

NEWS KIDS CAN **TRUST**

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR*



First News

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



BAFTA
WINNER TELEVISION

FYI
INVESTIGATES

DISABILITY AND ME

2

**WINS A
BAFTA!**

BUZZING FOR WORLD BEE DAY

WWF'S TIPS
ON HOW
WE CAN ALL
CARE FOR
BEES

10

13

**YOU CAN
TOUCH MARS**
(yes, really!)

23

**DREAM
BIG
ABOUT
YOUR
FUTURE**

MEET THE TEAM



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Cox



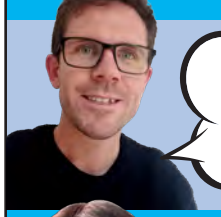
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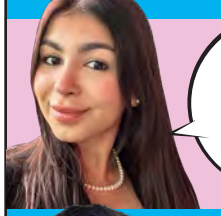
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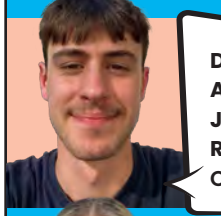
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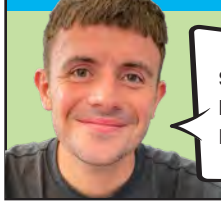
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HAVE YOU HEARD?

Snappy stories to get you talking!



WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK IS BACK

National Walk to School Week returns from 19–23 May. This year's theme is The Great Space Walk. Everyone's encouraged to travel actively to school for the week, and learn about the important reasons to walk or wheel. It's not just good for your health, but the environment too! Who knows, you might meet your colourful intergalactic friends along the way. And take care!



IT'S A BLOOMIN' AI GARDEN!

A garden that uses the power of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is one of the highlights at this year's famous Chelsea Flower Show, which runs from 20 to 24 May. The Avande Intelligent Garden, designed by Tom Massey and Je Ahn, includes a selection of climate-resilient plants and trees, which will all be monitored by AI. Many of the other gardens will focus on the future and how to tackle climate challenges.

THEY SAID THAT!

GEORGE: "Disability and Me WON! It won a BAFTA! I'm so proud. It takes guts to open up about your life, especially the bits we struggle with, AND especially as teenagers in such a judgemental world. But, without being honest and brave, how will we ever make change for the better? Big shout out for giving us a much-needed platform that the disability community so desperately needs."



EVA: "I'm actually in shock. There was a time not that long ago when I was struggling at school because of my disability. I felt invisible. Today I found out I've won a BAFTA. This isn't just for me. It's for anyone who's ever been made to feel small. You are enough. You do belong. Keep going. Please be kind."

HARMONIE: "I'm so happy we won a BAFTA. I think it's good to show that what you look like on your face doesn't show who you really are. I hope people will see us as we see ourselves. And, maybe, treat people with disabilities with respect going forwards."



ISLA: "I never thought a quick video of me would end up at the BAFTAs. I'm just a normal girl who loves animals and never thought this would happen. It's so cool. Am I famous now?"



FYI's Matt Peacock and Nicky Cox, also editor of First News, with the BAFTA

WINS A BAFTA!

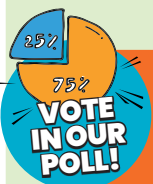


First News' partner Sky Kids show, FYI, made by Fresh Start Media, scooped the Children's Non-Scripted award at this year's BAFTAs. FYI Investigates: Disability and Me hears from children about what their lives are like growing up with a disability in Britain. Here the stars of the show share their thoughts on winning a golden BAFTA gong! Watch the documentary by scanning this QR code, with permission from a responsible adult. Other big winners at the 2025 BAFTAs, which celebrate the best in TV, were Strictly champions Chris McCausland and Dianne Buswell who were awarded Memorable Moment for their waltz to You'll Never Walk Alone and CBeebies' As You Like It At Shakespeare's Globe, which won the Children's Scripted award.



HEINZ LAUNCHES NEW SAUCE

Heinz, the nation's kings of ketchup and bosses of beans, has launched an all-new condiment – Fish and Chips sauce. The company describes it as a sort of supercharged version – a “hot new upgrade” – of traditional tartare sauce. It hopes that the “fresh and herby” product will become “Britain's new go-to pairing for fish dinners.” In its research, Heinz said fish is becoming more popular for British diners each year.



Would you rather eat fish and chips with ketchup, or this new sauce?

Vote at first.news/polls



TEENS TO DRIVE TRAINS

Eighteen-year-olds will be allowed to drive trains now, the Department for Transport (DfT) has announced. The government has decided to lower the minimum age from 20 to help with staff shortages. New job and apprenticeship opportunities could be available as early as December, says the DfT.

WICKED WINNERS REVEALED!



Lucia



Megan

The winners have been announced for the 2025 **Wicked Writers: Be the Change** competition. Each year, children use their writing skills to campaign for a better world. A record 2,400 boys and girls sent entries to the judges, who included *How To Train Your Dragon* creator Cressida Cowell. Lucia from London won in the 9–11 age group with her piece about pollution in the River Thames, while Megan from Leeds won in the 11–14 age group with a story to inspire a better safety for women and girls on public transport. Both won class trips to see *Wicked* live on stage!



HELP STOP KNIFE CRIME

Knife Crime Awareness Week runs from 19–25 May. It aims to raise awareness and educate all young people about knife crime and how we can prevent it. A report produced by the Ben Kinsella Trust, titled *Keeping Young People Safe*, found that one in four young people know someone who has carried a knife. This week aims to highlight how taking small actions can drive big change to avoid violence.

TOUGHER ENGLISH TEST FOR MIGRANTS

The government will expect legal migrants to have a better standard of English in the future if they want to stay in the UK. The current standard is seen as similar to a GCSE level if someone was doing English as a foreign language, whereas the idea is that the new level will be more like that of a foreign language A level. The change is designed to help migrants find work, but also to reduce the record numbers of migrants who have come to the UK in recent years.

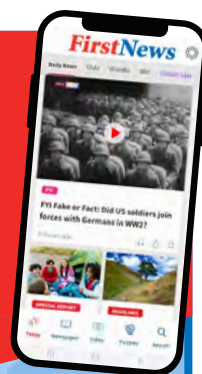


EUROPE GETTING MORE GIANT HAILSTONES

Scientists say that the warming climate is leading to parts of Europe seeing more and more hailstones the size of golf balls! Hailstones more than 5cm in diameter can break windows, put dents in cars and damage roofs. A report by the European Severe Storms Laboratory in Germany found that countries such as Argentina in the southern hemisphere are seeing less giant hail, while places like Turkey and Italy are experiencing it more.



We post daily news throughout the week on the **First News app!** Here's one from the past few days...



The tree pictured in 2020

TWO MEN FOUND GUILTY OF CHOPPING DOWN SYCAMORE GAP TREE

TWO men have been found guilty of chopping down the famous Sycamore Gap tree in Northumberland and causing damage to the historic Hadrian's Wall.

Lawyers said that Daniel Graham, 39, and Adam Carruthers, 32, had travelled across the country from Cumbria on a “moronic mission” to cut the tree down for a “bit of a laugh”, but then didn't have the guts to own up to it once they realised what outrage they had caused.

The tree had become popular with tourists and photographers, and had even featured in Hollywood films. It had stood since the late 1800s when it was planted as a landscape feature, but was chopped down in less than three minutes with a chainsaw.

When the tree came down, it fell on top of part of Hadrian's Wall and damaged it.

Graham and Carruthers both denied being involved, but the jury took just five hours to reach a verdict that they were both responsible.

The pair are due to be sentenced in July, but could go to prison for up to ten years for what the northeast's chief prosecutor called “a deliberate and mindless act of destruction.”

● ENDANGERED SPECIES DAY 16 MAY

Aims to raise awareness of all the different species out there under threat and what we can do to help protect them.

● HAY FESTIVAL 22 MAY – 1 JUNE

Loads of famous authors are heading to Wales, where there'll be books, music, comedy and art.





INDIA and Pakistan agreed to stop firing at each other after a week of tense clashes over Kashmir.

Kashmir is a region between India and Pakistan, filled with mountains, meadows and valleys. The two nations have fought over it since 1947, and the territory is split down the middle. China also controls part of it.

Three weeks ago, India accused Pakistan of helping terrorists to carry out an attack in the Indian-controlled half of Kashmir on 22 April that killed 26 tourists. Pakistan denied any involvement.

However, days later, India carried out air strikes on what it said were nine terrorist bases on Pakistani land. It also stopped some rivers from flowing into Pakistan, damaging its neighbour's water supplies.

This triggered four days of attacks between the nations, with each using fighter jets, drones and missiles to hit areas near their borders. Dozens were killed on both sides.

Each country is armed with nuclear weapons, and world

leaders were worried that the fighting could snowball into a full-blown war.

What helped to calm things down?

On Saturday 10 May, USA president Donald Trump announced that his country had helped to arrange a ceasefire (a stop to the fighting). He said that it "could have been a bad nuclear war", but his country did "great things" to bring a "very heated situation" to an end.

Pakistan said that more than 30 countries had been involved in the ceasefire talks, and its prime minister, Shehbaz Sharif, called the agreement a "historic victory."

However, both countries have accused each other of breaking the agreement, and remain on high alert.

Mr Sharif said: "Our honour, our dignity and our self-respect are more precious to us than our lives."

India's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, warned of "a strong response" if there was another attack on India.

EDITOR'S COMMENT

WE are so pleased that the *FYI Investigates* documentary – *Disability and Me* – won the BAFTA in the awards' new children's category at the weekend.

We hear from the four children with disabilities that were featured in the film on page 2.

One of the show's presenters, Thomas, also has a disability. He told us: "Still can't believe that we won a BAFTA. It feels amazing that I got the opportunity to present this award-winning documentary with Maya and shine a light on the challenges faced by disabled children in the UK."



Nicky Cox MBE



PE lessons

THE government has announced a new programme to give teachers across the country the skills to boost the quality of PE lessons for disabled pupils and those with special educational needs. It also aims to help those pupils to participate in school sports.

Ofcom announces latest tech stats

OFCOM has published its latest stats about how we, the people of the UK, use the media and tech.

The media watchdog says that the use of AI chatbots is on the rise, with half of young people using them, often for school work.

More than half of children who go online on phones say they're banned from using them at school.

Nine out of ten children aged 8–17 say they've been given a lesson about online safety. Those lessons seem to work, as Ofcom's stats show young adults are better at spotting scams and fake social media profiles than older adults.



Chris Packham

Packham's pollution petition

NATURE-LOVING TV presenter Chris Packham wants the government to ban all adverts by fossil fuel companies.

Fossil fuel companies are businesses that drill for coal, oil and gas to be used as fuel. When burned, these substances release carbon, which harms the planet.

Packham says: "In 2003, a ban on all tobacco advertising was introduced and has arguably worked. I believe... fossil fuel

usage will kill more people than smoking."

He's launched a government petition (a campaign) which has been signed by 100,000 people, meaning politicians will have to discuss his idea in parliament.

The worst polluters are already banned from advertising in some parts of the UK. Last year, Sheffield and Edinburgh banned ads for fuel companies like Shell and BP, as well as things like airlines and cruise ships.



The US Navy

THE US Navy cursed its luck when a £50m Super Hornet fighter jet toppled off an aircraft carrier and into the Red Sea on 28 April. On 6 May, it happened again! A second Super Hornet tried to land on the USS Harry S Truman, failed, and skidded overboard. That's two very expensive planes lost to the Red Sea in just eight days.

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.





CROSS RIVER GORILLA
Fewer than 250 adults left in Nigeria and Cameroon

MADAME BERTHE'S MOUSE LEMUR
The world's smallest primate

VARIEGATED SPIDER MONKEY
South American deforestation has led to a population plummet

TAPANULI ORANGUTAN
Earth's rarest great ape

PRIMATES IN PERIL

A REPORT has listed the 25 most endangered primates in the world – and called for urgent action to save them from extinction.

Those topping the list include the world's smallest primate, the Madame Berthe's mouse lemur, which is clinging to survival in the forests of Madagascar, and the rarest great ape, the Tapanuli orangutan of Sumatra.

Deforestation (the chopping down of trees) and trafficking (illegal trade) are the main reasons that so many of our furry fellow apes are in peril.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature teamed up with Conservation International to create the list. They're calling for larger sanctuaries, stronger laws and better funding to protect the at-risk species.



A LOT of us have enjoyed the sun over the past week – but the same can't be said for farmers.

England has seen its driest start to spring in 69 years, and farmers say that the drought-like conditions are causing the nation's crops to fail.

David Exwood, from the National Farmers Union, said: "The extreme weather patterns we have experienced over the past few years are impacting our ability to feed the nation."



Drought happens when there's an unusually low amount of rainfall for a long period of time.

Dry conditions don't just impact crops, but animals, too – farm animals have less grass to graze on, and low river levels put fish at risk.

In April, England received only half the rainfall that it normally gets and, in the north of the country, reservoir levels are very low.

The Environment Agency (EA) is asking people to use water carefully and calling on water companies to reduce leakage from their systems. It warns that, unless lots of rain falls in the coming weeks, a hosepipe ban could be on the way.

