

NEWS KIDS CAN **TRUST**

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR*



First News

2.6M
READERS*

Issue 982 £2.95 11 – 17 April 2025

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THE MAKING
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IT'S MADE FROM
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PAPER.



WE WON!

NEWSPAPER
OF THE YEAR!

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NEWS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT
INTERVIEWS PUZZLES COMPETITIONS

IF YOU COULD TALK TO ANIMALS

WHICH WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

OH, IT'S YOU
AGAIN...

FOOD!

I'M THE
GREATEST OF
ALL TIME!

DO YOU LIKE MY
PYJAMAS?

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TRUMP
ASTOUND
THE
WORLD IN
80 DAYS



EASTER
THE HISTORY
OF CHOCOLATE



MEET THE TEAM



Editor in Chief
Nicky Cox



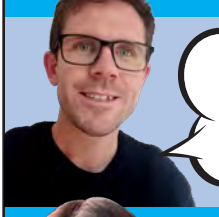
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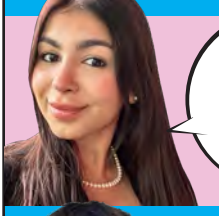
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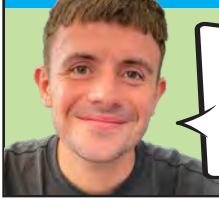
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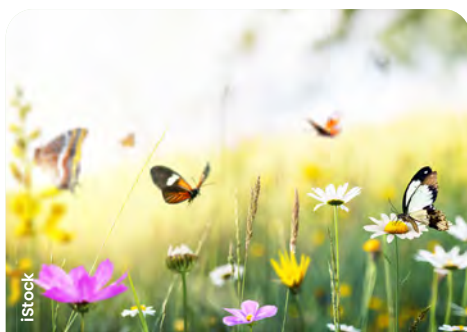
HAVE YOU HEARD?

Snappy stories to get you talking!



PUBLIC UNHAPPY WITH NHS

People's satisfaction with the NHS has dropped to its lowest level ever, with only one in five people "quite" or "very" satisfied with the health service in 2024. This is much lower than the three out of five who were satisfied in 2019. A&E, dentistry and GP services saw the biggest drops in approval. NHS boss Sir Jim Mackey said: "I am very worried about a growing disconnect between the service and the population. The results are pretty bad – and there's a big message in that. We are here for the population. The population own the NHS. It's their service." The government promises improvements through a new ten-year plan, which is expected this summer.



GROW GRASS TO SAVE BUTTERFLIES

Butterfly Conservation is urging people to stop mowing their lawns between April and September to help save declining butterfly populations. As *First News* reported last week, 2024 was one of the worst years ever recorded for butterfly numbers in Britain, with more than half of UK species in trouble. Now, wildlife experts say letting grass grow longer creates vital habitats for these important pollinators. Richard Fox from Butterfly Conservation says the simple act of putting away lawnmowers could make a "real, immediate difference" to butterflies and other wildlife.

THEY SAID THAT!

EDITOR IN CHIEF
NICKY COX MBE

EDITORIAL MANAGER
HANNAH TIMSON



OUR TROPHY!

"For so many years, we have helped children make sense of an increasingly confusing world, and we are proud to continue this mission!"
– Nicky Cox MBE, *First News* editor in chief

FIRST NEWS WINS AWARD!

First News has been named Niche Market Newspaper of the Year at the 2025 Newspaper Awards, showing how much people value news written especially for young readers! The judges loved how *First News* helps young people understand what's happening in the world through the newspaper, app and school resources. Thank you to all our amazing readers, who make our paper what it is!

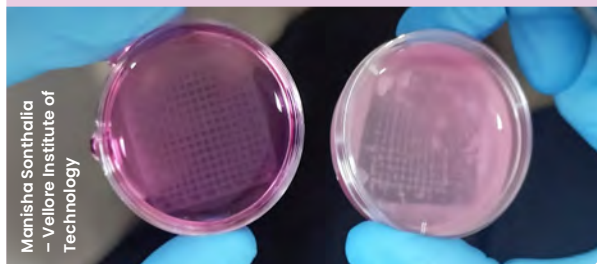


TOUCH TECH BRINGS DIGITAL WORLD ALIVE

Scientists have created a new wearable device that lets users feel realistic sensations. Experts at Northwestern University developed the small wireless gadget, which sits on the skin and creates different types of touch feelings like pressure, stretching and twisting. The makers hope the device could help blind people explore their surroundings, let shoppers feel products online and even allow deaf people to experience music through touch.

3D-PRINTED SKIN COULD END ANIMAL TESTING

Scientists have made artificial skin using 3D printers, and say it would let them test cosmetics without harming animals. Researchers created a special gel that allows them to print layers of skin tissue with living cells. This new skin works just like real human skin and can help companies test if products like sunscreen and face creams are safe to use. The study was published in the journal *STAR Protocols*.



Manisha Sonthalia
– Vellore Institute of
Technology



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BIRTH RATES HIT RECORD LOW

Young women in England and Wales are having fewer babies than ever before, with most waiting until after they're 30 to start families. New research shows that girls turning 18 this year will likely have just one child by age 35, compared to their mothers who had their first child by 31. This means fewer babies are being born across the country. In 2023, there were more deaths than births in the UK for the first time in almost 50 years (not counting the Covid period). Experts say this shift is happening because people are waiting longer to find partners and buy homes.

FOOTBALL TIPS FOR GIRLS



Getty

Former footballer
Alex Scott gives tips
for success

A new book aims to help young girls break into football careers both on and off the pitch. *The Playbook: Mastering the Game* shares advice from 11 successful women in football, including players, referees and business leaders. The book is part of a new programme called Girls4Football, which teaches football and life skills to young girls across Europe. It comes after research showed only 38% (fewer than four in ten) of girls feel there's a place for them in professional sports. The book was written by *Bend It Like Beckham* author Narinder Dhami and features tips from stars like Alex Scott.



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ROBOTS GET GRIP TIPS FROM ANTS

Scientists have found a way to make robots better at gripping objects by copying how ants use their jaws. Experts at the University of Edinburgh studied these clever insects and created a robotic gripper with tiny rubber hairs, just like those found on ant mouths. This new design is more successful than traditional robot hands, as picking success has improved from 64% (13 out of 20) to 90% (18 out of 20). The breakthrough could help robots work better in homes and building sites and even help clean up the environment.

MANY IN THE UK STILL NOT ONLINE

A report by Ofcom, which keeps an eye on the communications industry, reveals that 2.8 million people in the UK don't have internet access, affecting their daily lives and chances of success. While this number has gone down since Covid-19, many people still struggle to use online services. Research shows disabled people, those who don't have a steady home, minority ethnic groups and people who don't speak much English face the biggest challenges. This makes it harder for them to book doctor appointments, find jobs or feel part of society. Now Ofcom is working on ways to help make the internet easier for everyone to use.



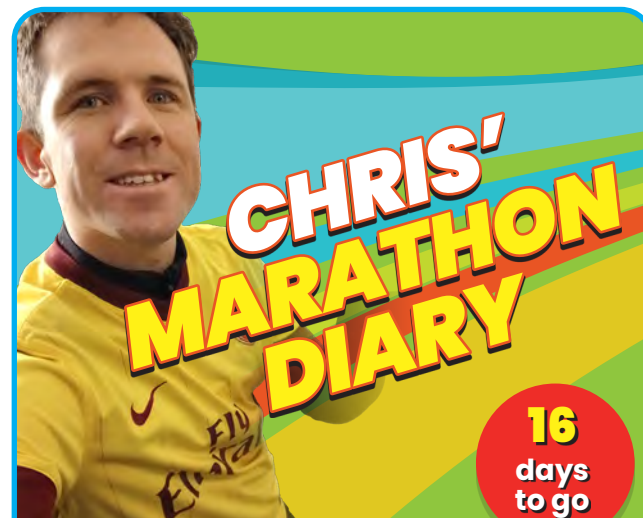
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Fieldings Auctioneers

ANCIENT ROMAN COIN DISCOVERY

A 1,955-year-old Roman gold coin has sold for £4,700 at an auction. Ron Walters, 76, found the treasure in Dudley, West Midlands, after searching fields for six years with his metal detector. The coin is from 69 CE, and features Emperor Aulus Vitellius – the first of its kind discovered in Britain. Scottish collector Mark Hannam bought the rare find, calling it "an incredibly rare occurrence". The profits will be split between Ron and the landowner.



CHRIS' MARATHON DIARY

16
days to go

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

It's been a big week in my training schedule, as I completed a 3.5-hour run, clocking up 34km (21 miles). It's the longest run I'll do before the big day, and I can't lie, it was tough going. Imagine running for over two 90-minute football matches, back-to-back! In total, I've now run over 300 kilometres in marathon training.

The London Marathon is just one of many that are staged in capitals around the world. This weekend it's the turn of the Paris Marathon, and I'm taking the train over to France to watch it and get a taste of what lies in store for me. I'm also friends with a few people who are running it, including Andy Smart, who works behind the scenes here at *First News* – good luck, Andy!

We're quite the team of runners, actually. In addition to Andy, designer Dan is running the London Marathon alongside me, and reporter Charlie is running the Stockholm Marathon in May. Inspiration is all around!

Why I'm running for...

unicef 
for every child

UNICEF works in more than 190 countries worldwide, so when an emergency hits, its teams can act fast to protect children and families. Recently, Myanmar was struck by a devastating earthquake. UNICEF has delivered life-saving supplies and services, such as medicine, clean drinking water and hygiene kits, and continues to support in the hardest-hit areas.



© UNICEF/UN72808/Het

Donate at tinyurl.com/ChrisInTheMarathon

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR STREET CHILDREN 12 APRIL

The day is all about raising awareness of young people living on the streets and how we can ensure that their rights are protected.

WORLD ART DAY 15 APRIL

Celebrate all sorts of artwork and creativity, and learn about famous artists such as Leonardo da Vinci.

CALENDAR DATES



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



ASTOUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS

Trump rocks the wealth of nations around the planet

(...even for two tiny islands home only to penguins!)



DONALD Trump has shaken the world's economy by making it more expensive for the USA to trade with other nations.

Yesterday (10 April) marked his 80th day as US president – and last week, he vowed to “make America wealthy again”, by raising tariffs on goods that are brought into the USA from abroad (see right). Goods are things that are made to be sold, like cars, trainers and food.

Mr Trump says the US has been “ripped off” by trading with other countries.

His idea is that if it costs more to import and buy foreign goods, it will encourage people in the US to buy American-made products instead, and persuade foreign companies to move their factories to the US, creating jobs for American workers.

However, his announcement has caused shockwaves around the globe. This is because many countries rely on selling their goods and products to the USA and to other countries to make money and support their own economy.

Goods from the UK were given the lowest tariff (10%), but lots of other countries were hit much harder. Goods from countries in the European Union (EU) have a 20% tariff, Japanese goods have a 24% tariff and Chinese goods have a 54% tariff.

How has the world reacted?

It's triggered a global trade war, with the EU and many other countries ready to hit back at Mr Trump and the USA by raising tariffs on American goods.

President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen called the tariffs a “major blow” to the global economy, adding: “Millions will face higher grocery bills... this is hurting the most vulnerable.”

Experts have warned that US shoppers can expect to see prices rise, too. Mr Trump has admitted to them that it “won't be easy” but told them to “hang tough”.

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer said the tariffs will reshape global finances, and that “the world as we knew it has gone”.

What are tariffs?



A tariff is a tax (a charge) on goods that are bought from other countries. The tariff is paid by the company that brings the goods into the country. Sometimes, to overcome tariffs, the company might put up the price of goods for customers, which raises the cost of living. Otherwise, they may choose to import fewer goods.

DONALD Trump's tariffs affect 180 countries, but some of the smaller ones have been left a little confused.

Tiny territories that don't trade at all were included, like the Heard and McDonald Islands – two tiny, remote Antarctic islands where only penguins and seals live.

