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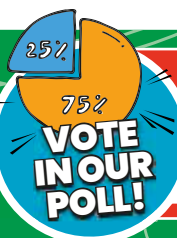
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HALF-TERM FUN!
SPECIAL PULL-OUT INSIDE

NEWS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT
INTERVIEWS PUZZLES COMPETITIONS



Would you go to school
if you didn't have to?

Vote at first.news/polls

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**THE SCHOOL WHERE
KIDS MAKE
THE RULES**

MEET THE TEAM



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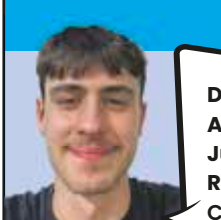
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HAVE YOU HEARD?

Snappy stories to get you talking!



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IT'S TIME TO GET GARDENING!

National Children's Gardening Week takes place between 24 May and 1 June. The week is all about getting families outside and enjoying gardening together. Garden centres across the UK will be hosting special events, from seed planting and flowerpot decorating to nature-themed crafts and mini workshops. Just go to www.childrensgardeningweek.co.uk to find out what's happening near you.



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LISTENING TO CDs ISN'T OVER YET

Nearly half of young people are listening to CDs, a new survey has found. Research by Key Production, a company that deals with packaging physical music, found that Gen Alpha (teens up to 16) are listening to physical music like vinyl, CDs and cassettes to help reduce their screen time. More than half (53%) of Gen Alpha know how to use a CD player, with 46% of parents saying that their kids up to 18 years old listen to CDs.

THEY SAID THAT!



Austria's winning singer, JJ

Getty

Remember Monday

"Three best mates walked on to the world's biggest music stage and came out with a top ten jury score, massive streaming numbers and memories that will last a lifetime."
– Remember Monday

AUSTRIA WINS EUROVISION

Austria scooped the top spot in this year's Eurovision Song Contest. Artist JJ delighted fans with his operatic track, *Wasted Love*, which got a whopping 436 votes. Israel came in second place, with Estonia third. The UK, meanwhile, came in 19th place after the audience vote was added to the jury's. Girl band Remember Monday didn't seem too disappointed though, releasing a statement shortly afterwards saying how much they'd enjoyed the experience.



Harding-Lee Media/Wildwood Trust

A BEARY HAPPY REUNION!

Three bears at the Wildwood Trust have been reunited after more than a year apart. Three-year-old Boki is back with his old playmates, Fluff and Scruff, following life-saving surgery for hydrocephalus – a dangerous build-up of fluid on the brain. The trio have been reconnecting, with Wildwood's Jon Forde saying the reunion has lifted all of their spirits. Aww!



GINGER CATS EXPLAINED!

Scientists have discovered how ginger cats get their unusual colour. Two teams of scientists at Kyushu University in Japan and Stanford University in the US have worked out that it's all down to a missing bit of their DNA (the code in our cells that tells our bodies how to grow and function). Male cats have what is called an X and a Y chromosome (larger pieces of DNA), which each carry lots of different genes. When part of one gene is missing from the X chromosome, it's enough to turn a cat totally ginger. Female cats have two X chromosomes, so the section of gene needs to be missing in both chromosomes to give them an orange colouring. This is more unlikely, which is why you don't get many female ginger cats!



ROBOT BREAKS RUBIK'S CUBE RECORD

A robot named Revenger has managed to solve a four-by-four Rubik's Cube in 45.305 seconds, beating the previous robot record of 1 minute 18 seconds. The human record is a much faster 15.71 seconds. How fast can you solve it?



TOP NEW FAMILY SHOW

BBC
CROOKHAVEN

An action-packed TV adaptation of JJ Arcaño's hit book series, *Crookhaven*, is coming to BBC iPlayer in 2026. The family adventure series is set at the mysterious Crookhaven School, where young crooks from across the world are selected secretly to hone their skills in deception, gymnastics, forgery and infiltration. But, the big question is: which student will win the Crooked Cup? You'll have to wait to see!



USA VOTED DREAM TRIP

The USA is the place most UK teens want to visit on a school trip, says research by PGL Beyond. A total of 1,000 pupils in years 7-13 were polled, with 39% of kids saying they'd like to visit the USA, while the UK came in second and Italy in third. Almost half (48%) of young people said school trips help them feel more independent.

RESIDENTS CREATE HUGE 'SWIFT STREET'

A community in Manchester has come together to create one of the UK's biggest ever 'swift streets'. People from two neighbouring streets in Swinton, Salford, have put up more than 100 specialist nest boxes on their own homes to help swifts – one of the UK's most threatened bird species. It's hoped the boxes will provide safe spaces for swifts to nest and breed as they return to our towns and cities after migrating to Africa for the winter.



MUSEUM MISSION LAUNCHED

A major campaign has been launched to make sure that more than 100,000 children can go on school trips to museums across the country. The Art Explora foundation has teamed up with the British Museum to launch Time Odyssey, a new interactive learning experience for 7 to 11-year-old schoolchildren that takes pupils on a quest through their local museum, physically and virtually. It comes after research found that 90% of teachers agree that every child should visit a museum on a school trip before leaving primary school, but many can't because of issues like the cost to travel there.



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



MAN TOPS MOUNT EVEREST AFTER 8,000-MILE ADVENTURE

No driving licence? No plane ticket? No trains running? No problem, if you're ex-marine Mitch Hutchcraft.

Starting last September, he swam across the English Channel, cycled to India, ran to Nepal and then climbed Mount Everest, reaching the summit last weekend.

"It's been tough, the most difficult thing I've ever done," said the 31-year-old from Cambridgeshire. "I just want it to inspire others to believe that whatever they're dreaming, however small, they just need to get out there and smash it."

What an adventure!