Richard Thompson, from the EA, said: "The last two years were some of the wettest on record for England, but drier conditions at the start of this year mean a drought is a possibility and we need to be prepared."

Tributes fit for a Queen!

THE IDEAS for a permanent memorial to the late Queen Elizabeth II have been whittled down to the final five.

The Queen (King Charles' mum) reigned for a record 70 years before her death in 2022, aged 96.

Artists and architects have been entering their designs for her memorial, which will cost up to £46 million.

Three of the final five ideas feature a statue of the Queen on horseback, while one uses recordings of her voice. The winning idea will be revealed later this summer and built in St James' Park in London, just a stone's throw from Buckingham Palace.

The final five designs are:

- A tranquil garden that spans the park's lake
 - A 'bridge of togetherness', featuring giant lily pads
 - A stone bridge with a cascading water feature
 - An exact cast of an oak tree in Windsor Great Park
 - A sequence of weaving paths and bridges
- Visit the **First News** app to see them all!



The 'bridge of togetherness' is a strong contender

'Copper load' of this new blue frog...



SCIENTISTS exploring the Amazon have discovered a new poison dart frog that's blue, with copper-coloured legs.

The discovery was made in one of the hardest-to-reach areas of the rainforest – the Juruá River basin, in Brazil.

There are around 180 known species of poison dart frogs, which are famed for their bright colours and toxic skin.

Researchers studying this new frog collected 26 adults and five tadpoles. They also recorded what they think were mating calls that males made to attract females.

They've given the frog the scientific name *Ranitomeya aetherea*. That second word – *aetherea* – is Latin for "heavenly", which is a nod to the three sky blue stripes on its back, and the spots on its belly.



BILL Gates – once the world's richest man – says he plans to give away nearly all of his \$200 billion (£150bn) fortune over the next 20 years!

The 69-year-old co-founder of Microsoft will plough his riches into his charity, the Gates Foundation, which combats poverty, disease and inequality.

He also took a serious swipe at fellow tech billionaire Elon Musk. Musk has been helping US president Donald Trump to slash spending, including on life-saving foreign aid.

"The picture of the world's richest man killing the world's poorest children is not a pretty one," Gates told the *Financial Times*.

**Vatican City**

CARDINAL Robert Prevost introduces himself as the new pope to crowds in the Vatican. About 100,000 people were gathered in St Peter's Square when white smoke (inset) began billowing from the chimney of the Sistine Chapel. This meant that a new pope had been chosen by a secret vote known as the conclave. Prevost, who chose the name Leo XIV, is the first American pope. The 69-year-old will lead the Roman Catholic Church's global community of 1.4bn people. His brother, Louis, told the BBC that when he found out, he shouted: "Oh my God, it's Rob!"

London, UK

BIG Ben is lit up during last week's VE Day celebrations, next to a statue of Winston Churchill. He was prime minister of the UK during the Second World War, announcing the surrender of Germany on 8 May 1945. This marked the end of the conflict in Europe and sparked huge celebrations.

London, UK

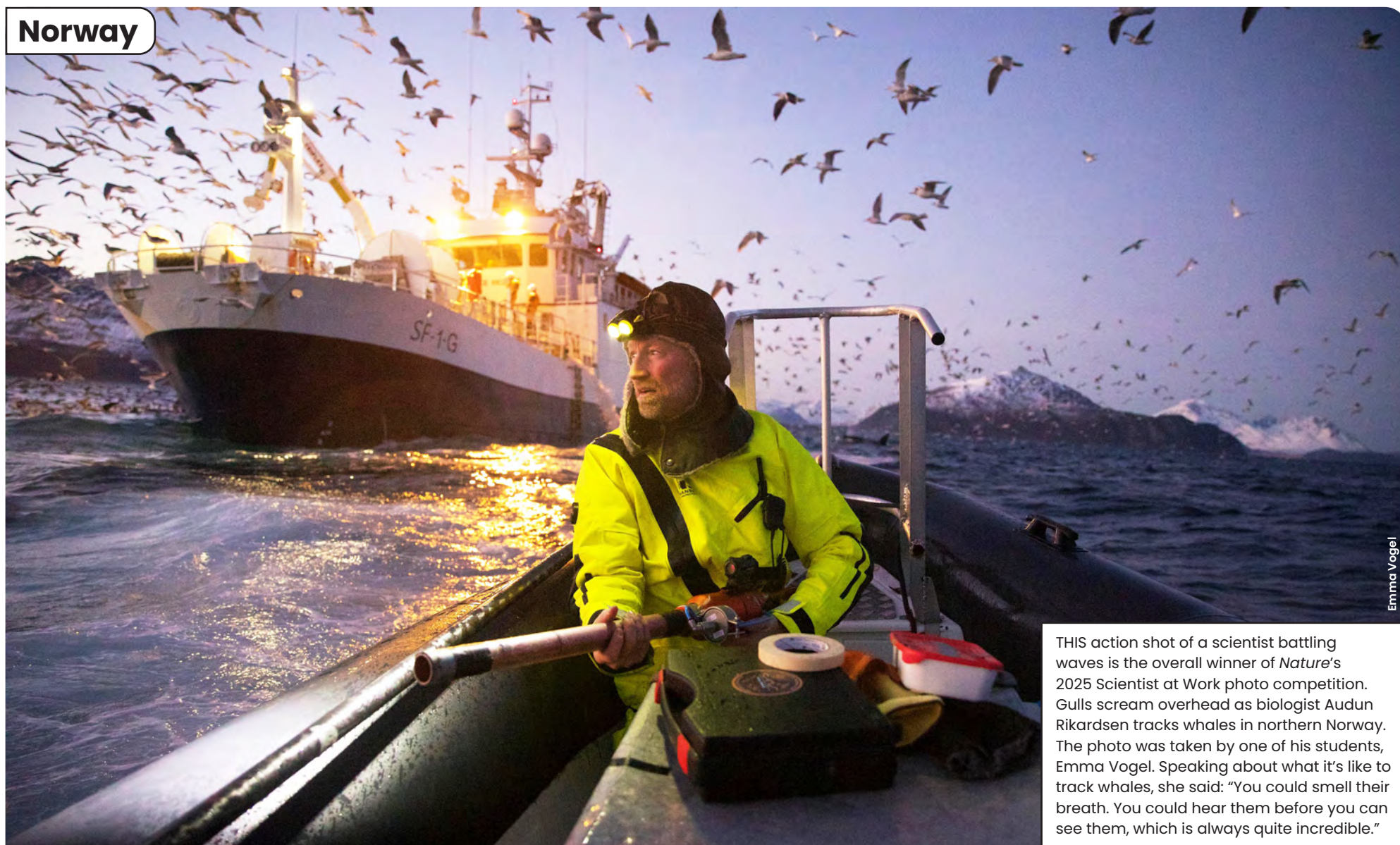
AN artwork called *Reclining Seal* on display at Sotheby's auction house. The Art For Your Ocean exhibition featured ink from sustainably farmed seaweed.

Catania, Italy

THE Freccie Tricolori, the Italian Air Force's aerobatic team, paint the sky in the colours of the Italian flag at the Catania Air Show.



Norway



Emma Vogel

THIS action shot of a scientist battling waves is the overall winner of *Nature's* 2025 Scientist at Work photo competition. Gulls scream overhead as biologist Audun Rikardsen tracks whales in northern Norway. The photo was taken by one of his students, Emma Vogel. Speaking about what it's like to track whales, she said: "You could smell their breath. You could hear them before you can see them, which is always quite incredible."

California, USA



Ryan Wagner

RYAN Wagner's photo of a fistful of frogs is also a winner in the Scientist at Work competition. The student captured this moment of environmental scientist Kate Belleville releasing a group of tiny froglets into the wild. Along with other scientists, they trekked for hours in California's Lassen National Forest to find the animals. Their mission was to bathe the little froglets in a special solution to save them from a killer fungus. "If you weren't looking for frogs, you might think that it's a cricket hopping out of your way," Wagner says.

SCOTLAND

Lifeline for reds

A major project between Scotland and England is hoping to end decades of red squirrel population decline. The project has been awarded nearly £5m of funding. This money will be put towards both restoring red squirrel habitats and controlling the number of non-native grey squirrels. Greys are partly to blame for the fall in numbers of their red cousins, so their own predators, such as pine martens, will be encouraged into new areas. These areas include the north of England and south of Scotland. Surveys have shown that about 75% of the UK's 160,000 red squirrels are in Scotland.



istock



Woolly jumpers help penguins until rescue workers arrive

Getty

SALTBURN

Flipper fashion

Two grans who call themselves the Knitting Nannas have been stitching small jumpers to save penguins. The creations by Joyce Baxtrem, aged 94, and Joyce Wooffindin, 83, help to stop the birds from getting ill after oil spills at sea. Penguins can swallow the oil when they try to clean themselves, but the jumpers can be worn until their feathers can be cleaned by rescue workers. They also help to keep them warm. The jumpers are being sent from Saltburn to Australia's Phillip Island, where preparations for oil spills are taking place for the 40,000 penguins that live there.

BELFAST

Young critics wanted

Do you consider yourself a film fanatic? The annual Cinemagic Festival is, once again, looking for kids with a keen eye to help create the ultimate film line-up. This July, groups of 8 to 11-year-olds and 12 to 14-year-olds will gather in Belfast's Ulster Museum to review films from around the world. Their important choices will shape Cinemagic, which takes place in October. The programme is open to all young people in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Find out more at tinyurl.com/cinemagicfest.



Could you be a young film critic?

BRISTOL

Branching out

A rainforest garden will be moved to a permanent home in Bristol after appearing at this month's RHS Chelsea Flower Show. As part of a 100-year project to bring rainforests back to western parts of the UK, the garden will take the role of a living classroom to inspire future generations. Temperate rainforests are one of the UK's rarest and most precious habitats. They are cool forests filled with wildlife and greenery, thanks to receiving a lot of rainfall all year round. The British Rainforest Garden is due to open at Bristol Zoo Project in October.



Tom Marshall

Tree-mendous news!



Charlie Baker

Dickens wrote famous novels like *Oliver Twist* in the house

LONDON

Day out with Dickens' family

Visitors to the Charles Dickens Museum will get to meet living relatives of the great author on a special anniversary day. On Monday 9 June 2025, it will be exactly 100 years since the Charles Dickens Museum opened its doors for the first time. To mark the day, which is also the 155th anniversary of his death, visitors will get free entry to 48 Doughty Street. Once inside the iconic house that Dickens once lived in, his relatives will share tales and showcase some of the museum's greatest treasures.

EAST YORKSHIRE



istock

PM Keir Starmer (inset) wants a clean future

Plug pulled on clean power plans

Plans for a huge windfarm off the Yorkshire coast have been scrapped. Danish energy company Orsted blamed rising costs for the cancellation of the Hornsea 4 project, which would have helped power more than a million homes. It's bad news for the government, which has set high ambitions for clean energy. After winning the election last year, Prime Minister Keir Starmer made zero-carbon energy by 2030 one of his 'five missions for a better Britain'. Clean energy is important because it comes from natural sources, like the sun and wind, and it doesn't produce climate-warming carbon dioxide.

IN PARTNERSHIP

**First
News**
NEWS KIDS CAN TRUSTNational
Trust

HALF-TERM ADVENTURES

Half-term is nearly upon us, so let's put away the tablets, turn off the TV, step away from the gadgets and get out into nature!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

WHETHER you want to delve into history at castles and houses, stroll through woodlands or along coastal walks, or simply discover local parks and gardens, you can discover all sorts of events and activities for the whole family with the National Trust.

With mice to find at Hill Top in Cumbria, caterpillars at Arlington in Devon and wolves at Cheshire's Little Moreton Hall, there's something for everyone on the children's trails. You can discover the Georgians with a *Horrible Histories* time-travelling experience at Osterley in London or the Anglo-Saxons at Sutton Hoo, Suffolk. Below are just some of the things on offer, but for more information or to find what's on near you, visit the link at the bottom of this page.



Hill Top and Hawkshead, Cumbria

Where mischief abounds! Beatrix Potter's *The Tale of Two Bad Mice* comes to life at Hill Top, with little needle-felted mice in various mischievous scenes around the property for you to try to spot. 'Mischief in Miniature' introduces you to cheeky mice Hunca Munca and Tom Thumb, with miniature scenes from the book along with other 'acts of mischief' that the pair might engage in. This experience accompanies the new exhibition *Pets to Page: The Tale of Two Bad Mice*, which will reveal the real-life inspiration for Beatrix Potter's famous tale.

Kingston Lacy, Wimborne Minster, Dorset

It's all about mini-beasties and forest detectives. On selected weekdays of half-term, join fun, hands-on nature walks featuring bug hunting, bird spotting, tree ID and more. Book your ticket for wild woodland adventures now.



