more accurate. But the developers say that it could be most use in poorer countries, as officials and people such as farmers who need accurate weather forecasts often can't afford the most up to date systems.

It's also possible to customise Aardvark for specific locations or industries, from a farm in Africa to a wind farm in Scotland.

WEATHER

DID YOU KNOW?
IN the UK, the winter of 1963 is the coldest on record. Temperatures regularly dropped below -20°C , there were snowdrifts up to 6m (20ft) deep, and the sea even froze around the coast!

Dark mystery

THE mysterious stuff known as dark energy just got a bit more mysterious, after scientists reported that the force is getting weaker over time.

We don't really have a clue what dark energy is, but its existence was put forward to explain why the universe's expansion is increasing. Scientists had thought that gravity would eventually stop the expansion and start bringing everything closer together again. But, when data showed that wasn't happening, dark energy was said to be the missing key to the puzzle.

But the results of a three-year study released last week showed that dark energy has been reduced by about a tenth over the last 4.5 billion years, when it was thought to be a constant value before.

"Now I'm really sitting up and paying attention," said Catherine Heymans, the Astronomer Royal for Scotland.

Using data from the Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument in Tucson, USA, scientists studied 30 million galaxies and looked back 11 billion years in time. The huge amount of data means they're pretty sure it's a real effect, so many experts think we're on the verge of a huge change in our understanding of how the universe works.



The hostess with the motors

SCIENTISTS have developed a robot with a skill that would be useful in any country – it can make a decent cup of coffee.

It might sound a bit simple, but getting robots to perform everyday tasks in a normal situation is pretty difficult. Robots can work quickly and expertly in strictly controlled places like car factories, but a family kitchen can be cluttered, with objects and people to avoid.

Researchers at the University of Edinburgh built a robot arm with sensorimotor abilities (meaning it can move and sense things) and equipped it with GPT-4, the AI (artificial intelligence) that powers ChatGPT. They then asked it to make a hot drink.

To do all this, the robot had to open drawers and cupboards, measure out coffee correctly and then pour water precisely.

"We are glimpsing a future where robots with increasingly advanced intelligence become commonplace," says Ruairidh Mon-Williams, the lead researcher. But was the coffee drinkable, and is that the only drink it can make?

"While it was instant coffee, it did actually taste quite good!" Mon-Williams told us via email, adding that "the robot can make a cup of tea too :)" and should be able to perform lots more similar tasks.

Since the Big Bang, the universe has been expanding constantly



SOME estimates suggest that dark energy makes up around 70% (seven tenths) of our universe – but it's also possible that it doesn't even exist at all! It could be that we don't really understand how gravity works over the large scale of the universe.

This report is from the Science Museum in London

SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

ASTROPHOTOGRAPHERS, who take pictures of space, can spend hours and hours on a single image.

They often must wait for the perfect weather conditions, then have to assemble thousands of close-up images to create one very detailed picture. But how long would it take you if you had to do this without a camera?

In 1679, astronomer Jean-Dominique Cassini published an incredibly detailed map of the moon. He had spent eight years observing the moon with a telescope, and carefully hand-drawing the details of its surface. This map was so precise that it remained the most accurate map of our satellite for more than 200 years.

You can see this beautiful map in Versailles: Science and Splendour at the Science Museum until 21 April.



Cassini's hand-drawn map of the moon

Pokémon

TRADING CARD GAME

SCARLET & VIOLET

JOURNEY TOGETHER



TRAINER'S POKÉMON BREAK INTO BATTLE!

WITH DEEP TRUST AND STEADY GUIDANCE, TRAINERS HELP BRING OUT THE BEST IN THEIR POKÉMON.

The bond they share empowers them to act as one in battle as they push their strength to the limit, including as Pokémon ex!

Team up with **Hop's Zacian ex**, **Lillie's Clefairy ex**, **N's Zoroark ex**, **Iono's Bellibolt ex** and more Trainer's Pokémon, and discover the unstoppable power of friendship in the Pokémon TCG: Scarlet & Violet – Journey Together expansion... **OUT NOW!**



This expansion contains ex cards and Illustration Rares featuring Trainers and their Pokémon partners!