WORLD TURTLE DAY 23 MAY

A chance to celebrate and protect turtles and tortoises and their disappearing habitats around the world.

WORLD HUNGER DAY 28 MAY

Aims to raise awareness for the millions of people experiencing hunger across the globe.





LA OLYMPICS PLANS FLYING TAXIS

Chop, chop!

LA also has a subway, light rail and buses



THE organisers of the 2028 Olympic Games want fans to be able to take to the skies above Los Angeles (LA) and travel between events in flying taxis!

For not much more than the price of an Uber, it's claimed that spectators would be able to book an aircraft through an app and take 10 to 20-minute flights to the city's sporting venues without having to worry about LA's pesky traffic jams.

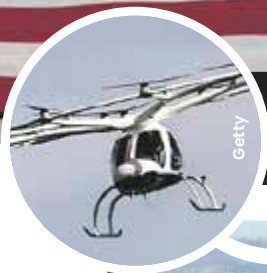
A fleet of flying taxis from US company Archer Aviation would be used. Games organisers say that they create "less noise and [pollution] than a traditional helicopter". The aircraft are flown by pilots

and can seat up to four passengers.

There's one hitch – the flying taxis aren't allowed by the US Federal Aviation Administration yet, so they can't be used to carry the public. However, Archer Aviation bosses hope to get this sorted by the end of the year.

The organisers of last summer's Olympic Games in Paris also wanted to offer fans flying taxis, but they couldn't get approval from Europe's air safety agency in time.

The new mode of transport is expected to take off in a big way though, and soon. The UK government thinks that we'll see them here in Britain as early as next year.



Let's fly, let's fly LA...



Traffic jams in LA are no joke!

EDITOR'S COMMENT

WHAT do you think about kids making the rules in their school (p12)?

I expect the pupils in that school feel listened to and are more likely to follow the rules if they've made them in the first place.

Hopefully, it builds confidence, teamwork and a sense of fairness. Also, I guess it helps everyone to realise why we need rules at all.

It's the same outside school. We have rules – like national speed limits – to help keep everyone safe.

And it's why we elect governments who we expect to make rules, or laws, that we must all keep to. What rule would you make? Let us know at newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk.



Nicky Cox MBE

The historic Magna Carta outlined the rights of common people in the UK and restricted the king's power



Harvard Law School

IN 1946, the famous Harvard Law School in the USA paid \$27.50 (then £7) for what it thought was just a replica of Magna Carta. Now, UK experts say that it is in fact a genuine, original version dating from 1300, and is "one of the world's most valuable documents" – worth millions of dollars!

UNICEF: Kids aren't as happy since Covid



UNICEF found that the Netherlands and Denmark are the best countries to be a child

UNICEF says that since the Covid-19 pandemic, children's wellbeing in wealthy countries like the UK has taken a tumble.

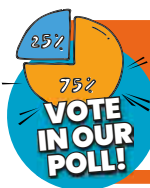
Kids are more likely not to do their best at school and to have poorer mental and physical health, the charity says.

Its *Report Card* study compared data from 2018 and 2022. Covid-19 hit in 2020, triggering 'lockdowns' that forced us to stay indoors. Lockdowns were to keep us safe and to stop Covid spreading, but they also forced children to miss out on school and spending time with their friends.

Out of 36 countries, the UK ranked almost

bottom for teenage life satisfaction, above only Chile and Turkey. The UK also ranked 27th out of 36 for mental health.

UNICEF UK's Dr Philip Goodwin said the findings should be a "wake-up call" for the government to spend more on supporting children and lifting kids out of poverty.



Would you prefer to grow up abroad, or are you happy here in the UK?

Vote at first.news/polls



Two companies were in hot water...

Water companies

ANGLIAN Water has been fined a record £1.42 million for mistakes that caused flakes and powder to appear in people's drinking water. The company apologised and says it's now set things right. Welsh Water also got a massive fine – £1.35 million – for failing to check the quality of its water properly for its annual reports in 2020 and 2021.

CHIMPANZ-A&E!

WILD chimpanzees in Uganda have been filmed using forest plants to give first aid to each other.

University of Oxford scientists observed the animals with the help of a local team in Budongo Forest. They saw some chimpanzees dab their wounds with leaves that are known to prevent infections and reduce inflammation (swelling).

Others chewed up plant material,

then rubbed the mush onto injuries on their bodies. One very young chimp chewed up leaves, then pressed them onto a wound on her mum's body.

The footage adds to growing evidence that chimps know how to use natural medicines to stay clean and healthy, and that they have empathy (they understand each other's feelings).



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.





TRUMP ON TOUR

Trump meets with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman

The White House says that more than \$2 trillion in investment agreements have been made with Middle East countries.

US President Donald Trump has been on a tour of the Middle East in a bid to build America's relationship with the region. Here's a diary of what he got up to.

Day 1, Tuesday 13 May

Mr Trump landed in Saudi Arabia's capital, Riyadh, with Elon Musk and other important American business figures. He announced he'd agreed to sell Saudi Arabia an arms package (weapons including jet fighters, missiles and ships) worth nearly \$142 billion. He also said he planned to lift US sanctions (restrictions on trade) on Syria "to give them a

Qatar offered to gift Mr Trump a luxury Boeing plane worth \$400m (£303m). He said: "The Boeing 747 is being given to the United States Air Force/ Department of Defense, NOT TO ME!" However, the plane would belong to Mr Trump when he stops being president.

chance at greatness". Since 2011, people in Syria have been cut off almost entirely from some global services and from importing foreign goods because of the civil war there.

Day 2, Wednesday 14 May

Mr Trump headed to Qatar, touching down in the capital city of Doha. There he met with Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa and took part in the Gulf Cooperation Council summit. He talked about America taking over the Gaza strip: "I think I'd be proud to have the United States have it, take it, make it a freedom zone." He also discussed a possible deal to get Iran to stop making nuclear weapons, and signed a \$96 billion deal for Qatar Airways to buy Boeing planes.

