

NEWS KIDS CAN **TRUST**

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR*



First News

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THE MAKING
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PAPER.

NEWS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT
INTERVIEWS PUZZLES COMPETITIONS

Looking back over nearly
a century of caring for
the planet, we celebrate
Sir David Attenborough
as he turns **99**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SIR DAVID!



MEET THE TEAM



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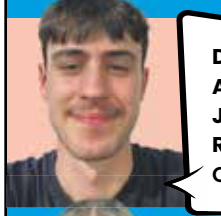
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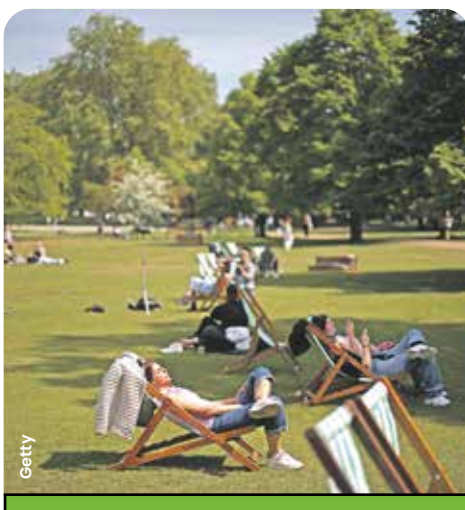
HAVE YOU HEARD?

Snappy stories to get you talking!



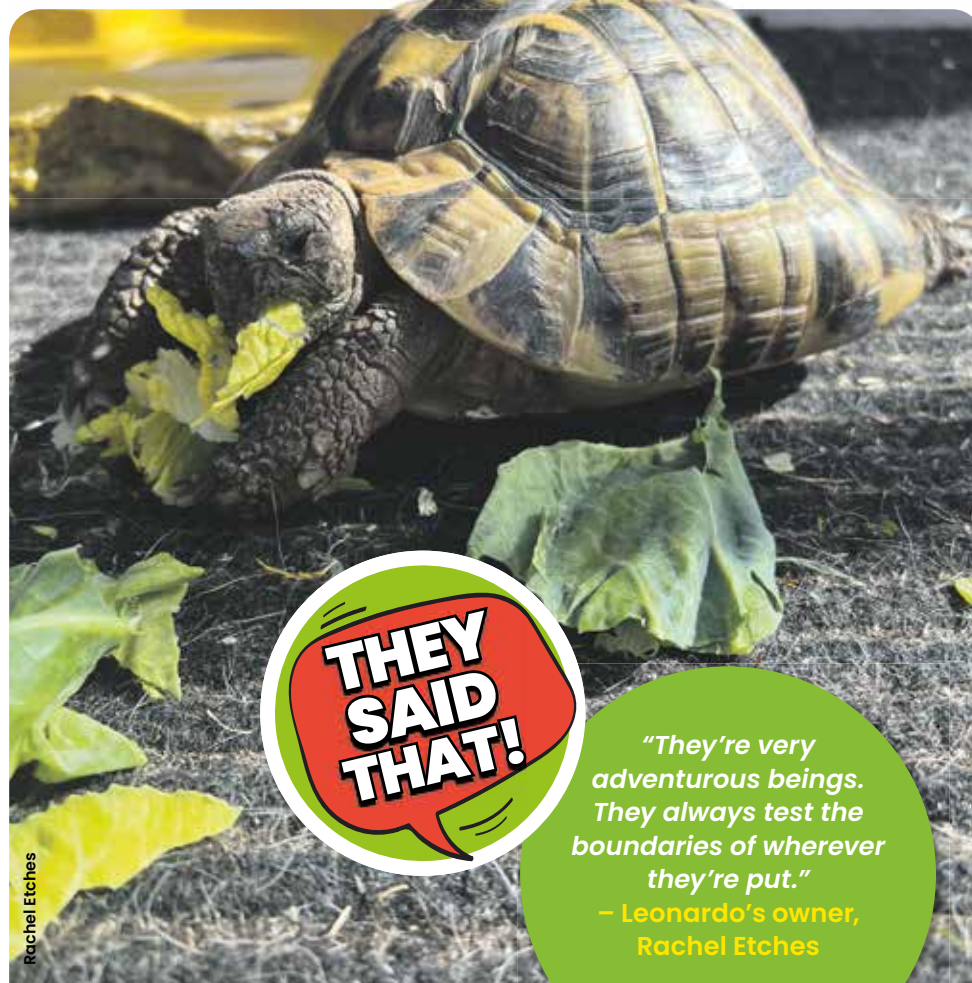
PRINCE HARRY LOSES COURT CASE

Prince Harry has lost his latest legal case over the amount of police protection he gets when he comes to the UK. When the prince stepped down from royal duties in 2020 and moved to America, some of his extra security was taken away. But, he says his family still needs it to be safe when they visit Britain. Following the court case verdict, the prince gave an interview to the BBC where he said he wants a "reconciliation" [to make up] with the royal family after falling out with them.



RECORD MAY START

The record for the UK's warmest start to May has been broken, says the Met Office. The temperature on 1 May reached 29.3°C at Kew Gardens in southwest London, beating the previous record of 27.4°C set at Lossiemouth in Scotland in 1990. The Met Office also said that we just had the sunniest April since records began in 1910, and the third warmest since temperature records began in 1884.



THEY SAID THAT!

"They're very adventurous beings. They always test the boundaries of wherever they're put."

— Leonardo's owner, Rachel Etches

RUNAWAY TORTOISE FOUND

A tortoise who went missing from his home in Ulverston, Cumbria, nine months ago has been found alive and well – a mile away. Following a social media campaign, Leonardo was spotted plodding down the street and handed in to a pet shop. The shop's staff used Facebook to track down his owner Rachel Etches, who admitted she'd been distracted in the garden when Leonardo just wandered off. "He's led a very comfortable life for 13 years under a heat lamp in my house, so we didn't think he was going to survive the winter being out for the first time," she told the BBC.



UK WOMAN IS WORLD'S OLDEST

Britain's Ethel Caterham has become the oldest woman alive. Ethel was born in Hampshire on 21 August 1909, so is 115 years, eight months and 19 days old today (Friday 9 May). She reached the milestone following the death of Brazilian nun Sister Inah Canabarro Lucas, who was 116 years old. Ethel is thought to be the last person alive in the UK to have been born when Edward VII was on the throne.

NEW ED SHEERAN ALBUM

Ed Sheeran has announced that his new album *Play* will be released on 12 September 2025. To mark the occasion he has released a new single called *Old Phone*. Ed says he had some of the most fun days of his life making the album, adding: "I just wanted to create joy and technicolour, and explore cultures in the countries I was touring."



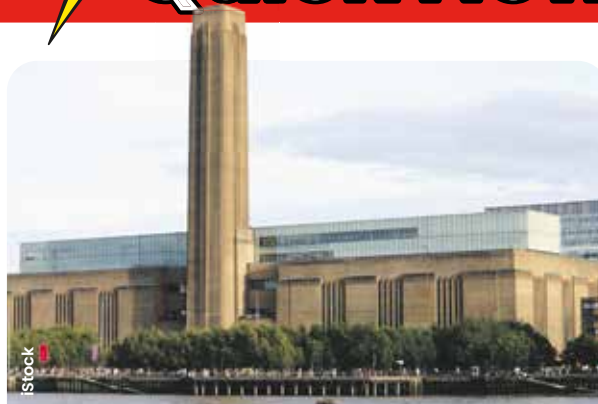
NOSEY WINNERS

Comic Relief has revealed the winners of The Nosey Awards 2025. The awards celebrate the schools, individuals and organisations who've gone above and beyond to raise funds for charity. This year's champions include Finn, a Scottish student who won the Rising Star award for his 'Teacher Taskmaster' show, and St Gregory CEVC Primary School (pictured) who scooped the Class Act award for their creative campaigns including '40 Ways To Make the World A Better Place'.

ICE BUCKET CHALLENGE IS BACK!



The Ice Bucket Challenge – a fundraising campaign that went viral in 2014 – has returned. The original campaign was all about raising money and awareness for the condition ALS, a form of motor neurone disease. This time the challenge aims to raise awareness of mental health and is being organised by students at the University of South Carolina's MIND (Mental Illness Needs Discussion) club. To take part, people film themselves pouring a bucket of cold water over their heads, make a donation to charity, then nominate a friend to do the same. Would you have a go?



TATE MODERN TURNS 25

The Tate Modern gallery in London is celebrating its 25th anniversary this week. Between 9 and 12 May, visitors can enjoy live music, performances, talks and tours. A giant bronze spider artwork called *Maman*, by Louise Bourgeois, will return to the Turbine Hall bridge. It was the first artwork ever to greet visitors when the gallery opened in May 2000.

UK TEENS WIN SPACE COMPETITION

A group of Oxford teenagers have won a major award for their project about supplying fuel for space missions. The Year 12 pupils from Oxford High School GDST scooped the top prize in the Aerospace and Aviation category at the Conrad Challenge Innovation Summit in Houston, USA, for their project about producing liquid oxygen and hydrogen on the moon to supply space companies with fuel to get to Mars... and beyond.



Team mO=On: Amy, Aaron, Casey and Christina



INTO FILM AWARDS ARE COMING!

Strictly winner and actor Rose Ayling-Ellis is due to host the 2025 Into Film Awards. The awards celebrate young people's creativity in film-making, with this year's nominated films covering topics including mental health, the war in Ukraine, the potential harms of AI, and nature conservation. The winners will be announced at a special ceremony at Odeon Luxe, Leicester Square, on 24 June.



Up to eight years old
WINNER:
 Reva, eight



9-12 years old
WINNER:
 Jasper, nine



Overall winner!

13-16 years old
WINNER:
 Ethan, 15

EXCLUSIVE: 2025 NATIONAL BOOK TOKEN DESIGN WINNERS!

FIRST News is delighted to reveal exclusively the 2025 winners of the Design a National Book Token competition! Each year, children are invited to design their own gift cards, with the winners receiving hundreds of pounds' worth of book tokens for their schools and themselves. The theme this year was Read Your Way, and the designs above were the top picks from more than 5,000 entries across three age categories, as judged by *Bunny vs Monkey* author Jamie Smart. A big well done to Reva, Jasper and Ethan.

National Book Tokens are the main sponsor of World Book Day, which champions the fun of reading. Their gift cards can be spent in bookshops across the UK, Ireland and online. For more information, visit nationalbooktokens.com.



● WORLD FAIR TRADE DAY 10 MAY

Fair trade is all about supporting workers across the world, to make sure they are paid fairly and treated well.

● NATIONAL SMILE MONTH 12 MAY – 12 JUNE

Aims to raise awareness about how important it is to look after your teeth and mouth.



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



CALL TO PROTECT ALL UK KIDS FROM VIOLENCE

THE four Children's Commissioners of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have united to call for every child to be protected from violence by adults.

Smacking is banned by law in Scotland and Wales but, for now, parents are still allowed to hit their children in England and Northern Ireland if it's seen as a "reasonable punishment".

This goes against the position of the United Nations, though. It says that children have a right to be protected from violence, including physical punishment.

At the moment, children in England and Northern Ireland don't have the same legal protection from assault as adults do. The four Commissioners want this to change now.

The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, said: "There is no degree of violence that should ever be acceptable in a child's life... a child should never grow up living in fear, especially from the people who are supposed to love and care for them."



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MEET YOUR COMMISSIONERS!

The UK's Children's Commissioners stand up for children and protect their rights. They are...



England
Dame Rachel de Souza (left)



Scotland
Nicola Killean



Wales
Rocio Cifuentes



Northern Ireland
Chris Quinn



Reform leader
Nigel Farage

Election wins for Reform

THE Reform UK party celebrated great success in local elections last week, winning control of ten new councils.

Polls were held to decide which party should be in charge of leading local areas and looking after their communities. The elected councillors manage things like bin collections, libraries, leisure centres and parks.

On top of its ten new councils, Reform also gained two new mayors and a fifth seat in the House of Commons. Sarah Pochin was elected to be the MP of Runcorn and Helsby, in Cheshire, beating

Labour's Karen Shore for the seat by six votes. Party leader Nigel Farage said the results were "beyond my wildest dreams".

The Liberal Democrats gained three councils, while the Conservatives (Tories) lost 15. Some commentators say that it's Reform, not the Tories, who are now the main challengers to Labour.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer said the results were "disappointing" for his Labour Party, and told reporters: "We need to go further and faster on the change that people want to see."

Fewer orders for recorders

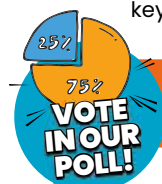
IS your school alive with the sound of music (or, at least, squeaky recorders)?

A survey by music exam board ABRSM has found that, over the past ten years, the number of children playing the recorder has almost halved, from a quarter of kids in 2014 to one in six today.

Chris Bobb, from ABRSM, said: "The recorder has been great... but schools are now looking at other instruments that can be used [in lessons] – the ukulele and acoustic guitar among them."

However, there's also been a drop in the number of pupils learning any sort of instrument. Some can't afford to, while others prefer creating online videos, instead.

That said, the survey showed that five in six of you think that making, learning and listening to music is key for your mental health.



Do you think it's cool to play an instrument?

Vote at first.news/polls



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EDITOR'S COMMENT

SIR David Attenborough has turned 99, and people across the world are celebrating (front page).

Known for making nature documentaries for more than 70 years, Sir David has inspired millions to care for the planet. From *Blue Planet* to *Planet Earth*, his programmes have shown people the wonders of the natural world. Sir David has also warned about the dangers of climate change and plastic pollution. He once said: "The future of humanity and indeed all life on Earth depends on us." His work will continue to help protect the environment for generations to come.



Nicky Cox MBE

A roar—some international team of scientists is behind the project



Dinosaur-loving handbag users

RESEARCHERS hope that by the end of the year, they'll be able to take proteins from *T rex* fossils to create lab-grown *T rex* leather. Would you like a *T rex* leather handbag or a *T rex* sofa? Or how about rocking a pair of *T rex* trainers?!