BOOSTER PACKS



ELITE TRAINER BOX



Includes:

- 9 Pokémon TCG: Scarlet & Violet – Journey Together booster packs
- 1 full-art foil promo card featuring N's Zorua
- 65 card sleeves
- 45 Pokémon TCG Energy cards
- ...and so much more!

Pokémon Trading Card Game: *Scarlet & Violet – Journey Together* is available to buy now. Visit pokemoncenter.com/en-gb



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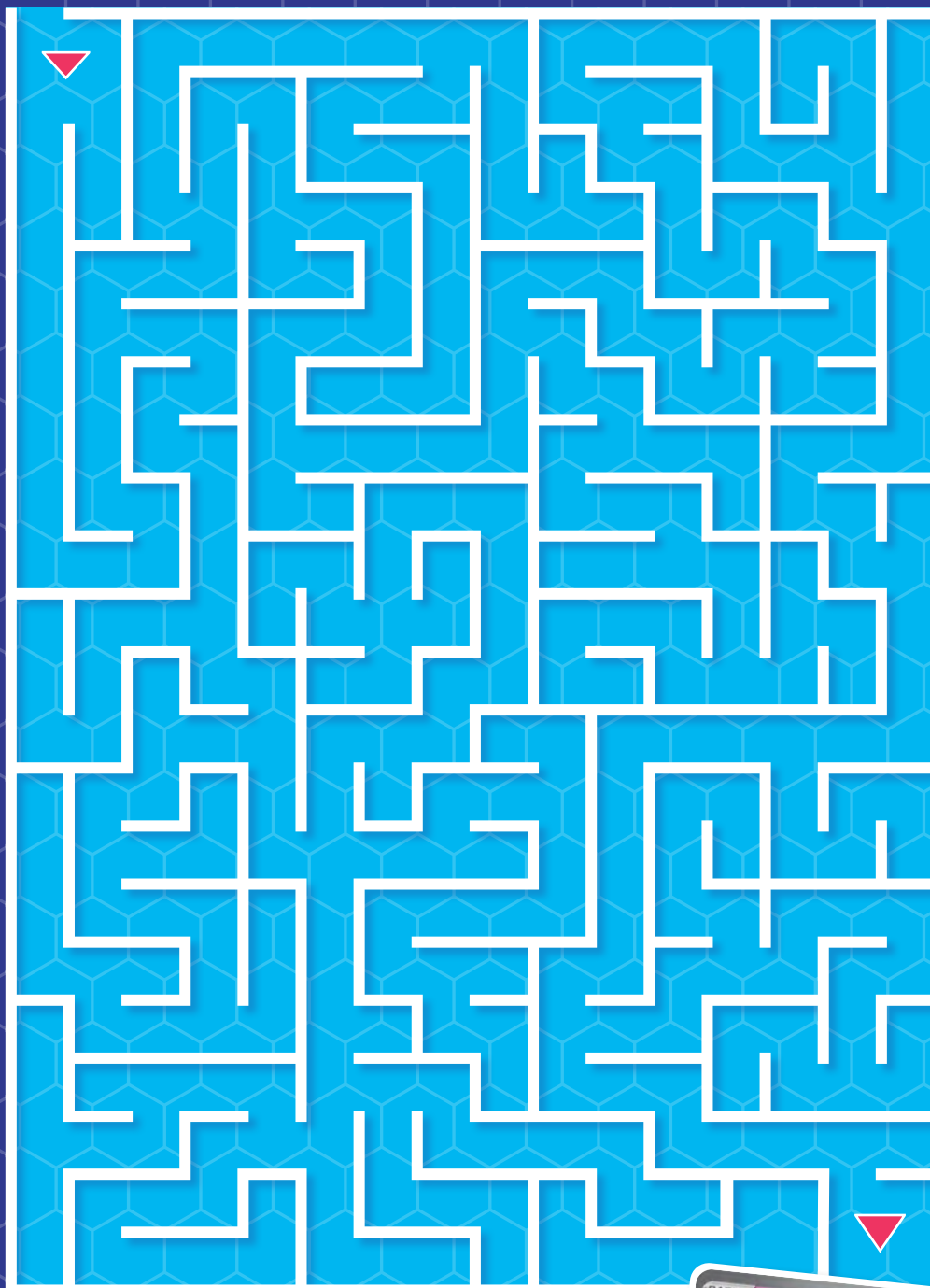
Please be aware of age restrictions on social media sites.