Cliveden, Maidenhead, Buckinghamshire

Join us for an enchanting journey inspired by Eric Carle's beloved children's book, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. Cliveden is hosting a captivating trail where you can experience one of nature's greatest transformations. This charming trail brings to life the best-selling story of the tiny caterpillar who hatches from an egg and is so hungry he eats through a variety of fruits and snacks each day. Enhanced by illustrated trail markers, giant food posts and accompanying QR and augmented reality (AR) codes, activities and games, you can learn all about the life cycle of a butterfly – all within the grounds of Cliveden.

Little Moreton Hall, Cheshire

Where are those wandering wolves? Join us at Little Moreton Hall on this free spotter activity and help us locate the missing wolves. How many will you discover when you visit? See if you can spot the Moreton family crest as your wander around the hall, too. The crest shows a wolf, as they were a symbol of courage and guardianship. Some of the mischievous wolves have thrown on disguises and escaped the crests, and have cleverly hidden themselves away!



Chirk Castle and Garden, Chirk, Wrexham

Join Jake the Storyteller for bird-inspired tales. From the soaring majesty of eagles to the playful charm of robins, these magical stories will bring the sky to life in the heart of the castle grounds. You can also celebrate the curlew, a much-loved bird with a magical, bubbling call!



Visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/whats-on/may-half-term-family-activities



TIP 1 Learning more about bees, including their life cycle, where they live and what they eat, can help you understand how to look after them and create spaces for them in your garden or outside space.

TIP 2 Check out volunteering schemes such as the Bumblebee Conservation Trust's BeeWalk scheme to record bees in your garden or local park.

TIP 3 Stay away from weedkillers and pesticides, even the ones that claim to be "bee friendly", as these can still be harmful.



THERE are more than 20,000 species of bee!

TIP 4 Plant a range of native flowers in your garden, or in pots on a balcony or other space, so that bees have access to nectar and pollen from March to October.

TIP 5 Traditional flowers like dandelions, which many call weeds, are important sources of food for bees, so let some grow to help biodiversity.

A BUZZZZZZING CELEBRATION!

WORLD Bee Day on 20 May highlights why bees are so important in keeping people and the planet healthy.

Bees and other pollinators help to produce more than 75% of crops across the world, including fruits, vegetables, nuts and seeds. They're

also very good indicators of how healthy the environment is.

Bees are such good pollinators as they transfer pollen between lots of different plants across different areas. Most crops need this pollination to produce their fruits and vegetables.

The theme of this year's World Bee Day is "Bee inspired by nature to nourish us all" for us to think about how we can better protect pollinators, which are threatened by habitat loss, climate change and pollution.

Check out WWF's tips above.

World's seaweeds struggling

SEAWEEDS are critical to the health of humans and the ocean but they're at risk of extinction, says a new report.



Seaweeds need our help!

Seaweeds play an important role in our oceans; they absorb carbon dioxide, provide habitats for other marine species and produce food and medicine. However, they are facing huge challenges from things like climate change, overfishing, pollution and an increase in invasive non-native species.

The State of the World's Seaweeds report, led by the Natural History Museum (NHM), says that if we don't act urgently to protect seaweeds many could end up becoming extinct.

Professor Juliet Brodie from the NHM said: "A world without seaweeds means devastation to the functioning and food security of the Earth as we know it. A world with seaweeds that are healthy and thriving offers hope of a better future for the planet."

LOST SPECIES TO RETURN!



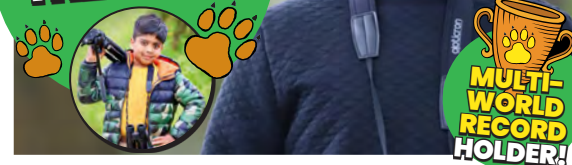
Bring bison back!

PROJECTS aimed at bringing elk, bison and beaver back to Britain have been awarded funding from the Rewilding Britain charity.

Thirteen projects are being awarded up to £15,000 to explore how the animals could help to restore nature, repair ecosystems and shape wild places.

One of the projects aims to reintroduce elk into two existing beaver enclosures in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, bringing the two species together for the first time in 3,000 years in the UK. Another hopes to reintroduce bison to the south of England.

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...

BASILISK LIZARD



HABITAT:

● Tropical rainforests in central and South America (often near streams).

FUN FACTS:

- These type of lizards can climb trees nearly vertically.
- Male Basilisk lizards have distinctive, high crests on their heads and backs, which they use to impress females.

SPECIAL SUPERPOWER:

● Basilisk lizards have a special ability to walk on water, which has led to the nickname 'Jesus lizard'. Their speed, along with specialised scales on the bottom of their feet, allows them to run on the water surface without breaking the surface tension.

CONSERVATION STATUS:

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



Aneeshwar's basilisk lizard 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.



WHY ARE SO MANY CHILDREN MISSING SCHOOL?

WE all struggle with our mental health at some point. And sometimes what's happening in our minds can affect how we feel around friends, at home and at school. This week on *FYI*, Jeriah investigates the link between poor mental health and school attendance.

Mental health and school attendance

How can mental health impact school?

It's really common to feel stressed, anxious and sad from time to time. But for some children, this can negatively impact their school life. New research just out shows a link between children with poor mental health and not going to school. When children miss out on school, they miss out on learning, and it can be very tough to catch up!



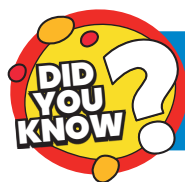
The government wants to increase mental health support in schools

What is the government doing to help?

So many kids are missing school, often because of mental health issues, that the government are calling it an absence epidemic!

They've just announced a plan that they hope will tackle the issue before things get worse. And five million kids could benefit from it as soon as next year. Pupils across England are set to get extra help from Mental Health Support Teams. These teams include specialists who help kids with things like stress, anxiety and low mood.

Right now, they support about four in every ten pupils, but the plan is to increase that to six in ten by 2026 and every single pupil by the year 2030.



CHILDREN with poor mental health are seven times more likely to miss more than 15 days of school.

Finding out more from government officials

IN the episode, Jeriah speaks to two government officials to find out more about the absence epidemic in schools.

■ Stephen Morgan, Minister for Early Education

Stephen: We want to make sure that 100% of children can access good quality mental health support at school.

Jeriah: And how do you aim to do that?

Stephen: We're growing the mental health workforce so that there's good quality specialist support in every school to make sure that everyone can succeed.

Jeriah: And do you think you can get all that done in such a short amount of time, by 2030?

Stephen: Well, these things take time of course, so we want to get it right. But it's really important to make sure people are at school, succeeding.

Jeriah: Now I want to talk to you a little bit about boys' mental health, because as a young boy myself I feel it's frowned upon to talk about our feelings.

Stephen: It's really important that we've got a system that gives boys the skills that they need for life and work. I think it's really important that there are positive role models in schools for boys.

■ Baroness Merron, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Patient Safety, Women's Health and Mental Health

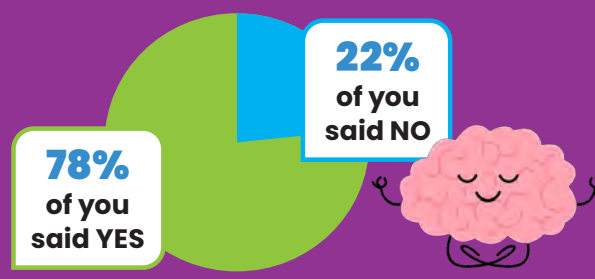
Jeriah: At *FYI*, we hear from a lot of kids who have poor mental health. Is there support that's already out there and is it enough?



Stephen Morgan

HERE'S WHAT YOU THINK

We asked 5,710 of you: **Should there be more mental health support in schools?**



Baroness Merron: No, it's not enough. We know there's not enough mental health care for children and young people and it's not available soon enough. So, we are in the process of making sure that every school across the country has got a mental health professional there.

Jeriah: So there will be someone in every school we could go to talk to if we're feeling stressed?

Baroness Merron: That isn't necessarily the case right now, but that's where we have to get to. If I had to give one message, it would be, 'don't suffer in silence, get help, accept it'. The government's here to make sure that help is available. And we have a lot of work to do on that.

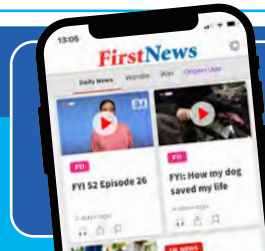


Jeriah chats to Baroness Merron



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.

FYI

sky Kids

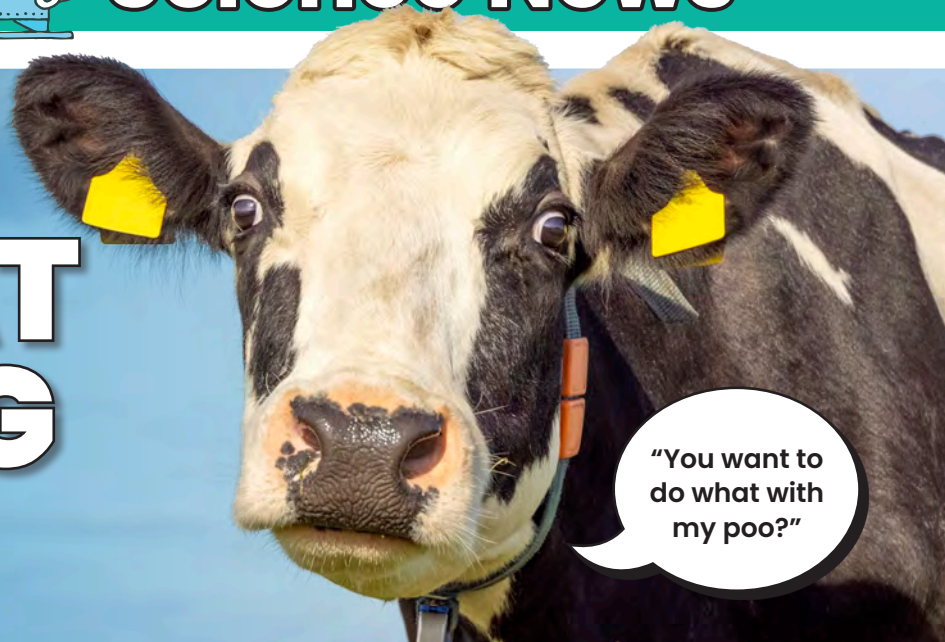
WATCH THE SHOW

To learn more about the absence epidemic, ask a responsible adult to scan the QR code.





FROM COW PAT TO CLING FILM



Cellulose can be used to make insulation for the walls and lofts in houses, too

RESEARCHERS in London, Edinburgh and Middlesbrough have invented a new technique that can make a valuable resource from one of the world's biggest waste products – cow poo.

Their aim was to find a new source of cellulose, which is used to make all kinds of stuff, from paper to drugs, and textiles to cling film.

Cellulose is found naturally in the cell walls of plants, so manufacturers can get it from waste plant material, but some is also made in factories using toxic chemicals.

But a new report in the *Journal of Cleaner Production* says that manure from cows, horses

and elephants is a “promising yet unconventional [unusual] raw material”.

The scientists adapted a manufacturing technique called nozzle-pressurised spinning. After baking the cow dung at 105°C to kill any bacteria and removing unwanted substances, they used their new method to spin the cellulose into films, ribbons and fibres. They say it could be used in “packaging, energy storage, electronics” and more.

The lead author of the report, Professor Mohan Edirisinghe, admits with remarkable honesty: “We’re still not quite sure why the process works, but the important thing is that it does.”

THE world’s love of cheese, steaks and burgers means that dairy farm waste is an increasing problem. But cow manure releases large amounts of greenhouse gases such as methane, carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide.



Funky monkeys!

LAST week we had Ronan the rhythmic sea lion but, this week, it’s the turn of our chimp cousins to show they can bash out a beat!

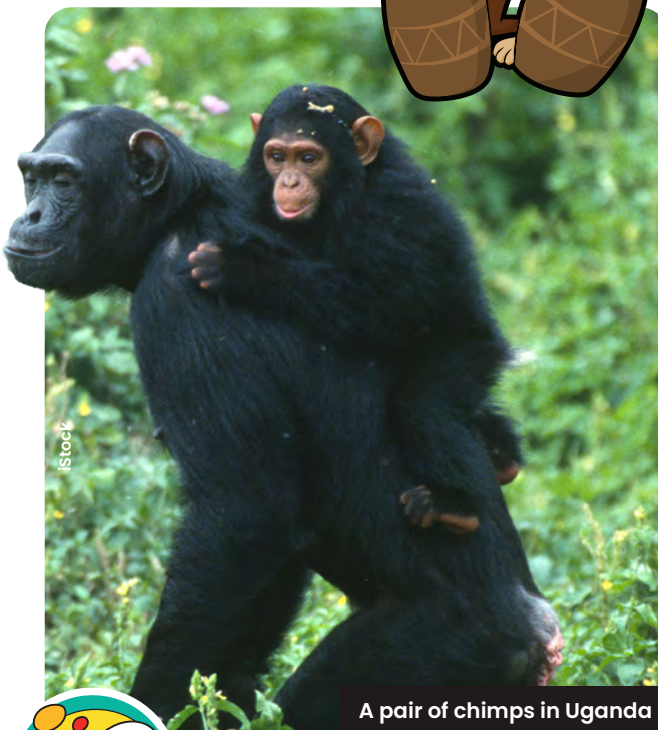
A report in *Current Biology* says that eastern and western chimpanzees can both drum in rhythm, and that the two subspecies have different drumming patterns.