Day 3, Thursday 15 May

Mr Trump arrived in the United Arab Emirates and announced various new deals worth around \$200 billion, including \$60bn for "expanded oil and natural gas production".

"Young, attractive guy. Tough guy. Strong past. Very strong past. Fighter" – Donald Trump's thoughts on Syrian interim (temporary) president Ahmed al-Sharaa. Until December, the US was offering \$10m for al-Sharaa's arrest, due to his involvement in terrorist groups such as al-Qaeda, the organisation that killed 3,000 people in the 9/11 attacks on New York and Washington, DC, in 2001.

Hunger crisis in Gaza

THE entire population of Gaza is at "critical risk" of famine, says an assessment backed by the United Nations (UN).

Around 2.1 million Palestinians face an extreme and dangerous lack of food due to the ongoing war with Israel.

The news comes after Israel blocked humanitarian aid – things like food and medicine – from reaching Gaza, hoping to get Hamas to release its remaining Israeli hostages.

Lots of organisations, including the UN, have spoken out against the blockade.

The new report says nearly half a million people in Gaza

are facing starvation and experts are calling for urgent action to prevent the "increasingly likely" risk of famine, meaning people could die because they are not getting enough to eat.

Israeli officials have denied there is a hunger crisis in Gaza.

The report comes from the IPC, a group of UN agencies and aid groups such as Oxfam and Save the Children, which measures how well countries can feed their people.

Earlier this week, Israel let five trucks into Gaza to deliver aid, but the UN called it "a drop in the ocean".

Talks but no peace for Ukraine

THE latest peace talks between Ukraine and Russia have taken place in Turkey.

The first face-to-face talks in three years saw the countries agree to swap 1,000 prisoners of war each, but there was no agreement on ending the war.

US President Donald Trump said he had urgent calls with both countries' leaders, in an effort to end the conflict as soon as possible. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky had asked for direct talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin, but Russia's only response was that the request had been "noted". Two days after the peace talks began, Russia launched 273 drones against Ukraine, its largest such attack since the start of the war.



Russian President Vladimir Putin

Gopi Hinduja

WHO'S THE RICHEST OF THEM ALL?!

THE UK's 350 richest people have been revealed in the Sunday Times Rich List 2025.

Topping the list for a fourth year running is Gopi Hinduja and his family, with a whopping £35 billion fortune. The 85-year-old businessman owns the Indian corporation Hinduja Group.

King Charles is all the way down in 258th place, although that's higher than last year. He's now estimated to be worth around £640 million.

Other famous faces on the list include Formula 1 champion Sir Lewis Hamilton, Ed Sheeran, Sir Elton John and Harry Styles. Dua Lipa is the youngest person on the list of Brits under 40, with an estimated worth of £115m, at the age of 29.

Meanwhile, Manchester United co-owner Sir Jim Ratcliffe lost the most last year – £6.473 billion, a quarter of his wealth – which meant he dropped from fourth to seventh on the list.

£

156

That's the number of billionaires in the UK this year – down from 165 in 2024, the biggest fall in the history of the list.

A quackers discovery!



Facebook/Gemeinde Köniz

A DUCK has been caught speeding in Switzerland!

The male mallard was spotted on a radar image breaking the speed limit in the town of Köniz. He reached a top speed of 52km/h (32mph) in a zone with a limit of 30km/h (19mph). Police think the feathery suspect could be a repeat offender, as a similar duck was caught speeding in the same area back in 2018. Quackers!



Vatican City



SINNER in the Vatican: Italian tennis star Jannik Sinner took a break from the court last week, as he was invited to the Vatican to meet Pope Leo XIV. The world number one even gifted the new leader of the Roman Catholic Church a new tennis racket. But, when asked to play, the pope said: "We'll break something. Best not to!" Sinner was in the region to compete in the Italian Open in Rome, but lost out to Spain's Carlos Alcaraz (inset) in the final.

Bridlington, UK



AN inflatable Bugs Bunny looks down on runners during the tenth anniversary of the Bridlington Kite Festival.

London, UK



A NEW Women's Rugby World Cup trophy has been unveiled. The tournament takes place in England from 22 August to 27 September. The trophy will tour the country, stopping off at the eight cities and towns hosting matches: Brighton and Hove, Bristol, Exeter, London, Manchester, Northampton, Sunderland and York.



Whipsnade, UK



THIS is Taks, one of the 12 trolls taking over Whipsnade Zoo this summer. The mythical creatures are arriving on the summer solstice (21 June) – the longest day of the year – to help us humans reconnect with nature. Hidden among wildlife at the zoo, they can be found using a trolls treasure hunt map.

Shanghai, China



CHINA celebrates 520 Festival (20 May), which is like our Valentine's Day. This day is celebrated because the number 520 sounds similar to 'I love you' when spoken in Chinese.

Landerneau, France



IN French, the Smurfs are known as 'Les Schtroumpfs'!

SMURF lovers paint their town blue on the way to setting a new Guinness World Record. In total, 3,076 people gathered dressed as the blue creatures in the small French town of Landerneau. It broke the previous record of 2,762, set in Germany in 2019, for the largest ever gathering of Smurfs.

**MANCHESTER****Gotta snatch 'em all**

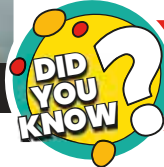
A man has been arrested after police found a huge collection of stolen Pokémon cards. The haul is worth an estimated £250,000, with some of the rare cards worth up to £560 on their own. They were discovered by officers in a raid on a home in Hyde last week. Police shared some of the cards in a Facebook post, saying that attempts will be made to return them to the original owners. A police spokesperson joked: "Gotta catch 'em all", the Pokémon slogan.