THE DREAM TEAM

START

Lillie and her Clefairy share an unbreakable bond – guide her Pokémon through the maze to stand them side-by-side, ready for their next battle!



FINISH





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

I was really sad to learn in this week's issue that a huge number of toys end up going to waste every year, which is not good for the planet. So it's great that children at Meadowfield Primary School are doing something about it.

If your school is doing something to combat climate change, make sure to let us know and you might end up featuring in an issue of *First News*. Find out how you can do that by checking out the top right of these pages.

THE BIG TOY SWAP

TOYS give us a great way to have fun but, unfortunately, a huge number of them get cast aside when we've had enough of them, and they end up going to waste. Just think of the *Toy Story* films. Meadowfield Primary School has taken action to stop that happening.

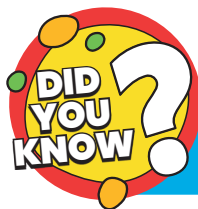
by Georgia and Elena

The big toy swap was set up with two aims – to stop toys going into landfill [the rubbish dump] and to make sure that every child gets a new toy! It was organised by our school's eco club, called the Green Team, but the whole school took part!

Families, friends and neighbours were asked to bring any unwanted toys into school. We received more than 1,000 donations, including board games, jigsaws, arts and crafts, knitting needles and wool, frisbees, balls, soft toys and so much more. We even had a boogie board, two play kitchens and three bicycles, all of which found new homes.

Members of the Green Team set up the event by laying out the toys in age-appropriate groups and invited each class, and every child, to come along and select a 'new' toy. The children couldn't believe that they could choose anything in front of them, and many took home more than one! Everyone had a blast, and all left with big smiles on their faces.

We were super proud of what we achieved and even more pleased with the number of toys left over that we were able to donate to the Nursery and Early Years provision at our school. It was a great event and a really easy way to show how we can all reduce, reuse and recycle. We can't wait to do it all again soon!



IT'S estimated that about four in five toys go to waste.



Junior journalists
Georgia and Elena

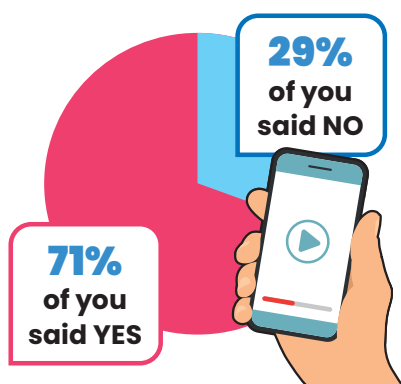


The big toy swap was a big success!

THIS WEEK'S POLL!

We asked 5,275 of you:

Do you watch online videos more than TV?



MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

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

The teenager fighting for mental health



Cian

SADLY, a lot of people who struggle with their mental health don't get the help they need. Cian is on a mission to change that.

by Cian

I am Cian McConnell, a 17-year-old who only recently left school. I have seen first-hand how lives are being snatched away, not by chance, but because of government failures and a complete lack of proper mental health funding. Too many people, young and old, are crying out for help, only to be ignored, placed on years-long waiting lists, or given treatments that don't actually work.

This isn't just a tragedy – it's a preventable crisis. And I refuse to stand by and watch it continue.

I am not a politician. I am not a CEO. I am a teenager who refuses to let more lives be lost to government inaction. I am pushing for real, science-backed mental health reform, including proper funding, wider access to therapy, and crisis intervention programmes that actually work.

This is not just about raising awareness. It's about forcing those in power to wake up and act. If we don't demand change now, more lives will be lost. But I refuse to let that happen.