Chimps communicate by drumming on a tree’s buttress roots, which are large roots that grow above the ground and provide support. It’s thought that chimps drum to let other members of the group know where they are and what they’re doing.

Researchers recorded 371 drumming spells in 11 different chimp communities in Uganda, Tanzania, Ivory Coast, Guinea and Senegal. They found that western chimps tended to keep an even beat, while eastern chimps changed between short and long beats.



BUTTRESS roots (above) help to prevent tall trees from blowing over in the wind. They mostly grow near, or above, the surface of the ground, as that’s where most nutrients are found in tropical forests, where the soil is usually quite shallow. Humans have used these huge roots to make everything from drums and shields to boats!



A pair of chimps in Uganda



WESTERN chimps drum faster than eastern chimps, so maybe they’re the heavy metal fans of the animal kingdom!

“Making music is a fundamental [essential] part of what it means to be human, but we don’t know for how long we have been making music,” says Catherine Hobaiter, one of the lead researchers. “Showing that chimpanzees share some of the fundamental properties of human musical rhythm in their drumming is a really exciting step in understanding when and how we evolved this skill. Our findings suggest that our ability to drum rhythmically may have existed long before we were human.”

This report is from the Science Museum Group

SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

HAVE you ever wondered where museums keep objects that aren’t on display in their galleries or on loan for exhibitions?

At the Science Museum Group, objects that aren’t currently at one of our five museums across the country can be found at the Science and Innovation Park in Wiltshire. This site hosts our National Collections Centre, the home of around 300,000 historic objects. The colourful grid in one of its buildings, upon which hundreds of large objects are stored, enables us to easily organise and store huge objects – from cars and tramcars to boats!

Check out our YouTube channel to see how we move these huge objects, like this five-metre-tall tramcar from the 1900s. Watch it at tinyurl.com/tramcar.



Just one of the huge buildings at the park



Caroline Smith and a pupil from Princes Gardens school hold a meteorite from Mars

See space rocks in your school!

You might think that you can only see rocks that have come from space behind glass walls in museums, but soon, school kids will get to explore them up close.

Thanks to the Open University and the Natural History Museum (NHM), meteor cameras will be set up in schools to help pupils spot meteor activity in their area.

Schools from around the UK, including London, Milton Keynes, Oxford, Culham, Birmingham, Liverpool, Dundee and St Andrews will be getting involved, with more later. Pupils will swap samples, data and ideas with other schools to help to shape real world science.



Trustees of the Natural History Museum, London

A fragment of the Winchcombe meteorite

What's a meteor?

- A **meteor** is the streak of light in the sky caused by space rock or metal burning up in the Earth's atmosphere.
- A **meteorite** is a piece that has landed on the ground.
- A **micrometeorite** is usually less than 1mm across.

In February 2021, a meteorite lit up UK skies before landing in the Gloucestershire town of Winchcombe. It was a big deal because it was the first meteorite found in the UK in over 30 years. It's hoped there will be a meteorite fall at least the same size as Winchcombe during the project.

Scientists discovered that the space rock is around 4.6 billion years old and came from the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.

Amazing meteorites

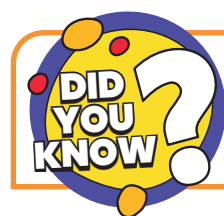
The Natural History Museum in London has one of the best collections of meteorites in the world, dating back to the 18th century.

Meteorites are grouped in different ways, for example, as **finds** or **falls**. Professor Caroline Smith (above, right), Head of Earth Sciences Collections at the NHM, explains:

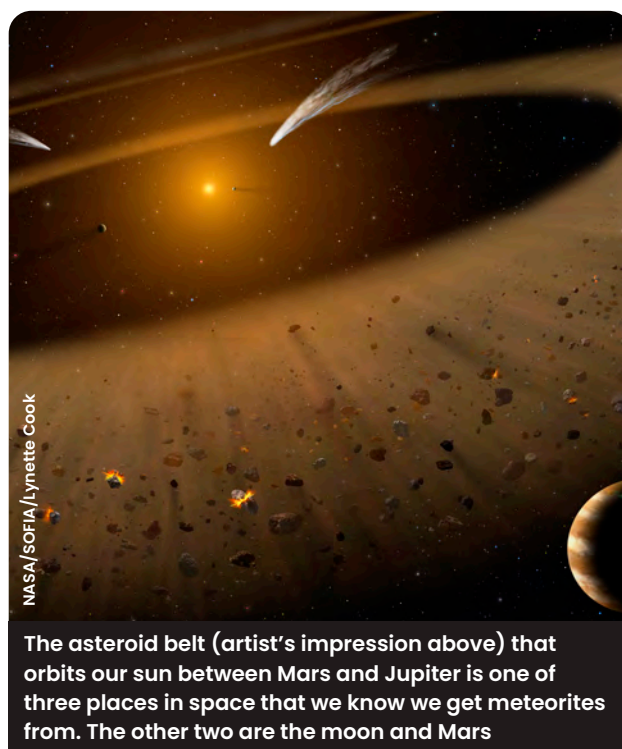
"A **find meteorite** is found by chance. Back in the day, it could've been a farmer ploughing his field and coming across a big lump of metal, which eventually is found to be a meteorite.

"A **fall meteorite** is one that has been seen to fall from the sky and has been very quickly recovered (just like Winchcombe). We've got the most witnessed fall meteorites of any museum in the world."

The NHM also has a long history of studying meteorites from Mars. One of these can be touched in a brand-new exhibition (see column on the right), which also includes the Allende meteorite, which is older than the Earth!



Despite what it looks like on the surface, Mars isn't actually bright red! It has a much darker colour up close.



NASA/SOFIA/Lynette Cook

The asteroid belt (artist's impression above) that orbits our sun between Mars and Jupiter is one of three places in space that we know we get meteorites from. The other two are the moon and Mars

OUT OF THIS WORLD!



FANCY snapping a selfie while holding pieces of the moon and Mars? Thought so!

A new exhibition has opened at the Natural History Museum in London which asks one of life's big questions – are we alone in the universe?

Visitors will be able to control a Mars rover (below), based on the real life work that the museum is doing with American space agency NASA. There will also be the chance to build your own LEGO alien, as well as design a mission to one of the moons of Jupiter or Saturn!

● **Earth and Mars: not as different as we may think**
Caroline Smith says: "So far, Earth is the only place we absolutely know that life exists. The exhibition brings it back to the key questions. What is life? How do you get life? What are the conditions for life? And what are the chances of finding life elsewhere?"

"We have things living in desert environments on Earth, so could there be things living in a desert environment on another planet? Say, Mars?"

"The museum is now the only place in Europe where visitors can touch a piece of the Red Planet.

"The meteorite (right) we have is a rock that's formed through volcanic processes. Mars in its past, and possibly even quite recently, has actually been a very volcanic planet. So a lot of rocks on Mars are very similar to the ones you get on Earth today in places with volcanoes, like Iceland and Hawaii."



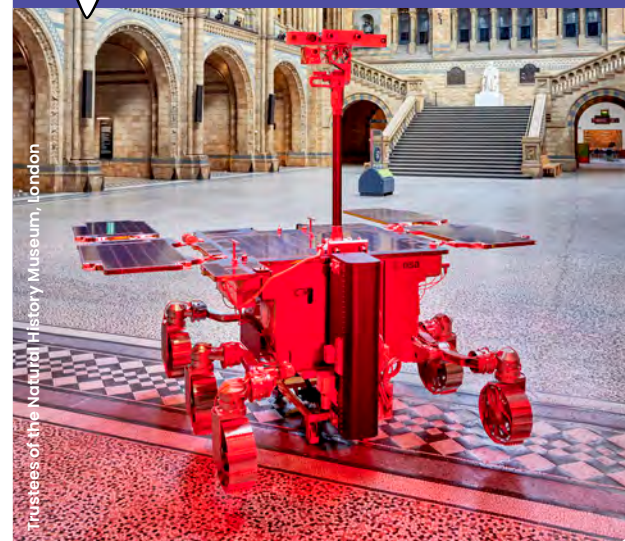
Charlie Baker



The museum has about 80 million specimens in its collection, but less than 1% of these are on public display!

"Some of the rocks may not look that interesting, but it's about the journeys they've been on," Caroline continues. "What can they tell us about the past, and what stories do they still have to tell?"

Space: Could Life Exist Beyond Earth?
runs until 22 February 2026 at the Natural History Museum, London



Trustees of the Natural History Museum, London



USA

AI version of killed man speaks in court

A man who died in a road rage incident in Arizona three years ago was brought back to life through AI last week. A recreation of Chris Pelkey spoke to the court to deliver his victim's statement, before his killer was sentenced to ten and a half years in prison. It said: "To Gabriel Horcasitas, the man who shot me, it's a shame we encountered each other that day in those circumstances – in another life, er, we probably could have been friends. I believe in forgiveness... I always have and I still do." The judge, Todd Lang, said: "I loved that AI, thank you for that." Even though it was AI, he said that he felt that Mr Pelkey's forgiveness was genuine.

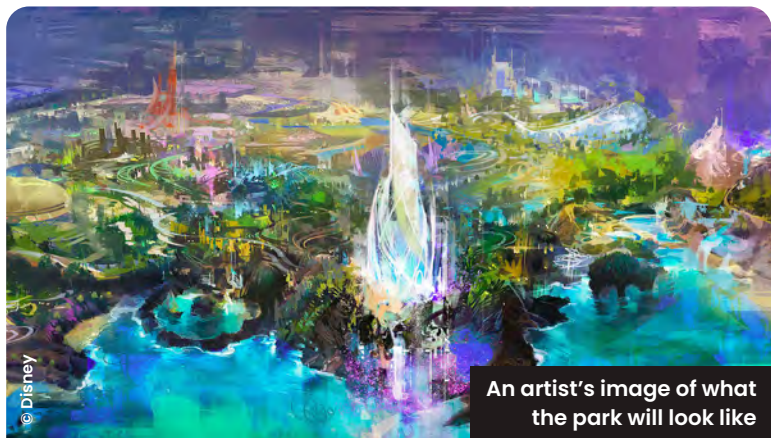


Mr Pelkey's family used voice recordings, videos and photos of him to help to create the video



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Disney plans first Middle East theme park



An artist's image of what the park will look like

Disney has revealed plans to open its first theme park in the Middle East. Disneyland Abu Dhabi will be built on Yas Island, a tourist hotspot that already has two other parks – SeaWorld and a Harry Potter-themed Warner Bros. World. Disney chief executive Robert Iger said the plans for the park were "thrilling",

and promised that it would be very 'Disney' but with a Middle Eastern vibe. The company says it will boast "cutting edge technology", themed hotels, unique restaurants and shops. Disney's first park opened in California in 1955. Today, it has other parks in Florida, Tokyo, Paris, Hong Kong and Shanghai.



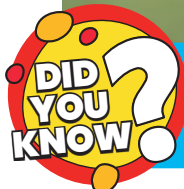
BRAZIL

Scorpion stings double in ten years

Over the past ten years, the number of people enjoying city life in Brazil has shot up, but there's a sting in the tail – scorpions are on the rise, too. There were 1.1 million reports of stings between 2013 and 2024, with the rate more than twice as high now as it was ten years ago. Early data suggests 200,000 people were stung last year. Researchers say that scorpions like sewers and they're thriving in fast-growing urban areas. Lead researcher Manuela Berto Pucca said: "Cities... offer everything scorpions need: plenty of shelter, warmth and a reliable food supply." Hotter summers brought on by climate change help them, too.



Brazil offers free treatment for scorpion stings



SOME scorpion species can survive for 400 days without eating.