In 2022, Tesla boss Elon Musk said the truck was "waterproof enough to serve briefly as a boat"



CHIP Truckee / Facebook



Tesla Cybertrucks

THIS Tesla Cybertruck had to be dragged from a river in California after its driver tried to use it as a boat. It has a 'Wade Mode' to boost its height and protect its battery from water, but local cops said: "We're all for testing boundaries [but] remember folks, 'Wade Mode' isn't 'Submarine Mode'."

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.





GLOBAL ROAD SAFETY WEEK

iStock

THE United Nations (UN) Global Road Safety Week takes place from 12–18 May, and this year's focus is on making walking and cycling safe.

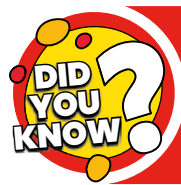
Road accidents are a leading cause of death and injury worldwide. Nearly 1.2 million people are killed and as many as 50 million people injured each year. More than one in four (25%) of these road deaths are pedestrians and cyclists.

The UN wants governments, schools and businesses to make it safer for people to walk or cycle instead of using cars. It says we need:

- more law enforcement around speeding and using mobile phones while driving
- better and safer vehicles
- more cycle lanes and safer crossings

- better emergency care systems

The UN says that walking or cycling is better for people's physical and mental health, better for the environment and will help to achieve many of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, which promote peace and wellbeing around the world, including tackling climate change.



CHILDREN are 82% more likely to be killed if struck by large cars known as SUVs compared to smaller vehicles, says a new study by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and Imperial College London.

No bug's life for UK insects



iStock

THE number of flying insects in the UK continues to fall, says a new survey.

The latest data shows that numbers have fallen by 63% since 2021.

The Bugs Matter survey records how many insect splats there are on vehicle number plates after journeys.

The findings from more than 25,000 journeys across the UK since 2021 show that there has been a big decrease in bug splats, but that the decline slowed down between

2023 and 2024.

Andrew Whitehouse, from Buglife, has listed some of the possible causes for flying insects suffering. He said: "Human activities continue to have a huge impact on nature. Habitat loss and damage, pesticide use, pollution and climate change all contribute to the decline in insects."

The survey was led by Kent Wildlife Trust in partnership with the invertebrate charity Buglife.

World's fastest eight-year-old!

AN eight-year-old schoolgirl has set a new Parkrun world record.

Lily Janmohamed completed a 5k run in 20 minutes and 16 seconds at Battersea Parkrun in southwest London, knocking 14 seconds off the previous record, which had stood since 2015!

Lily said: "When I crossed the finish line and heard my time, I couldn't believe it. I was just so happy and proud."

The speedy schoolgirl was encouraged to start running after seeing her nine-year-old brother, Daniyal, doing it. He's also hoping to break the record for the fastest 5k by a boy his age.

Lily says her next challenge is to crack the 5k in under 20 minutes.



iStock

Do you do the Parkrun or Junior Parkrun?

A destroyed hospital



Getty

SUDAN IN CRISIS, SAYS UNICEF

FIGHTING in Sudan is getting worse and affecting more children than ever, says UNICEF.

Thousands of families have been forced to flee their homes in search of safety, after the city of Al Fasher and the Abu Shouk camp came under attack. It's believed more than 500 people have been killed in the last three weeks alone.

UNICEF says the situation is critical, saying: "Children are running out of food, out of medicine and out of time."

The charity is urging the government and all parties involved in the conflict to ensure humanitarian aid can get to those who need it. It added: "Civilians and civilian objects must be protected. And, above all else, the fighting must stop. This is the best way to protect children and restore hope."

War broke out in Sudan in northeast Africa two years ago when the country's army (the Sudanese Armed Force) and a rival armed group (the Rapid Support Forces) began fighting for power.



A costly accident!



iStock



IT was raining money on a Texas road when a truck overturned, spilling a whopping eight million coins worth \$800,000 (£600,000).

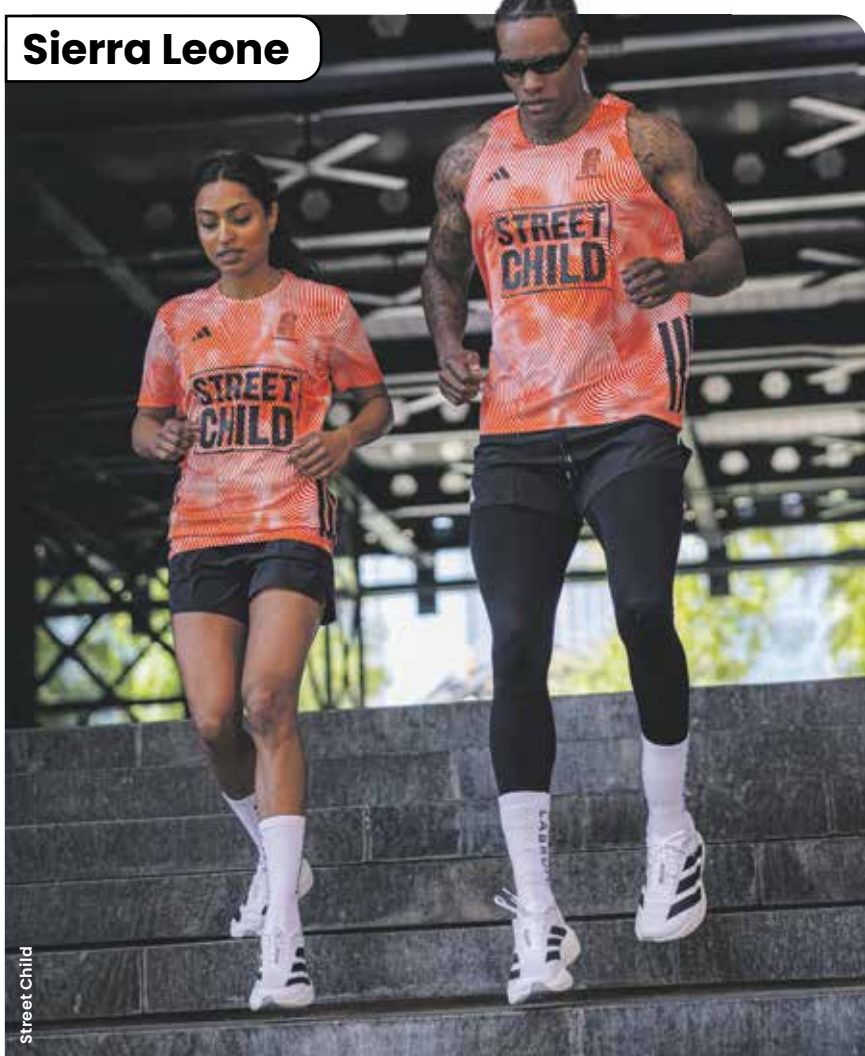
Texas Department of Transportation officers were stunned when they arrived at the cash crash to discover millions of the ten-cent coins, called dimes, littering the lanes.

It took their team half the day on their hands and knees, and using brooms, shovels and vacuums, to pick up the loose change.

Thankfully the driver and passenger of the truck came away with only minor injuries.

**Bristol, UK**

HERE'S our first peek at this summer's cracking Gromit Unleashed sculptures! The Wallace & Gromit trail returns to Bristol from 30 June to 31 August to raise money for The Grand Appeal, the Bristol Children's Hospital charity. It reimagines Aardman's iconic characters: Wallace, Gromit, Feathers McGraw and Norbot.

Sierra Leone

LABRUM, the fashion brand behind Arsenal's away kit, has launched a running shirt with children's charity Street Child. The kit will be celebrated at the charity's annual Sierra Leone marathon. The charity helps children to grow and achieve their best in life through education.

Kent, UK

BOKI the brown bear cools down with an ice lolly at Wildwood Trust in Kent. The three-year-old is recovering well from having life-saving brain surgery in October.

Inner Mongolia, China

THREE Chinese astronauts return to Earth after spending six months carrying out experiments in space. The Shenzhou-19 mission crew seemed in good spirits, even though they needed to be carried out of their capsule after spending months in zero gravity.



UK



AVANTI West Coast has unveiled a rail-y vibrant train called Together We Roll. It celebrates the diversity of workers and communities across its network. Baraka Carberry, the digital artist who created the design, describes it as “scenes of people, culture, colours and joy”.

Walsall, UK



FOOTBALL boots created by students have been launched into *EA Sports FC 25*. Designs were entered by 24 schools across the country as part of the FC FUTURES school programme, but West Walsall E-ACT Academy came out on top.

Chengdu, China



A ROBOT dog performs a Chinese lion dance during May Day (1 May) celebrations.

Maldon, UK



MUD, sweat and tears in Maldon, as competitors tackle the town's annual mud race. Thousands of people watched on as racers raised money for charity while crawling through the 440m (1,440ft) stretch of the River Chelmer at low tide. There were also some quirky costumes on show, including a banana and Where's Wally, but they weren't too clean by the end!

CHESHIRE

Train of the future

A talented 12-year-old has won a competition to design the train of the future. Joseph Strek, from Cheshire, came out on top in the UK-wide contest with The Green Rocket, a train powered by turbine technology. The design also features solar panels and a Braille system that visually impaired people can touch to help them find their way around. Joseph said: "It felt like [this competition] was made for me because of my love of the railways and passion for drawing. I hope that in years to come, we see more trains on the tracks and fewer cars on the roads."



Joseph with his winning design

FIFE

Bowling on the beach

The first fixture of the season has taken place for the only cricket club in the world to play its home matches on a beach! The Ship Inn Cricket Club has been playing on Elie Beach for more than 30 years, with big crowds watching on from the beachfront pub. In this year's season opener, there was an appearance from Scottish football legend and cricket fan Ally McCoist. Despite taking an impressive four wickets for the Ship Inn's opponents, Kilmacolm, he couldn't stop a victory for the home side.



Ally McCoist (left) waits for an opportunity behind the wicket

BALA

Algae warning

Harmful algae has been found in Wales' largest lake. Llyn Tegid is a popular place for watersport lovers, but people have been told to be careful around the 3.5-mile-long (5.6km) lake. Blue-green algae naturally exists in lakes, but can become toxic and dangerous. Contact with the toxic blooms can cause vomiting and irritation, not just for humans, but for animals too. Eryri National Park has warned visitors not to enter the water and to check safety information on the public notice boards around the lake.



It's not possible to tell if a bloom is toxic simply by looking at it

MALTON



There will be a live demo from Freya Cox, who starred on *The Great British Bake Off* in 2021

Free foodie festival

Food lovers, rejoice! The UK's largest free food festival is coming to Yorkshire this May. The market town of Malton will host more than 100 street food stalls, as well as demos from some of the UK's best chefs. Live music will soundtrack the bank holiday weekend, where local producers will also be showing off their best products. Visit Malton says: "We recommend you come hungry!" The Malton Food Lovers Festival runs from 24-26 May.

LYDBROOK

Who holds the sofa secret?

An abandoned sofa, which became a village's biggest tourist attraction, has vanished mysteriously. Hundreds of people have had their picture taken on the sofa, which was dumped in the middle of Lydbrook, Gloucestershire. It was even listed on review website Tripadvisor as something to do in the village. However, the plot thickened when the piece of furniture disappeared and was replaced by a stand with a question mark on it. Photographer Alex Elton-Wall, who snapped more than 150 pictures of local people on it, said: "Who knows, maybe the story of the sofa isn't over..."



The mystery sofa has been replaced by a question mark (inset)

LONDON

The big kick-off

One of the biggest days in the rugby calendar is back for its fourth edition. Tomorrow (Saturday 10 May), more than 60,000 fans will be at Allianz Stadium, Twickenham, for the Big Summer Kick-Off. Harlequins' men will take on Gallagher Premiership rivals Gloucester Rugby in a blockbuster fixture. There's a lot of action off the pitch too, with free family rides and face painting. Rock band Feeder will take to the pitch to headline the event, following in the footsteps of acts such as Jess Glynne. Find tickets at tinyurl.com/bigsummerkickoff.





IS BACK!



THE Big Lunch is back this year on 7–8 June and everyone's invited! The aim is to bring communities together to share fun, friendship and food.

● Why should I take part?

"The Big Lunch is easy, it's fun and it's for everyone," says Lindsey Brummitt, Eden Project Programme Director responsible for The Big Lunch. "So invite your street to get involved and make your community the place to be this June! It's an opportunity to get together, make new friends, share delicious food and have some much-needed fun."

Research shows that taking part in The Big Lunch helps people feel less lonely, and that those who join in go on to do more in their community. It also encourages climate action, with 79% (four-fifths) of participants saying they're more likely to help the environment too!

● What can I do?

There are lots of ways you can get involved. Here are just a few ideas:

- **Suggest a sharing table** where every guest is invited to bring along a dish to enjoy together. Everyone can show off their cooking skills and try something new and delicious at the same time.
- **Get crafty** and make your own bunting by decorating individual paper triangles and combining them with ribbon to make a colourful string.
- **Get the street** grooving and ask every household to suggest a few songs to add to a communal playlist. You'll soon see people of all ages on their feet!
- **Be kind to the planet** and encourage everyone to bring their own plate and cutlery instead of buying disposables – as well as containers to take any leftover food home.
- **Do some good** by popping a collection bucket out at your Big Lunch so that you can raise money for a local cause that could do with a boost. Or fundraising for the Eden Project, to connect people and nature, and restore a happy planet.



For more information and to download your free party planning pack, visit TheBigLunch.com

Peach traybake

THIS is a simple traybake inspired by my grandmother, who always baked with what she had on hand. My mum would sometimes make this on a Friday evening because it was so easy, and everyone would enjoy it over the weekend. The best part? You can swap the fruit for any tinned variety (though smaller fruits might sink to the bottom), creating delicious bursts of sweetness in every bite. Light, moist and finished with a tangy glaze, this dairy-free cake is perfect for any occasion!

Total time: 45 minutes

- Hands-on time: 15 minutes
- Baking time: 30 minutes

Servings:

- Makes 9 large pieces or 18 smaller ones.