If you are struggling, you are not alone. And I will not stop fighting until every person has the chance to truly recover, not just survive.



NEWS CLUB SHOUT-OUT!

THIS WEEK WE'RE GIVING SHOUT-OUTS TO... St George's Church of England Primary School, Wellington College International Hangzhou, Rustington Community Primary School, Crosfields School and Redden Court School!



A cool day of science and art at Colliderfest

ELIZA headed to a festival all about science and art. Here's how she got on!

by Eliza

I spent my weekend at Colliderfest, Hull's science and arts festival, and it was great fun! There were lots of activities going on. Zoolab was one of them. They had strange creatures to learn about – I held a giant snail and a snake. Did you know that a frog pushes its eyes back into its throat to swallow its food?

One of my favourite events was called Pyrotrickery, where I learned how fireworks are made. My friend Rosie enjoyed the fossil workshop at the Museum of Archaeology and my sister Daisy loved experimenting with wind turbine blades at the Streetlife Museum.

TV presenter and children's author Maddie Moate was there, too! She explained what a sub-pixel is, which was fascinating. It's basically a small part of a pixel. Pixels are tiny squares of colour that make up images you see on a screen.

There was an amazing light show outside in the centre of Hull when it got dark, with lots of flashing lights and projections.

I hope you get a chance to go to Colliderfest next year as it was such a fantastic experience.

A light show took place at night



Eliza had a great time at Colliderfest with her sister



**WANT TO
FEATURE ON
THESE PAGES?**

FirstNews

FYI

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sky kids

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

WINNERS OF TOP WRITING PRIZE ANNOUNCED!



Katherine won the 11-15 category



THE winners for this year's Young Walter Scott Prize (YWSP) have been announced. The YWSP is a creative writing competition run every year for young people who are passionate about history and writing stories.

This year's winner in the 11-15 age category was Katherine White. She wrote a story called *A Bog; A Blaze*, which links the discovery of a 'bog girl' who was murdered thousands of years ago, to the Nazi killings of children with disabilities during the Second World War.

The YWSP is open now for submissions for next year. Young writers aged 11-19 are invited to submit a short story of 800-2,000 words set in a time before they were born. Sound like something you're interested in? Head to tinyurl.com/YWSPenter to find out more.

Advertisement Feature

**LET'S GET
GAMING!**



CARTOON Network Game On! is THE place for all things Cartoon Network on Roblox, allowing you to experience the virtual world of hit Cartoon Network series.

Accurately reflecting the locations and worlds iconic to fan-favourite shows, Cartoon Network Game On! gives you the chance to bond with your favourite characters, play games and explore awe-inspiring islands.

And, now, with an all-new tycoon mode, you can build your very own attractions, part-by-part, make way for new rides by clearing rubble and



customise your theme park with benches, food stalls and much more!

With 30 new custom attractions such as a *We Bare Bears* swing pirate ship, *The Amazing World of Gumball* haunted house, hot-air balloons, flying saucers and bouncy castles, you can truly make your theme park your own.

COMING SOON!

Virtual VIPs, where you can give your favourite Cartoon Network characters a theme park tour and earn coins to expand your park further!

Ask an adult to scan this QR code to check out the game!





DEADLY THREE-FANGED SNAKE FOUND

Australian Reptile Park

A SUPER-RARE snake with three fangs instead of two has been discovered at an Australian wildlife park, making it possibly the most dangerous death adder in the world!

The unusual reptile, found during routine venom collection at the Australian Reptile Park, can produce much more venom than normal snakes thanks to its

extra fang.

While this might sound scary, experts are excited because the extra venom can help them make more life-saving anti-venom medicine.

The park's keepers were quite surprised, saying they've never seen anything like this in more than 20 years of handling snakes.

Millions ring fish doorbell

A UNIQUE fish doorbell system in Utrecht, Netherlands, is set to capture global attention again, with millions of viewers tuning in to help migrating fish.

The clever project lets people around the world watch a live underwater camera feed, then click a button to ring when they spot fish trying to pass through a city lock.

The ring notifies operators, who then open the lock gates when enough fish are waiting, helping fish like bream, pike and bass reach their spring breeding grounds.