**FIRTH OF FORTH****Pearl-fect comeback**

Edinburgh-based charities have taken to the waves to reintroduce 10,000 oysters to Scottish waters. The WWF's Restoration Forth project aims to restore seagrass habitats and oyster populations in the Firth of Forth – a body of water that meets the North Sea. The total number of oysters introduced over the past four years is now 40,000. Oysters are important because they store climate-warming carbon. Seagrass is vital for ocean biodiversity too but, over the last 100 years, we have lost up to 92% of our seagrass meadows in the UK.



A volunteer releases oysters



ON average, a seagrass meadow twice the size of a football pitch can support 80,000 fish and a million invertebrates!

BALLYBOGEY**Stories unite schools**

Around 3,000 pupils in the UK and Ukraine have been connected thanks to a new schools partnership. Funded by the UK government, the programme builds on the power of reading to support emotional wellbeing. Thousands of schools in Ukraine have been severely impacted by the ongoing conflict with Russia. One of the 50 UK schools selected is Kilmoyle Primary School in Ballybogey, County Antrim. Its principal, Jeff Scott, said: "When we welcomed 14 Ukrainian pupils in May 2022, our school began to change. The arrival of Ukrainian families brought real diversity, and this partnership is a way to deepen that connection – it's become part of our school's identity."



Pupils from Kilmoyle Primary School, one of the 50 UK schools that have been paired with 50 Ukrainian schools

BRADFORD**Queen rides book bus**

Queen Camilla has paid a visit to Bradford to see how children are learning the literacy skills they need to succeed. As patron of the National Literacy Trust, which has supported thousands of children in the city since 2014, the Queen visited the Bradford Stories Bus (pictured). This is an American school bus transformed into a travelling literacy space to inspire children to read and write for pleasure. The Queen met schoolchildren from across the city who took part in a poetry session. In total, the National Literacy Trust has given out more than 150,000 books to children in Bradford.

PEMBROKESHIRE**Home sweet hedgehog**

Three young hedgehogs have been rehomed. The animals, all one-year-olds, were taken in by Pembrokeshire Hogspital, which helps sick and orphaned hedgehogs get better. They have been moved to Bluestone National Park Resort, from where they will eventually be released back into the wild. Yesterday (22 May) was International Day for Biological Diversity, which aims to raise awareness of biodiversity issues. Hedgehogs are classed as vulnerable to extinction by the British Hedgehog Preservation Society. Check out a video of the rehoming, as well as top tips on how to keep hedgehogs safe, on the *First News* app!



A hedgehog ready to be released



Dormice (inset) are one of the species that Chester Zoo is protecting

CHESHIRE**£4m boost for wildlife**

Chester Zoo has secured its biggest ever boost to help restore green spaces in Cheshire. The wildlife conservation charity has received £4m from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, which it will use to help wildlife flourish. As part of its Networks for Nature initiative, the money will be used to create or restore 20 ponds and 3,000 metres of hedgerow. It will allow local schools to help pupils improve their surroundings, too. Community nature spaces will be created to allow both people and wildlife to thrive.



Vladimir Dinets

HAWKS ARE STREET SMART

A HAWK learned how to use traffic lights and cars to hunt more successfully, says a new study.

A Cooper's hawk in West Orange, USA, worked out that the best time to grab its prey was based on when the traffic lights changed colour and cars had to queue up.

In a report in *Frontiers in Ethology*, Dr Vladimir Dinets says that the

hawk always targeted the same family home, as their leftover food attracted sparrows, doves and starlings to their front garden.

He says that the hawk always attacked when the car queue was long enough to provide cover all the way to a small tree, and that only happened after someone had pressed the pedestrian crossing

button. As soon as the sound signal was activated, the hawk would fly to the tree, wait for the cars to back up, then strike.

The discovery showed that the hawk had cleverly figured out how to use traffic signals and patterns to help it hunt for food. In turn, it was able to survive and thrive in a city environment. Pretty cool, eh?

Two cawsome new arrivals!

TWO new raven chicks have arrived at the Tower of London.

The new arrivals have been named Henry and Poe and are joining six other ravens at the famous attraction.

Legend has it that six ravens are needed at the Tower of London to keep the kingdom safe. If any leave, the fortress and the kingdom will fall.

Henry has been named after the many historic Henrys who have lived at the Tower – including King Henry VIII. The other chick, Poe, has been named after the famous poet Edgar Allan Poe, who wrote the classic poem *The Raven*.

The cute chicks are now being cared for by Ravenmaster Barney Chandler and his team. The birds will spend the next few weeks in the enclosure getting used to the sights and sounds of the Tower, before they are introduced to the other ravens and get a chance to explore their new home.



Henry and Poe join fellow ravens Jubilee, Harris, Poppy, Georgie, Edgar and Chaos

Historic Royal Palaces

PUFFIN COUNT BEGINS



How many can you spot?

THIS year's puffin count is underway on the Farne Islands.

The islands off the coast of Northumberland are an important sanctuary for 200,000 seabirds that return there each summer to breed.

The puffins are counted every year, alongside other seabirds, to see how the various species are doing and how things like climate change and warming seas could be affecting them.

A team from the National Trust, which cares for the islands, will also aim to give 50 adult birds colourful rings to track them over the next few years and learn more about them.



ANEESHWAR'S ANIMAL OF THE WEEK

MULTI-WORLD RECORD HOLDER!

ANEESHWAR Kunchala is a ten-year-old wildlife campaigner and officially the world's youngest newspaper columnist! He shot to fame as a finalist on *Britain's Got Talent*. Now, he's presenting the documentary *Save Our Wildlife* from Sky Kids and Sky Zero. You can watch it at first.news/climatecrisis.