Australia's trade minister Don Farrell told ABC: “Poor old

penguins, I don't know what they did to Trump! I think it's an indication that this was a rushed process.”

Experts have been trying to work out how Mr Trump got the formula he used to calculate all of his tariffs. AI chatbots produce similar formulas, so some suspect that his team might have used them to reach their decisions.

AI-pril fool: Google AI falls for April Fool's joke

AI has become pretty advanced in recent years – but it can still be tricked by a good April Fool's joke.

Each 1 April, journalist Ben Black used to write a prank story on local news site *Cwmbran Life*. In 2020, he joked that Cwmbran had won a silly Guinness World Record for having the most roundabouts per square kilometre.

This year, though, he Googled his old story and was “shocked” and “worried” that Google's AI was presenting his five-year-old fake story as true. This is despite Mr Black having edited the article to say it was a joke.

AI only knows what it's taught and fed by humans – and clearly, it wasn't advanced enough to know that Mr Black was just having some fun to celebrate April Fool's Day.

His fake roundabout stat has since made its way onto another website about learning to drive. “It's really scary that someone... could Google ‘roads in Wales’ and come across a story that just isn't true,” he told the BBC.

“It's not a dangerous story, but it shows how fake news can easily spread even if it's from a trusted news source.” Google said it was looking into the matter.

Village's pesky hawk is captured

A HAWK that spent weeks swooping and attacking people in a Hertfordshire village has been captured.

The bird was a Harris's hawk, and in a funny twist, it was trapped by a man with the same name – Steve Harris!

Mr Harris threw a cage over the hawk as it perched on his garden shed in Flamstead, and

it's now being cared for by a local falconer. The parish council thanked Mr Harris for his “quick thinking”.

It's thought that the hawk probably escaped from captivity about a year ago.

Throughout March, it swooped on about 50 victims, causing some to bleed and delaying the delivery of people's post.



EDITOR'S COMMENT

IF wild animals could speak, they might ask: “Why did you take our home?” (p5)

Nicky Cox MBE

Forests cleared, oceans and skies polluted – creatures would voice their sorrow and confusion.

An owl might mourn the silence of disappearing woods, while a polar bear could plead for ice that no longer forms. Birds might ask why their songs are drowned out by machines.

Yet, some would thank those who protect and restore. “We are not separate,” they might remind us. “Your fate is tied to ours.” Through their voices, we'd hear a call not just for survival, but for respect, living together and urgent change.



Women's football

THE UK is set to host the Women's World Cup in 2035, after FIFA revealed that it was the only valid offer. Matches would be held across all four UK nations. The UK has only hosted a World Cup once before, for the men in England in 1966 (and we all know who won that one, don't we?!).

Two turtle doves



Turtle doves

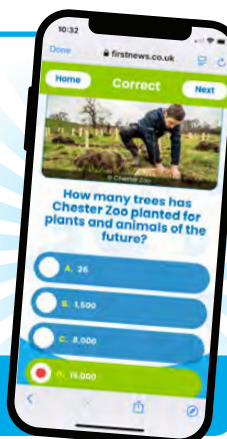
THEY had a good week in last week's issue of *First News* because their numbers have been climbing fast – but this week it's bad news, as the European Union has allowed people to start hunting them again. A ban on shooting the species had been in place since 2021.



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.





IF YOU COULD TALK TO THE ANIMALS...

...which would YOU choose?

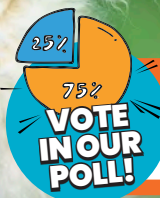
DOGS have topped an RSPCA poll of the animals we'd most like to chat to, if we had the power.

While we love to see their tails wag, four in ten British people would like to have a chin-wag with our canine pals. Cats came second, with two in ten people choosing them, ahead of animals like chimpanzees, pigeons, foxes, chickens and cows.

However, nearly three in ten people say they wouldn't like to talk to animals at all – and there's no guarantee they'd like to talk to us, either!

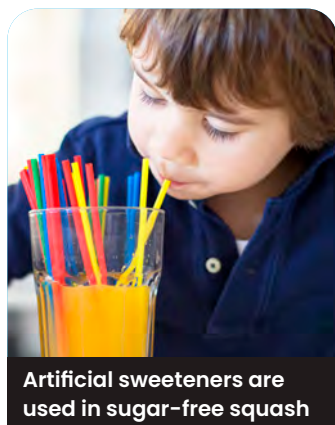
Professor Daniel Mills, an animal expert at the University of Lincoln, told the RSPCA's *Animal Futures* podcast: "Does your cat want to have a conversation with you? I don't think so. He's not interested in what's on my mind!"

Professor Mills has been researching how AI can be used to read cats' facial expressions, making it easier for us to understand them. In other breakthroughs, AI has been able to decode the calls of sperm whales and translate the oinks of pigs to tell us how they're feeling.



Which type of animal would you like to talk to?

Vote at first.news/polls



Artificial sweeteners are used in sugar-free squash

The final straw for sweet drinks

UK experts say that drinks with artificial sweeteners, including sugar-free squash, shouldn't be given to young children.

Artificial sweeteners are an alternative to sugar. They give a sweet taste, but have fewer calories and are said to be healthier.

However, the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) is worried that even though they aren't sugary, they get kids hooked on sweet-tasting, unhealthy food and drinks. It says that it's better for them to enjoy drinking pure water instead.

All artificial sweeteners that are used in the UK have been tested for safety, but the SACN wants more research into how many are used in drinks, and on their effects on the nation's health. It says that proof that they reduce the risk of tooth decay is "poor".

The Food Standards Agency and the International Sweeteners Association said that they support the SACN's call for more research.

One in eight toddlers and primary school pupils are obese, NHS England figures say.

Luton Airport upgrade gets the OK

THE government has given the all-clear for a major upgrade to Luton Airport.

Plans include a new terminal and more car parks. The airport hopes to almost double its passenger numbers from 17 million people last year to 32 million by 2043.

However, there are worries that it could spell double trouble for the environment and local residents.

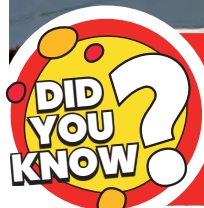
Andrew Lambourne, from LADACAN (a group that's been campaigning against the plans), said that locals living under the flight path of planes are at risk of being woken up at night. "With climate change worsening, the last

thing any of us need is 70,000 more aircraft a year creating greenhouse gases," he said.

Environmental group Friends of the Earth said the plans "beggared belief... following the driest and sunniest March for the last 60 years".

At the moment, a plane passes over the peaceful Chiltern Hills once every 30 minutes, but this could double to once every 15 minutes. Local councils warn that villages could see more holidaymakers parking cars in their streets.

However, the airport's owner, Luton Rising, said the upgrade would bring major "economic, employment and social benefits for our town".



LUTON is the UK's fifth busiest airport, after Heathrow, Gatwick, Manchester and Stansted.



Teacake take-off!

THE Royal Air Force (RAF) has confirmed that Tunnock's teacakes are safe for pilots to eat.

It had been rumoured that the RAF banned the chocolate-covered marshmallows treats from its jets 60 years ago. This is because of a story that, in 1965, a teacake exploded at high altitude, covering the cockpit in a sweet, sticky mess.

However, tests at RAF Henlow in Bedfordshire have confirmed that they pose no such risk.

Dr Oliver Bird tested how air pressure affected teacakes by popping them into an altitude chamber normally used to test new pilots. At low pressure, the chocolate cracked and the filling puffed out, but they didn't explode. Freezing the teacakes first made the chocolate stronger.

"The best advice is that the snacks are kept frozen and in their foil wrappings until pilots are ready to consume them," said Dr Bird.

Fergus Loudon, the sales director at Tunnock's, said: "I'm glad to hear that [pilots] can now enjoy them, like everybody else, with official approval."



A WEIRD new TV show has launched in Finland that lets viewers tune in to watch concrete dry, 24 hours a day!

It's called *Betonilive*. Over several weeks, it will simply show a concrete slab slowly drying in real time, to the sound of peaceful music.

"We wanted to offer something slower for today's fast-paced world," said Tuomas Kolkka, from channel operators Digita.

It could be that you don't enjoy watching football at the weekends, or that you moan and groan away while your parents catch up on the soaps – but, just remember, things could always be duller!

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.



**London, UK**

James Rudland

FORMER West Ham and Tottenham footballer Frédéric Kanouté (back, centre) joins young players for the opening of the latest La Liga and Bloomsbury Football league. In the competitive Saturday matches, young stars can represent a Spanish La Liga club. This new site, at Harris Academy St John's Wood, will allow more players to experience the power of football in the UK.

Windsor, UK

Getty

KING Charles III provides some home-grown entertainment by playing a carrot recorder with the London Vegetable Orchestra.

Stratford, Canada

Getty

SWANS waddle from their winter pen to the Avon River in their annual release. Thousands of people lined the streets to witness the tradition, which is considered by many as the start of spring.



Hong Kong, China



WATER drop sculptures have appeared to mark 60 years of water supply to Hong Kong from the Dong River.

Venice, Italy



PEOPLE prepare to plant 16,000 new trees in the lagoon village of Lido di Piccolo to help protect the important salt marsh ecosystem.

Paris, France



THE BFG wants his wellies back! This giant pair of boots is on display at the Art Paris exhibition in the historic Grand Palais.

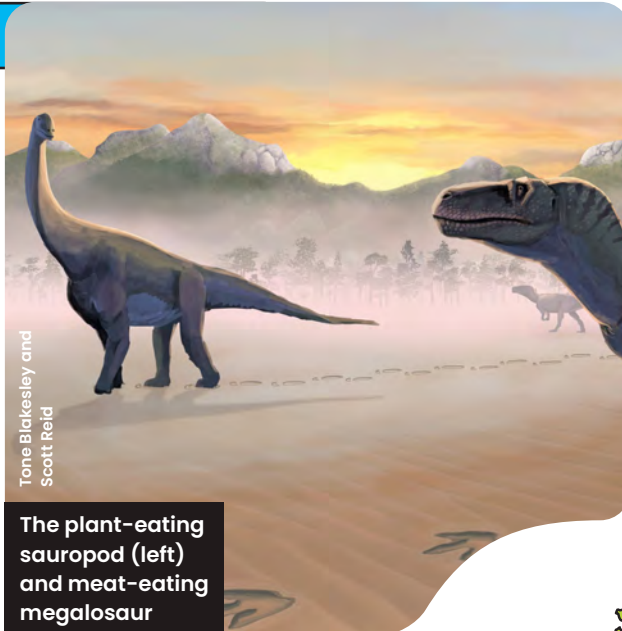
Glasgow, UK



SIKHS play-fight in the street for Vaisakhi, a harvest festival in northern India. It's one of the most important dates in the Sikh calendar and celebrates 1699, the year when Sikhism was born.

**ISLE OF SKYE****Dino discovery**

The discovery of 131 dinosaur footprints has shown that huge meat-eating animals and their plant-eating prey would drink at the same watering holes – similar to how animals behave today. The 167-million-year-old footprints were discovered at Prince Charles Point – named after Bonnie Prince Charlie, who fled the Scottish Highlands after a failed attempt to gain the English throne in 1746. Professor Steve Brusatte from the University of Edinburgh said: “It’s astounding to think that when Bonnie Prince Charlie was running for his life, he might have been sprinting in the footsteps of dinosaurs.”



Tone Blakesley and Scott Reid
The plant-eating sauropod (left) and meat-eating megalosaur

EDINBURGH**UK’s leading AI city**

Edinburgh is the only UK city to be named as an AI (artificial intelligence) leader from a list of 250 cities around the world. The *AI Powered Cities of the Future* study praised the Scottish capital for using AI to shape the future of health and for creating new technologies. In particular, the University of Edinburgh was highlighted as the birthplace of AI in Europe. In Issue 980 of *First News*, we told you about one of its cool creations – an AI-powered robot that can make coffee and tea (pictured)!