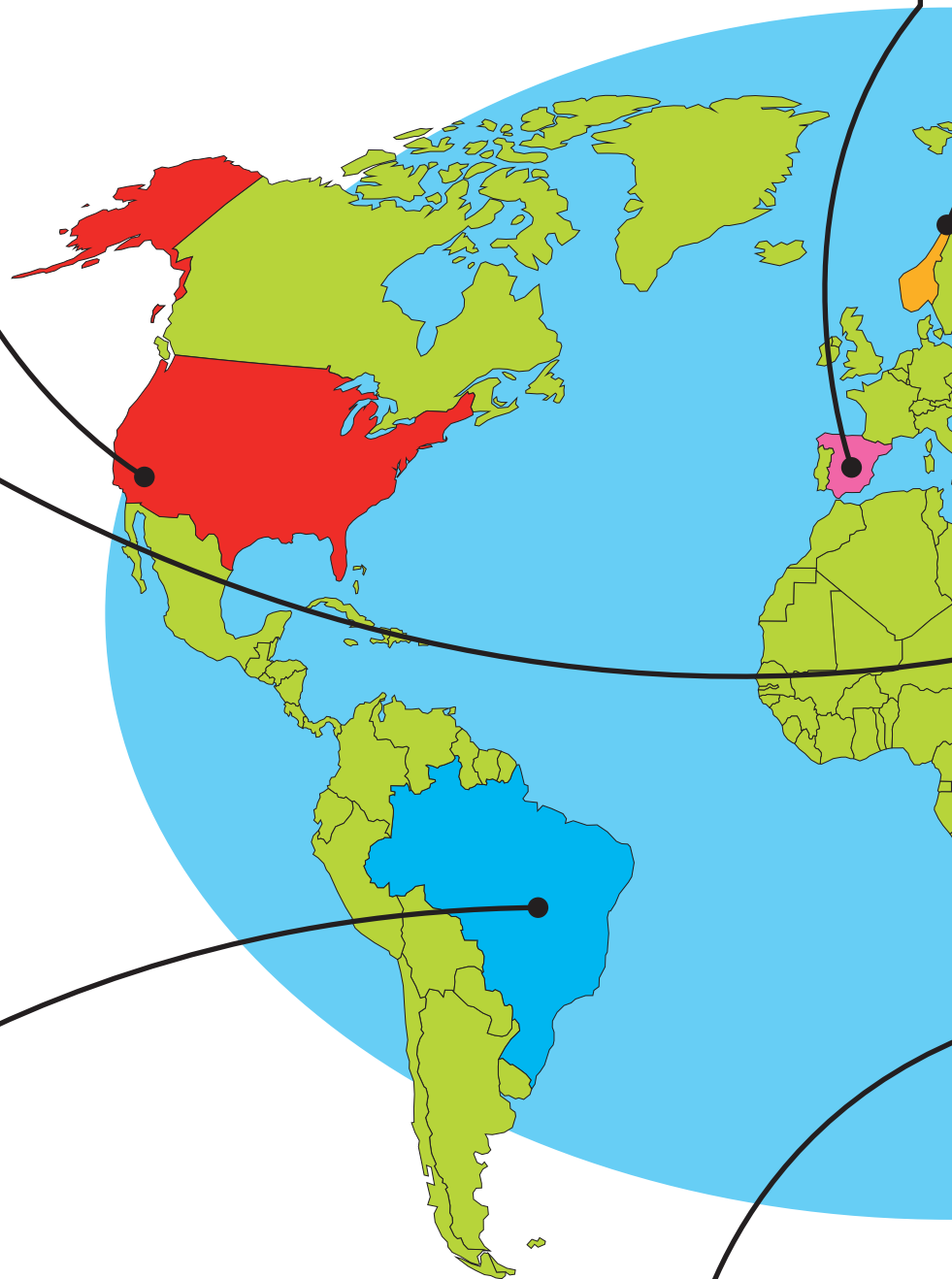
SPAIN

Weekly working hours reduced to boost happiness

Half an hour more play per day for Spain's grown-ups



Spain's government has decided to cut the standard working week from 40 hours down to 37.5 hours – or, in other words, by 30 minutes a day. The vice-president and work minister, Yolanda Díaz, said: "Today we're modernising the world of [work] and helping people to be a little happier." The government hopes that the change will lead to jobs getting done faster, and that fewer grown-ups will skip work. Around 12.5 million people, including those in retail, manufacturing and construction, will be affected – but critics say it could harm small businesses.



SOUTH AFRICA

Poisoned elephant kills more than 120 vultures

At least 123 vultures died in South Africa's Kruger National Park after pecking at the carcass of a poisoned elephant. Authorities say that the elephant had been poisoned using pesticides by poachers who wanted to sell its parts for the illegal wildlife trade. "This horrific incident is part of a broader crisis unfolding across southern Africa: the [rising] use of poisons in wildlife poaching," said the national parks agency SANParks and the Endangered Wildlife Trust.



Getty

By eating carcasses, vultures keep the park clean and healthy



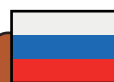
NORWAY

Fan trades fish for football ticket

What would YOU trade for a ticket to the biggest event of your life? That may be a Taylor Swift concert, a front row seat at the next *Minecraft* movie premiere... or perhaps a huge football match. Torbjorn Eide was one of 50,000 fans of Norwegian footy club Bodø/Glimt scrambling for 480 remaining tickets to his team's Europa League semi-final against Tottenham. Empty-handed, he offered a stranger five kilograms of boknafisk, a fishy Norwegian delicacy, for a spare... and it worked! Eide's idea caught on, as another fan, Nils Erik Oskal, traded five kilograms of reindeer meat for his ticket. Sadly for both, Bodø/Glimt lost the match 2-0 (see Sport, page 28).



The fancy fish was worth £180



RUSSIA



Viewers tune in to see the Kremlin crib



Putin gives Russians a tour of his home

Russia's leader Vladimir Putin has given his country a rare look inside his apartment in Moscow. He led a documentary crew around his home as part of a film to mark his 25 years as leader. Inside, they were led through gold-framed doors and shown a sitting room, dining room and kitchen, where he

offered them chocolates and a yoghurt kefir drink. Putin also has a white baby grand piano, a home cinema, a private chapel and a gym, which he said he uses for 90 minutes a day to work out. The apartment is where he has spent most of the past three years, since launching his invasion of Ukraine in 2022.



CHINA

World's tallest empty tower set to be finished at last

The skyscraper that holds the Guinness World Record for the tallest empty structure could be completed at long last by 2027. Work to build Goldin Finance 117 in Tianjin began in 2008, but was abandoned in 2015 due to money problems. However, construction is set to restart this month, with the aim of finishing it in two years. It was designed at first to become China's tallest building, rising over 115 storeys and 1,959 feet (nearly 200 metres) into the sky. The plan was to use it as office space, with a five-star hotel at the top.



Goldin Finance 117



VIETNAM

First rare deer spotted in decades

A rare forest musk deer has been caught on camera wandering through the forests of Vietnam's Cao Bang province. It's the first time that the species has been spotted in the area in decades. Now, conservation group Flora & Fauna want to set up more cameras and work with locals who know the area to get a better idea of the number of musk deer still living in there. There were thought to be fewer than 50 left in Vietnam in 2023. Musk deer have no antlers, but the males use sabre-like tusks to compete for females. The musk (smell) that they give off is popular in perfumes, and this has led to the species becoming endangered. Cao Bang is also home to the cao vit gibbon, one of the rarest primates on the planet.



The forest musk deer in Cao Bang



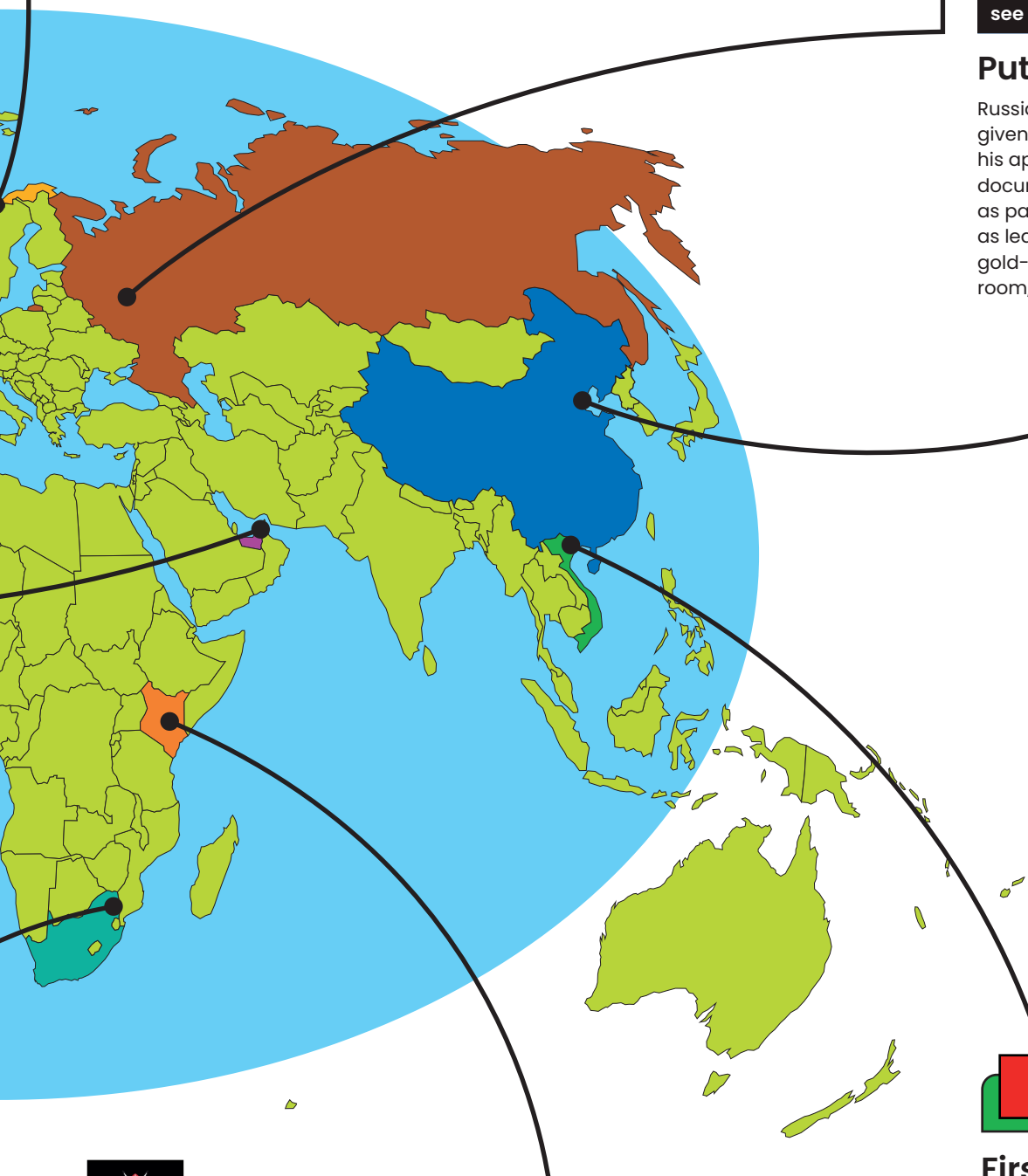
KENYA

Ant smugglers sentenced

A gang that tried to smuggle more than 5,000 live ants out of Kenya has been given a choice – either they spend a year in prison, or each pay a £5,800 fine. It's thought that the group (two teenage students from Belgium, one Vietnamese man and a Kenyan man) were going to try to sell the ants in Europe and Asia as exotic pets. Some of the ants they caught were giant African harvester ants, which certain UK dealers pay £170 each for. The gang told the court that they were collecting the ants as a hobby and didn't know that what they were doing was illegal.



How much would you pay for one of these little guys?





LAUNCHED INTO THE RECORD BOOKS

IRISH star Megan Campbell has a long throw that would make anyone an easy first pick on the school football team!

The London City Lionesses player has set a new Guinness World Record for the farthest throw-in distance for a female footballer.

If you haven't seen her chaos-causing throw-ins, this should paint a good picture. Her effort of 37.55m (123ft 2in or 41 yards) is over 10m longer than the length of a blue whale, which is the world's largest animal!

The 31-year-old said: "It's an amazing achievement for me personally to have that now, as the first ever. But ultimately you want someone to beat you, I want someone to be more successful than me because then that means I've put another player in a better place."

Taking on the challenge at her club's Kent training ground, she became the first woman to hold the record, beating a target of 35m (38 yards 9in).

Boy orders 70,000 lollipops on mum's phone



Twenty-two cases of the sweets arrived at the house

A BOY's kind gesture backfired when a lollipop order almost cost his mum \$4,200 (£3,150).

Holly LaFavers, from Kentucky, USA, was baffled when about 70,000 Dum-Dum lollies in cases arrived on her doorstep.

It turns out her eight-year-old son, Liam, ordered them while playing on her phone. He told her he wanted to host a party and give them out as prizes to his friends.

Holly got an even bigger shock when she saw that \$4,200 had come out of her bank account to pay for the order.

Luckily, she got her money back from delivery company Amazon after sending the lollies back, before changing some settings on her phone to make sure there isn't another sticky mess in future!

'Statue' turns out to be live crocodile

A SILLY, selfie-seeking tourist got a snap with a crocodile – but not exactly the kind he was looking for...

The 29-year-old man was visiting the Kabug Mangrove Park and Wetlands Park in the Philippines when he spotted what he thought was a croc statue on display inside one of the park's enclosures.

He hopped over the fence, waded over to it and reached for his phone, only to discover that the 'statue' was in fact a very real 15ft (4.6m) female crocodile. Footage from the day shows the croc, Lalay, biting the man on the arm. Lalay's owner rushed to free the man, before police and medics arrived to rush him to hospital for stitches.

"This kind of behaviour is very dangerous," police staff sergeant Joel Sajolga told the *Daily Mail* newspaper. "Nobody should ever enter an animal's enclosure at the zoo. He put other people's lives at risk and he's very lucky to have survived."



One witness called the man "stupid"



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.

MEGA MUSEUM SET TO LAUNCH

IT'S International Museum Day on 18 May and to celebrate, a mega museum is set to be built in the UK. The museum will be home to all sorts of artefacts and displays, from the worlds of science, history, art and dance. One of the exhibitions will feature a huge display of Donald Trump keyrings.