Aneeshwar's Animal of the Week is the...

MANATEE



HABITAT:

● The warm waters of the Caribbean and West Africa, in shallow, slow-moving rivers, estuaries, saltwater bays, canals and coastal areas.

FUN FACTS:

● Manatees are herbivores (plant-eaters). They feed on seagrasses, weeds and algae.
● They are slow-moving animals. They are also known as 'sea cows' and spend up to eight hours a day grazing.

SPECIAL SUPERPOWER:

● Manatees have stiff whiskers around their mouth and very fine hair over much of their body. These hairs help manatees to understand their surroundings.

CONSERVATION STATUS:

● Manatees are vulnerable, says the International Union for Conservation of Nature.



Aneeshwar's manatee 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.

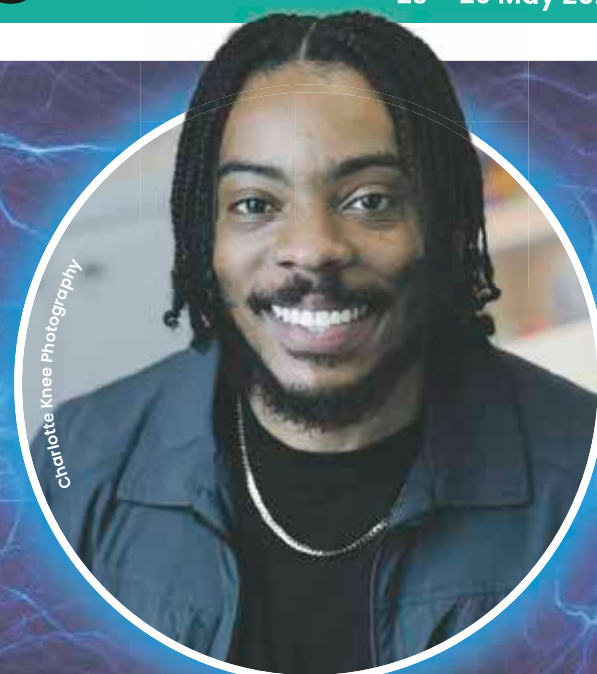




SCIENCE IS STILL LIT!

TIKTOK science star Big Manny (aka Emanuel Wallace) is back on bookshelves with the second title in his *Science is Lit* series, *Awesome Electricity and Mad Magnets*.

This time the focus is on physics, from sound waves to circuits, and magnetism to friction. There are also loads of experiments for you to try at home. We asked Big Manny some big questions all about his new book!



Charlotte Knee Photography

Big Manny is back with a new book!

● **Why do you think science still isn't seen as cool by many people?**

Mainly because it's often presented in a complicated and long-winded way – with lots of fancy words – that only a small group of people can understand.

● **Why do you think your videos have reached people who hadn't been grabbed by science before?**

Mainly due to the way I speak. My tone is quite casual and conversational. I avoid unnecessary scientific jargon and explain it in a simple and easy to understand way.

● **What got you interested in science in the first place?**

My Year 8 science teacher, Mr Carter. He did experiments every lesson and he beamed with excitement while conducting them.

● **And was there anything that put you off it?**

I was never put off by science, it only intrigued me and made me more curious about how I and the world work.

● **How well do you think the national curriculum does at inspiring kids to want to get into science?**

The national curriculum should include more experiments that demonstrate the power and potential of elements on the periodic table. Instead of telling students how brilliant science is, show them.

● **Which is your favourite experiment in your new book?**

My favourite experiment is static electricity because it amazes me how we can generate electrical charge just from rubbing two items together.



Subi Bosa

● **I'm sure your neighbours are used to your back garden experiments now, but when you first started messing about with chemicals did any of them think you might be a bit crazy?**

My neighbours are very supportive of my experiments and tell me how much my videos inspire them.

● **Have you ever had any that went disastrously wrong?**

One time I was making some hydrogen gas and a balloon popped on my head. My hair got wet and I had to wash it, so I wasn't too happy about that!

● **You had Prince William as your assistant for one video. Do you think he has what it takes to be a scientist?**

Prince William is a very down-to-earth individual and I enjoyed being in his presence. He showed genuine interest and was highly engaged with the experiment.

● **Some newspapers still tend to use the word 'boffin' when they're talking about science – what do you think of that as a name?**

It's sad that scientists are referred to as boffins. If it wasn't for these so-called 'boffins', we wouldn't have any medicine to heal us when we're sick, no electricity and no transport, like cars, trains or planes.

● **You've started doing Horrible Science with the Horrible Histories team – what's it been like doing TV with other people in charge instead of having total control yourself?**

I'm super happy to be featured in *Horrible Science* and had a great time on set with the producers and cast.

● **What are the best moments we should look out for?**

The best part is my double/clone Big Danny. It's like having a twin!

Science is Lit: Awesome Electricity and Mad Magnets by Big Manny, illustrated by Subi Bosa, is out now.



"Instead of telling students how brilliant science is, show them."

This report is from the Science Museum in London

SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

HAPPY birthday Pac-Man!

On 22 May, the famous little yellow character celebrated his 45th anniversary.

This icon of videogames was created in Japan in 1980, and became a hit in American arcades when he crossed the ocean. With the hero gobbling dots and being chased by colourful ghosts, it was universally appealing to crowds, and a much less violent option compared to most videogames of the time.

After his arcade success, Pac-Man was converted to consoles for home videogame audiences, and has since featured in more than 80 games.

Come explore the history of Pac-Man and videogames at Power Up at the Science Museum: you can play it 1980s style on arcade machines, or try to be the last Pac-Man standing in an eight-player 'championship'.