Mon-Williams et al
The I-Tea department

STOCKPORT**Basement badger**

A badger that fell into a basement has been rescued and released back into the wild. RSPCA Inspector Alex Ashton found the female badger trapped after receiving a call. The animal was distressed and had some injuries so was taken to an RSPCA centre to recover. After a week there, the badger was returned to the wild. Ashton said: “It’s always the best part of the job knowing that an animal you’ve rescued has been cared for, rehabilitated and successfully released. It was a great feeling to watch this badger scurry off into the woods.”



RSPCA
Badgers are a protected species in the UK

LONDON**Shaping our future**

A new free-to-visit gallery has opened at the Natural History Museum, looking at how we can help to shape the future of the natural world. Fixing Our Broken Planet includes more than 200 objects that explore the biggest challenges to the health of the Earth. For example, did you know that 80% of all plastic ever made still exists in our environment – and has even found its way to Mount Everest? Visitors will journey through four zones – energy, health, materials and food – that show ways we can live more sustainably.



© Trustees of the Natural History Museum

A marlin welcomes visitors to the gallery, which is the first to open at the museum in almost ten years

FARNE ISLANDS**Seabird spectacle**

Puffins have been spotted on the Farne Islands for the first time this year, and the National Trust has started ferrying visitors across to enjoy the annual spectacle of the seabirds returning to breed. The conservation charity, which is celebrating 100 years of caring for the 28 islands, has opened up Inner Farne for people to enjoy the birds. The puffins will remain on the islands until the end of the summer once their chicks are fully fledged. Following a bird flu-free 2024, all arriving seabirds will be monitored for the disease, after being hit hard by it in 2022 and 2023.



The islands are home to 23 species of seabird, including puffins

National Trust Images, Nick Upton

SUTTON ON SEA**Nurdle nightmare**

More than 11 tonnes of small plastic pellets called nurdles have been collected from beaches following a ship crash. The pellets started appearing off the east coast last month after the collision between the tanker Stena Immaculate and cargo ship Solong, which was carrying 15 containers of nurdles. Lianne Havell of Sutton on Sea BeachCare told LincolnshireLive that they “will be seeing plastic in the sand for years to come”. The plastic can cause huge problems for wildlife, including birds and fish, as they often mistake it for food and can die from choking. Beach cleaning groups have been working hard to remove the plastic.



Ana Cowie

Nurdles are melted down and made into many plastic items. It takes around 600 nurdles to make a small plastic disposable water bottle



FOOTBALL: A LIFE-SAVING SPORT

GETTING up off the sofa and kicking a ball around could be a “silver bullet” for improving global health, researchers say.

Working with the Danish Football Association, scientists from Denmark and many other countries have put together a guide on how to use football training to treat and prevent ill health.

Their report, *Football As Prevention And Treatment*, says that two one-hour sessions a week is enough to improve fitness, heart health, balance and bone strength, and the experts say it's also just as effective as tablets at lowering blood pressure. It can also help to tackle obesity, type 2 diabetes and mental health conditions, and can even reduce the number of hospital visits for patients recovering from cancer.

“It's fair to say that the beautiful game is a silver bullet for global health”, says Professor Peter Krstrup, one of the report's editors.

A typical one-hour session would involve a warm-up, exercises and games with the ball, plus matches on small pitches.

The fitness sessions aren't just of use to the ill and elderly, though. Two programmes called 11 For Health and Fit First 10 showed that they can improve the strength of bones in children aged 8-12.

iStock

THE sessions are meant to be fun and have a sociable feel, so are designed to attract everyone, including those who are put off by competitive sports or think they're not good enough to get picked for a team.



Old wee is a new tool

IT sounds a bit grim (well, really grim actually), but aged human wee turns out to be very good as both a fertiliser and a pesticide.

Trials in Niger, West Africa, treated crops of cowpeas with either synthetic (human-made) pesticides or human wee, and compared these to some control plots that weren't treated with anything.

Although the synthetic pesticides did a better job, the crops sprayed with wee still had a 20 times lower number of pests on them. The yield (how much produce you get from a bit of land) was also nearly doubled.

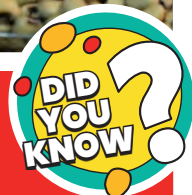
Previous tests had shown that wee works as fertiliser, but this new study helped to test farmers' claims that it also helped to keep bugs away.

The wee had to be fermented in big containers to kill any bacteria and “the odour is very, very strong,” one of the researchers told *New Scientist*. It's possible that the smell is keeping pests away from the crops, but more work is needed to work out what's keeping them at bay.

Cowpeas are also known as black-eyed peas or beans



THE sandy soil in West Africa is poor quality for growing crops, but cowpeas are a type of legume, which include peas and beans. These help to increase the nitrogen levels in soil and improve its quality so that it's more use for farming.



Several nations hope to have bases on Mars in the future

Life on Mars? No, but there could be

IT'S generally assumed that no living creatures could survive on the surface of Mars today, but a new study shows that some lichen species might be able to grow on the Red Planet.

Lichens are quite bizarre – they're not a single living thing, but a fungus and algae (and sometimes cyanobacteria) living as one unit and benefiting each other (known as mutualistic symbiosis, if you want the fancy scientific term).

A report in *IMA Fungus* shows how scientists put lichens in similar conditions to the surface of Mars, including extreme temperature swings and high levels of X-ray radiation.

They tested two species of lichen, but *Diploschistes muscorum* was the one that coped best. The experts say that the fungal part of the lichen could resist damage by X-rays and was still carrying on with all of the chemical processes it needs to survive.

The study gives scientists a better idea of where in the universe we might find life, and lichens' potential for spreading to other planets.



Diploschistes muscorum in Idaho, USA

This report is from the
Science Museum in London

**SCIENCE
MUSEUM
GROUP**

UK space company Magdrive will soon launch its Going Rogue mission to test a new space thruster in orbit.

Thrusters are small engines used to move a spacecraft, helping make precise changes to its position if it's in orbit around a planet, or change its direction if it's travelling through space.

Space missions often have their own specially designed patch, and we need your help to design the patch for this mission. Submit your design to our competition, and the winning patch will be used for the mission and go on display in the new Space gallery at the Science Museum, opening this autumn.

Find out more and submit your stellar design at www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/space-competition.



Some of the mission patches used on NASA's Apollo moon missions



FISH USE TOOLS TO CRACK PREY



The Napoleon fish is the largest species of wrasse, reaching more than two metres in length

SCIENTISTS studying several species of fish called wrasse say that the clever creatures can use rocks and coral as tools to get to their food.

Just like humans use tools to crack nuts, these colourful reef fish – which are typically about 20cm (7.9in) long – pick up hard-shelled creatures like crabs and bang them against rocks to break them open.

This smart behaviour is known as ‘anvil use’ and has been seen in five different types of wrasse across the

world’s warm oceans.

“Tool use is typically associated with humans, but this behaviour is proof that fish are far cleverer than they get credit for,” says Dr Juliette Tariel-Adam, who led the study and has spent years studying wrasses. “With these newly discovered tool-using species, it becomes clear that many species of wrasses use tools that we previously didn’t know about.”

The study was published in the journal *Coral Reefs*.

Students update bug numbers study

A GROUP of Dutch high school students have learned more about changes in local beetle populations by repeating a scientific study from 1982.

The project was started by the Taxon Foundation and led by Professor Menno Schilthuizen, who carried out the original research as a teenager. The students found that, while the total number of beetles is similar, some species have vanished while others have become more common.

The young researchers used meat-baited traps at the same location and time of year as the original study. Their findings show that common beetles are thriving, but rare species are becoming harder to find, suggesting that some local beetles might disappear completely in the future.



RESEARCHERS have discovered that cave spiders are using their webs as tripwires to catch walking prey instead of flying insects.

Experts from the University of Oxford found that European cave orb spiders attach their webs to cave walls using extra silk strands that work like alarm systems.

When crawling animals like centipedes or slugs touch these strands, they send vibrations that alert the spider.

This clever trick helps the spiders catch food in dark caves where flying insects are rare. While most typically build webs to catch flying bugs, these cave dwellers have adapted their hunting style to survive in their unique home.



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...

BLUE WHALE



HABITAT:

● Blue whales live in all oceans across the world, except the Arctic.

FUN FACTS:

- Their tongues weigh as much as an elephant!
- Their blood vessels are so wide you could easily fit your head inside them.

SPECIAL SUPERPOWER:

- They are the largest animals ever to have lived on Earth, and can weigh up to 200 tonnes.

CONSERVATION STATUS:

- The blue whale is endangered, says the International Union for Conservation of Nature.



Aneeshwar’s blue whale 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.





BANANA BONANZA!

Instagram/@citymuseum

MORE than 300 people wearing bright yellow banana hats have set a new world record at a museum in Missouri, USA.

The City Museum in St Louis gathered 309 participants for this fun event, and Guinness World Records confirmed the win for the most people wearing banana hats.

The museum has smashed multiple records in the past, including the largest gathering of people wearing underwear on their heads, the longest shoelace and the largest tennis racket.

Un-peel-ievably great!

Battle remains found under football pitch

CONSTRUCTION workers discovered the remains of 129 ancient soldiers while fixing a football pitch in Vienna, Austria.

The skeletons, dating back nearly 2,000 years to Roman times, were uncovered in a mass grave that experts say is the biggest find of its kind in central Europe.

Scientists found that most of these warriors were young men in their 20s and in good health who died from various different battle wounds.

The fascinating discovery also includes Roman military equipment including armour, helmets and thick-soled, metal-studded sandals called 'caligae'.



Lost lottery fortune



A 76-YEAR-OLD woman accidentally gave away her chance at becoming a millionaire after donating a jacket containing a winning lottery ticket worth \$2.5 million (£1.9 million).

Mildred Simoneriluto from Pennsylvania, USA, discovered she had matched all five numbers in a local lottery draw, but realised her ticket was in a coat she had given to a veterans' charity group.

The charity says they can't trace the jacket as it could be anywhere in the world. And without the physical ticket, lottery officials can't pay her the prize.

She has until next month to find the ticket before it becomes worthless.