Ingredients

For the cake:

- 2 tins of peach halves (or other tinned fruit)
- 2 eggs
- 100g (10 tbsp) caster sugar
- Pinch of salt
- Zest of 2 limes
- 125g (15 tbsp) self-raising flour
- 90ml (6 tbsp) coconut milk. You can also use dairy milk or any other milk alternative.
- 90ml (6 tbsp) vegetable oil. Either use an unflavoured oil like sunflower oil, or add extra flavour by using olive oil, for example.

For the glaze:

- 35ml reserved syrup from the tinned fruit
- Juice of 1 lime
- 250g icing sugar (add more if needed for consistency)

Optionally to serve:

- Lime wedges (for squeezing over the cake)

Equipment:

- 20x30cm baking tin
- Baking paper

Instructions

1. Prepare the cake batter:

- Preheat the oven to 175°C (160°C fan).
- Line and grease a 20x30cm baking tin with baking paper and oil.
- Drain the tinned fruit well, gently pressing out excess liquid.
- In a small bowl, rub the lime zest into the sugar to release its oils.
- In a large bowl, whisk together the sugar, salt and eggs until the mixture reaches a thick consistency (with an electric mixer this will take 5–10 minutes).
- Add the coconut milk and oil, whisking until just combined.
- Sift in the self-raising flour and gently fold the mixture until no dry streaks remain.

2. Assemble and bake:

- Pour the batter into the lined tin.
- Gently press 9 peach halves (or more, depending on the size) into the batter.
- Bake for 25 minutes, or until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean.
- Leave to cool in the tin.

3. Make the glaze:

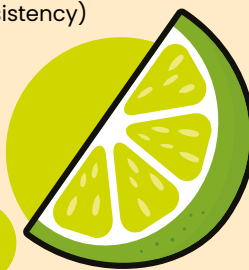
- In a bowl, whisk together 35ml reserved peach syrup, lime juice and 250g icing sugar until smooth.
- Adjust consistency by adding more icing sugar (if too thin) or a little more liquid (if too thick).

4. Finish and serve:

- Drizzle the glaze over the cooled cake.
- Slice into 9 large squares or 18 smaller pieces.
- Serve with a wedge of lime so everyone can squeeze extra juice over their piece for added freshness and moisture.



Have a go at this amazing recipe by Great British Bake Off star Christiaan de Vries
[@christiaan.de.vries!](https://christiaan.de.vries)





Axolotls have suffered from habitat loss and water pollution

NEW HOPE FOR ENDANGERED AXOLOTLS

CRITICALLY endangered axolotls bred in captivity have thrived in restored and artificial wetlands in Mexico.

Scientists released 18 axolotls into two wetlands, in a bid to stop the species from becoming extinct.

Axolotls are amphibians (they can live in water and on land), and are also known as Mexican walking fish, as they have gills and short limbs.

After tracking the creatures, the team has now

discovered that they have “survived and foraged successfully at both sites”.

Dr Luis Zambrano from the National Autonomous University of Mexico said: “If we can restore this [wetland] habitat and restore the axolotl’s population in a city of more than 20 million people, I feel that we have hope for humanity.”

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

Hip hippo-ray for new residents



Lola and Hodor

HIPPOS Lola and Hodor have been confirmed as the first residents of Longleat Safari Park’s brand-new ‘hippodrome’ opening this summer.

Lola, 21, and her son Hodor, eight, were born at Whipsnade Zoo and will be travelling to Longleat once the specially made complex is ready this June. They will be joined by some other hippos so that they can form a family pod.

Darren Beasley, Head of Animal Operations at Longleat, said everyone is looking forward to meeting the duo. He added: “Their arrival is part of our commitment to conservation, sustainability and education.”

Longleat will be celebrating the opening of the hippodrome by creating a time capsule, and local people are invited to make suggestions for what should be included.

PUPPET PARENT!



KEEPERS at the Bronx Zoo in New York have been using this puppet to hand-raise a king vulture chick (pictured).

The technique might seem a bit odd, but it’s been tried and tested for more than 40 years, since it was first used with the zoo’s Andean condors.

As the chick was neglected by its parents, keepers are having to feed it by disguising themselves and using the puppet. That’s because young birds will ‘imprint’ on (form a bond with) the first thing they see, so the puppet helps to avoid the chick thinking that the human keeper is its mother.

ANEESHWAR’S ANIMAL OF THE WEEK



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...

CARACAL



HABITAT:

● These wild cats live in grasslands and rocky hills in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia.

FUN FACTS:

● The caracal’s black ear tufts are one of their most noticeable features. They are used to help with communication.

● The name caracal comes from the Turkish word ‘karakulak’, which means ‘black eared’.

SPECIAL SUPERPOWER:

● Caracals have strong hind legs, which allow them to leap as high as 3m (10ft), meaning they could swat a bird out of the air.

CONSERVATION STATUS:

● Caracals are of least concern, says the International Union for Conservation of Nature.



Aneeshwar’s caracal 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.





NATURE'S DRUMMER

A SEA lion called Ronan is so good at keeping a beat in time that she's more accurate than most humans.

Ronan first hit the headlines in 2013 with her musical abilities, bobbing her head in time to the rhythm. But with age comes experience, and now researchers say that she's more consistent than humans at hitting a beat.

Scientists at the University of California Santa Cruz put Ronan up against some students, and they were all tasked with keeping in time with a metronome. Three tempos of 112, 120 and 128bpm (beats per minute) were used.

Overall, Ronan performed better than all ten of the human participants in the trial.

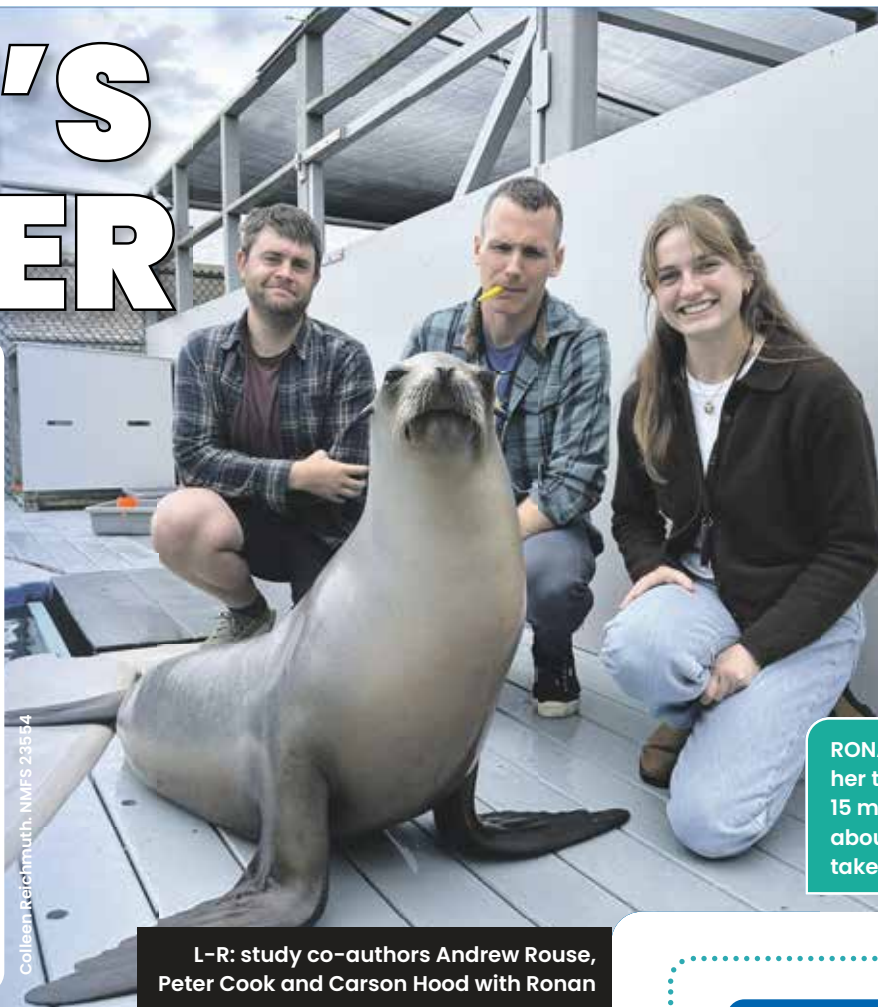
The scientists point out that Ronan hasn't even had much exposure to music or beats, and that an average one-year-old human will have already heard much more than she has.

It's also up to her if she takes part. She can go back to her pool any time she wants, but seems to enjoy the challenge.

"She's motivated," says researcher Colleen Reichmuth.

"To her, it's a game she knows how to win... and she likes the fish that come with it."

Colleen Reichmuth, NMFS 23554



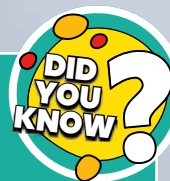
L-R: study co-authors Andrew Rouse, Peter Cook and Carson Hood with Ronan



Colleen Reichmuth, NMFS 23554

Ronan was taken in by researchers because experts decided that it wasn't safe to release her into the sea after she was found walking down a main road

RONAN is so precise that her timings only vary by 15 milliseconds, which is about a tenth of the time it takes a human eye to blink!



Antivenom advance

SCIENTISTS have made huge steps towards developing an antivenom that can protect people from all snake bites, thanks to a 'hyperimmune' blood donor who has been deliberately letting snakes bite him for years.

Snake bites are a huge problem around the world. Every year, about 110,000 people are killed by snake venom, with more than 300,000 people losing limbs or suffering other permanent disabilities. It's possible that the real figures are much higher, as many deaths in poor countries aren't reported. Many of the victims of snake bites are children, as their smaller bodies mean they suffer worse effects.

Developing antivenoms for snake bites is hard, and they only tend to work for one or two species – but there are around 600 venomous snake species in the world.



iStock



THE inland taipan (pictured) is said to have the most deadly venom of any snake, with the venom in one bite being capable of killing 100 adult humans.

However, the species is generally quite shy and not aggressive, so humans are rarely bitten by them.

Precious donor

And that's where blood donor Tim Friede comes in, as he's made himself more immune to snake venom than any other known human being.

"The donor, for a period of nearly 18 years, had undertaken hundreds of bites and self-immunisations with escalating doses from 16 species of very lethal snakes that would normally kill a horse," says Jacob Glanville, lead author of a new study in the journal *Cell*.

Using Friede's unique blood, scientists created a mixture that was effective against some of the world's deadliest snakes. It provided full protection against 13 out of the 19 elapid snakes tested. Elapid snakes include cobras, mambas and coral snakes, and make up around half of the world's venomous snake species.

The researchers now plan to do the same for the world's other major snake family, the viperids. This group includes the adder, which is the only venomous snake found in the UK, but the last recorded death from one was in 1975.



Tim Friede (centre) in the lab with the researchers



TIM Friede began immunising himself with diluted snake venom in case any of his dangerous pet snakes ever bit him. Between 2001–2018, he gave himself

856 increasingly strong doses, which has given him the ability to survive snake bites. He has now been bitten more than 200 times, by species including rattlesnakes, cobras, black mambas, taipans and kraits. We hope it goes without saying, but please don't try this at home!

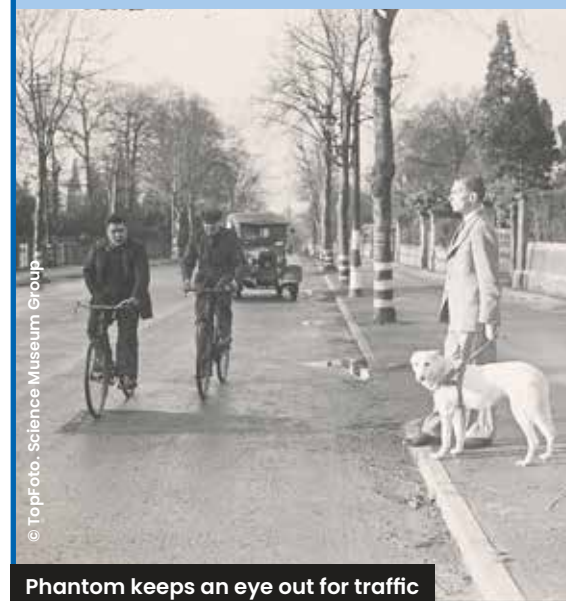
This report is from the National Science and Media Museum in Bradford

SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

THE *Daily Herald* was a British newspaper published between 1912–1964, which became the top-selling newspaper in the world.

Throughout its 50-year run, the newspaper archived over 3.5 million images that are cared for today by the National Science and Media Museum. The archive gives us an incredible insight into everyday life and historical events of the 20th century.

The image below, taken in 1942, is part of a series showcasing guide dog training, with a dog called Phantom. Guide dogs were first trained in World War One (1914–1918) and The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association was created in 1934. Guides dogs were especially vital in World War Two (1939–1945), when visibility was reduced during the blackout, and the streets were lined with rubble caused from bombing during the Blitz, as well as sandbags.



© TopFoto, Science Museum Group

Phantom keeps an eye out for traffic

A NEED FOR SPEED

FYI CHATS TO YOUNG KARTING CHAMP

FORMULA 1 is the pinnacle of motorsport, but how do the top drivers start out? It's in karting! That's what 11-year-old Josh does, and he's got his sights set on making it in the F1 world!



Meet Josh!

Josh is a karting racer who, at just 11 years old, has already achieved so much! He's won three top karting titles at his level, including the RMC Grand Finals in Italy, the International Trophy at the famous Le Mans circuit in France and the British O Plate.

Josh was inspired to start karting when he was just six years old after watching Formula 1. He said: "When I was young, I saw this video of Lewis Hamilton karting and I said to my dad: 'Can I try it?' so we went to a track and did some laps!" His favourite thing about karting is the thrill



and the speed.

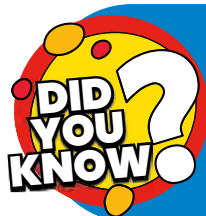
Josh has raced all over the UK and Europe, and couldn't do it without his dad Oliver, who also works as his part-time mechanic! His dad says: "Josh has had to work incredibly hard on his technical ability in the car and he also works a lot on his physical fitness. He's had to learn mental toughness and had to deal with things when they go wrong. I'm immensely proud!"