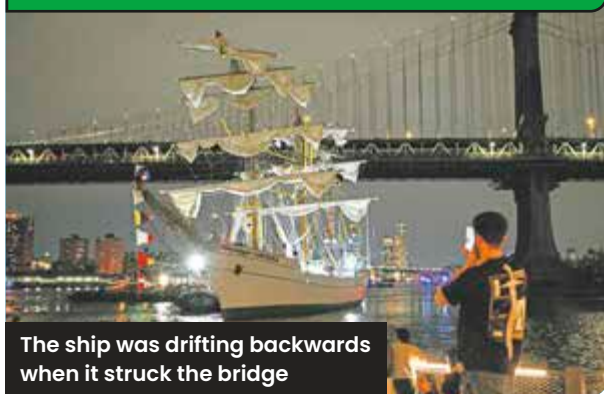


Science Museum Group

Pac-Man for the Atari 2600 console



Subi Bosa

**USA**

The ship was drifting backwards when it struck the bridge

Investigation after ship crashes into Brooklyn Bridge

New York authorities are investigating how a Mexican Navy ship crashed into the city's famous Brooklyn Bridge last Saturday night (17 May). Two of the ship's 227 crew were killed and 19 were injured. The collision caused the boat's three masts to collapse into the Hudson River, as they were too tall to fit underneath the bridge. Police said that the ship lost power, and that the crew was unable to stop or steer it, but they added that more investigations were needed. Following the incident, the ship was anchored at a nearby pier so that repairs could be made. The ship, called the Cuauhtémoc, left Mexico last month to go on tour, and was on its way to Aberdeen, Scotland, for the city's Tall Ships races in July.

**SPAIN****Explosion puts city in lockdown**

People living in the southern Spanish city of Seville were instructed to stay indoors and shut their windows last week after an explosion at a chemical warehouse. The blast happened at lunchtime on 14 May, and caused a toxic tower of black smoke to loom over the city. Authorities in the neighbouring town of Alcalá de Guadaira sent out an alert to all mobile devices in the area, warning people to stay indoors while crews from seven fire stations tackled the blaze. The smoke could be seen by people more than 80 kilometres (50 miles) away.



Around 80,000 people were affected

**ARMENIA**

FPWC and International Animal Rescue

One of the bears

Happy ever after for three bears

A UK charity has rescued a family of three brown bears that were being held in a back garden in Armenia. The owner kept dad Aram, mum Nairi and daughter Lola in filthy, cramped cages and fed them cola. Aram had been there for 12 years, while Nairi had been taken from the wild. Their previous cubs had been sold. International Animal Rescue, a charity based in Sussex, teamed up with the Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets to get into the home and take the bears away. They are being cared for at a wildlife rescue centre, while money is raised to build a sanctuary for them.

**MEXICO****Mexico seeks compensation from MrBeast**

Mexico has accused YouTuber Jimmy Donaldson (MrBeast) of exploiting (unfairly using) its ancient pyramids to make money. He filmed a video called *I Explored 2,000-Year-Old Ancient Temples* in the Mayan cities of Calakmul and Chichén Itzá, but is seen advertising chocolate and encouraging viewers to buy it. Mexican authorities said they had given MrBeast permission to film at the sites, but not to use them for advertising purposes. A representative for MrBeast has denied the accusations.



MrBeast's videos get millions of likes

**SOUTH AFRICA****Gecko found after 34 years**

A tiny gecko species thought to have become extinct has been spotted for only the second time. The Blyde Rondavel flat gecko, which is about eight centimetres long, had been discovered first in South Africa's Blyde River Canyon in 1991, but not seen since. Two researchers from the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) returned to the hard-to-explore canyon, determined to prove the species still existed, and found 20 or 30 of the geckos in the exact same spot where they were first found, 34 years ago. They photographed seven and took tissue samples to prove their identity. The EWT also recently rediscovered a mole species missing for more than 80 years.



John Davies, EWT

One rare gecko!

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

Polio mainly affects children under five

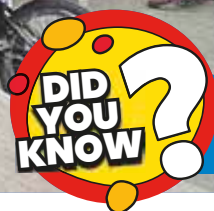
WHO declares polio outbreak

The World Health Organization (WHO) has called for an immediate vaccine drive in Papua New Guinea after polio was detected in two healthy children last week. Only half the country's population are vaccinated against polio, but health minister Elias Kapavore wants everyone protected by the end of the year, saying: "There is no excuse... polio is a serious disease." Polio is caused by a virus that spreads easily through poo, coughs and sneezes. It affects the nervous system and can cause deformities, but is very rare now thanks to vaccinations.

CHILDREN IN CHARGE!

THE SCHOOL WHERE KIDS MAKE THE RULES

EVERY school has rules to follow, right? Teachers tell you to raise your hand when you have a question, respect others and be on time for lessons. But at this school, it's not the teachers who make the rules, it's the kids! Here's how it works...



SUMMERHILL School was set up in 1921, making it over 100 years old!

FYI

sky kids

WATCH THE SHOW

Find out more from the children at Summerhill School by scanning the QR code.



What makes Summerhill School different?

Summerhill School isn't a regular school. In fact, there are many things that make it unique! One of the biggest is that the children get to decide on the rules, but that's not all! Here are some of the other things that make Summerhill stand out.

- **The freedom to attend lessons** – pupils at Summerhill don't have to go to lessons. They can choose which ones they want to go to, and when.
- **Equality** – teachers and pupils are treated the same. Teachers don't get special treatment – they have to respect and follow the same rules.
- **No school uniform** – the kids at Summerhill wear their own clothes. They can even dye their hair if they want to!
- **The choice to do exams** – no-one at Summerhill has to do any exams. Although most children do at least GCSE exams, some choose not to.
- **Community living** – Summerhill is a boarding school, so everyone is very close. It's a community of adults and children who all live and work together.

Everyone gets a say!