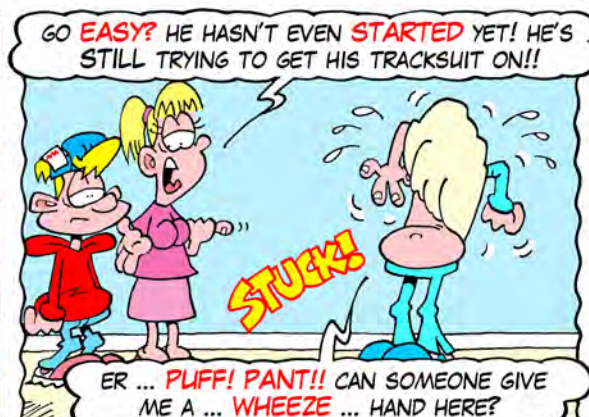
JOKE OF THE WEEK

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ha
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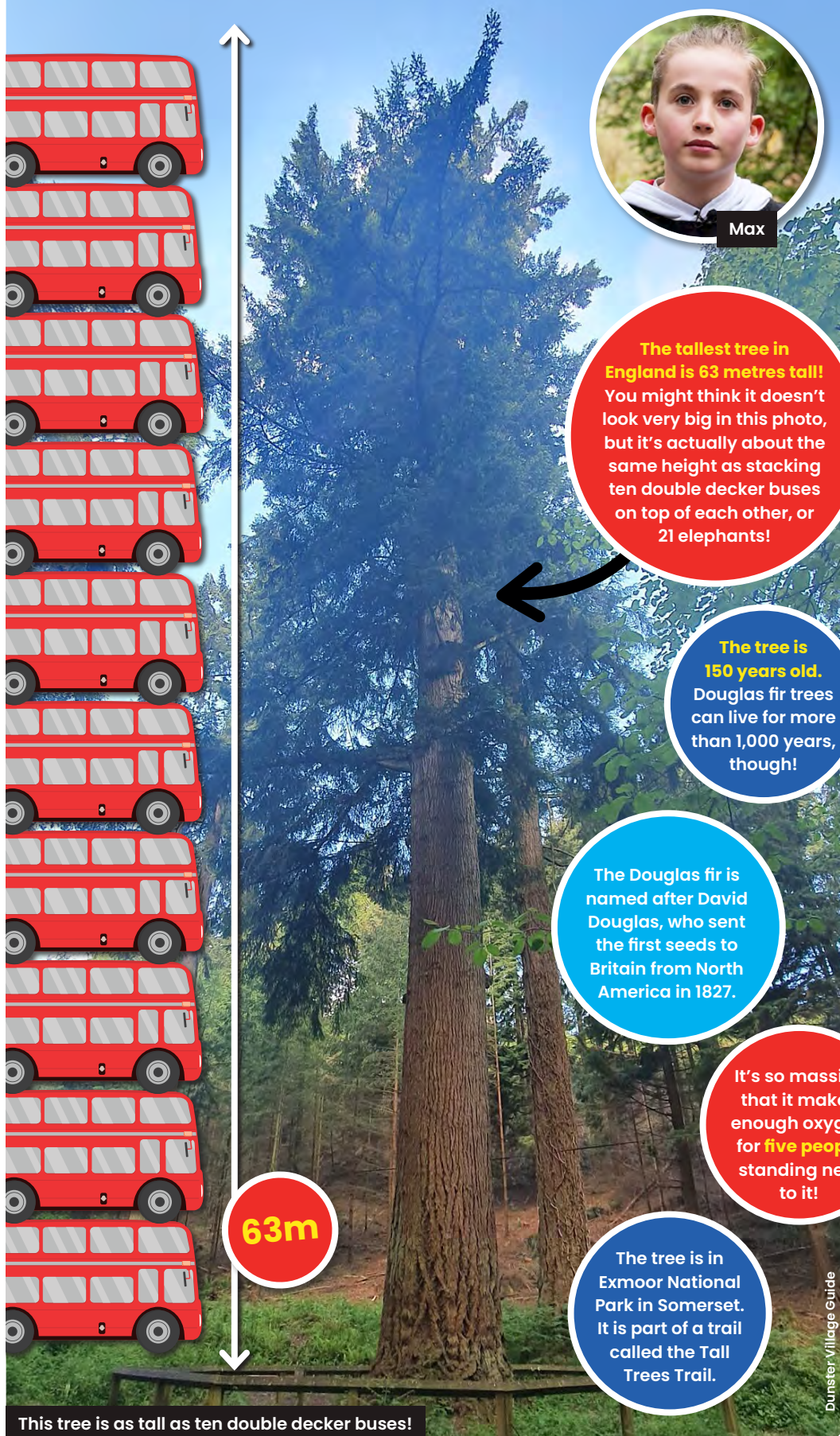
How does a banana answer the phone?
"Yellow?"



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer



ENGLAND'S TALLEST TREE



THIS week on FYI, guest reporter Max heads to Devon to learn about England's tallest tree with pupils from Dunster First School.

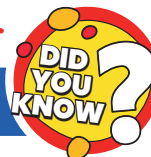
The tallest tree

Have you ever wondered where the tallest tree in England is? On this week's episode of FYI, Max goes to find out. Check out the facts next to the photo below to learn all about it.

The Tall Trees Trail

The tallest tree in England is on the Tall Trees Trail in Exmoor National Park. The trees there were originally planted like a giant outdoor tree museum, called an arboretum. Also on the trail are England's tallest magnolia tree and Britain's tallest redwood tree. The reason that trees grow so tall here is because they're at the bottom of a valley, and rain runs down the valley, feeding the nutrients in the soil. The team who work at the Tall Trees Trail are constantly monitoring the trees to make sure they're healthy. If any trees have diseases, they're either treated or cut down to remove any risk of the disease spreading.

MORE than one in three tree species worldwide face extinction.



The stick trick! A simple way to measure a tree

There are many ways to measure a tree, but this one involves just you and a stick! Why not give it a go by following these simple steps?

1. Get a stick that is the same length as your arm.
2. Hold the stick straight up in front of you lining the bottom of the stick up with the bottom of the tree.
3. Move until the top of the stick lines up with the tree top.
4. Stop and mark the spot.
5. Walk from the spot towards the tree, using big steps, counting each step you take until you get to the base of the tree.
6. Each big step is about one metre, so whatever number you get is roughly the height of the tree.



FYI

sky Kids

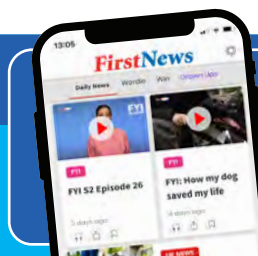
WATCH THE VIDEO

Learn more about the tallest tree in England by scanning the QR code.



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.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MYANMAR?

A DEVASTATING earthquake shook Myanmar in Southeast Asia last month (Friday 28 March). The 7.7-magnitude quake was so intense that many buildings – including houses, schools, temples, bridges and hospitals – collapsed. More than 3,100 people have died, and thousands more have been injured or are missing.

● What's been happening since the earthquake hit?

Local responders have been searching through the rubble for survivors, and giving out clean water, food and medicine. The DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee) launched the Myanmar Earthquake Appeal and raised £7.5m in the first day to help the relief effort.

Many children and their families are living in open spaces – either on the street or in fields – after their homes were destroyed or became unsafe.



Aid workers help those affected

● Zarni's story

Zarni* is 13 years old and lives in the Mandalay region, close to the epicentre of the earthquake. He was at home with his 15-year-old brother and his mum when the earthquake hit. They all escaped, but their home was badly damaged. They are now living outside.

"I had no idea what was happening [when the earthquake struck]. My brother shouted at me to run. My bed was beside the window, so I jumped out. I got hurt a little, but I ran toward the road and lay on the ground. Now, my chest hurts. I wish I had the power of time travel. Then I could go back and fix whatever caused the earthquake."

April is the hottest month in Myanmar, and aid workers have warned that children like Zarni are at risk of heat related illnesses such as severe dehydration, exhaustion and heatstroke. Temperatures in parts of the country have been reaching 40°C, and there are swarms of mosquitoes.

Zarni's mum, Kyaing Thin*, says her children are scared, and she worries how long they will be homeless.

"We have to sleep outside of our house, using only a mosquito net. My sons were so traumatised by the earthquake that they couldn't sleep the whole night. They are both sensitive to loud noises, and now, every time they hear one, they panic."



A destroyed building in Myanmar



Rubble fills the streets

● Wut Yi's story

Fifteen-year-old Wut Yi also lives in a town near Mandalay.



"I was watching TV when suddenly the earthquake hit. My mother fell, and my little brother and I got so scared we started crying. I'm still frightened now, but I'm even more worried about my little brother. We need food and basic supplies right away."

● What help is being provided?

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

- Providing food, clean drinking water and hygiene kits.
- Supplying shelter, such as tents, mosquito nets, shade covers, tarpaulins and blankets.
- Giving health and medical care.
- Providing mental health support.

In numbers

- 19.9 million people – a third of the population – already needed humanitarian support before the earthquake.
- 1.2 million people have been displaced (forced from their homes) since the earthquake.
- Around one in three houses in the town of Sagaing – the worst hit area – have collapsed.

● What can you do?

You can fundraise at home and at school. Activities like bake sales are always popular, and every donation goes a long way.

- £10 could provide water to ten families for a day.
- £50 could provide emergency food for a family for one month.
- £100 could provide essential hygiene supplies for ten families for three months.

*Names have been changed to protect identities.

To find out more about supporting the DEC, please visit
www.dec.org.uk/appeal/myanmar-earthquake-appeal

MYANMAR EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

DONATE NOW AT **DEC.ORG.UK**

Photo: Sai Aung Main / AFP / Getty

The UK Government will match pound-for-pound up to £5 million donated by the public to this appeal.





AUSTRIA

The world's first AI student

An AI system named Flynn is set to become the world's first AI student at a university in Vienna! Flynn will study digital art, attending classes alongside human students. It was developed by another student, Chiara Kristler, and it will use classes to train itself further. To get in, Flynn had to prepare a portfolio (collection of work) and meet the head of department, Liz Haas. "It was totally fine. Nice portfolio and everything. And Flynn did a really nice interview," said Haas. However, Kristler says Flynn's made some "very sad" entries in its daily diary lately, because of teasing – it's spoken to people who have told it that it isn't a real student.



Flynn is joining Vienna's University of Applied Arts after the summer

Sickness spoils luxury Caribbean cruise

A dream cruise turned into a bit of a nightmare for hundreds on a luxury 30-day Caribbean cruise. An outbreak of norovirus on board Cunard's Queen Mary 2 ocean liner led to 224 passengers (nearly a tenth of all the total 2,500 passengers) becoming ill. A further 17 crew members caught it, too. Norovirus often stems from contaminated food and water and it spreads easily, causing sickness and diarrhoea (lots of pooing). To stop the spread, some

of those who fell ill were put in isolation away from the rest of the passengers, samples of their poo were taken, and cleaning and disinfecting procedures increased. Cunard praised its crew's "swift response". The Queen Mary 2 (below) is one of the world's biggest liners and has sailed the globe. It left Southampton last month and visited New York before turning south to tour the Caribbean. It returned to Southampton on Sunday (6 April).

All pics: Getty



VATICAN CITY

London-born leukaemia teen to be named a saint

A boy who died of leukaemia at the age of 15 is to become the Catholic Church's first millennial saint. A millennial is a person who was born between 1980 and 1996. Carlo Acutis was born in London in 1991 but spent his early years in Milan. He liked cycling and playing videogames with his friends – and he also celebrated his Christian faith daily and supported the homeless. He died of leukaemia in 2006, aged 15. He is due to be canonised (declared as a saint) on 27 April, in front of the Vatican's famous St Peter's Basilica.

A popular saint-to-be

For now, Carlo lies on display on a shrine in the town of Assisi, dressed in jeans and trainers, and crowds of Catholics are flocking to see him. Some believe that Carlo has miracle healing powers – in one case, a student recovered from a major head injury after her mum prayed at his tomb. Above all, Carlo is celebrated for the fact that he was a normal, modern boy and a devoted Christian at the same time. "He can show teens that it's possible to love Jesus while being a regular youth," one visitor explained.



There are cards, posters and miniature statues of Carlo on display all over Assisi



SLOVAKIA

Slovakia to shoot a quarter of its bears



A 59-year-old man was killed two weeks ago

Slovakia's government has given permission for 350 brown bears to be shot, after a man was killed by one while walking in the forest. Slovakia is home to 1,300 brown bears, and attacks on humans have risen in recent years. "We can't live in a country where people are afraid to go into the woods," said Prime Minister Robert Fico. Michal Wiezik, a politician from rival party Progressive Slovakia, said the plan was "absurd", and bears were being killed "to cover up [the government's] failure".



HUNGARY

Thousands of farm animals to be buried at border

Some 3,000 animals from a farm in Levél are being buried near Hungary's border with Austria after several cattle caught foot-and-mouth disease. Most of the herd was healthy, but to stick to European Union rules, they were all killed to stop the disease from spreading. For extra protection, a two-metre-thick layer of earth, plus lime and straw, will be placed over the mass grave. However, some locals are worried their drinking water will become infected by the animals. Foot-and-mouth disease gives animals sores on the mouth and hooves. It rarely affects humans.