Josh's biggest ambition is to get into Formula 1, but for now he's focusing on the year ahead as he goes up an age category!



Josh started out karting when he was just six years old after watching and being inspired by Formula 1

WOW!



KARTS can reach speeds of up to 70mph, which is about as fast as some of the fastest rollercoasters in the world. It's also the same speed as cars in the UK are allowed to drive on the motorway!



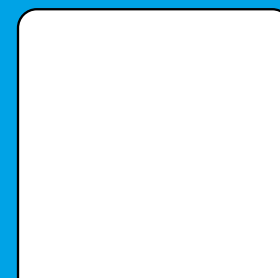
Josh (middle) has already had lots of success in karting

FYI

sky kids

WATCH THE SHOW

Find out more about Josh's karting on FYI by scanning the QR code.



F1 stars who started in karting

LEWIS HAMILTON

- He's a British F1 champion
- Hamilton began karting when he was eight years old and won the British Kart Championship when he was just ten
- At the age of 15, Hamilton was the youngest ever driver to be ranked number one in world karting



Lewis Hamilton

MAX VERSTAPPEN

- He was born in Belgium but races under the Dutch flag
- Verstappen first had a go at motorsport when he was just two years old, riding a quad bike in his family garden. At just four years old he moved on to karting
- By the age of seven, he had won his first karting race
- At the age of 17, Verstappen became the youngest driver ever to compete in an F1 race



Max Verstappen



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.



CELEBRATING GOOD MENTAL HEALTH

FROM 12 to 18 May, it's Mental Health Awareness Week. The theme this year is 'community', which is all about celebrating the power and importance of the people around us. Being part of a safe, positive community is vital for our mental health and wellbeing.



● Tell me more

Mental Health Awareness Week is run by the Mental Health Foundation and aims to bring the UK together to focus on good mental health. This year, the foundation wants to highlight how important communities are to our overall mental health.



Why not take part in a community project?

● What role do communities play?

Communities such as your school, football club, music, drama or friendship group can provide you with all sorts of things, including:

- a sense of belonging
- safety
- support in hard times
- a sense of purpose
- connections with others

A community is a group of people brought together through something that they share in common.

We can learn a lot from the different people within our communities, from understanding different cultures and faiths to exploring different interests and hobbies.

● Why is mental health so important?

Mental health is one of the most important foundations for a healthy and long life. It can often affect our physical health, too.

Some of the ways that you can look after your mental health include:

- Focusing on the things you enjoy, like reading or art
- Setting limits on screen time and social media
- Connecting with others – talking and sharing problems
- Finding a routine that works for you
- Spending time outdoors and moving your body

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK
12-18 MAY 2025

● How can I get involved in Mental Health Awareness Week?

You can organise a Wear It Green Day at school or a club you attend, to raise money and awareness for mental health. The official day is happening on Thursday 15 May, but you can hold your Wear It Green Day at any time of the year. You could also hold a bake sale, set up a scavenger hunt or organise a sponsored event like a danceathon! For more ideas, visit mentalhealth.org.uk.

"We thrive when we have strong connections with other people and supportive communities that remind us we are not alone."

– Footballer Harry Kane MBE



Wear It Green!

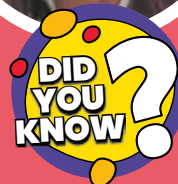
If you need any help or support with your mental health, speak to a trusted adult or teacher. You can also get in touch with:

Childline – childline.org.uk or call 0800 1111
Young Minds – youngminds.org.uk



SMILE FOR FIVE!

by mindfulness expert
Laura Reilly



ONE smile can give your brain the same level of happy-feeling stimulation as up to 2,000 chocolate bars! That's because smiling sends a signal to your brain to release feel-good chemicals called endorphins.

Sharing your smile with five passers-by isn't just kind, it can also help you feel more connected and confident. That's what Smile for Five, a Little Tweak, is all about. Small action, big ripple effect.

● How smiling helps you

When you smile, your brain releases chemicals called endorphins. These can lift your mood and help you think more clearly. Scientists call this part of your brain executive functioning – it's what helps you make decisions, solve problems and focus. All that from just one smile? Yep!

● Can smiling help you feel connected to your community?

Absolutely! A simple smile can be a small act of kindness that makes someone else feel seen, safe and included. A smile says: "You matter." When you share your smile with others – at the shop, on the street or in school – it can bring a sense of togetherness, even if you don't say a word. One study found that kind actions like smiling can boost happiness in both the person giving and the person receiving the kindness. So everyone wins!

● Should you smile when you don't really feel like it?

Only if it feels okay for you. If you're having a tough day, that's totally normal – and you never have to force a smile. But sometimes, even a small smile can help shift your mood, especially when shared with someone else. Try it and see how it feels. No pressure. Just curiosity. Even just looking up and making eye contact can be a way to connect, whether you're smiling or not.

For more about Smile for Five, visit www.little-tweaks.com

Laura will be delivering a family meditation, Finding Your Happy Place, alongside a children's orchestra at the Joe Wicks Festival at Kew Gardens on 6 July. For more information and to book tickets, visit www.kew.org





FRANCE

'No screens for kids under six!' say French experts

Medical experts in France have written a letter to the government recommending that children under the age of six shouldn't be exposed to screens – and that includes TV. Five major health bodies partnered up to say: "Screens in whatever form do not meet children's needs. Worse, they hinder [block]... brain development." Lots of early-years TV here in the UK is celebrated for its educational value. However, the experts in France said: "Neither the screen technology nor its content, including so-called 'educational' content, are adapted to a small developing brain. Children are not miniature adults – their needs are different." In data revealed last year, French children aged between three and six were already spending, on average, one hour and 47 minutes in front of screens way back in 2015.



France already recommends that children under three should avoid screens



USA

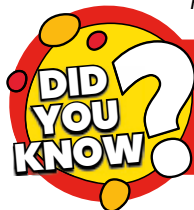
Earthquake warning for USA's west coast

A scientific study has found that a powerful earthquake on the west coast of the USA could cause the coastline to sink 2m (6ft 6in) lower and "dramatically" raise sea levels, leading to floods that would transform the landscape. Earlier work showed that there's a nearly one in six chance of a powerful earthquake (with a magnitude of over 8.0) striking the region in the next 50 years. Earthquakes are triggered when the Earth's tectonic plates scrape against each other. The Cascadia faultline – a long crack between two plates – runs from California all the way up to Canada. The authors of the study, published in *Proceedings of the*



The Californian coastline

National Academy of Sciences, hope that their findings will help coastal communities to prepare for the dangers that such a big quake would cause. Recent research has suggested that a 9.0-magnitude earthquake on the Cascadia faultline could create a wave 60m (200ft) high, and cause 30,000 deaths and £61 billion worth of damage.



THE most powerful earthquake ever recorded had a magnitude of 9.5. It hit off the coast of Chile in 1960 but was so strong it caused deaths and damage in Japan.



BOLIVIA

Five rescued from alligator-infested swamp

Five people were rescued after spending 36 hours on top of a plane in an alligator-infested swamp in the Amazon. The plane had to make an emergency landing following an engine failure, sparking a big search and rescue operation. Thankfully some local fishermen found the passengers, who had managed to climb onto the roof of the plane to avoid the alligators – and an anaconda – that surrounded them!



The passengers were in "excellent condition" despite their alligator ordeal



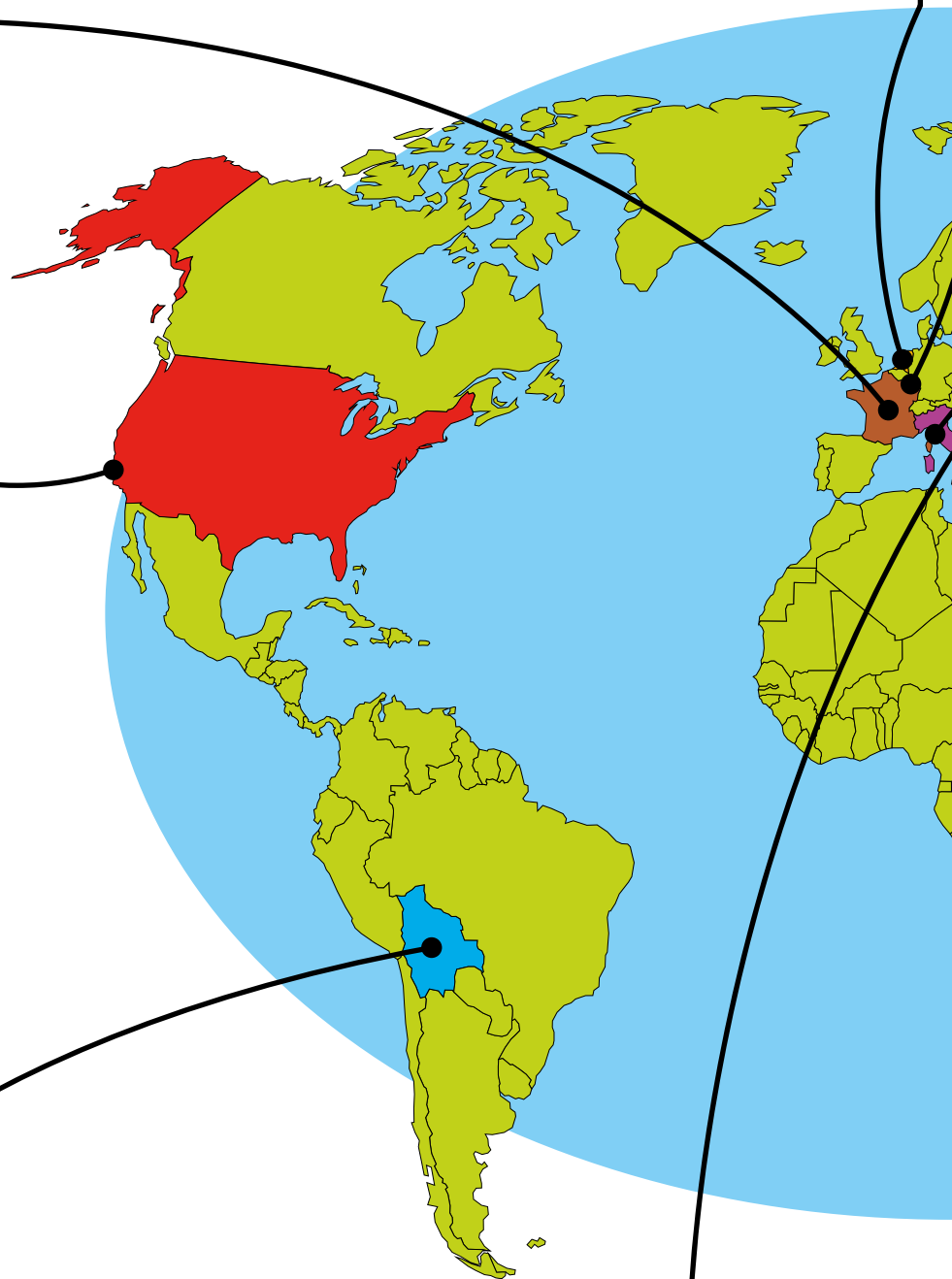
THE NETHERLANDS

Child damages multi-million pound painting



The museum in Rotterdam

A museum says it's planning its "next steps" after a young visitor left scratch marks on a painting valued at between £34m and £42m. The artwork by Mark Rothko, called *Grey, Orange on Maroon, No 8*, was on display at a storage facility in Rotterdam when the child touched it during what a spokesperson called an "unguarded moment". The Boijmans Van Beuningen museum is seeking expert advice from the Netherlands and abroad on how to repair it, and thinks it will be able to put it back on display in the future.



HUNGARY

Sausage dogs set new national record

Hundreds of dachshunds took over Budapest City Park as their owners tried to break Hungary's record for the biggest single-breed dog walk. The breed, playfully known as the sausage dog, is much-loved in Hungary. Officials from the Hungarian Records Association counted 500 dogs – enough to claim the national record, but not enough to break the Guinness World Record, which stands at 897, set in Regensburg, Germany, in September 2024.



Hot dogs!



LUXEMBOURG

Migrant babies outnumber local babies

New data about newborn babies in Europe has revealed some interesting statistics. Analysis from Eurostat shows that 3.67 million babies were born in the 27 countries in the European Union in 2023. It might sound like a lot, but it's nearly half the number that were born 60 years ago, which shows that adults are having far fewer babies these days. In Luxembourg, just a third of babies were born with two Luxembourgish parents, while two-thirds were born to a foreign mother. In Poland, the number of babies born to foreign mums is more than seven times higher than it was in 2014. Poland has taken in the second-highest number of Ukrainians fleeing the war against Russia, after Germany.



ITALY



Pope Francis died in April

Cardinals vote for next pope

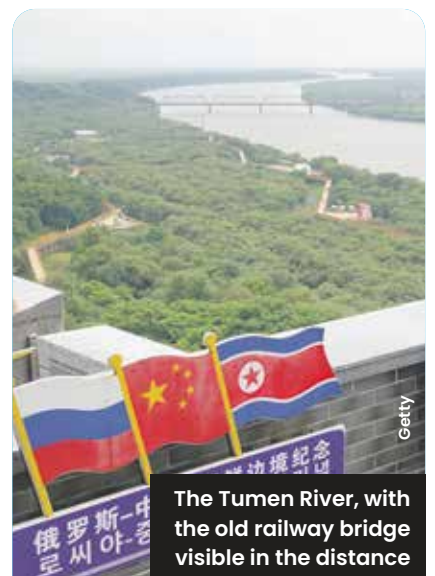
The journey to elect the new pope began earlier this week (7 May). Known as the conclave, the process sees more than 130 cardinals from across the world come together in Rome to vote for the new leader of the Catholic Church. They must live together at the Vatican and have no contact with the outside world until someone has been chosen. Voting takes place in the Sistine Chapel, and when the new pope has been elected, white smoke is released. The process can be quite long, but sometimes it only takes a day, so the new pope could have been announced by the time you read this.