Check out more on spotting fake news at:

• first.news/fakeorfact • first.news/spotfakenews

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



This story is FAKE. It is International Museum Day on 18 May, but there are no plans to build a mega museum. The day is all about celebrating how important museums are in society and how they can teach us about different topics.

IN NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE!



HALF-TERM PULL-OUT!



SQUID SQUAD BOOKS



DON'T MISS IT!

CHEESE ROLLING!

Do you want to write for

FirstNews?

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

SNAPPED

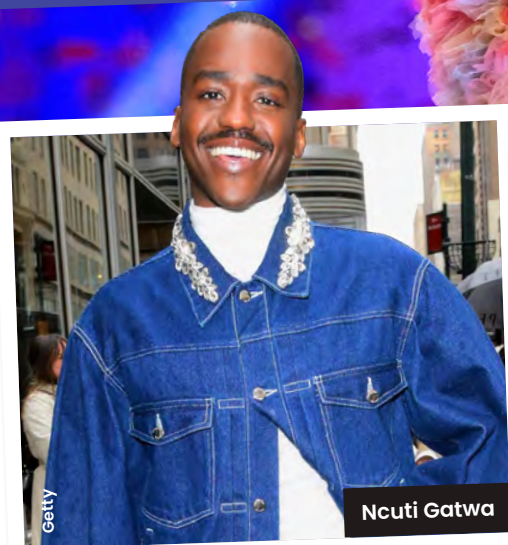
JUNIOR JOURNALIST





IT'S EUROVISION TIME!

GRAB your air guitars and mics, as the grand final of the Eurovision Song Contest takes place on 17 May. Let's get the lowdown on this year's epic night of music.



Ncuti Gatwa



Nemo at last year's contest

● Where is it taking place?

The competition is being held in Basel in Switzerland, after Swiss act Nemo was crowned last year's winner with *The Code*.

● How many countries are competing?

There will be 26 countries competing for the glass trophy in the final.

● Who will represent the UK?

We're being represented by the girl band Remember Monday with their song *What The Hell Just Happened?* Lauren Byrne, Holly-Anne Hull and Charlotte Steele found fame on *The Voice UK* back in 2019 and now have half a million social media followers and over 11.3 million likes on TikTok alone!

● Who will deliver the UK's results on the night?

Doctor Who star Ncuti Gatwa will present the UK's Eurovision jury results.

Watch the *Eurovision Song Contest* on 17 May on BBC One and BBC iPlayer.



Remember Monday

● Descendants set for 2026 return

Descendants: Wicked Wonderland is coming to Disney+ in 2026. The fifth instalment of the series will see superstars Brandy and Rita Ora return as Cinderella and the Queen of Hearts. Viewers will get to see what "happily ever after" really means for Red and Chloe following their time-travelling adventures in the 2024 hit film *Descendants: The Rise of Red*.



Ed Cooke

Rita's back!

EPIC NEW THEME PARK

THE brand-new theme park Epic Universe opens at Universal Orlando Resort on 22 May. To celebrate, we discovered six spectacular features that guests can look forward to!



An artist's impression of Epic Universe

1) There are five immersive worlds to explore.

They are The Wizarding World of Harry Potter – Ministry of Magic; Super Nintendo World; How To Train Your Dragon – Isle Of Berk; Dark Universe; and Celestial Park.

2) Harry Potter fans are in for a truly magical experience at the new Ministry of Magic attraction.

Board a lift and join Harry, Ron and Hermione (and some unexpected guests!) as they journey deep into the British Ministry of Magic's many departments.

3) Gaming fans are getting not one but two areas in Super Nintendo World.

Yep, that's right! As well as Super Mario Land, guests can also try out Donkey Kong Country.

4) Dragons take centre stage!

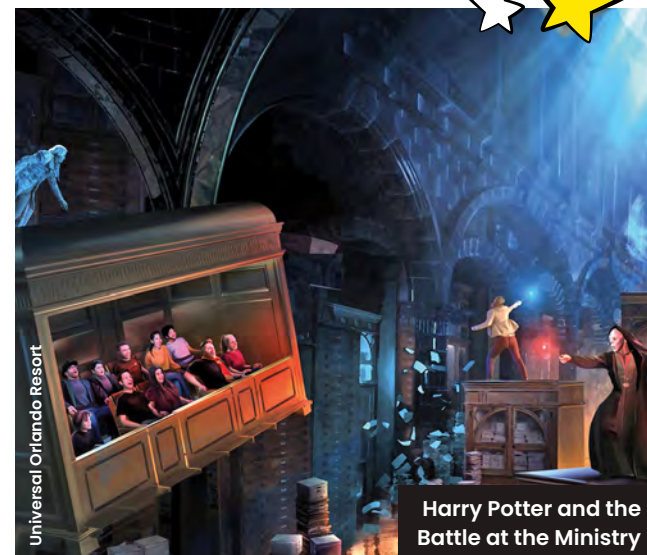
A fabulous live family show will see the arrival of a new dragon in Berk and even more challenges for our favourite *How To Train Your Dragon* characters Hiccup, Gobber and Astrid.

5) Legendary monsters are coming back to life.

Are you feeling brave? Come face-to-face with all sorts of gruesome monsters, and become one yourself in the Darkmoor Monster Makeup Experience. Eek!

6) Celestial Park is the cosmic heart of the new park.

You'll find rides, entertainment, dining and shopping, plus the new Universal Helios Grand Hotel!



Harry Potter and the Battle at the Ministry

We'll have more from the grand opening of Epic Universe in *First News* soon!



● New Shaun the Sheep movie

An exciting new *Shaun the Sheep* movie has been announced for 2026. *Shaun the Sheep: The Beast of Mossy Bottom* will see the residents of Mossy Bottom Farm looking forward to Halloween – until the clumsy Farmer trashes the Flock's beloved pumpkin patch!



Aardman Animations Ltd 2014

THE BIG PICTURE

THIS is all that was left of a Yemenia Airways plane after an airstrike by Israel on Sana'a International Airport in Yemen.

The bombing raid was in response to an attack on Israel's Ben Gurion Airport, near Tel Aviv. Houthi rebels in Yemen had launched a missile that evaded Israel's sophisticated air defence system.

In recent weeks, US and UK planes have again been bombing targets in Yemen, in an attempt to end Houthi attacks on cargo ships in the Red Sea, which started in November 2023.

The Houthis have said they were only attacking ships that were connected to Israel, due to Israel's war in Gaza. However, many of the ships that have been targeted had nothing to do with Israel. The group has also repeatedly launched drones and missiles towards targets in Israel.

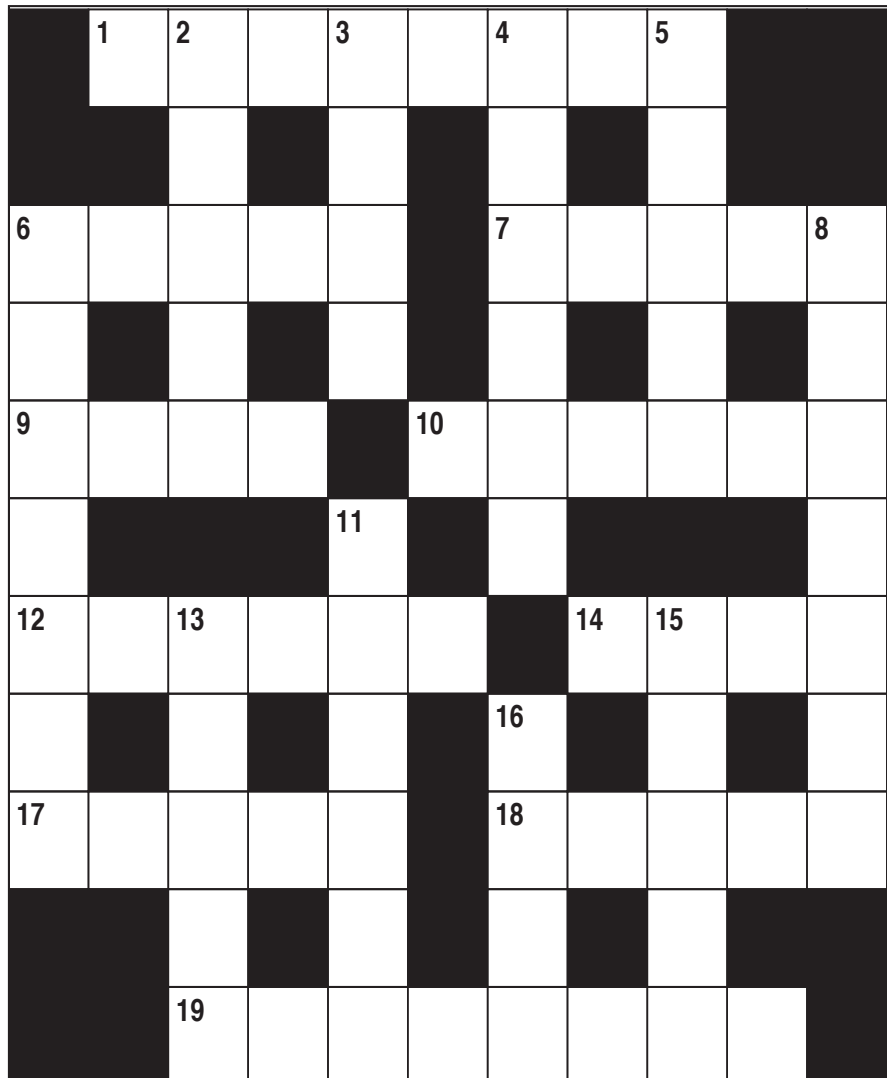
The Houthis are an armed group that is in conflict with the official government of Yemen. A lot of the group's money and weapons is thought to come from Iran. The US has classed the Houthis as a terrorist group, although the UK hasn't yet.





CROSSWORD

CAN you solve our crossword puzzle using the clues below?



ACROSS

- 1) Leaflet (8)
- 6) School tests (5)
- 7) _____ Newton:
scientist who discovered gravity (5)
- 9) Opposite of more (4)
- 10) Where you go to see ancient objects (6)
- 12) Piece of gossip (6)
- 14) A continent (4)
- 17) Wooden frame for holding an artist's work (5)
- 18) Sweet on a stick (5)
- 19) Green vegetable eaten in salads (8)

DOWN

- 2) Paved surfaces designed for vehicles to travel on (5)
- 3) Price (4)
- 4) One of a kind (6)
- 5) Escape or avoid (5)
- 6) Make bigger (7)
- 8) Business (7)
- 11) Opposite of private (6)
- 13) Bands and singers make this (5)
- 15) Work out the answer (5)
- 16) Juicy fruit (4)

Sudoku

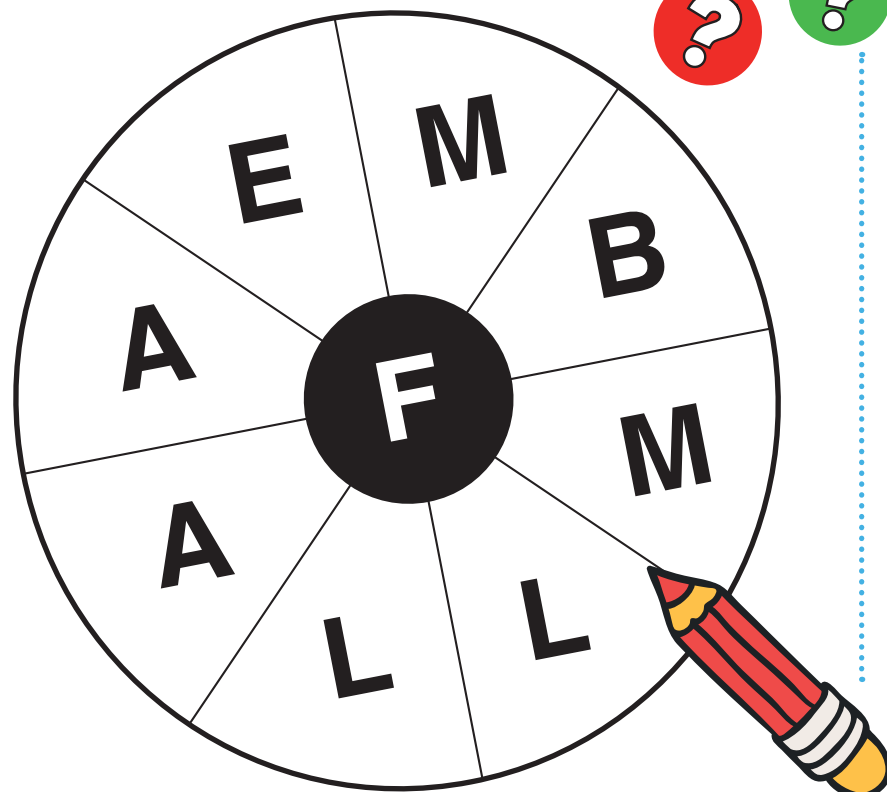
CAN you complete our sudoku puzzle, filling in the numbers one to nine?