Losing all its cattle will cost the Levél farm over £3 million



SOUTH KOREA

Date set for presidential election

South Korea will have a new president in two months after its stand-in leader, Han Duck-soo, set an election date for 3 June. The country is without a president at the moment. Yoon Suk Yeol had been its leader since 2022, but he was removed from office last week. In December, Mr Yoon declared martial law across the country, meaning ordinary law was suspended and the military was placed in charge. This triggered huge public protests and led to Mr Yoon becoming South Korea's first president to be arrested while in office. Announcing the election date, Mr Han said South Korea needs to "quickly heal from the wounds" and go "upward and forward".



A protester celebrates President Yoon's removal from office



JAPAN



A nurse demonstrates a baby hatch

Hatch opens for parents to return newborn babies

A hospital in Tokyo has opened a private, 24-hour hatch for struggling parents to drop off babies that they can't look after. Hitoshi Kato, head of San-ikukai hospital, said it's an "emergency and final measure", designed to prevent infants from being abandoned and dying. When a baby is placed safely in the hatch, a motion sensor alerts hospital staff, who

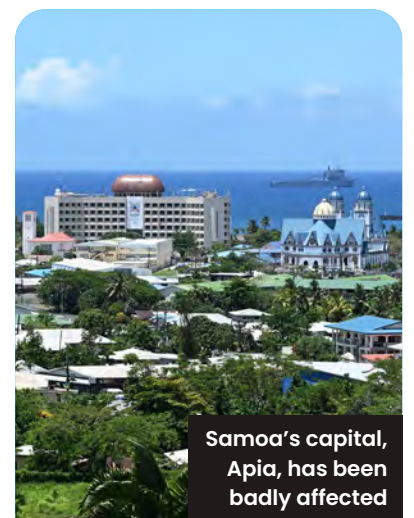
collect the baby and then work with authorities to work out what best to do with it. The hospital accepts babies up to four weeks old. It's the country's second baby hatch – the first opened at Jikei Hospital in Kumamoto in 2007. In its 18 years, nearly 200 babies have been left. The rising cost of living is one reason that parents in Japan are struggling.



SAMOA

Scramble to bring back Samoa's electricity

Samoa has declared a 30-day state of emergency as it deals with a "severe" energy crisis. Power cuts have occurred for weeks on Upolu, the country's main island. They've forced schools to shut and had a major impact on hospitals, homes and tourism, because only the bigger hotels have back-up generators. Nine in ten businesses have been affected, leading to heavy losses. Blackouts on Samoa are usually caused by cyclones, but these ones are the result of the failure of key generators and damaged underground cables. Temporary generators were due to arrive this week.



Samoa's capital, Apia, has been badly affected



INDIA

Tourist in trouble for stepping onto tribal island

A US tourist was arrested for sneaking onto a protected island to try to meet an isolated tribe. Mykhailo Viktorovych Polyakov, aged 24, sailed an inflatable boat to North Sentinel, carrying gifts of a coconut and a Diet Coke. The island is part of India's Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which lie 1,200km (700 miles) out to sea. The Indian government keeps a close watch on them, as they're home to five native tribes – the Sentinelese, the Jarwa, the Onge, the Shompens and the Great Andamanese. They are among the world's last remaining isolated (cut-off) tribes, and coming face-to-face with them can be very dangerous. Polyakov wanted to meet the Sentinelese people, who have killed outsiders in the past. He left his gifts, recorded a video, took some sand and left.



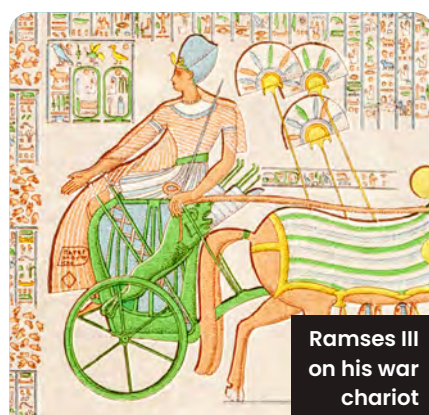
India's navy has set up a three-mile barrier around the islands to keep outsiders at bay



EGYPT

Ancient Egyptian army leader's tomb uncovered

Archaeologists think that they've found the 3,200-year-old tomb of an elite military commander who served under Pharaoh Ramses III. It lies in a dig site at Tell el-Maschuta, in the north of Egypt, and it's built with mud bricks. Inside, a main chamber and three connected rooms are filled with artefacts, including bronze arrowheads, oil jars, religious amulets and a gold ring inscribed with Ramses III's name. The treasure suggests that the tomb belonged to someone of high importance.



Ramses III on his war chariot



PICK YOUR OWN PATH!

LIFE is full of little decisions – what to have for lunch, what to do at the weekend, whether to take a jacket out with you (that's always a big one in April!)...

That stuff, though, is just the start of it for Fred, the main character in new book *The Boy With Big Decisions*. He's not sure what secondary school to join, who to be friends with or how to push back against his parents controlling every step of his life. He doesn't have the confidence to decide for himself – so instead, he asks us, the reader.

You decide what happens

In the book, by Helen Rutter, we're asked to make Fred's decisions for him. What we choose leads us off on completely different storylines as Fred tries to navigate life at his chosen school. The path that *First News* chose led Fred on a journey packed with drama... and flying paint!



"I think this story will be a great book club read, as the different routes and why you took them will spark all sorts of moral debate," Rutter tells us. "Are you a person who wants to get Fred into as much trouble as possible, just to see what happens, or do you want him to take a less rebellious route?"

It's like a book and a game wrapped into one, which makes it a great option if you're less keen on reading.

"The digital world isn't going anywhere," says Rutter. However, she says that books can offer something just as exciting as screens: "It is exciting to think about new ways of storytelling that will hopefully spark joy," she says.

This rollercoaster of a book is a terrific example of that.



First News asked Helen Rutter how she went about writing a book where the reader chooses the path of the plot...

Helen says: This book was the most challenging book I have written so far. So much so, I thought it was going to break my brain! I plotted out all of the decisions and routes on a huge whiteboard, so I knew

where each path would lead. Then I used some software called Twine, which was such a lifesaver. It allows you to create branching narratives and interactive stories and is available to anyone. Have a look and create some of your own – it is so much fun!

***The Boy With Big Decisions* is out now.**



BOOK OF THE WEEK

Nate starts secondary!

ONE year ago, a book about a boy called Nate took schools by storm.

The Final Year followed Nate through Year 6 as he faced down tests, changes and challenges at home.

There was more to it than that, though. This wasn't your regular book. Author Matt Goodfellow proudly wrote it as a series of poems from Nate's point of view, in his Manchester accent, full of northern slang.

Readers loved it, and so did teachers, experts and other authors. *The Final Year* was a best-seller, and won a CLiPPA award – an important prize for children's poetry.

Nate survived Year 6. Now, it's time for the sequel – *The First Year*. How will he adapt to the first year of secondary school, and the new challenges it brings?

Once again, he'll tell us in his own voice.

***The First Year* is out now.**



READER REVIEW

Dragon Riders of Roar by Jenny McLachlan

HUZZAH for dragon riders!

It was breathtaking, imaginative and spellbinding. I couldn't stop reading until I reached the last page.

The book is amazing. The characters glowed with life and the dragons are unlike any others I've read about. Jago

Skua, the Witch King, is one of the best-written villains – even his name crackles with evil! The dragons are fiery and fantastic, they burn with brilliance. There is no doubt that I loved everything in *Dragon Riders of Roar* and I am definitely going to read it again, many more times.

Review by Maya Pal



★ 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!



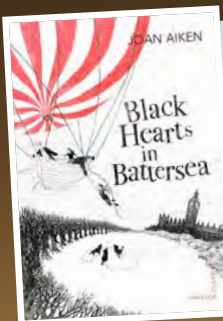
ZOHRA NABI'S Recommended reads

HELLO! I'm Zohra, the author of *Deep Dark*, the first of the *Cassia Thorne Mysteries*.

Cassia Thorne is a girl selling ballads at Bartholomew Fair in 9th century London.

When pickpocket Teo tells her that children are being snatched from the streets, she decides to investigate, and uncovers a conspiracy that takes her right to the heart of the City of London, and to the Deep Dark below...

Here are some of the books that inspired Cassia's story!



Joan Aiken's *Black Hearts in Battersea* is a riotous [lively] alternate history, with wolves in Battersea Park, and a fabulous heroine in cockney sparrow Dido Twite.

Philip Pullman's *The Ruby in the Smoke* is richly evocative [it creates a powerful picture] of 19th-century London, in a tale of the misery caused by the opium trade.



Jamila Gavin's *Coram Boy* gives an excellent portrayal of poverty and desperation in 18th-century London, but it also features threads of beauty and music.

***Deep Dark* by Zohra Nabi is out now.**



THE HISTORY OF CHOCOLATE

THE Easter weekend is nearly upon us, and we don't know about you, but we're excited for some chocolatey treats! So much so, we decided to catch up with Serena Redshaw from York's Chocolate Story to find out how our favourite eggs are made! Tuck in, folks...

FROM BEAN TO BAR (OR CHOCOLATE EGG!)

Chocolate starts as cacao pods growing on trees. Farmers harvest the pods and scoop out the beans, which are left to ferment and then dry in the sun. Once dried, the beans are roasted to bring out their rich, chocolatey flavour. The next step is winnowing, where the outer shells are removed, leaving behind cacao nibs. These nibs are ground into a smooth paste, and cacao butter is pressed from the paste, leaving behind cacao solids. The mixture is then stirred to give it the smooth texture we all know and love, and sugar (and milk for milk chocolate) is added. Next, the chocolate is tempered, meaning it's carefully cooled to make it smooth and shiny. Finally, it's poured into bar or egg-shaped moulds to harden before being wrapped and packed, ready to be enjoyed!

THE first ever chocolate bar was made in 1847 by JS Fry & Sons. While the exact price isn't well recorded, it's estimated that in today's money, it would have cost around £3 for 100g.



● When was chocolate first discovered?

Chocolate has been around for over 3,000 years! The first people thought to have used cacao were the ancient Olmecs of Mesoamerica (modern-day Mexico) around 1500 BCE. They likely made it into a drink. Later, the Mayans and Aztecs improved the recipe, making a bitter chocolate drink called xocoatl, often mixed with chilli, vanilla and honey.

In the 1500s, Spanish explorers brought cacao to Europe. Over time, sugar and milk were added, turning it into the sweet chocolate we know today.

● How was it introduced to the masses?

When chocolate first arrived in Europe, only the rich could afford it. In the 1600s and 1700s, 'chocolate houses' became popular among the wealthy, especially in France and Italy – this is where the elites would gather to socialise, a bit like a pub or café.

The Industrial Revolution made chocolate cheaper and easier to produce. In 1828, the invention of the cocoa press helped lower costs as it allowed it to be mass produced for the first time. That meant chocolate bars could be made (see left), then in 1875, Swiss chocolatier (see bottom right) Daniel Peter invented milk chocolate.

As the century moved on, York became a chocolate powerhouse, with companies like Rowntree's, Terry's and Craven's creating delicious treats – some of which we still know today. By the 1930s, Rowntree's was using high-quality but more affordable ingredients, helping more people enjoy chocolate.



A chocolatier demonstrates 'chocolate rain'

● Why is York called the Chocolate City?

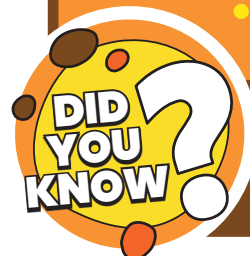
York is known as the UK's Chocolate City because of its rich chocolate history and for being the birthplace of famous brands that still line our supermarket shelves. Major chocolate companies, including Rowntree's, Terry's and Craven's, were based in York. In the 1890s, Rowntree's Cocoa Works was one of the largest chocolate factories in the world!

Chocolate played a massive part in York's economy. Thousands of people worked in factories like Rowntree's, with workers there having benefits such as affordable housing, free medical and dental care, and even paid holidays, something that was very rare at the time.

The knowledge gained there was also very important in developing the chocolate industry in Birmingham, as George Cadbury, son of Cadbury's founder John Cadbury, was an apprentice of Joseph Rowntree in York.