NORTH KOREA

Building begins on road bridge to Russia

Building has begun on the first road bridge linking North Korea with Russia. The bridge will cross over the Tumen River in the far north of the country, and will take just over a year to complete. North Korea is an isolated country – it shuts itself away from other countries – but it has a growing friendship with Russia. Russian President Vladimir Putin visited North Korea and its leader, Kim Jong Un, last year, and North Korea has also sent troops to help Russia in its war with Ukraine. At the moment, the only other bridge to link North Korea and Russia across the Tumen River is a railway bridge built last century, called the Friendship Bridge.



The Tumen River, with the old railway bridge visible in the distance



RWANDA

Arsenal sponsors sign deal with Spanish footy club

The tourism board of Rwanda has signed a deal to have its logo displayed on the shirts of Spanish football giants Atlético Madrid for the next three years. Atlético chiefs say Rwanda is a country in “constant growth” and the deal will help to raise their profile overseas. Visit Rwanda also pays £10m per year to sponsor Arsenal, but an Arsenal fans’ group called Gunners for Peace is campaigning for the deal to end. Rwanda has been in conflict with the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where 7,000 people have been killed in violence this year. The United Nations and the USA says Rwanda has helped an armed rebel group called M23 to seize Congolese towns, but Rwanda denies it.



Visit Rwanda also sponsors Arsenal, PSG and Bayern Munich



AUSTRALIA

World's largest electric ship built in Tasmania

Australian boat-building company Incat has launched what it calls the “world’s largest” electric ship. The Hull 096 set off from Tasmania’s capital, Hobart, and will be used as a ferry from Argentina to Uruguay. It’s 130 metres (427 feet) long and is big enough to carry 2,100 passengers and 225 vehicles at a time. It runs on 250 tonnes of electric batteries, rather than fossil fuels that pollute the air and sea. The chairman of Incat, Robert Clifford, called it the “most important project we’ve ever delivered” and says that the company hopes to build “as many sustainable ships as possible for [use] both here in Australia and overseas”.



The greatest ‘ship’ is friendship – but this isn’t bad, either!

Smiling for the
pup-arazzi!

Guinness World Records

A PAWSOME MEETING! ★★

TWO record-breaking canines have come face-to-face to celebrate Guinness World Records' 70th anniversary this year.

The world's tallest dog – Reggie the Great Dane – enjoyed a picture pawfect day out with the world's smallest dog – Pearl the Chihuahua – at Reggie's home in Idaho, USA.

At just 9.14cm (3.59in) from the floor to the withers

(shoulders), four-year-old Pearl looks up to seven-year-old Reggie, who stands at 1.007m (3ft 3in) tall. That's an impressive 91.56 cm (3ft) height difference between the loveable duo!

Reggie's owner Sam Johnson Reiss said there was a little bit of anxiety at bringing the dogs together, but that they got on very well and Reggie was "very gentle [and] very, very kind [to Pearl], as best as he could be".

Snake stops the trains

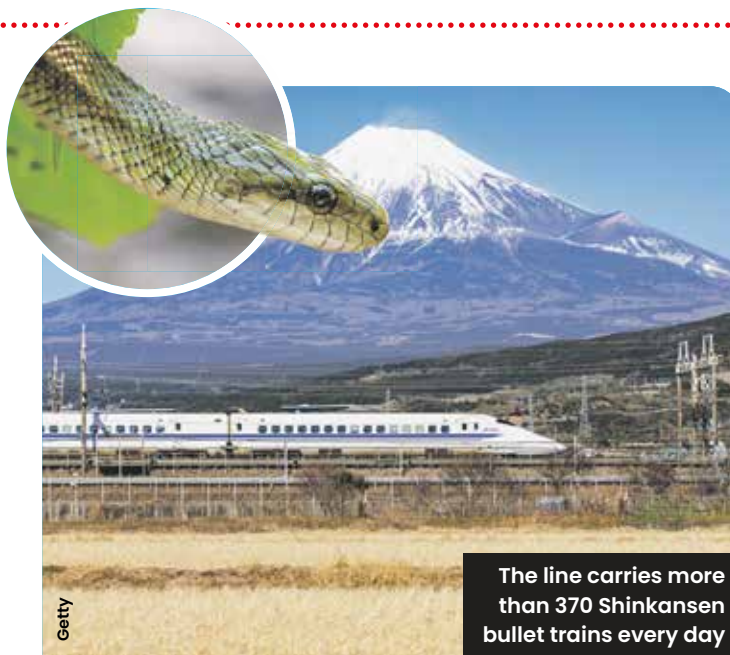
JAPAN'S fastest and busiest bullet trains were brought to a sudden halt last week – all because of one snake.

Hundreds of travellers were stranded when a metre-long snake slithered up a pole and wrapped itself around a power line, causing a short circuit in the power supply.

The incident occurred at 5:25pm on the line that connects major cities Tokyo, Nagoya and Osaka, and it wasn't until 7pm that power to the line was restored.

Luckily, the power wasn't cut inside the 200mph (320km/h) trains, so passengers who were delayed still had air conditioning to keep them cool.

At any rate, they fared better than the snake, which didn't survive its daring dash along the overhead line.



Getty

The line carries more
than 370 Shinkansen
bullet trains every day

Robot vacuums are lazy!

"When shall
we pounce?"

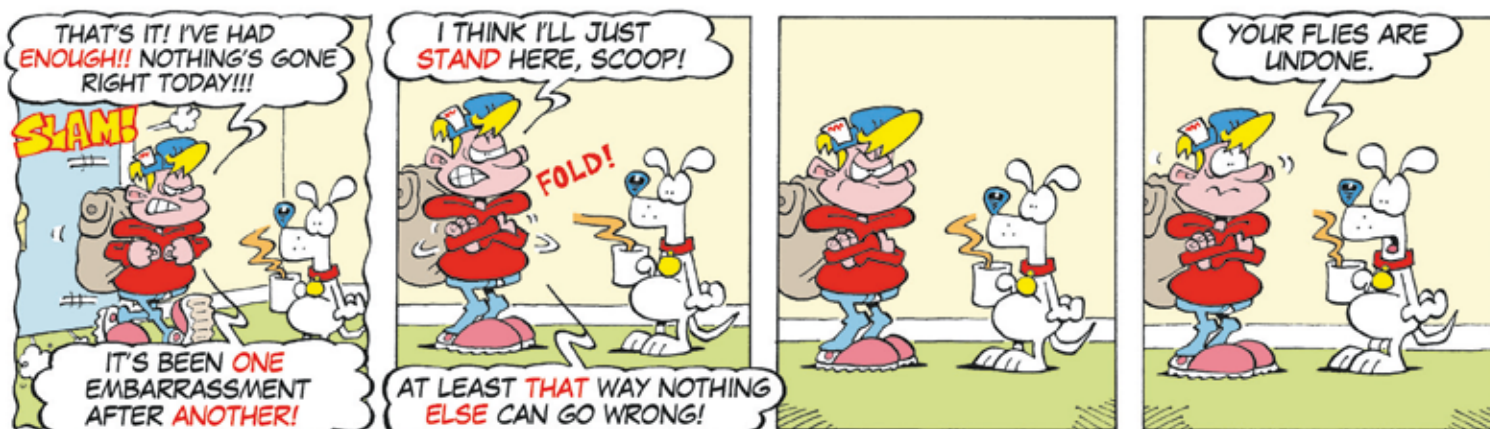
SCIENTISTS say that robot vacuum cleaners are currently too lazy and could be doing lots more jobs for us around the house.

A team from the University of Bath has suggested that the devices could be playing with our cats and watering the plants, too.

Yoshiaki Shiokawa, a PhD student behind the study, said that the gadgets aren't being used for most of the day and should be working harder. He said that with some simple adjustments and attachments added, most devices could complete up to 100 functions around the home. Some of the suggestions include charging phones, projecting work-out videos onto walls, and checking on the oven.



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer





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.

STUDENT RESCUED FROM MOUNTAIN – TWICE!

A CHINESE university student had to be rescued from Mount Fuji in Japan twice in one week! The 27-year-old was airlifted to safety after falling ill with altitude sickness, but then returned to the mountain just four days later to look for his phone and other belongings. He got altitude sickness for a second time and the emergency services had to be called again.

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 FACT. The student was rescued twice in a week, despite all trails being closed and warnings being issued about the harsh conditions. Some people on social media have said he should pay for the emergency services' time that he wasted.

IN NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE!

UNIVERSAL'S EPIC UNIVERSE

CRESSIDA COWELL

EUROVISION

DON'T MISS IT!

Do you want to write for

FirstNews?

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

SNAPPED

JUNIOR JOURNALIST





THE BAFTAS ARE IN TOWN!

A HOST of TV stars and creators are heading to London's Royal Festival Hall for the BAFTAs on 11 May. The awards honour the best in television, from children's shows and reality TV to best actors and actresses. Let's find out more...

Who's presenting the awards?

For the first time, Scottish actor, writer, producer and presenter Alan Cumming will host the star-studded ceremony.

Who will we be cheering on?

Our partner Sky Kids' show *FYI*, of course! The show is nominated for the Children's: Non-Scripted award for its *FYI Investigates: Disability and Me* special. The programme explores what life is like for disabled children growing up in Britain. The other shows nominated are *BooSnoo!*, *Operation Ouch!* and *Reu & Harper's Wonder World*.



Who else are we rooting for?

Well, there are four brilliant programmes in the running for the Children's: Scripted gong. They are *CBeebies As You Like It* at Shakespeare's Globe; *Horrible Histories*; *Ready Eddie Go!* and *Tweedy & Fluff*.

Will Ant and Dec win again?

There's a very strong chance! The loveable duo are competing for the Entertainment Performance award for *Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway*. But they're up against fierce competition in Claudia Winkleman, Graham Norton and more.



Ant and Dec

Will our favourite Strictly winners waltz off with a prize?

We've got our fingers crossed for last year's *Strictly Come Dancing* winners, comedian Chris McCausland and Dianne Buswell! The couple have been nominated for the P&O Cruises Memorable Moment, for their beautiful waltz to *You'll Never Walk Alone*. This is the only award voted for by the public.



Chris and Dianne

The BAFTA Television Awards with P&O Cruises will air on BBC One and iPlayer on Sunday 11 May.

FIVE
MINUTES
WITH...

BUST OR TRUST

FANCY yourself as a bit of a detective? *Bust or Trust* is a podcast for young people who'd like to get to the bottom of some of the world's most interesting mysteries! We caught up with its hosts, 'Myth Truster' Tiernan Douieb (above, left) and 'Myth Buster' Athena Kugblenu (above, right), to find out more.

Hi guys! What's the best mystery you've ever discovered?

Athena: It's the jumping wall of Kildemock for me!

Tiernan: Legend says that a wall in an Irish church moved by itself, leaping over the body of someone! There's evidence to show the wall has moved, and no-one really knows why.

Do you have to do a lot of digging to find some of the stories?

Tiernan: We've done big mysteries like the Loch Ness Monster [the famous fake is pictured below] and Bigfoot, but we've also had to delve into some quite obscure ones, like the jumping wall. Every town has its own local mysteries, so when you really dig, there are loads out there.

Athena: We get to travel around the world through history and time, and every day we discover something new. I hope the podcast inspires young people as much as it inspires us!

What are your tips for spotting a fake?

Tiernan: Always check your sources!

Athena: Remember that a lot of sites don't have an opinion – they just want your clicks because it makes them money.

Do you ever struggle to decide if a story is bust or trust?

Athena: We always take both positions, and leave it up to the listener. Every day, young people are told things by adults that are meant to be true, because adults know everything, right? Actually, kids, there's still so much we don't understand!

Tiernan: Yeah, children can be idiots, but we're bigger idiots!

Check out *Bust or Trust* wherever you get your podcasts.



WHAT'S HOT



Mrs Doubtfire on tour!

The *Mrs Doubtfire* musical is set to tour the UK and Ireland for the first time next year. The hit comedy will open at the Birmingham Hippodrome in August 2026, followed by dates in Newcastle, Plymouth, Leeds, Glasgow and Southampton. For all the latest, visit mrsdoubtfiremusical.co.uk.

New Hollywood attraction at Disneyland Paris!

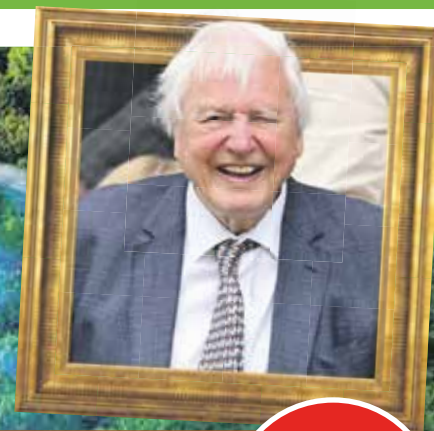
A brand-new Hollywood-themed area is opening at Disneyland Paris next week (15 May). The World Premiere area will transport guests to the heart of a glamorous Hollywood film premiere. You'll be able to eat at The Hollywood Gardens Restaurant, shop at Mickey's of Hollywood Boutique and check out loads of shows at the World Premiere Plaza.





DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

As the environmentalist celebrates his 99th birthday and starts his 100th year on Planet Earth, we look back at his ten decades.



1926–
1935

A nature-loving boy

Sir David Attenborough was born on 8 May 1926 in Isleworth, west London. He grew up on the campus of University College, Leicester, where his father was the principal. From a young age, he loved collecting fossils and natural specimens.



Education

David went to Wyggeston Grammar School and did very well in his lessons. He loved learning about science. During this time, World War Two was happening. His academic excellence earned him a scholarship to Clare College, Cambridge, where he studied geology and zoology, setting him on a path for his future career in natural history broadcasting.

1936–
1945

1946–
1955

Starting work

After serving in the Royal Navy for two years, David joined the BBC in 1952. Back then, very few people had televisions! He became a producer making programmes about animals, even though he was nervous to appear on camera at first.