You might have heard the word democracy before, maybe during the general election last year. It means that everyone gets a say, and that's exactly how things work at Summerhill. The school uses a democratic approach, which means both pupils and teachers help to decide how the school is run. They hold meetings twice a week to talk about rules and sort out any problems, similarly to how MPs meet in Parliament to discuss things and make decisions!



Pupils at Summerhill voting in a meeting

Summerhill School rules

1. You must have a working front and back brake on your bike.
2. You can't kick open doors – use your hands to open and close them.
3. You can't ride little kids' bikes, even with permission.
4. No washing football boots in bathrooms.
5. The last person to use the sauces in the dining room has to put them back on the counter.
6. To use Nerf guns, you have to apply for a gun licence from the meeting.
7. New children and staff cannot be on committees in their first term.

If you could make your own school rules, what would they be?

WHAT ARE THE RULES?

You might think that because the children at Summerhill come up with the rules, that there are no rules at all – just freedom and fun! But that couldn't be further from the truth. In fact, there are around 250 rules at any given time. Some only last a little while, or get changed or dropped, but others stick around for years. Check out some examples of their rules above!

IS YOUR SCHOOL DIFFERENT? LET US KNOW!

In September, *First News* is starting a series on schools across the UK. If you think your school is different and deserves to be featured, write in to tell us about it and you could be in the paper! Just get an adult to email us on newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk.



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.

**SPRING
SMILES**

Why are flowers
so popular?
They always have
lots of buds!



**SPRING
SMILES**

Why can't you
trust trees?
Because they're
shady!

HAPPY HALF-TERM!



**SPRING
SMILES**

What goes up when the
rain comes down?
Umbrellas!

IT'S the hottest half-term of the school year, so we're celebrating the great outdoors and all the fun that awaits on the other side of your walls with a fun-packed four-page pull-out. Get set for games, laughs and awesome activities. Last one outside's a rotten egg!

**DID
YOU
KNOW?**



● If you include all its islands, Great Britain has around 31,368km (19,491 miles) of coastline. That's almost as far as walking from London to Sydney in Australia and back again!

● The UK's largest national park is the Cairngorms in Scotland. At 4,528km² (1,748 square miles), it's bigger than the country of Luxembourg.

● The tallest native trees in the UK are beech trees. One, in Hagg Wood, Derbyshire, towers at 45m (147ft 6in)! What's the tallest tree in your town?

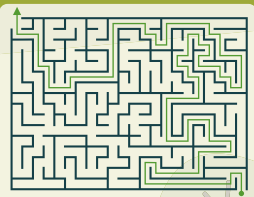
● The British Isles are home to over 4,000 species of beetle, with more still being discovered!

● The largest freshwater lake in the UK is Lough Neagh in Northern Ireland. It holds around 3.4 trillion litres – the same as 1.36 million Olympic swimming pools!



You made it! Ahh,
breathe that fresh air...
now, turn over for more
fun activities!

Finish



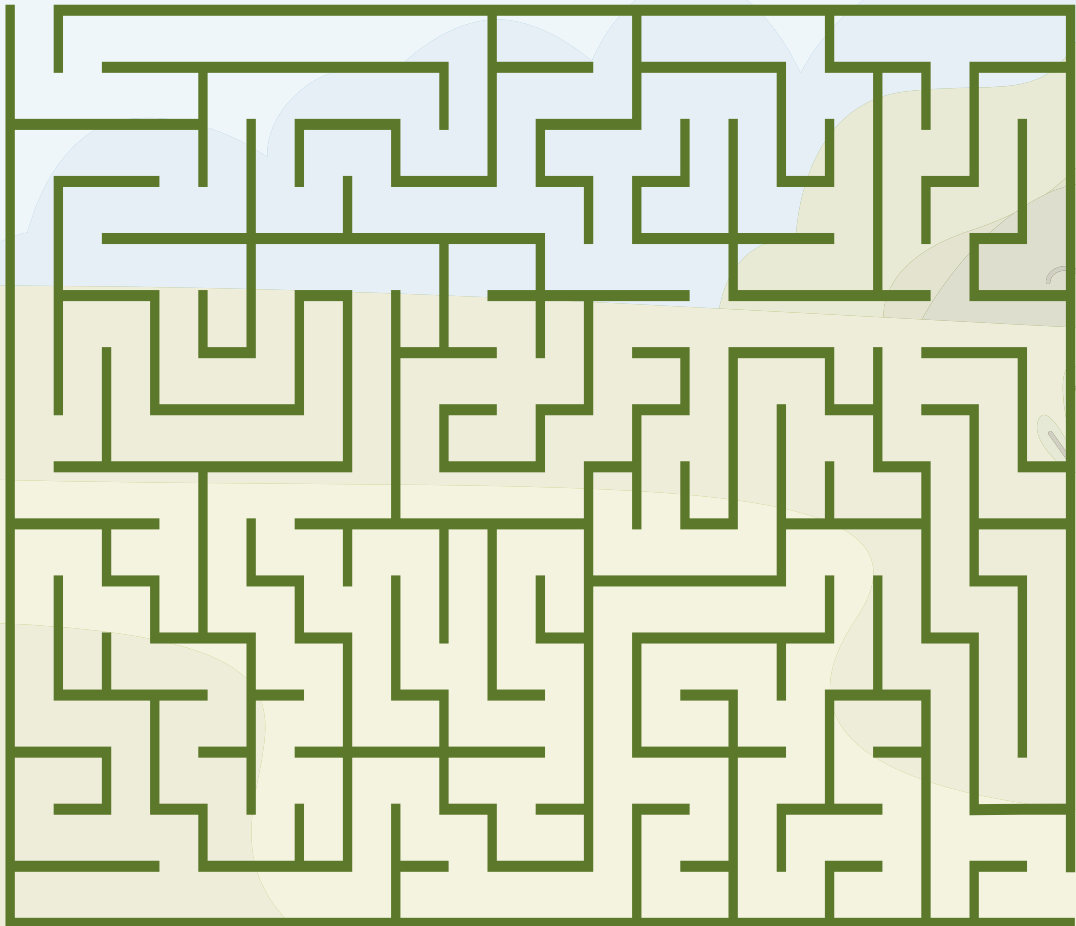
ANSWER:

BREAK OUT!