FUN FACTS

- KitKats are made from recycled KitKats! Any broken KitKats are ground up and used as filling in new KitKats.
- The heaviest chocolate bar ever made weighed 5,792.5 kg – nearly six tonnes!
- Aztecs used cacao beans as money! You could buy a turkey for 100 beans or an avocado for just three beans.
- White chocolate was originally used as medicine!



A CHOCOLATIER is a person who specialises in making chocolate treats like truffles and chocolate bars. What a cool job!





UNCOVER THE STORY OF EASTER

WHAT better way to celebrate Easter than with a bit of Easter chocolate and a film?! *The King of Kings* is perfect for that – it follows the life and sacrifice of Jesus, told by Charles Dickens to his son Walter. And what starts as a bedtime story becomes a life-changing journey of hope, courage and love. We chatted to Roman Griffin Davis, who voices Walter, to find out more!



● Hey Roman! Can you tell us about your character, Walter?

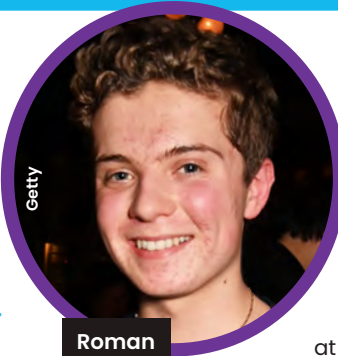
He's five years old, so about 13 years younger than I am now. He's got a lot of energy! Walter loves fairy stories and this is the first time he's hearing the story of Jesus.

● What is the main thing you'd say that Walter learns from the story that his father tells him?

The story of Jesus, which is about courage, self-sacrifice and doing the right thing. They seem to be the key messages in every heroic kind of film.

● What makes Charles Dickens such a great storyteller?

He is one of the most amazing English writers of all time. He's quite good at understanding children – their innocence and what they are interested in.



Roman

● What is your favourite scene from the movie?

I love the bit where Jesus walks on water. I also liked the beginning scene with my character causing a ruckus [chaos].

● Was it fun to do the voiceover for Walter?

It was quite hard work because my voice had broken [become deeper]. I had to talk in the highest pitch, which was then cranked up with Auto-Tune. It's funny watching the film now because I just can't hear myself at all. It sounds like a different person!

● So this film has themes of hope, love and faith. Why do you think faith is so important for some people?

I think it's important to have faith because it reminds you to be a better person.

● Why do you think people should go to see this film at Easter time?

It's the period of time in which the film takes place! In the same way people watch Christmas films at Christmas, this film is a celebration of Easter.

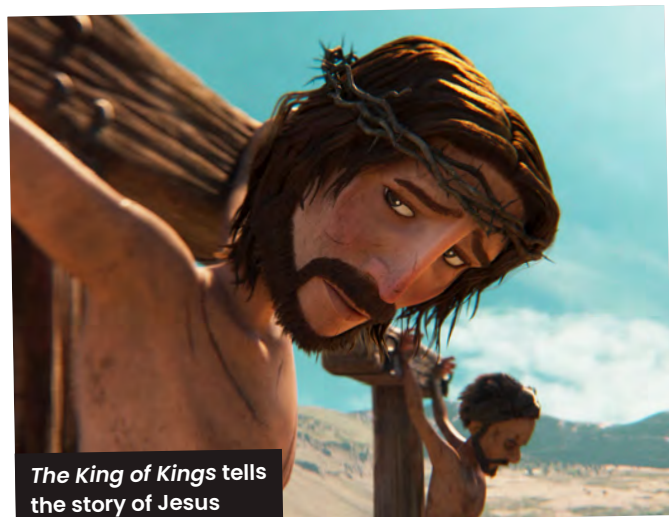
● There are some huge stars in it, like Pierce Brosnan, Uma Thurman, Forest Whitaker, Ben Kingsley and Kenneth Branagh. How does it feel seeing your name next to theirs?

It's brilliant. Yeah, I love it. I feel very proud!

● When did you start acting? Do you have any tips for any of our readers who are aspiring actors?

I started acting very young. I wasn't cast in the school plays, sadly, but I would say don't let that stop you! You have to keep pushing yourself and keep striving. In the film industry, it's all about hard work. You get out as much as you put in, really.

The King of Kings is in UK and Irish cinemas now.
For more information and to book tickets, visit
www.thekingofkingsfilm.com



The King of Kings tells the story of Jesus

DOCTOR WHO RETURNS!

DOCTOR Who is back on our screens this week, with fans preparing for even more exciting time-travelling adventures! Here are three fun facts about the new series.

1. The Doctor is joined in the TARDIS by a new companion – get ready to meet Belinda Chandra (played by Varada Sethu).
2. The Doctor is tasked with getting Belinda back to Earth, but a mysterious force is getting in their way! Can they defeat it?
3. There are tons of special guest appearances! Look out for Rylan, Christopher Chung, Jonah Hauer-King and Rose Ayling-Ellis, who are all joining in the fun!

Doctor Who returns on Saturday 12 April on BBC One, BBC iPlayer and Disney+.



BBC/danny kaslir



THE grand final of *Gladiators* takes place this Saturday (12 April), but who will be victorious? To celebrate the battle of all battles, we caught up with *Gladiators* star Fury to hear more about her experience on the show.

● What's your favourite event?

Considering my rugby background, I thought it was gonna be Powerball, which I really enjoy – but I think my favourite one is The Edge, the one up in the sky. Just because of the adrenaline. It's so scary up there, but obviously, I can't act scared up there! I've got to keep my cool.

● Have you ever had a chance to go on the Eliminator?

No, all of us want to do it but the biggest thing is we don't want to get injured and stuff. It just looks brutal, even in real life; that ramp is just another level. It just looks so steep, so I'm happy to watch the contenders doing that!

● How did you get your Gladiator name?

I didn't choose the name at the start. They came to me and said: "How do you feel about the name Fury?" And at first, I was like, ooh, where have you got that from, because I'm not a furious person! But when they explained it, they were like: "We've seen you when you're playing rugby, and you just switch on a very competitive mode and we think that's really good," so I said fair enough. I really got into it!

● How has it been having two new Gladiators in this series?

They've been two great additions. They slotted straight in, they've brought the energy and the good vibes. I think they're brilliant, and they're savage as well!

● Is there a famous person that you'd love to go head-to-head with?

I think Jill Scott [the former England footballer] would be hilarious.

BBC/Nick Eagle/
© Hungry Bear Media Ltd

Catch *Gladiators* on 12 April on
BBC One and BBC iPlayer.



MARIO GEARS UP FOR SWITCH 2!



Get ready to race like never before

NINTENDO has finally revealed more details about one of the most highly anticipated consoles of all time – the **Switch 2!**

More than a million people tuned in for a Nintendo Direct livestream to find out about the new games and features that are coming to the console.

Expectations are high after the success of the first Switch console, which has sold more than 150 million units since its 2017 release.

So, here's everything you need to know about the Nintendo Switch 2!

● When is the Nintendo Switch 2 out?

The console lands on 5 June.

● How much will it cost?

In the UK, it will sell for £396, or £430 when bought with a pretty special brand-new game...

● Let's-a-go!

The Switch 2 will be launched alongside *Mario Kart World*, a new edition of Nintendo's most famous game.

Exclusive to the new console, this game completely revamps the franchise. The competition gears up with 24 drivers – the most in *Mario Kart* history – who will take to

stunning new tracks in a bid to finish first. Players will also be able to freely explore the scenic worlds around the tracks and drive virtually anywhere!

● What other games will be available?

Along with new exclusives like *Mario Kart World*, *Donkey Kong Bananza* and *Hyrule Warriors: Age of Imprisonment*, a huge library of previously released games will be made available to play on the Switch 2.

This includes *Sonic X Shadow Generations*, *Hogwarts Legacy* and *Fortnite*. Some games, like *The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom*, will be getting Switch 2 upgrades that boast new features.

● What about the console itself?

New forms of videogame communication will be brought to life by a feature called GameChat.

By pressing the C button, players will be able to chat with friends and family while playing. Nintendo says the console can pick out voices from background noise. Other slightly less exciting, but still very important, changes are a bigger screen and lots more storage.

So, that's your lot for now. Check out our review of the Nintendo Switch 2 in next week's issue!



Roblox gives power to parents

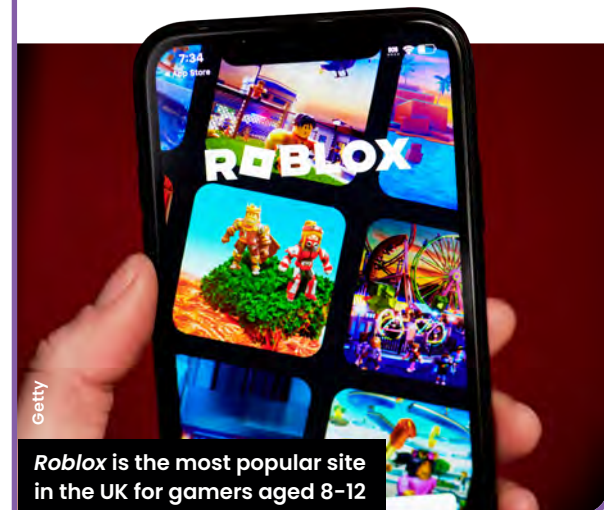
PARENTS can now block their children from playing certain games on **Roblox**.

They will also have the power to stop their children from communicating with specific friends on the popular gaming platform.

Roblox allows players to create their own virtual games and immerse themselves in the worlds of other users. While there are positives to this freedom, there have been claims that many gamers are being exposed to harmful content.

Roblox CEO Dave Baszucki previously responded to these claims by telling parents who are worried to keep their children off the platform. Now, the US company is actively introducing changes to give parents more control over their child's experiences.

The new features will only apply to children who are under the age of 13 and have parental controls set up on their accounts.



Roblox is the most popular site in the UK for gamers aged 8-12



BACK on track... or not!

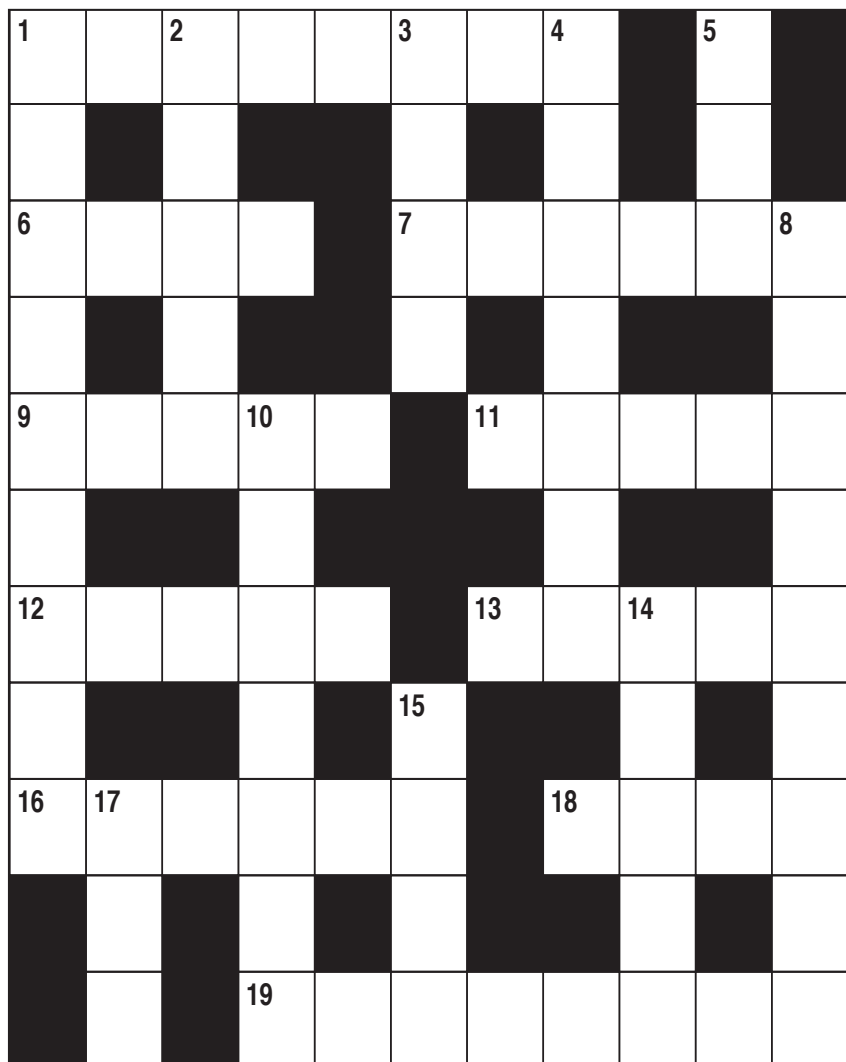
Mario Kart World gives players the freedom to explore the worlds outside of the racetrack.