Visdeurbel

Nothing but net!



A GROUP of men in Georgia, USA, broke a Guinness World Record for playing the longest continuous basketball match.

Their charity game lasted for 121 hours and 3 minutes – that's more than five days straight!

Twenty-three players between the ages of 17 and 64 took part and had to remain inside the gym the whole time to break the record.

They finished with a final score of 13,096 to 12,972!

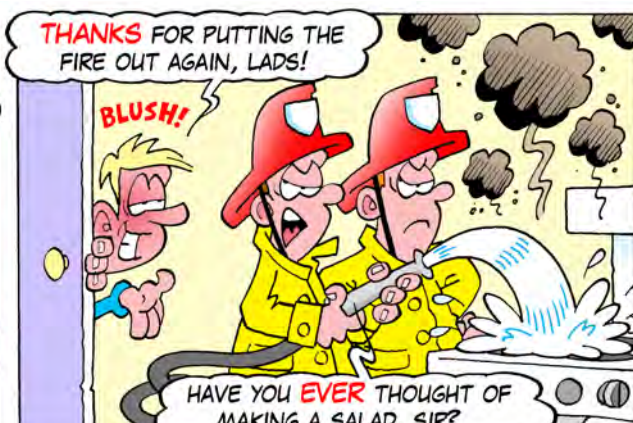
**JOKE
OF THE
WEEK**

ha
ha
ha

Why did
the referee skid
on the court?
**The basketball
players dribbled
everywhere!**



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer



FirstNews Quiz

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

1 Which app is home to prank videos about UK 'tea alarms'?

2 What's the name of the new BBC drama that follows the lives of Little Bit and his friends?



3 What has been banned in Mexico City?



4 Experts in AI have created the Aardvark system to help predict what?

5 Tribes want people to stop buying snacks made by Nestlé and Mondelēz due to their use of what?

6 What could scientists at Oxford University one day use to help save endangered species from dying out?



7 What nickname has been given to this unlikely duo in New Zealand?



8 In which UK city has there been a bin strike since 11 March?

9 What is the name of the new national forest that will stretch across the west of England?

10 Jason Momoa and Jack Black explore the Overworld in which upcoming movie?



11 In which country was a man rescued from an avalanche after being trapped for seven hours?

12 What is the Islamic holy month that's currently taking place?

13 What Guinness World Record did these men break?



14 Chinese electric vehicle maker BYD has overtaken which rival car manufacturer?

15 How old is Sam Ruthe, the new youngest person to run a mile in under four minutes?

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 TikTok 2 Croydon 3 Traditional bullfighting 4 The weather 5 Palm oil 6 Animal poo 7 'Sharktopus' 8 Birmingham 9 The Western Forest 10 A Minecraft Movie 11 Norway 12 Ramadan 13 The longest continuous basketball match 14 Tesla 15 15 years old

First News team details available at www.firstnews.co.uk/team. For editorial enquiries, contact newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk.

For home subscription enquiries, email subscriptions@firstnews.co.uk or call 0330 333 0186 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm).

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AMBER GOES GOLD!

AMBER Anning has become the first British woman to win an individual world indoor sprint title, taking 400m gold at the World Athletics Indoor Championships.

It makes up for the massive disappointment she had at the European Athletics Indoor Championships a couple of weeks ago, when she left the track in tears after being disqualified.

"'World champion' sounds nice," said Anning (pictured). "It's been a journey."

Team GB finished in fourth place in the medal table, with two golds. The other one went to Jeremiah Azu, who won the 60m to add to the European indoor title that he won two weeks ago.

The phenomenal Jakob Ingebrigtsen won 1,500m and 3,000m gold to help put Norway in second place in the table. The USA were well out in front with six golds, including both 4x400m relays and the men's 400m, which makes Anning's win even more remarkable.