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

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.

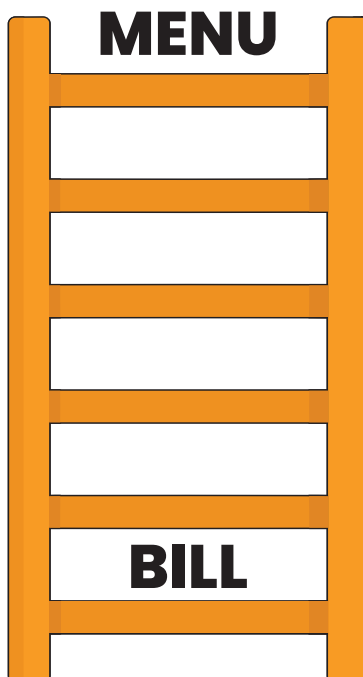
Word wheel

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 986 ANSWERS:

Word wheel: cartridge.

Word ladder: coal, foal, foam, form, firm, fire.

Spot the difference: 1) The zoo Os have swapped around
2) Giraffe missing antenna 3) Paw missing off sign
4) Lady's hair now blue 5) Spot added on giraffe
6) Top half of man's shirt different colour 7) Lady's shorts different colour 8) Rock missing from rock wall
9) Tiger tail missing 10) Top of branch missing.

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

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



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 band scene?



London Transport Museum

Covent Garden | Kids go free

MAYOR OF LONDON



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

ltmuseum.co.uk
Registered charity number 1123122





CRESSIDA COWELL

FIRST News chats to the *How To Train Your Dragon* creator, as Toothless and Hiccup head back to school for an all-new series...



● Hi Cressida! What can you tell us about this brand-new series, *How To Train Your Dragon School*?

Hiccup and his dragons, Toothless and Windwalker, are at the Isle of Berk's Training School for Vikings and Dragons... where they're BOTTOM in pretty much everything. I've written it to be a fun introduction for new readers, but also great for fans who are always asking me for more books! It's packed with illustrations, new dragon profiles, action and even a Dragonese dictionary at the back.

● How exciting is it to return to the Isle of Berk, ten years after you last released a *How To Train Your Dragon* book?

I was so excited to go back to the characters in this spin-off series. They've been living quietly in my head for ten years, so I knew I'd come back eventually. I think when characters are so part of you, they never really go away.

FILM FOCUS!

Out 13 June

● Have you been involved in the new live-action film (right)?

I went to the film set in Northern Ireland, and the recording of the stunning music. It's the same director and composer of the animated films. I've known them for over 15 years, so they're my friends now. The movie is SO brilliant – I'd advise everyone to see it on the big screen if you can!



● If Hiccup and Toothless went to watch it at the cinema, what snacks would they take in?

Not limpets (sea snails with cone-shaped shells), Hiccup hates them... sea salt flavour popcorn, I think!

● As the creator of this universe, what do you think of all the movies and TV adaptations that there have been?

I love them. They have a different storyline to the books, but they have the same spirit – adventure, courage and love for the environment. They make you laugh and cry. The flying scenes are stunning, and the music is beautiful.

● Why has *How To Train Your Dragon* been such a massive success? And hey – don't be humble!

Thank you! Well, firstly, everybody old and young wants to have their own dragon to ride on the back of. It's thrilling! On a deeper level, the series is about growing up. I wrote the books to be read together in families, so I've tried to make mums laugh and dads cry. Hiccup becoming a hero the hard way feels relevant to readers. Everyone wants to be a hero! I put in lots of funny bits, and action parts, but I think the reason the books stay with readers is they have a lot of truth from my own life that they can relate to. Stoick is quite a lot of my dad, for example.

● Lastly, if you could choose to partner one of the many types of dragon from your series, which one would it be?



Toothless is my favourite – he was based on my children when they were toddlers, and he's so delightfully cheeky and naughty. I also love Windwalker to ride on, and I'm fond of a mood dragon!

How To Train Your Dragon School by Cressida Cowell is out now.

BUZZING FOR BEES!

THIS Tuesday (20 May) is World Bee Day.

To toast our pollinating pals, we asked Ben Hoare, author of bee bible *Secrets of Bees*, to pick out his top five species.

Ben tells us: "Most of us have heard of honeybees, which live in hives and produce yummy honey, but did you know there are more than 20,000 different species of bees buzzing round the planet? They come in all shapes, sizes and colours..."



Secrets of Bees by Ben Hoare, illustrated by Nina Chakrabarti, is out now.



1. Wallace's giant bee

"The biggest bee of all lives in Indonesia. It has a body as long as an adult thumb."

2. Orchid bee

"They're covered in tiny bumps that bounce in sunlight around, so they glitter."

3. Cactus bee

"Bees live in most habitats on land. You can find the cactus bee in deserts, eating cacti nectar."

4. Leafcutter bee

"Not all bees live in hives! These bees chew off bits of leaves to line their nest cells."

5. Vulture bee

"Vulture bees hunt for dead creatures, then feed on the rotting flesh."

© Nina Chakrabarti 2025



FRANK COTTRELL-BOYCE'S recommended reads

THE Blockbusters! is the story of a group of school friends who – thanks to their teacher's cunning ways – find they're on the set of a blockbuster movie.

When the real star goes missing, the hero has to disguise himself as her – with the help of a very expensive wig – all the way from Liverpool to Hollywood.

I've worked in film all my life, but this is the first time I've written about what an exciting, mad, infuriating place a film set can be.

I'm all about the laughter, and the laughter I like best is when someone pretends to be someone (or something) they're not and then has to keep up the act. Like when Harry and Ron pretend to be Crabbe and Goyle. This is Shakespeare's favourite kind of comedy too (Shakespeare and I have too much in common)...

Here are three other books I recommend!



The Boss of Everyone by Danny Wallace

Ten-year-old Joss goes to her dad's work one day and somehow becomes the boss. I love and envy this book. Every scene is funny but believable.

The Skull by Jon Klassen

Jon Klassen makes amazing pictures. His stories always have fantastic twists. The strange thing about this book is that it gets more scary every time you read it.



The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick

When I wrote *The Blockbusters!* I looked for other stories about making movies. This beautiful book – about the very early days of film – is the only one that captures the magic.



The Blockbusters! by Frank Cottrell-Boyce, illustrated by Steven Lenton, is out now.



GET SET FOR DREAM BIG DAY!

SAVE THE DATE: 27 JUNE

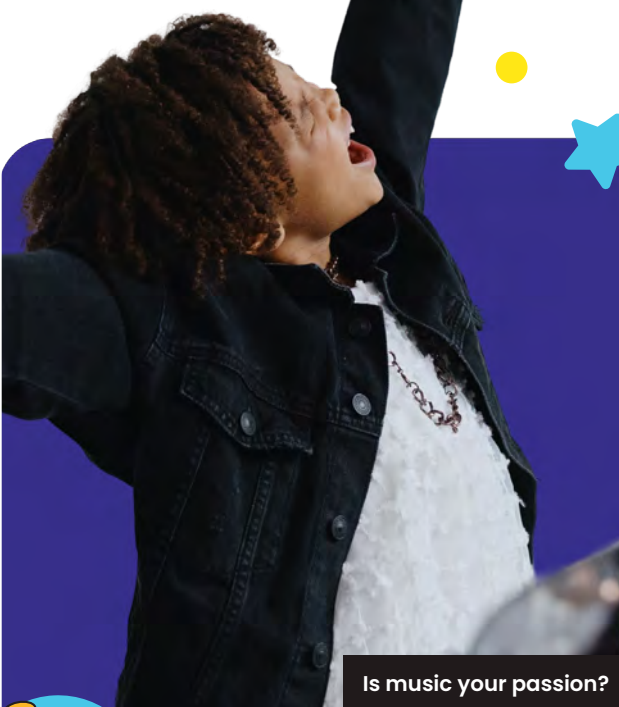
NEXT month, primary schools across the UK will take part in Dream Big Day, a national event helping children think about the future, discover new job ideas and feel excited about what's possible.

● The lowdown

Dream Big Day was started by Colin Bell, a dad of two and a school governor, after reading a bedtime story called *Think Big* to his children. The book made him wonder: what if every child had the chance to explore careers from a young age?

Since then, thousands of pupils have taken part, meeting engineers, scientists, artists, athletes and even astronauts!

This year, the day is supported proudly by Barclays LifeSkills, which helps young people develop skills for work and life.



Is music your passion?



LOTS of young people don't feel sure about their future. A survey last year found that more than a third of 14 to 15-year-olds weren't sure which job they wanted or how to get it. That's why it helps to start thinking early – and have fun doing it.



Could you create your own videogame?

● Real jobs, real possibilities

The goal of Dream Big Day is simple: to show young people that there are all kinds of jobs out there, and that your future is full of choices. It's also a chance to learn about the skills and talents that you already have.

Schools take part in all sorts of ways, from dress-up days and special lessons, to big events with guest speakers and workshops.

One school even turned into NASA for the day! Children built robots, tested space soil and watched a message from Professor Brian Cox! That day, every single pupil showed up to school!

"Dream Big Day helps us see what's possible."



Maybe you'd like to train to be an astronaut or scientist?



● How would you dream big?

What do you want to try when you grow up? Could you be a vet, a coder, a firefighter or a pilot? Or maybe you'll invent a brand-new job of the future!

"One small idea can lead to a big future."

What do you want to be when you grow up?

Let us know at:
newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk



THE FACTS

- Children start thinking about future jobs from the age of seven! (Source: OECD, *Drawing the Future*)
- One in three teenagers aren't sure yet what job they'd like to do – that's why it helps to start early. (Source: Youth Employment UK, 2024)
- There are more than 1,000 different types of jobs in the UK – and new ones are being invented all the time!



DREAM
BIG
DAY

Check out career films on our app – including jobs at Manchester City

TEACHERS! Find out how your school can get involved at careermapforprimary.co.uk

Powered by  **careermapper**
FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

 **BARCLAYS** | LifeSkills



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

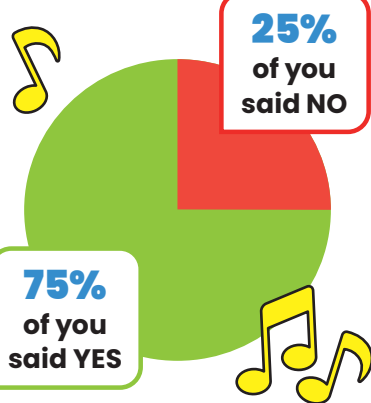
There are a lot of music related stories on Your News this week. Molly got to meet famous singer Sam Ryder at Disneyland Paris, pupils at Offley Endowed Primary School had their song selected to be sung at Young Voices, and the poll below suggests that you want music to be taught more in schools!

I love music – it's my favourite hobby! If you are super passionate about something, why not write in to tell us about it? You might end up here, in Your News! Find out how to do that in the top right of these pages.

THIS WEEK'S POLL!

We asked 5,765 of you:

Should music be taught more in schools?



MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

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



Molly (right) at Disney with famous singer, Sam Ryder (second from left)

MOLLY'S dream came true when she got to visit Disneyland Paris and sing with famous vocalist Sam Ryder. Check out how she got on!

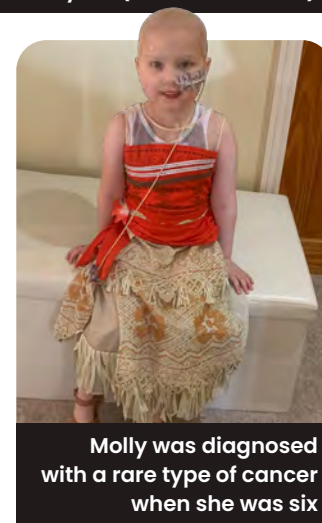
by Molly

Hi, my name is Molly, and I am nine years old. On my sixth birthday I was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, a rare type of cancer that affects the blood and bone marrow. After nearly three years of treatment, I am now in remission. Recently, Make-A-Wish UK, a charity that make wishes come true for children like me, helped my dream – to go to Disneyland Paris – become a reality. There, I got to sing in front of Sleeping Beauty's Castle with Sam Ryder.

At first I was very nervous, but once the

music started it was great fun and an amazing experience. I loved watching the special show where we sang and danced with Mr Incredible, Officer Judy Hopps and many other characters! The evening show was magical, too. My Disney VolunteAR helped me get on all the rides and I got to meet some of my favourite characters: Stitch, Moana and Mickey Mouse! My favourite ride was Buzz Lightyear and I got to go on it with Sam Ryder. The food was yummy, too! My favourite things to eat were a Stitch cupcake, popcorn, Mickey Mouse Waffles and I loved the pizza from the Stark Factory.

I have made lots of friends as part of my experience and me and my family had the best time! I can't thank Disney, Sam Ryder and Make-A-Wish UK enough for making my wish come true!