You may also notice some new character outfit changes. "Where's-a-my-hat-gone?!"



CROSSWORD

CAN you solve our crossword puzzle using the clues below?



ACROSS

- 1) Zebra _____ : road feature with white stripes (8)
- 6) Porridge ingredient (4)
- 7) Colour; citrus fruit (6)
- 9) Possessed (5)
- 11) Frighten (5)
- 12) Districts or regions (5)
- 13) _____ Newton: scientist who discovered gravity (5)
- 16) _____ Sunday: 20 April 2025 (6)
- 18) Arguments (4)
- 19) E.g. Paris and London (8)

DOWN

- 1) Hot _____ : sweet cocoa drink (9)
- 2) On a regular basis (5)
- 3) Object used to remove creases from clothes (4)
- 4) Looks at quickly (7)
- 5) Limb used for walking (3)
- 8) Doing these keeps you fit (9)
- 10) Stretchy material (7)
- 14) Smell (5)
- 15) Hold on to tightly (4)
- 17) The whole of (3)

Sudoku

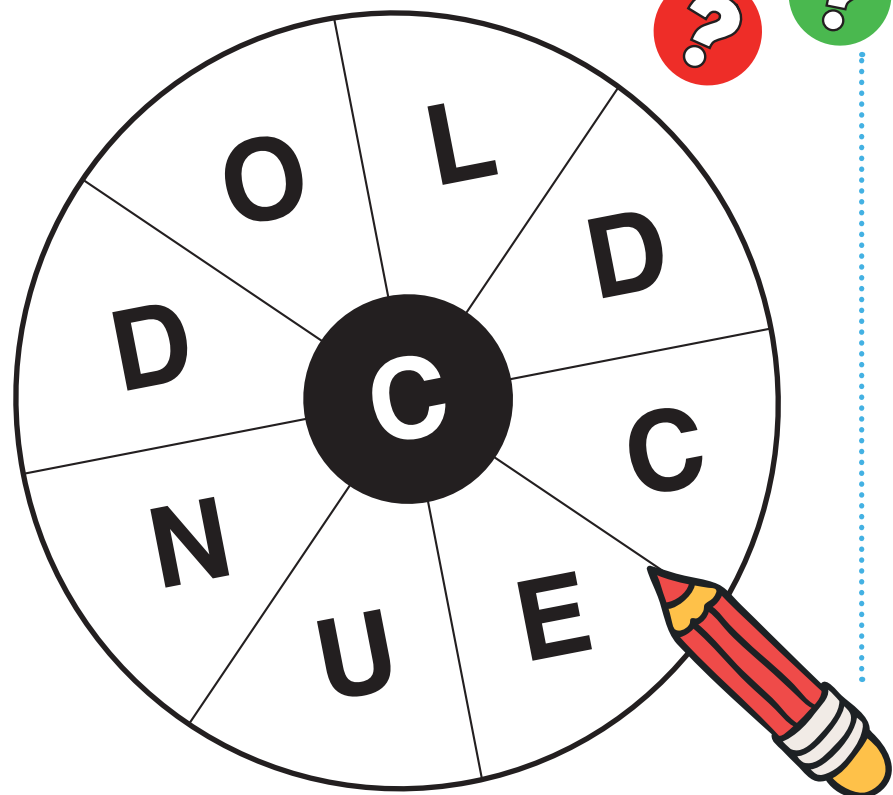
CAN you complete our sudoku puzzle, filling in the numbers one to nine?

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

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.

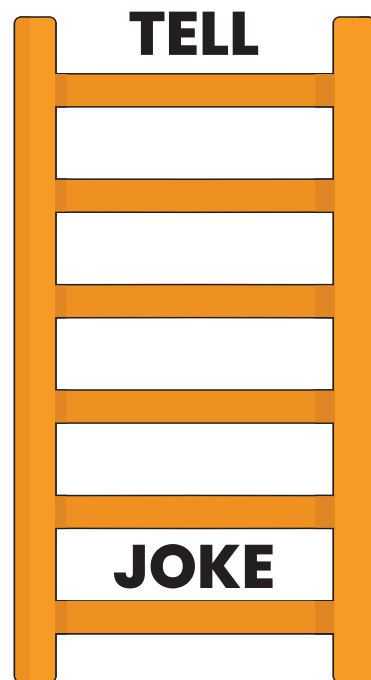
Word wheel

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 981 ANSWERS:

Word wheel: reckoning.

Word ladder: side, ride, rode, rose, lose, lost.

Spot the difference: 1) Apple added in tree 2) Window missing on house 3) Leaf missing 4) Diamond added to man's top 5) Girl's foot missing 6) New cup added 7) Woman's trousers now blue 8) Branch of tree missing 9) Apple in woman's hand 10) Spoon in top of burger.

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

S	P	A	G	H	E	T	T	I
	N							
A	F	T	E	R		R	A	D
B	S		S		E		O	
A			H	I	S	T	O	R
N	A			N				A
D	I	S	L	I	K	E		L
O	L		S		A		L	T
N	E	E	D	S		G	R	A
E		U			L		S	
P	R	E	S	E	N	T	E	R

U	M	F	Y	D	N	A	V	G	M	O	H	K	R	P	H	F	E	O	F	I	Y
J	K	R	D	O	H	V	V	A	X	F	P	R	O	G	R	A	M	M	E	J	S
Q	B	K	X	I	S	P	U	W	Z	K	X	Y	N	P	R	I	N	X	S	G	
T	Y	P	H	P	Z	O	N	I	L	K	S	W	W	R	O	M	F	T	I	I	
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P	E	Q	H	Q	D	K	E	X	M	T	P	I	O	R	R	Q	R	M	G	Y	
V	Y	D	F	W	N	C	O	N	B	J	C	Y	G	I	S	C	C	E	U	E	
E	L	H	T	Q	B	S	C	W	D	R	Y	N	E	Q	T	C	H	A	Y	A	
D	I	E	H	V	X	I	T	H	O	B	S	D	T	A	Y	A	E	A	W	V	
S	V	G	O	N	L	H	U	L	C	A	S	E	M	M	I	F	M	S	X	N	
Q	K	E	H	W	Q	S	M	F	E	X	A	P	J	W	U	E	T	K	H	L	
Z	A	E	T	F	K	J	K	E	Y	T	P	N	D	N	B	R	R	B	M	I	
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K	S	H	J	F	Z	L	O	A	V	A	M	N	H	T	E	Q	T	R	Z	Y	



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



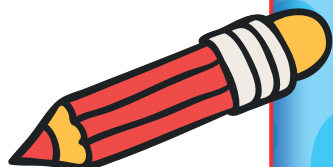
SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

TO celebrate World Art Day on 15 April, can you find the ten changes we've made to this gallery scene?



Wordsearch

CAN you find all of these artists? Tick them off as you go!



- ☐ Dali
- ☐ Picasso
- ☐ Da Vinci
- ☐ Rembrandt
- ☐ Matisse
- ☐ Van Gogh
- ☐ Michelangelo
- ☐ Warhol
- ☐ Monet
- ☐ Kahlo



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

THE BIG PICTURE



A SIGHTSEER poses for a picture with a 12m-tall (39ft) robot sculpture in Shanghai, China.

It's part of an exhibition of the work of Japanese illustrator Hajime Sorayama called Light, Reflection, Transparency.

He's known for his futuristic drawings of robots, which have been used on everything from drinks adverts to the cover of an album by American rockers Aerosmith. He also came up with the design for the first version of AIBO, Sony's popular robot dog.



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.

DANISH POLITICIANS LAUGH AT TRUMP'S GREENLAND PLANS

DANISH politicians have been caught on camera laughing at President Donald Trump's plans for the US to buy Greenland. A video shared on TikTok shows Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen laughing with others in parliament while Mr Trump's voice is heard in the background.

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 FAKE. The video is from 2019 and isn't related to Mr Trump's comments about Greenland at all. Someone has taken the video and added different audio in the background. Proof you shouldn't always believe what you see on social media!

IN NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE!



EARTH DAY



HISTORY OF TITANIC



DON'T MISS IT!

GORMITI - THE NEW ERA

Do you want to write for

FirstNews?

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

SNAPPED

JUNIOR JOURNALIST





THE FESTIVAL OF CHILDHOOD

LAST week, people gathered at Young V&A in London for the Festival of Childhood.

The event, called Our Future, Our Voice, was hosted by the Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza. She called on adults to listen to children and young people.

During the festival, children took part in panel discussions, workshops and creative activities. They spoke about subjects such as mobile phones in schools, mental health and climate change. There were also performances from Coldfall Primary School choir and Walthamstow School for Girls' steel pan band.

In a speech at the beginning of the day, Dame Rachel said: "Children want to be listened to. They want to be heard. They want to work hard and do not expect things to come without effort. They understand that they have a part to play in shaping society."

The Education Secretary, Bridget Phillipson, was also at the festival. She said: "When I came into office, I said this would be child-centred government. This is exactly what we are delivering: better life chances for every child, wherever they live and whatever their background, putting their best interests at the heart of everything we do."



Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson (middle) and the Children's Commissioner (left) with her Youth Ambassadors

Here's what two Youth Ambassadors had to say!



"Days like this are very important because they allow young people to have a platform to speak up. It empowers them to be able to share their experiences, and highlights that it's important to listen to young people."

– Emmanuel



"Young people's voices and lived experiences are so important, and it's important that the people in power listen. My advice is try to advocate and stand up in your local communities and tap into that to make your voices heard."

– Riley

Snaps from the day! ★



From left to right: Dr Tristram Hunt, Dame Rachel de Souza, Hughie Higginson and Dr Helen Charman



Sky Kids' FYI filming



One of two panel discussions



A workshop for children to discuss issues that are important to them



Young people taking part in a creative workshop



Walthamstow School for Girls' steel pan band performing



The choir from Coldfall Primary School perform



What would make England a better place to grow up?

AS part of the Festival of Childhood, the Children's Commissioner wanted to know: What would make England a better place to grow up? So, we put the question to you and here's what some of you said! Do you agree? Is there anything you'd add?

"Expand places like leisure centres and make them more accessible for people with disabilities."

"More parks! Also, if existing parks were kept clean and in good condition."



"I think smartphones shouldn't be allowed for children under 13, otherwise they'd be spending too much time on screens and not enough time outside."



"I think you should treat everyone the same – with respect and dignity, no matter what skin tone they have, if they have a disability or if they struggle with learning."

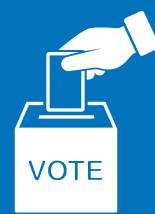
"The roads should be quieter so children can walk home by themselves safely."



"Security should be tighter so that children can walk around feeling safe in their own country."

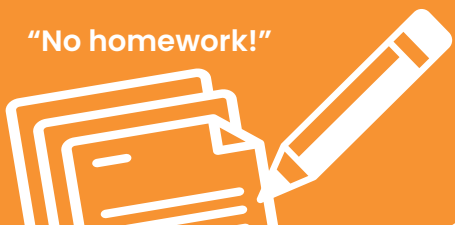
"It would be safer for me and everyone else if the government was more strict on gun laws."