The final medal table

1 USA	6	4	6
2 Norway	3	0	1
3 Ethiopia	2	3	0
4 GB & NI	2	1	1



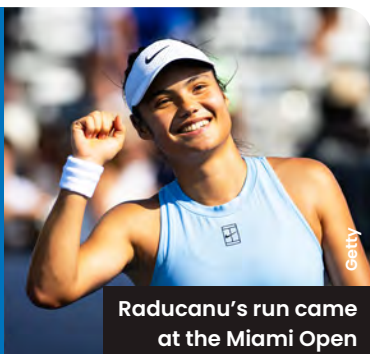
Arsenal's Myles Lewis-Skelly got his senior international career off to a flying start, breaking the record for the youngest player to score on his England debut, aged just 18 years and 176 days. His goal came in a 2-0 win over Albania that kicked off the team's World Cup qualifying, which was then followed by a 3-0 win over Latvia that saw Eberechi Eze score his first England goal. Thomas Tuchel will be happy that he's started with two wins, and that his captain Harry Kane scored in both. Wales also got off to a good start, with a 3-1 win over Kazakhstan in their opening qualifier.



Claudia MacDonald bursts through the Italian defence

A bonus-point win for England in the Women's Six Nations saw them top the table after the first round. Their 38-5 win over Italy included five tries from five different players. In the other two games, France beat Ireland 27-15, while Scotland won a tight game with Wales that finished 24-21.

After changing coach umpteen times, Emma Raducanu may have found her form again, winning four matches in a row for the first time since she won the US Open in 2021. Check the *First News* app to see if she made it five.



Raducanu's run came at the Miami Open

DEFEAT in the second leg of a play-off has seen Scotland's men drop out of Nations League Group A. They beat Greece 1-0 in the first leg, but slipped to a 3-0 home defeat in the second leg of the European football competition. Greece will now join England in Group A.



It was a McLaren one-two in the Chinese Grand Prix, as Oscar Piastri beat his team-mate Lando Norris across the line. It means Norris is top of the standings after two races, ahead of Max Verstappen. Lewis Hamilton's spell at Ferrari took a turn for the worse though, as he was disqualified for having a skid block that was too thin. It could allow a car to turn corners faster, but the Italian team said there was "no intention to gain any advantage".

Braydon's on the ball



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

The WSL took **Centre Stage** at the weekend, with Chelsea remaining runaway leaders at the top of the table. Following a 2-0 defeat to Man City in the Champions League during the week, which ended their incredible 31-game unbeaten run, it looked like City would record back-to-back wins as they dominated the first half, with a brilliant solo goal from Kerolin giving them a 32nd-minute lead at the Etihad. Chelsea had other ideas though, and battled back with an injury-time goal from Erin Cuthbert to secure a dramatic win and cement their place at the top. Eight points now separate defending champions Chelsea from second-placed Arsenal with just five games remaining.



Erin Cuthbert celebrates her last-gasp winner

Talking of Arsenal, they're still in the title race, but with an outside chance. They continued their push with a strong 4-0 win over Liverpool. A crowd of over 35,000 enjoyed a day at the Emirates, where the Gunners raced into a three-goal half-time lead. Man United stay in third, but only on goal difference, after they also enjoyed a 4-0 victory. United striker Elisabeth Terland added two more to her tally for the season as they dominated a Villa side in danger of relegation.

Leicester took a big step towards securing their own safety with a 3-2 win over Brighton. The Foxes increased the gap over bottom side Crystal Palace to six points and give themselves some breathing space at the bottom. Palace crashed 3-0 at Everton and have some tough games still to come against Arsenal, Chelsea and City.

In Scotland, Rangers Women were celebrating by retaining the Scottish Cup with a 5-0 victory over Hibs, and in the Women's Championship London City closed the gap on leaders Birmingham City to just one point with a 4-0 win over Sheffield United. While Birmingham took a point in a 1-1 draw at Charlton, London took full advantage in the battle for promotion to the WSL.

Birmingham and London will face each other on the last day of the season for what might be a game to decide the one promotion place. What a day that could be!

Braydon's Team of the Week: Chelsea, unbeaten in 17 WSL games and now just five away from an Invincibles season.

Braydon's Player of the Week: Man City's Khiara Keating, with a string of saves against Chelsea.

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