Molly was diagnosed with a rare type of cancer when she was six

Inspired by my grandfather



Luc and his grandfather

LUC loves science and his biggest inspiration is his grandfather, Eric, whose groundbreaking contributions have helped to shape the technology we use today. In fact, without Eric's work, you might not have a working mobile phone or TV!

by Luc Ash Choi, aged 12

I loved Eric Ash not just as a scientist but also as a grandfather. If it weren't for him lighting the fire that turned into my love of science, I wouldn't be who I am now.

Eric was an electrical engineer who pioneered the receiver that is now integrated into all sorts of modern electronic devices including TVs and phones. It is vital to anything that requires a specific frequency like phone calls and live podcasts and there are at least two in every mobile phone today! The receiver works by picking up tiny particles called electrons as they pass through a piece of piezoelectric material (which contains crystals that react when put under pressure) and through a semiconductor.

I am very proud that my grandfather pioneered such a game-changing technology. I am also proud that University College London named a whole science lab after him!

NEWS CLUB SHOUT-OUT!

THIS WEEK WE'RE GIVING SHOUT-OUTS TO... Babington Academy, Anglo Singapore International School, St Cedd's School, St Thomas' Catholic Primary School and Fulston Manor School!



Brownies meet Jacqueline Wilson



POPULAR children's author Dame Jacqueline Wilson surprised a group of Brownies at their sleepover to talk to them about her new book *The Seaside Sleepover*, which they had been reading as part of a trial of the new Book Reviewer badge launching in summer.

**WANT TO
FEATURE ON
THESE PAGES?**

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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/fyinenewsclub.

Thousands of people will sing our song!

OFFLEY Endowed Primary School have written a song that's going to be sung by thousands of people at Young Voices 2026! They tell you how it came about.

by Caitlyn and Anya

We are Caitlyn and Anya, two 11-year-old pupils from Offley Endowed Primary School and Nursery. We have written this article on behalf of our Year 6 class!

Young Voices (the largest children's choir in the world) sent out an email to some of the schools that participate in their concerts, asking for some ideas so that they could compose a song for Young Voices 2026, their 30th anniversary. We came up with some ideas and sent them in!

A few weeks later, Young Voices replied to our teacher, Mrs Warne, saying that they really liked our ideas and wanted us to make a song! They decided to send the famous jazz composer, Pete Letanka, into our

school to help us create our song.

Our whole class was in awe when our teacher showed us the email. We were all astonished that Young Voices had picked our ideas out of all the others, and very proud of our school and our achievement. We were so excited for the songwriting to commence.

When Pete Letanka first came into our school, none of us thought that we could come up with a brand-new song in only three days. But by the time it was done, we were all more confident in ourselves and had a new perspective on songwriting. Throughout the process everyone kept telling us how much of a great opportunity this was, but it never really sank in.

It took us a while to think of a name for the song, but in the end we came up with *Move Towards The Light*.

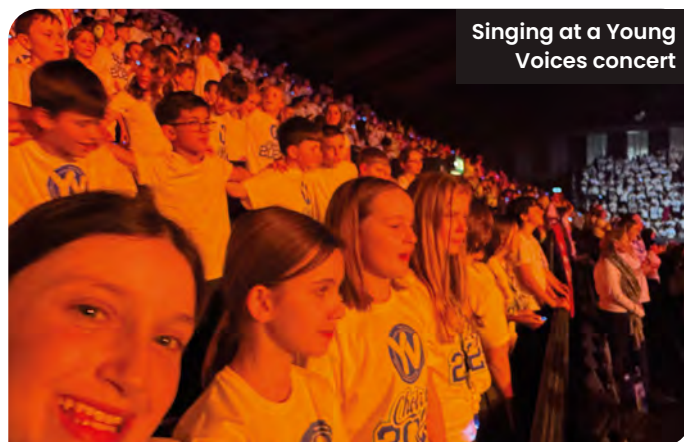
Just before the Easter holidays we got told that Young Voices had accepted our song. We are all still overjoyed by this information. None of us can believe that more than 200,000 people are going to be singing our song!



Pupils from Offley Endowed Primary School got a visit from composer Pete Letanka to help them to write their song



Practising with Pete



Singing at a Young Voices concert

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 Two grans have been knitting jumpers to save what animals?

2 Which company has revealed plans to open its first theme park in the Middle East?



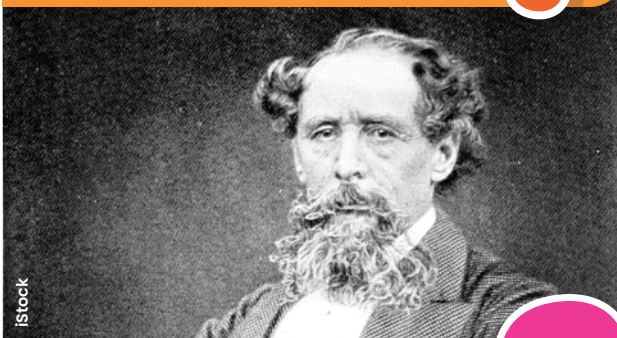
3 Which country is hosting this year's Eurovision?

4 A new science report has found that which animals can drum in rhythm?

5 What was the name of the prime minister who announced the end of World War Two in Europe?



6 On Monday 9 June, how many years will it have been since the Charles Dickens Museum opened?



7 What colour is the smoke that emerges from the Sistine Chapel when a new pope has been chosen?



8 A gang will face prison or a fine for trying to smuggle what animals out of Kenya?

9 A boy from Kentucky, USA, ordered 70,000 of what sweet treats from his mum's phone?

10 Which two countries agreed to a ceasefire after clashing over the Kashmir region?



11 What buzzing celebration takes place on 20 May?

12 First News' partner Sky Kids show, FYI, scooped an award at which ceremony?

13 Visitors to the Natural History Museum can touch a piece of the moon and which planet?



14 Bill Gates is the co-founder of which tech company?

15 True or false: WSL champions Chelsea lost their final match of the season, ending their hopes of being "The Invincibles"?

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) Penguins 2) Disney 3) Switzerland 4) Chimps 5) Winston Churchill 6) 100 years 7) White 8) Ants 9) Lollipops 10) India and Pakistan 11) World Bee Day 12) BAFTAs 13) Mars 14) Microsoft 15) False – they won and became "The Invincibles"

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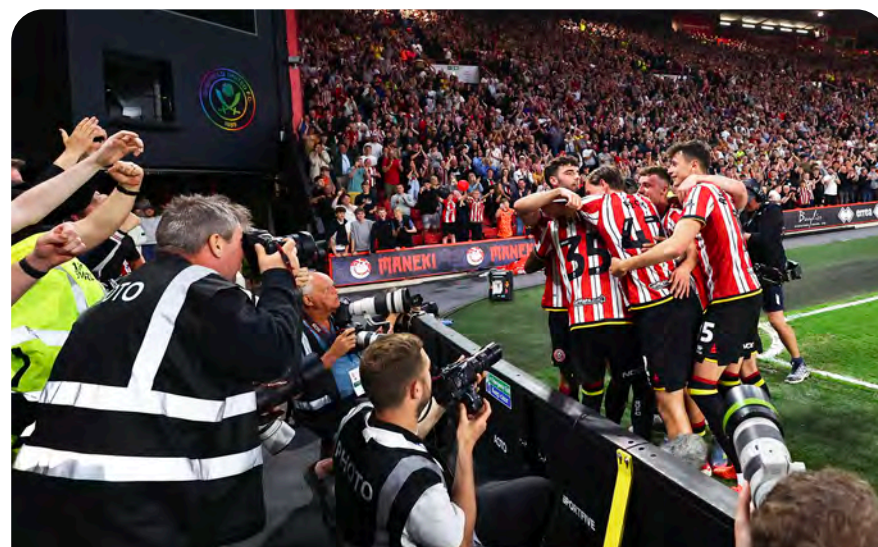


All pics: Getty

FIVE players battle for the rebound during the Western Conference NBA play-offs match between the Golden State Warriors and the Minnesota Timberwolves in San Francisco, California. The visiting Timberwolves rose to the occasion and claimed a 117-110 victory.



A VIEW from the stands as Jannick Sinner, far below, competes in the Italian Open. One fun-seeking fan (inset) 'roared' their support for the home favourite, playing in his first tournament since a three-month ban from the sport.



PHOTOGRAPHERS scramble for the best shot of the celebrations as Sheffield United reached the Championship play-off final, beating Bristol City 3-0 at Bramall Lane. The Yorkshire club head to Wembley on Saturday 24 May seeking an instant return to the Premier League.



SURF'S up! Indonesian star Rio Waida lifts off at the Bonsoy Gold Coast Pro competition, held at Burleigh Heads – a major surf spot in Queensland, Australia.



A FAN gazes through the locked gates of the Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow, India. The Indian Premier League was suspended for one week due to the country's clashes with Pakistan (see page 4).



Reigning champions
Spain beat England in the
2023 World Cup final

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP EXPANDS

THE Women's World Cup will be expanded from 32 to 48 teams from the 2031 tournament in the USA.

FIFA made the change as they think it will help women's football grow worldwide. The World Cup had already increased in size from 24 to 32 teams for the 2023 edition in Australia and New Zealand, which Spain won. The 2027 tournament in Brazil will also have 32

teams, before the increase kicks in for the 2031 World Cup. The 2035 edition is due to be hosted by the UK.

The change means there will be 12 groups of four teams and an extra 40 matches, taking the total to 104.

Next year's men's World Cup, to be held in the USA, Mexico and Canada, will also include 48 teams for the very first time.

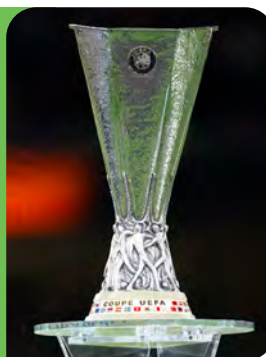


Great Britain have won gold in the women's 4x100m at the World Relay Championships in Guangzhou, China. Success Eduan pulled off a stunning last leg to overtake rivals Shericka Jackson of Jamaica and Spain's Maria Pérez and seal the win. Eduan and team-mates Nia Wedderburn-Goodison, Amy Hunt and Bianca Williams (above) completed the relay in 42.21 seconds, ahead of Spain in second and Jamaica in third. Fellow Brits Asha Philip, Kissiwa Mensah, Jeriel Quainoo and Joe Ferguson took bronze in the first mixed 4x100m race.



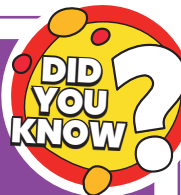
Warrington Wolves have reached rugby league's Challenge Cup final at Wembley for the second year in a row, after beating Leigh Leopards 21-14 in a thrilling semi-final. Marc Sneyd (above), who returned to the side after surgery for a fractured eye socket, scored nine of Warrington's 21 points. They will meet Hull KR, who beat Catalans Dragons 36-12 in their semi. It'll be a second cup final appearance in three years for Hull, who haven't won a major trophy for 40 years. Warrington last lifted the Challenge Cup in 2023. The final is on Saturday 7 June.

Despite suffering woeful seasons in the Premier League, Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur have reached the final of the Europa League. United beat Athletic Bilbao and Spurs defeated Bodo/Glimt in the semi-finals. The winner of the final will qualify for next year's Champions League.



The champions of the Women's Super League, Chelsea, have become the first team to finish a 22-game season unbeaten. The Blues beat Liverpool in the last game of the campaign to become the first team ever to reach 60 points in the WSL. "The Invincibles" finished the season with 19 wins and three draws. Chelsea's league title is their sixth in a row and they may have yet another trophy to add to their tally when they face Manchester United in the FA Cup final on Sunday 18 May.

THE term "Invincibles" describes a team that finishes a season undefeated in the league. It was first used to describe Preston North End's men's team, who went unbeaten way back in 1888-89. Arsenal's men achieved the same feat in the Premier League in 2003-04.



Braydon's on the ball

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



In the Premier League, bottom-of-the-table Southampton managed to finally move past the record low PL total of 11 points with a goalless draw with Manchester City at St Mary's Stadium. The Saints are now up to just 12 points, but that is enough to ensure Derby County's record low from 2007/08 remains intact for at least another year.

Europa League finalists Manchester United and Tottenham both continued their poor league form with home defeats, with Spurs now 17th and United just above in 16th place. Despite their form in the league, I expect the final to be a good game and both teams will be going for it in order to rescue some pride and grab the big prize.

Southampton's draw with Manchester City means they aren't the worst PL team ever!



In the pick of the other PL games, Arsenal fought back from two goals down at Liverpool to take a point, Newcastle moved up to third with victory over Chelsea and Villa won at Bournemouth to keep the fight for the Champions League places alive with two games to play. Just four points separate Newcastle in third from Forest in seventh, so there's still so much for those teams to play for in those final games. Nothing will be decided until the very last kick of the season for those involved in the race for those golden Champions League places.

Looking ahead, I'll be at Wembley for the FA Cup final where Manchester City take on Crystal Palace on Saturday. Can't wait for that!

Braydon's Team of The Week: Chelsea, the WSL Invincibles (see left).

Braydon's Player of The Week: Danny Welbeck of Brighton. For the first time in his career, the 34-year-old striker hit double figures for Premier League goals in a single season.

● Watch my weekly video on the First News app!

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