"England would be better if children can get involved in their parents' voting."



"I'd like there to be more youth clubs because it would help kids like me to become more independent."

"No homework!"



"More music facilities."



"More eco-friendly cars and transport."



"We don't need to use as many fossil fuels."



MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

Get involved with First News and FYI

AT First News and FYI, we think it's so important that your voices are heard. If you are passionate about something and want to share it with others, 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. You could have your article featured here in First News, or be asked to report for FYI on Sky News!

Share your thoughts with the government

IF you're aged ten or over, the government wants to hear from you! It's creating a new ten-year National Youth Strategy to tackle the challenges for this generation of young people and ensure that every young person can thrive. Take part in the survey by scanning the QR code to put in an order for your future!



WATCH A VIDEO

FIND out more about the Festival of Childhood by scanning the QR code to watch a video from Sky Kids' FYI.



FYI presenter Hughie attended the festival and made a speech



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 What vegetable did King Charles III play with the London Vegetable Orchestra?

2 How many metres high is the tallest tree in England: 53, 63 or 73 metres?



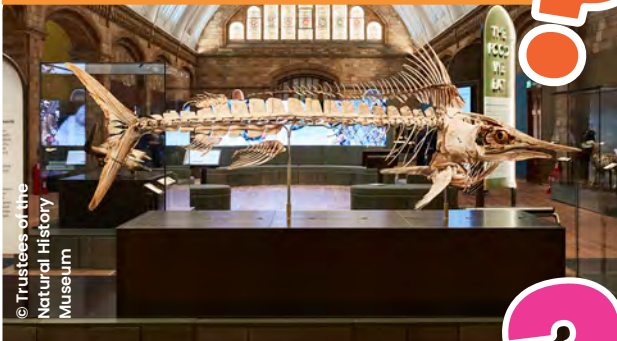
Dunster Village Guide

3 Mario Kart World is coming to which new console?

4 An RSPCA poll reveals that we'd most like to chat to which animals?

5 A new TV show has launched in Finland that lets viewers tune in to watch what dry?

6 Which museum has opened a new exhibition called Fixing Our Broken Planet?



© Trustees of the Natural History Museum

7 Which planet in our solar system is known as the Red Planet?



iStock

8 Canadians lined the streets to watch the spring release of what animals?

9 In what year is the UK set to host the Women's World Cup?

10 In which country has a hatch opened allowing parents to return newborn babies?



Getty

11 True or false – white chocolate was originally used as medicine?

12 What type of animal is a wrasse?

13 What time-travelling TV show is back on our screens this week?



BBC/Danny Kasiwa

14 Google AI is facing criticism after it fell for what?

15 Alex Ovechkin has smashed a huge record in what sport?

If you enjoyed this, why not check out our Quiz that you can play online as an individual or with your family? You can find it at firstnews.co.uk/quiz and on the **First News** app!

FirstNews WEEKLY NEWS QUIZ!

Check out our new online Quiz!

Answers:
1 A carrot 2 63 metres high 3 Nintendo Switch 4 Dogs 5 Concrete 6 Natural History Museum 7 Mars 8 Swans 9 2035 10 Japan 11 True 12 A fish 13 Doctor Who 14 An April Fool's joke 15 Ice hockey.

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EVEN the devil himself seems to like a bit of footie, as he turned up among the Belgium fans at Ashton Gate in Bristol to watch England play his side in the Women's Nations League. But it seems like his evil powers were no match for the home side's attacking play, as England won 5-0. Millie Bright (right) scored the second goal with a header just before half-time.



Getty

FRANCE'S Sasha Zhoya celebrates becoming overall champion of the short hurdles race group at the first ever Grand Slam Track meet in Kingston, Jamaica. The new series involves four meetings over a year between the fastest stars in the world in a variety of track events. Each group winner bags a prize of \$100,000 (£78,000), so that might explain the enthusiastic celebration!

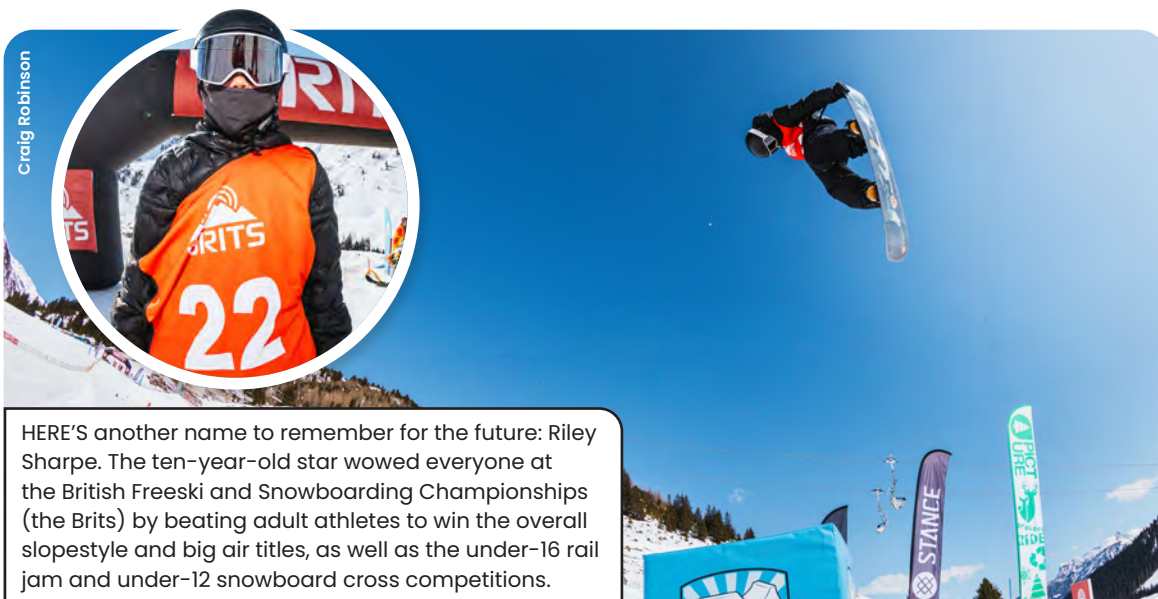


Getty



Tristan Jones/LET

BRITISH golfer Mimi Rhodes gets a soaking to celebrate her win at the Joburg Ladies Open. It's her second win in a row and it's just her first season as a pro!



Craig Robinson

HERE'S another name to remember for the future: Riley Sharpe. The ten-year-old star wowed everyone at the British Freeski and Snowboarding Championships (the Brits) by beating adult athletes to win the overall slopestyle and big air titles, as well as the under-16 rail jam and under-12 snowboard cross competitions.



Getty

A FRENCH army paratrooper who was meant to be delivering the match ball for the Champions Cup rugby match between Toulouse and Sale misjudged his landing and got caught on the roof. Thankfully he was unharmed and was soon rescued by firefighters.



BIGGEST SPORTS DAY EVER!

THE Youth Sport Trust has announced that this year's National School Sports Week will take place from 16–22 June, with the aim of making Friday 21 June the biggest ever school sports day in the UK!

The charity wants teachers to take an 'always active' approach to the school day, by building physical

activity into lessons where possible and encouraging pupils to run about and play games at break times.

Schools and families can sign up for the week at tinyurl.com/schoolsportsday2025 to get resources, daily movement challenges and the chance to win sports kit and vouchers.



Scotland have won the World Men's Curling Championship for the second time, after beating Switzerland 5–4 in the final. Bruce Mouat's team had to beat defending champions Sweden 8–7 on the way to the final, and also beat hosts Canada 7–4. It's the second time that Scotland have been world champions and comes just two years after they first won the title. "My team is unbelievable, they've all made some great shots," said Mouat (pictured).



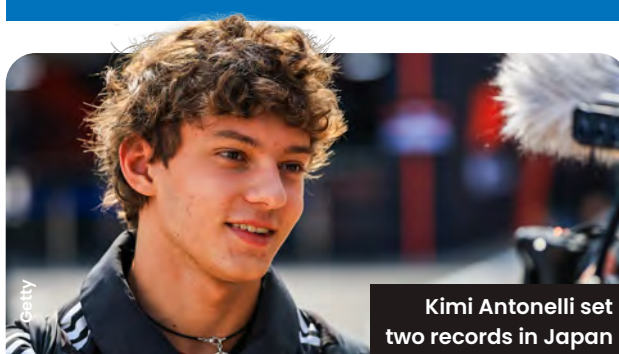
Ovechkin slides to celebrate his goal. Inset: getting a commemorative puck from Gretzky

Russian ice hockey star Alex Ovechkin has scored his 895th goal in North America's National Hockey League, taking him past the record set by Wayne Gretzky in 1994. Gretzky is nicknamed 'The Great One', holds dozens of records and is widely regarded as the greatest player to have ever played the game, so Ovechkin deserves a whole lot of praise!

British star Charlotte Bankes missed out on the chance to win another World Cup title after breaking her collarbone before the final weekend of the season. Even though she missed the last two races, she still came second overall.



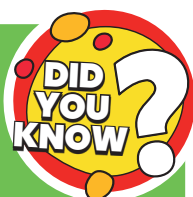
Bankes (left) in action last month



Kimi Antonelli set two records in Japan

When Max Verstappen won the Japanese Grand Prix at the weekend, it extended his incredible record of not being beaten in the race or qualifying at Suzuka since 2019! But there was also plenty of attention on Mercedes rookie Kimi Antonelli. Aged 18 years 224 days, he became the youngest ever driver to lead a Grand Prix, as well as the youngest to set the fastest lap. He eventually finished in sixth.

AFTER their 3–1 defeat at Spurs, Southampton became the first club since the Premier League began in 1992–93 to be relegated with seven games left to play. Derby hold the record for the lowest ever points total in the league (11), and Southampton are on ten.



Braydon's on the ball



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

Liverpool sit 11 points clear at the top of the table and are heading for the Premier League crown, although their form has dropped and it feels like their season is beginning to fizzle out, despite the prospect of a major trophy on the horizon. With a comfortable lead and no real pressure at the top, the Reds suffered only their second league defeat of the season at Fulham, following on from a Champions League exit and defeat to Newcastle in the League Cup final. Perhaps it was a reminder that the job isn't yet done, though Liverpool only need 11 points from the remaining games to secure a record-equalling 20th league title.

Rodrigo Muniz tucks away the winner for Fulham



The Manchester derby failed to impress, with a drab, goalless draw played out at Old Trafford by two teams looking forward to the end of the season. United's focus is firmly upon the Europa League, where success would give them some cause for optimism, while City find themselves in a battle for a Champions League place, which is far from guaranteed. With Newcastle and Villa in good form and Chelsea in the mix too, the last Champions League places are wide open and at least one top team will miss out.

It's goodbye to Southampton, whose relegation was confirmed after their defeat at Spurs. With just two wins and ten points on the board it was also goodbye to their manager Ivan Jurić too, who was sacked after the game. He had only been in the job for 107 days and keeping the Saints up was always going to be a very tough task.

Centre Stage this week are Villa, who beat Forest 2–1 to move within two points of Chelsea in fourth and now face PSG in the Champions League. Exciting times at Villa Park and Unai Emery's side have it all to play for. PSG are the favourites, but Villa will be up for it and are well capable of matching the French champions.

In the pick of the other games, Wolves pretty much secured their place in the league with a win at Ipswich. A late winner from Jørgen Strand Larsen gives them a comfortable 12–point gap over Ipswich, who now surely face the drop.

Braydon's Team of The Week: Fulham, inflicting a rare league defeat on Liverpool.

Braydon's Player of The Week: Newcastle's Jacob Murphy, with two goals at Leicester. That's seven goals and nine assists for the winger. Top stats!

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