The future King Charles and his sister Princess Anne meet Sir David in 1958 on *Zoo Quest*

Big adventures

David began making amazing wildlife programmes, like *Zoo Quest*. He travelled around the world filming animals in the wild, something that had never really been done on TV before. These exciting journeys helped people learn about animals in faraway places. He was at the founding of WWF in 1961.

1956–
1965

1966–
1975

Big boss

David became a big boss at the BBC, in charge of BBC2, helping to choose what programmes went on air. But he missed being out in nature, so he went back to making wildlife documentaries. He believed it was important for everyone to understand and care about the planet.



Launching his *Living Planet* book in 1984

Life on Earth

In 1979, David wrote and presented *Life on Earth*, one of the most popular nature documentaries ever. It's thought that around 500 million people across the world watched it. It showed the story of life evolving from tiny creatures to humans. It helped people see just how amazing and connected all life on Earth really is. Then he came out with *The Living Planet* in 1984. He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in 1985, which meant he became Sir David!

1976–
1985

1986–
1995

More shows

Sir David kept making new programmes, like *The Trials of Life* (1990), each one focusing on different parts of the natural world, like plants, birds or the oceans. His voice and way of explaining things made him very well known. He was often called "the voice of nature".



Sir David watching his own show *The Trials of Life* at his home in Richmond

Honours and awards

More people around the world began to recognise Sir David's efforts to help nature and teach people how special the planet is. He supported various environmental causes, becoming an ambassador for WWF-UK in 2004. The Queen gave him the Order of Merit in 2005, one of the UK's highest honours.

1996–
2005

2006–
2015

Going digital

Sir David tried new ways of sharing nature stories, such as 3D films and online videos. He made programmes like *Planet Earth*, which showed animals in stunning detail. Even with new technology, he always kept one goal – helping people fall in love with the natural world.



A powerful voice

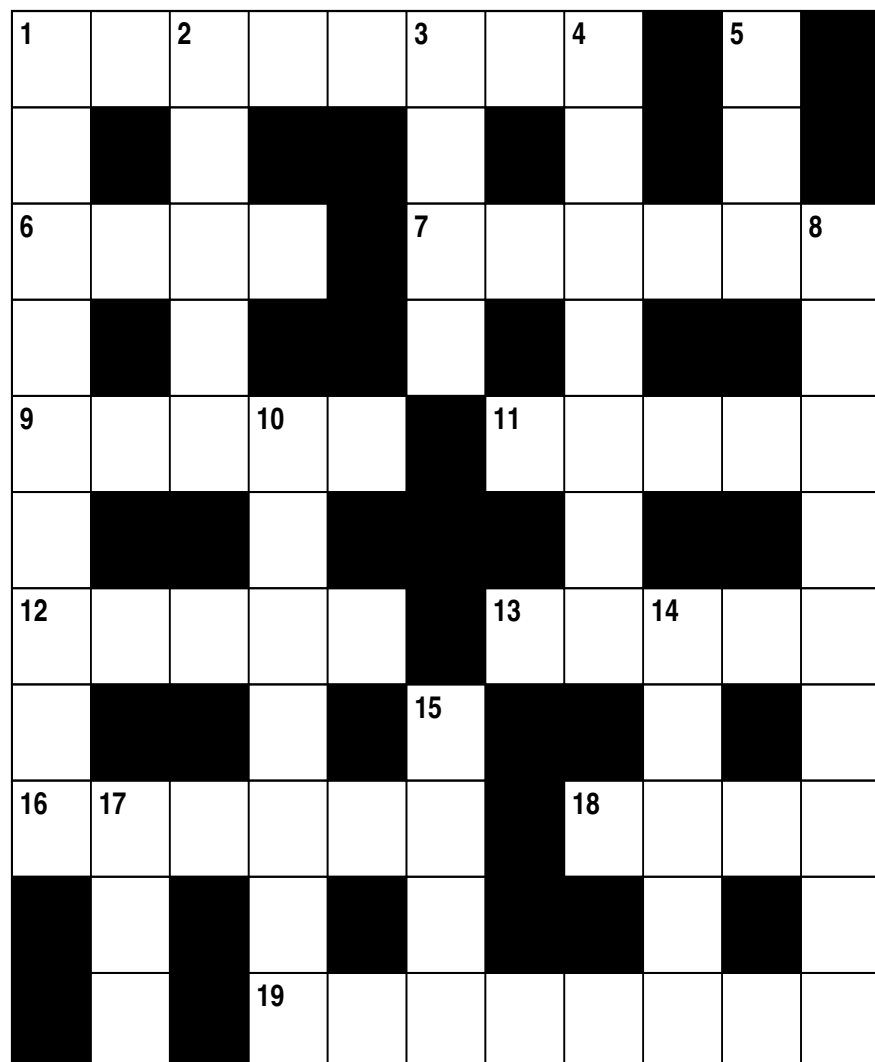
Even in his 90s, Sir David is still speaking up for animals and the environment. In 2022 he was appointed a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St Michael And St George by Prince Charles (now King) for his work highlighting the natural world in TV shows and campaigning to protect it. Yesterday (Thursday 8 May) on his 99th birthday, he released a new film, *Ocean with David Attenborough*, saying: "If we save the sea, we save our world. After a lifetime of filming our planet, I'm sure nothing is more important."

2016–
2025



CROSSWORD

CAN you solve our crossword puzzle using the clues below?



ACROSS

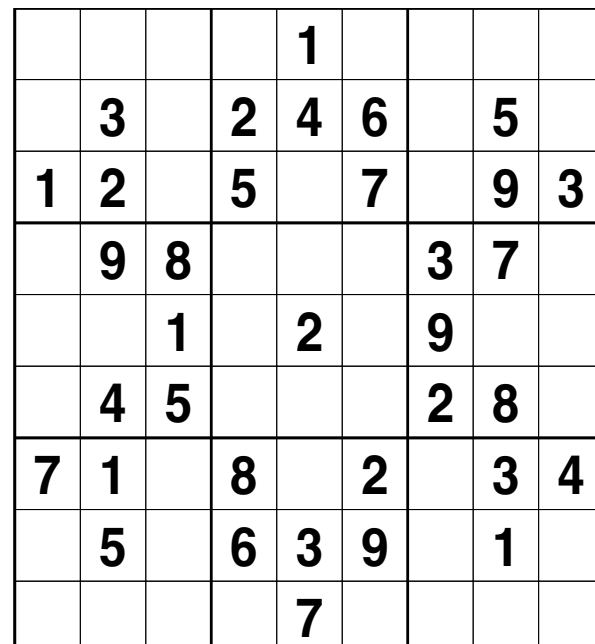
- 1) Cover with small bits of something (8)
- 6) Goals (4)
- 7) Short pieces of writing (6)
- 9) Rub out (5)
- 11) Sag (of a plant) (5)
- 12) Routine act; custom (5)
- 13) Supply or distribute something (5)
- 16) Small bag sewn into clothing (6)
- 18) Animal that typically scuttles sideways (4)
- 19) Recall (8)

DOWN

- 1) A vehicle that can explore the solar system (9)
- 2) Type of dance (5)
- 3) Leg joint (4)
- 4) Makes certain (7)
- 5) Plaything (3)
- 8) Ninth month of the year (9)
- 10) Adhesive label (7)
- 14) A woody plant smaller than a tree (5)
- 15) Time (anag) (4)
- 17) Not on (3)

Sudoku

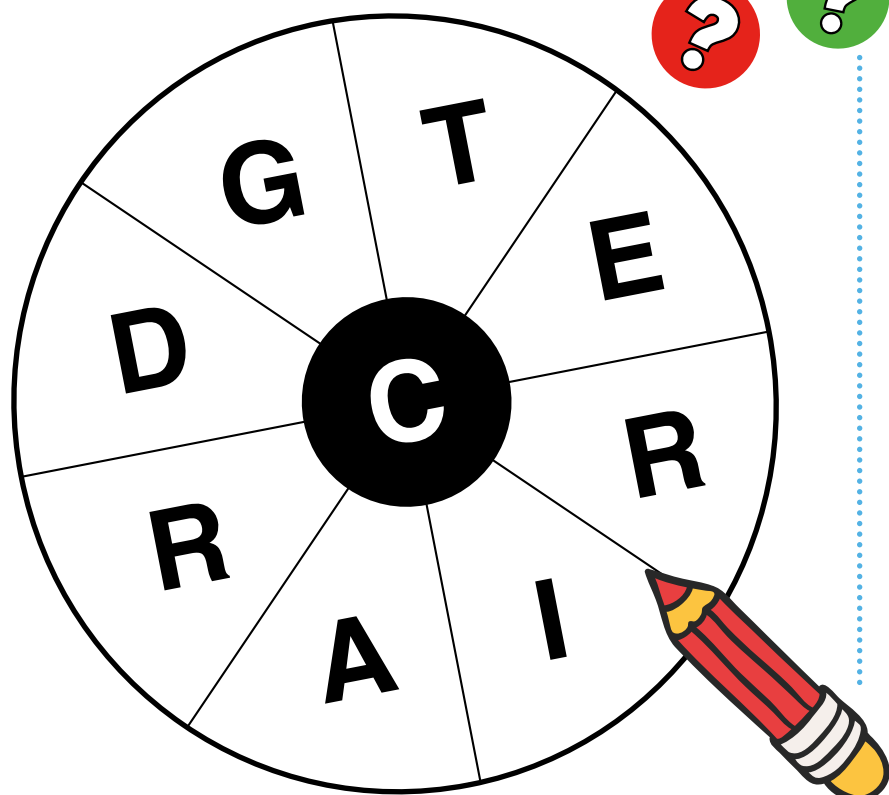
CAN you complete our sudoku puzzle, filling in the numbers one to nine?



COMPETITIONS: To enter, email us at win@firstnews.co.uk putting 'competition name' (e.g. Holiday), in the subject box or visit firstnews.comps. First News competitions are only open to those aged 15 and under and residents of the UK & Republic of Ireland, except employees of First News, First Group Enterprises Ltd, Reach plc and any associated companies and their families. Winners will be selected at random from all those with the correct answer. No purchase necessary. First News will not enter into any correspondence. All winners will be notified accordingly. If you are a winner, your details will be securely passed on to the person who is providing the prize so they can post it out to you. If you are contacted but don't reply within 28 days, we may offer the prize to another entrant. No cash alternative for any prizes will be offered. The winner may be required to partake in media activity relating to the competition. Your personal data will be held for a maximum of 12 months after the competition and then destroyed. It will not be used for any other purpose unless you have given us permission. If you would like your data deleted before this, please do get in touch with us. You have the right to complain to the ICO if you believe there is a problem with the way your data has been handled.

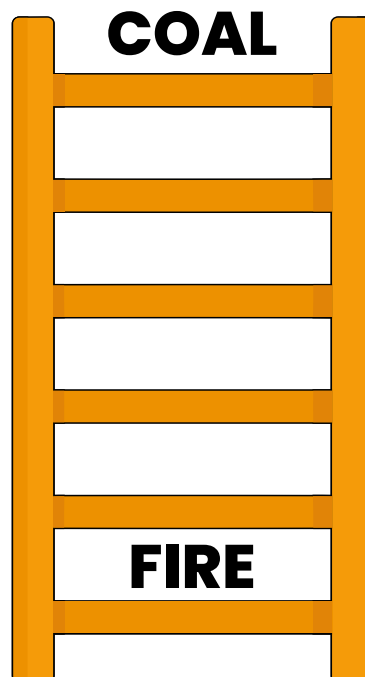
Word wheel

SEE how many words of three or more letters you can make, using the middle letter in each one. And can you find the word that uses all the letters?



Word ladder

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

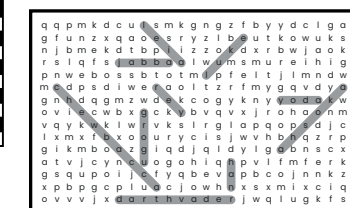
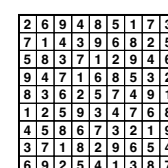
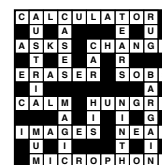


ISSUE 985 ANSWERS:

Word wheel: imperfect.

Word ladder: rose, rise, ripe, pipe, pine, pink.

Spot the difference: 1) Light bulb is now yellow 2) Child's arm missing 3) Woman's shorts have become trousers 4) New splodge added to man's top 5) Man's hair changed colour 6) Badge missing from man's rucksack 7) Pumpkin is now orange 8) Box on top shelf missing 9) Carton added to middle shelf 10) Label on bottle is now dark.



CHECK OUT OUR APP

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



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

CAN you find the ten changes we've made to this zoo scene?

A

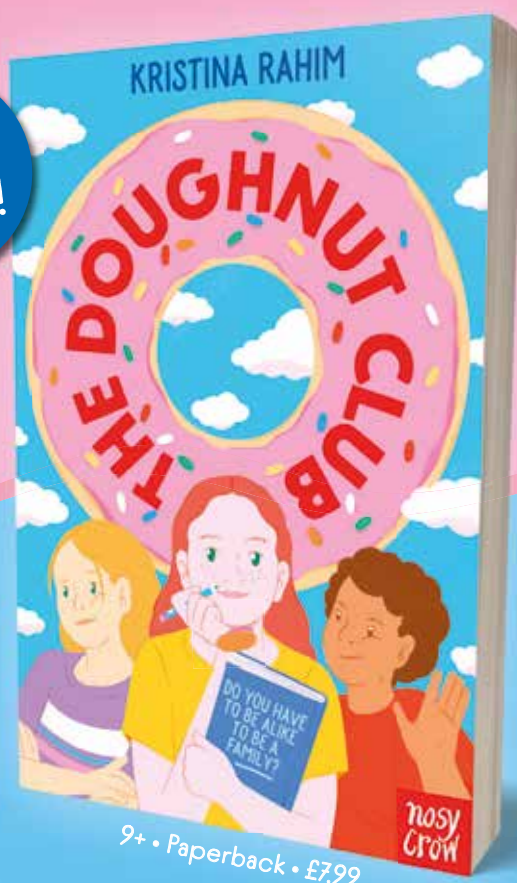


B



EVERYONE'S WELCOME IN THE DOUGHNUT CLUB

OUT
NOW!



For anyone who's ever
felt like they don't fit in...

An unmissable summer
adventure about family,
friendship and being true
to yourself.

"Heartwarming
and relatable. I loved it."
Jen Carney

"Joyful"
Simon James Green

"Uplifting"
Harry Woodgate



**nosy
crow**



5 THINGS IN...

Land of the Last Wildcat by Lui Sit



Magical, mythical animals

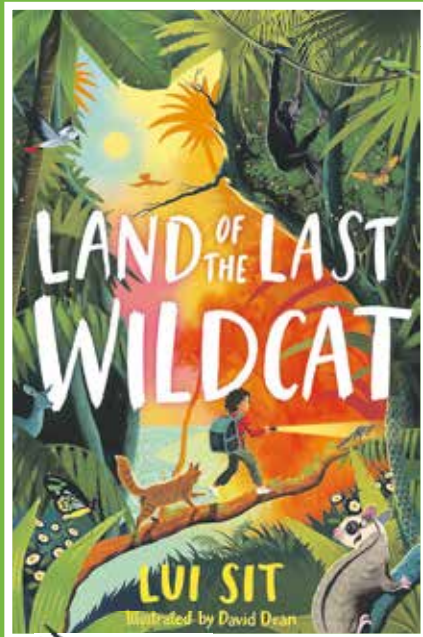
In the book, a young girl named Puffin Lau finds herself on a mission to save a creature called a kuri – a mythical, near-extinct orange wildcat that's said to have healing powers.

Family and friendship

Puffin's mum, a scientist, barely sees her, so, instead, she turns to her freckly best friend Lance for help. Together, they embark on a journey to faraway Linger Island to save the last wildcat.

A greedy scientist

Of course, there's an obstacle in the way and, of course, it's a grown-up! A greedy scientist called Professor Smoult is out to stop Puffin, capture the kuri, steal its magic and make himself rich.



Wonder for the natural world

Puffin adores the natural world – even its poo – and she wants to protect it from those who seek to harm it. Linger Island lies in the Atlantic Ocean, just off the west coast of Africa, and is home to all manner of animals and plants. It's the perfect place for Puffin to lose herself in adventure.

Amazing illustrations

This amazing cover gives you a flavour of what to expect! British illustrator David Dean has filled the pages of *Land of the Last Wildcat* with stunning pictures to bring Puffin's story to life. Fun fact: David decided he wanted to be an illustrator aged 14, and has worked on over 200 books!

★ *Land of the Last Wildcat* is out now

Meet the author

Jessica Townsend,
author of *Silverborn*

What were you like as a kid?

Pretty shy until I turned seven, when I discovered I liked singing and dancing... and chatting. Then I became an unstoppable, obnoxious, noisy force of nature!

What's your best ever memory?

The days that I brought home each of my beloved puppies, Vivien and Rik, are among the very BEST-best.

Who's your favourite other author?

I love Robin Stevens' *Murder Most Unladylike* books.

What do you do outside of writing?

Swimming and taking Vivien and Rik for beach walks. I'm also into cooking – I make a mean vegan curry!

What snack can't you live without while writing?

I drink iced water and lots of coffee. The last snack I had was a Tim Tam, which is a bit like a Penguin biscuit (but better, I'm sorry to say).

What's your biggest fear?

That dolphins will evolve to walk on land and learn to shoot acid out of their blowholes. And heights.

Can you describe your book in three words?

Murder, magic, mayhem... and

for your bonus fourth word: Magnificat!

Tell us about the main character, Morrigan Crow.

Morrigan Crow was born on an unlucky day and blamed for everything that went wrong in her home town. She was also cursed to die on her 11th birthday! But instead, she escaped to a magical city, joined a secret society, moved into a living hotel with a giant talking cat, and made the best, most loyal friends anyone could ask for.

What's one bit that readers should look out for?

The Havana nightclub heist! I wish I could break in to a fancy-pants 1950s nightclub and cause a rumpus!

What was the hardest part of writing it?

Getting to the end of any first draft is really hard. But it's always worth keeping at it and finishing your story, even if it sometimes feels impossible!

★ *Silverborn* by Jessica Townsend is out now.



Recommended reads

in partnership
with Peters



Be kind to yourself

MENTAL Health Awareness Week is 12-18 May (see page 13). The world gets on top of all of us sometimes and childhood can be challenging, but these books feature some helpful lessons to help you navigate it!



Grey by Laura Dockrill and Lauren Child

Despite a colourful world, sometimes we can feel grey. This book explores those grey-day feelings, and how kindness can help us see the colours again.

What Is Mental Health? by Dr Lucy Maddox

Guided by expert Dr Lucy, learn the answers to your top curious questions about mental health, like where it comes from and how we can best look after it.

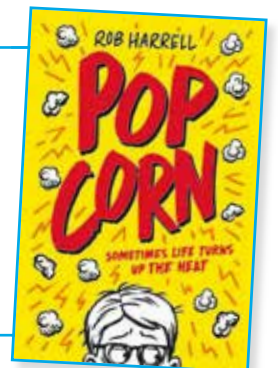


Sadé and Her Shadow Beasts by Rachel Faturoti, illustrated by Rumbidzai Savanhu

Ever since her mum died, shadow beasts have slipped into Sadé's imaginary world – and into the real world, too. Can she find the courage to banish them for good?

Popcorn by Rob Harrell

Laugh out loud and empathise with Andrew as he copes with his popping anxiety and a growing pile of bad luck.



Perfectly Norman by Tom Percival

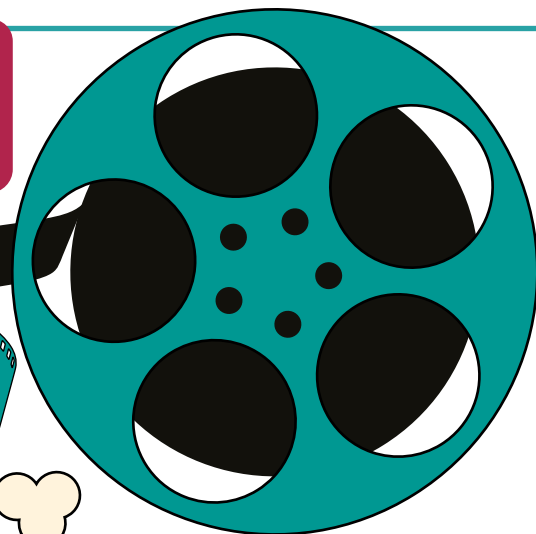
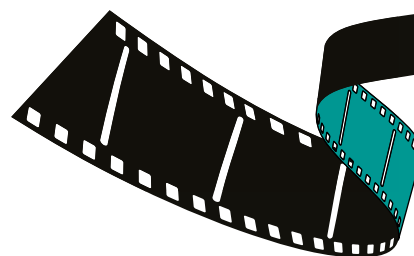
Norman hides his newly-formed wings under a big coat so no-one sees. Can Norman free his wings and be true to himself?

★ **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!



LIGHTS, CAMERA, CAUTION



Top tips for creating and sharing films responsibly

FILM-MAKING isn't just for wannabe Hollywood directors. Anyone can create a short film and show it to the world, but with great power also comes great responsibility. Here are some tips to keep in mind if you're about to create and share a mini masterpiece.

● Celebrate your voice

One of the joys of film-making is the chance it gives you to share your unique take on the world. Is there a story you've always wanted to tell? Are you passionate about the environment? Or madly in love with street dance? Grab a device and have a go! Just remember that you are the secret ingredient that will make your video stand out. Don't pretend to be someone you're not or follow the crowd. Just be yourself. That's more than enough.



● Too much information?

You might be the special part of your film, but that doesn't mean sharing everything. Some things should stay private. Your full name, for example. And where you live, where you go to school, date of birth – anything that might identify you, your family or your friends. You'll also need to think about what you're showing in your videos. If you're filming at home, keep objects that might identify you out of the frame. If you're filming outside, don't show your house or street sign in your shots – or any local parks or hangout spots that will make it easy for people watching to identify where you are.



● Show some respect

When you create content for the internet, it's easy to forget that it's going to be watched by real people with their own thoughts and feelings. It can lead you to say things that you wouldn't dream of saying to someone's face. That doesn't mean you can't be honest, but just think about how other people might react to what you say and how you're saying it. If you're not sure, check it with a friend or a trusted adult before you record it, just to make sure. Showing respect to your viewers should encourage respectful comments in response, but if you feel anything crosses the line, report it to a trusted adult and flag it in the app or website that you're using.

● Credit where it's due

As you create your content, you might find clips, music or images online that would work well in your video. But that's someone else's work. They own it and might not want other people using it without permission. Just imagine how you'd feel if someone passed off your hard work as their own. Creators, like you, put a lot

of time and effort into creating exciting content, so the responsible thing to do is to ask first or make sure you give them credit. If you need extra material to complete your film, there are lots of websites that offer copyright-free material that you can use to your heart's content.

● Keep it real

Making a film and sharing it with people around the globe is exciting. Just don't get carried away. In a world of fake news, it's more important than ever to stay honest and stick to the facts. If you come across information that doesn't sound right during your research, double-check it on other sites or run it past a trusted adult. It may also be tempting to share juicy gossip, one-sided viewpoints or just flat-out lie to entertain your viewers and grab a few 'likes', but think about the effect it can have. Will the content scare your audience? Make them angry? Encourage them to act in irresponsible ways? Or is it going to make them feel left out, alone or just not quite as good as other people?



● Find your place

Talk to family, friends and trusted adults about the best sites to show off your work. Your school may even be able to host your work on its own website.

One safe space to share your work is Into Film's Film of the Month competition. We accept films in any genre, covering any theme – at any time of year. It can be fiction or non-fiction, live-action or animated. If you're aged between 5 and 19, we want to see what you've created! Your entry will be judged by the Into Film team and the winners will have their films shared on our website and across our social channels. You might find yourself nominated for an Into Film Award. We run the awards every year, with amazing prizes across nine categories. All nominated young people are invited to the star-studded awards ceremony in London. Visit www.intofilm.org/competitions.



Learn more about
Into Film at
www.intofilm.org

**INTO
FILM**



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

This week on Your News, Kit, a junior journalist from the News Club, got a really exciting opportunity to interview famous author and comedian David Baddiel!

If you want the chance to speak to someone famous, or go to a press event for *First News* as a junior journalist, you can find out how to do that in the top right of these pages! And if you want to have your story published in an issue of the paper, just ask a parent/guardian to get in touch with us by emailing yournews@firstnews.co.uk.

THIS WEEK'S POLL!

We asked 3,097 of you:

Do you feel safe when cycling?

22%
of you
said NO

78%
of you
said YES



MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

Cast your vote in our polls at firstnews.com/polls



BURGERS, BOOKS AND BIG LAUGHS

AUTHOR DAVID BADDIEL TELLS US ALL ABOUT HIS BOOK *SMALL FRY*!

JUNIOR journalist Kit got to chat to children's author and comedian David Baddiel all about his childhood dreams, favourite food, cats and his book *Small Fry*. Check it out!

● **Hey David! Can you tell us a bit about the *Small Fry* story?**

Benny, the main character in the book, works at his dad Lenny's burger van, but the burgers there are terrible. One day, Benny asks his dad if he can make the burgers himself and it turns out that he's a naturally amazingly talented chef! And so next thing you know, people are queuing around the block for a Benny Burger. But there's another big burger company, called Bonkers Burgers, and they get very angry that Benny's Burgers are taking away customers from them. So in a lot of very silly, very mad ways, they try to shut down his burger van and it becomes a big battle between Benny's Burgers and Bonkers Burgers!

● **Did you always want to write books for children?**

The answer to that is no, I was a comedian. But when my son was eight, he gave me an idea for a book – which became *The Parent Agency* – about a world where kids could choose their own parents. Children seemed to like it, and as a result I wrote more books. *Small Fry* is my 11th children's book.

● **Benny is an amazing chef. Are you a good cook, and what is your favourite meal?**

I'm not a very good cook but I'm not a bad cook. I do a very good full English breakfast, so I like that, and I also really like curries.

● **Where do you get your ideas from?**

It's not about where ideas come from, but about having an ability to predict that there's a whole story in an idea.

● **Did you have a favourite children's book as a child?**

Yeah, I did. I loved the Billy Bunter books by Frank Richards. Billy Bunter is a bit like Harry Potter, but with no magic – it was just stories about the adventures of kids at a posh school. I also read the Just William and Roald Dahl books, including *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. I still think that's a very brilliant fantasy book.

● **I always get stuck when I'm writing. Do you have any tips for writers who get stuck?**

My main tip is to just write. Keep writing even when you think you can't write any more and even if it's nonsense and rubbish.

Writing organises your thoughts and eventually you'll think: "Oh, that's quite an interesting thought and I hadn't got that in my head when I started!"

● **What is your favourite book that you've written?**

I don't really have one. What I have are favourite categories. So my funniest book in my opinion is *Animacalm*, but the best story I've written is *Head Kid*. And I really like a book I wrote called *The Taylor TurboChaser* because it's got a disabled girl at the centre of it, and lots of disabled people and parents of disabled kids have written to me to tell me they liked that book!

● **Benny's wish in *Small Fry* is to become a chef. What was your wish as a child?**

To be a footballer!

● **Like every kid! But you've done comedy, TV and books. Which is your favourite, and which can be the most embarrassing?**

If live comedy goes wrong and no-one laughs or you forget everything, then it's really embarrassing. My favourite thing to do is writing. When I do stand-up comedy it's sort of a version of writing. As I get older, I like seeing stuff that I've created. So, for example, there was a musical of *The Parent Agency* recently and seeing that on stage was one of my most favourite things!

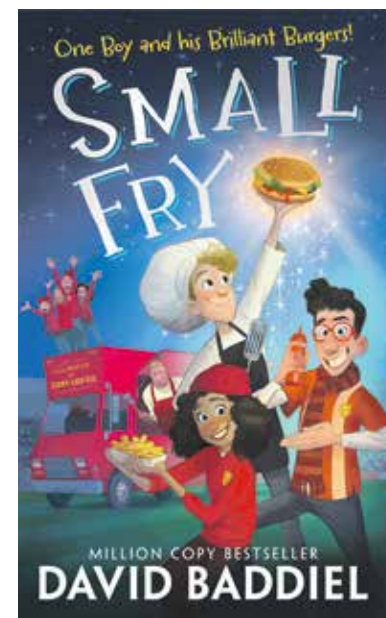
● **Nice. I understand that you're a cat lover. Does your cat influence your writing?**

Yes, I have four cats and there are often cats in my books. When I write, if there's a cat in the book, I'm thinking about my cats and what they do.

● **Thank you for coming!**

My pleasure. It's been great to be interviewed by you! Thank you very much.

Small Fry by David Baddiel, published by HarperCollins Children's Books, is out now in paperback.



David Baddiel chatting to Kit

NEWS CLUB SHOUT-OUT!

THIS WEEK WE'RE GIVING SHOUT-OUTS TO... Casterton College, Sir William Romney's School, Merchant Taylors' School, St Matthew's Church of England Primary School and The Shrubberies School!



Wonderful Winchester

AMELIE went to Winchester in the Easter holidays and wrote in to tell us what a great time she had!

by Amelie, aged eight

In the Easter holidays, my family and I visited the city of Winchester. We packed a lot into our trip!

Our first stop was Winchester Science Centre. It was amazing how much we learnt. The highlight was the planetarium, where we felt like we were floating in outer space as we explored the universe. Did you know that Uranus used to be called George's Star?! We also saw some incredible live science experiments.

We then did a fun trail around Winchester's Great Hall, where we saw a round table like the one in the myth of



Amelie and her sister had a great time exploring Winchester!



In Winchester Cathedral

King Arthur. We also learnt that Winchester was once an ancient capital city. We stopped for delicious pizza (my dad's pizza had lots of jalapeño peppers on it, so we had a jalapeño-eating challenge, which I won!).

The next day, we explored the city by doing a free bunny-hop trail. After we found all the Easter words in shop windows, we took our maps to the information centre and got a little treat! Our final stop was Winchester Cathedral, where we learned a lot of history. It was interesting to see the ancient graffiti on the cathedral's stones. The cathedral's beautiful stained-glass window looks like a kaleidoscope because it was smashed during the English Civil War in the 1600s and then randomly put back together by local people many years later. We hope to go back to wonderful Winchester very soon!



**WANT TO
FEATURE ON
THESE PAGES?**

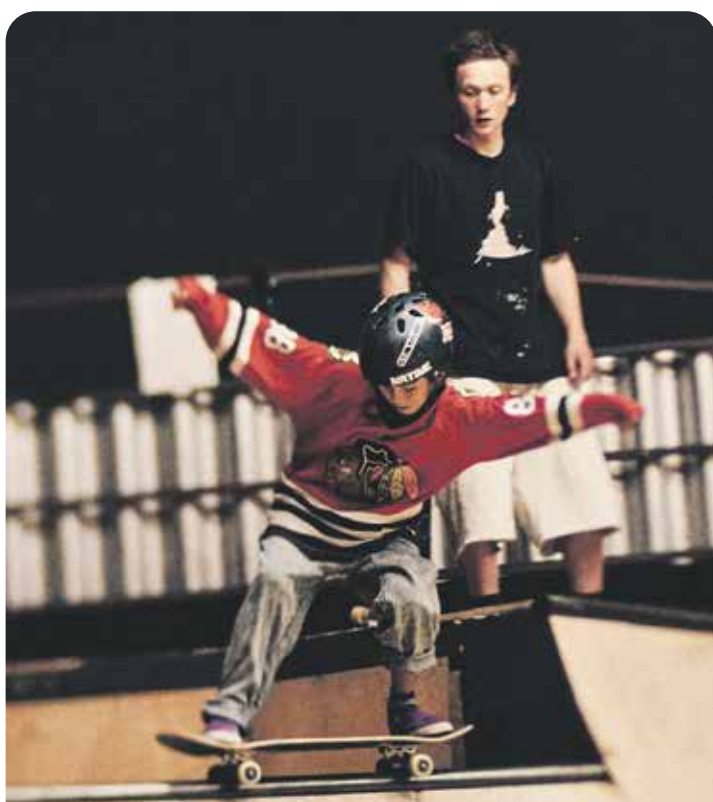
FirstNews

FYI

**NEWS
CLUB**

sky kids

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



A show like no other



The cast in action

SASHA was chosen to be part of a theatre production called *Skatepark* that was the first of its kind, mixing skateboarding with dance performance.

by Sasha

When I was five, I started skating, and I've loved it ever since. Skating makes me feel free, like nothing else matters except me, my board and the wind on my face. I love the sound of my wheels on smooth concrete and the pop when I land a trick. It's like music just for skaters.

One day, my dad took me to an audition for a skate show at Sadler's Wells East. I was nervous but excited! At the audition, we had to show tricks and stylish moves. I tried my best and just had fun. A few weeks later, my dad got a message to say I had been picked! I couldn't believe it.

At the first rehearsal, we entered through the backstage door. It was dark and exciting. When I pulled back a big curtain, I saw a brand-new skatepark built inside the theatre! It smelled fresh and looked awesome, with rows and rows of empty seats. I couldn't wait! I jumped straight onto the ramps and started skating.

At dress rehearsal, I met all the other skaters, all different ages and styles, just like a real skatepark. Everyone was so nice and supportive. The director had a clear idea, and it felt cool to be part of it.

On show day, I was nervous, but the second my wheels hit the floor, it felt like any other skate session – pure joy. Landing tricks in front of a crowd felt incredible. At the end, we all bowed together. I felt proud and wished I could do it all over again!

I guess what I'm trying to say is: don't be afraid of the unknown. It might be the best adventure ever.

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 The Big Summer Kick-Off is an event in what sport?

2 Which political party has won control of ten councils?



3 Which royal has lost his police protection court case?

4 North Korea has begun building its first road bridge to which country?

5 Three astronauts landed back on Earth last week. Where are they from?



6 For years, Tim Friede has been deliberately letting what animals bite him?



7 Which UK city is home to the Gromit Unleashed trail?



8 Hungary's biggest ever single-breed dog walk took place last week. What dogs were they?

9 Wildlife experts in the US have been using a special puppet to hand-rear what kind of creature?

10 This truck had to be dragged from a river in California. Which company makes these vehicles?



11 The town of Maldon hosts an annual race where competitors crawl through what?

12 What is the name of the chilly fundraising challenge that first went viral back in 2014?

13 The process to elect the new pope is known as what?



14 Researchers hope to make leather from what extinct animal?

15 How old is Lily Janmohamed, the new Parkrun world record holder?

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



Answers:
1) Rugby 2) Reform UK 3) Prince Harry 4) Russia 5) China 6) Snakes 7) Bristol 8) Dachshunds (aka sausage dogs) 9) A vulture chick 10) Tesla 11) Mud 12) The Ice Bucket Challenge 13) The conclave 14) The T rex 15) Eight years old

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All pics: Getty

THE Swiss mountains make a dramatic backdrop for the Tour de Romandie, a famous cycling race that passes through the French-speaking part of Switzerland.



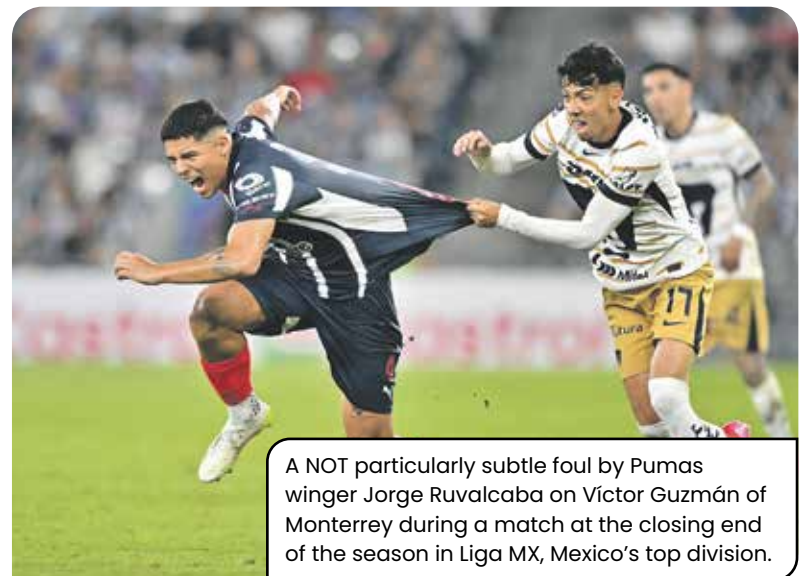
BRITAIN'S Jack Draper gives it some welly during the final of the Madrid Open. Although he put up a great fight, he lost out to Casper Ruud 7-5, 3-6, 6-4.



AUSTRALIAN rugby league star Makenzie Weale gets a double hit during the annual State of Origin event, which sees the states of Queensland and New South Wales play each other in a fiercely competitive three-game series.



SOUTH Korean golfer Haeran Ryu gets a taste of champagne after winning the Black Desert Championship. The tournament saw Australia's Stephanie Kyriacou stun the crowds with an albatross (three under par) on the very last hole. They're so rare that it was only the 53rd on the LPGA Tour since 1971!



A NOT particularly subtle foul by Pumas winger Jorge Ruvalcaba on Víctor Guzmán of Monterrey during a match at the closing end of the season in Liga MX, Mexico's top division.



ONE GAME FROM GLORY



Chelsea's Catarina Macario tucks away the penalty that sealed the win over Spurs

CHELSEA are just one game away from finishing the season unbeaten in the league.

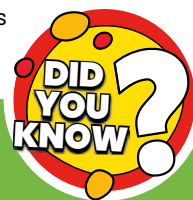
They were confirmed as champions last week after a 1-0 win against Man United, which was followed by another 1-0 away win at Spurs.

Their final challenge is a home game against Liverpool, so a win or draw will put the cherry on top of their league campaign.

They've also got the FA Cup final on 18 May, which

would see them wrap up the treble, as they also won the League Cup back in March.

A DEFEAT to West Brom means that Luton Town have been relegated for the second season in a row. They were playing in the Premier League just last year, but will be in League One next season.



Brazil's away kit has been blue ever since they wore it when they won the 1958 World Cup final, below (we know the photo is in black and white, but trust us, it's blue!)

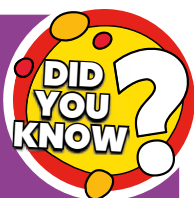


New football kits don't usually spark political rows, but it all kicked off in Brazil after a report that the Brazilian Football Confederation was planning a new red away kit for the national team in time for next year's World Cup. Red is associated with the party of Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, so his opponents are outraged. Likewise, in recent years the team's yellow home kit has become associated with the former president, Jair Bolsonaro, so many of his critics refuse to wear that kit.

Zhao Xintong has become the first Asian player and only the fifth non-British player to win snooker's World Championship. He beat former champion Mark Williams 18-12 in the final at the Crucible in Sheffield. "We have a new superstar," said Williams.



SCOTLAND'S curlers were close to adding another bit of silverware to their bulging trophy cabinet, but Bruce Mouat and Jen Dodds ended up with silver after the final of the World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship. They were beaten 9-4 by Olympic champions Amos Mosaner and Stefania Constantini of Italy.



Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone (above) once again dominated the competition as she took maximum points from the season's second Grand Slam Track meet. She finished first in the 400m hurdles and the 400m. The new series sees athletes compete in their favourite event and one more, and the overall winner of the two takes the \$100,000 (£75,000) prize. Britain's Josh Kerr was one of the other prize winners, after winning the 1,500m and finishing fifth in the 800m.



Oscar Piastri is showing that his early wins this season were no fluke, putting in another superb drive to win the Miami Grand Prix. It's the McLaren driver's fourth win in six races and leaves him 16 points clear of his team-mate Lando Norris, who finished second. McLaren have built up a formidable lead in the constructors' standings, with a lead of 105 points over Mercedes.

Braydon's on the ball



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

Into the 91st minute of the last game of a long season, a goal from Manor Solomon secured the Championship title for Leeds United. It sparked huge celebrations for the Leeds fans and was followed by a parade through the city on Monday. With Burnley already leading 3-1 at home to Millwall, it looked as if Turf Moor would be the home of the title, but Leeds dug deep and found a dramatic winner at Plymouth to take the crown. Both Leeds and Burnley finished the season on a remarkable 100 points, but a superior goal difference means that Leeds are the champions.

In more last-day drama, Bristol City battled back from two goals down to draw with Preston and take the final play-off spot just ahead of Blackburn. They'll join Sheffield United, Sunderland and Coventry in the play-offs for the huge prize of a place in the Premier League.



Bradford's hero Antoni Sarcevic (left)

The League One champions were Birmingham with a record-breaking 111 points, and Doncaster Rovers took the League Two crown with a 2-1 win at Notts County. Possibly the most dramatic of all was the winner at Bradford City, where a 96th minute goal from Antoni Sarcevic seized third place and automatic promotion from League Two.

With the season completed, the focus now shifts onto the play-offs across the three divisions and the excitement of a trip to Wembley beckons for the teams (and supporters) involved.

In Scotland, Rangers and Celtic shared a 1-1 draw at Ibrox, while Falkirk gained promotion to the Premiership with their win over Hamilton.

In the WSL, Man United secured a place in the Women's Champions League at the expense of their neighbours City following a 2-2 draw in the Manchester derby at Old Trafford, and Everton won the Merseyside derby with victory over Liverpool at Anfield.

The final football action now lies with the last three games of the Premier League season and with the teams involved in the battle for the Champions League places, and I'll have more on that next week.

Braydon's Team of The Week: Leeds United, the Championship champions.

Braydon's Player of The Week: Bradford's Antoni Sarcevic, their goal-scoring promotion hero.

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