OF course, to get outside, you need to find the door.
Can you figure out the path through the house, from
the top floor bedroom to the sunny streets?



Start



THE WILD OUTDOORS!

TREASURE HUNT

WE'RE setting you an outdoor mission! Over half-term, can you spot all five of these things?



A cloud that looks like a UFO



Two magpies



A bee



A dandelion



The moon during the day

EASY AS A, B, C?

If that's too easy, try this for size. In one day over half-term, see if you can spot something beginning with each letter of the alphabet!

WHO'D WIN?

YOU might have seen a few of these going around recently, but we want to open it up to the whole of the animal kingdom! Tick your choices – and see if your family and friends agree.



100 adults



Ten grumpy gorillas



One angry cat



20 mischievous mice



One naughty dragon



60 strict teachers



One great white shark



Ten snappy piranhas



20 squawking seagulls



40 cranky crabs

PEA SHOTS, PEA SCORES!

IT'S the Champions League final this weekend – but here, it's the Champions Leaf final! It's gone to penalties and the bugs and critters have got the jitters, so it's all down to you.

How to play: Roll a dice to see if your shot is a goal, miss or save. You need to score six goals from ten rolls to win. Can you hit the golden leaves and achieve garden glory?



Tick the shots you score. **Tip:** use a pencil, so you can rub it out and play again!



Shot 1

Shot 2

Shot 3

Shot 4

Shot 5

Shot 6

Shot 7

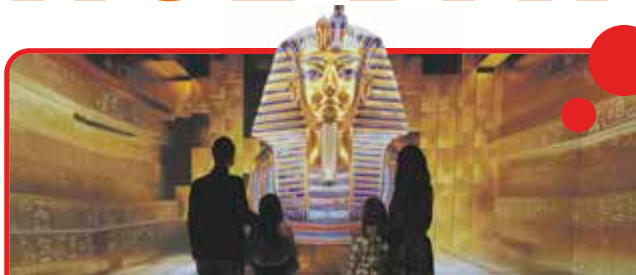
Shot 8

Shot 9

Shot 10

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

TAKE a look at some of our favourite family days out.



Tutankhamun: The Immersive Exhibition, London, until 29 June

Journey into Ancient Egypt and discover the story of the famous pharaoh Tutankhamun. It features huge projections, virtual reality and an interactive digital metaverse room! tutankhamunexperience.com



Shrapnel Boys museum trails, UK, until 1 June

Join Kids in Museums for fun spotter trails based on the book *Shrapnel Boys* by Jenny Pearson. Explore what life was like for a group of children during WW2. tinyurl.com/shrapnel-boys



I See You Like This exhibition at the Unicorn Theatre, London, until 31 July

This extraordinary new exhibition looks at what happens when kids take creative control and visually reinvent their parent or carer! unicorntheatre.com



Litcraft at Wordsworth Grasmere, Lake District, on now

The attraction now has its very own *Minecraft* game, called *Litcraft*, to help you learn all about the adventures of poet William Wordsworth. wordsworth.org.uk



Hay Festival, Hay-on-Wye, until 1 June

One of the world's biggest and best literary festivals is taking place in Wales, with over 600 events. Discover all sorts from the worlds of art, literature and music. hayfestival.com/home



Edinburgh International Children's Festival, Edinburgh, until 1 June

Celebrate the best of children's theatre and dance from around the world! imagine.org.uk/festival



HIDDEN LONDON

Find underground treasures!

Explore secret parts of the Tube

on exclusive guided adventures

ltmuseum.co.uk
 Registered charity number 1123122

BOWLS' BIG WEEKEND

Play for free, 23–26 May!

CLUBS across England are inviting families and young people to try bowls for free this weekend. And even if you're not in England, you could still try and find a club near you to have a go!

What is bowls?

Bowls is a sport played on a square of grass called a green, which is divided into lanes called rinks.

Players take turns to roll their bowls from a mat at one end of the rink towards a small white target ball, often referred to as the 'jack', near the other end.

The aim of the game is to get your bowls closest to the jack.

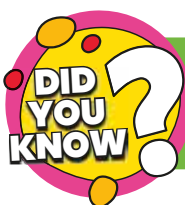
Bowls is similar to boules, which you might have played on the beach or in the park.

How many people do I need to play?

You'll need at least two people to play a game of bowls, but can have up to eight.

What do I wear?

There's no dress code, so just wear things you feel comfortable in, and flat shoes such as trainers.



BOWLS will feature in the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland.

REASONS TO HAVE A GO!

- Playing bowls is easy, fun and relaxing – and this weekend, it's free!
- More than 800 clubs around the country have signed up to take part in Bowls' Big Weekend.
- It's good for physical and mental health, and is a slow, low-impact sport that almost anyone can take part in.
- Compared to most sports, age and gender have less of an effect on performance, so the whole family can play!

To find out how to give bowls a go for free, go to bowlsbigweekend.com



FIVE MINUTES WITH...

FYNN KYSER

FYNN is a para-athlete with cerebral palsy who bowls for England. We caught up with him to find out why he loves the game so much!

When did you start playing bowls?

I started bowling indoors around the age of nine and then started outdoors a few seasons later.

What do you like so much about it?

I love how accessible and diverse the sport is. It really has something for everyone, regardless of ability. No-one is left out and most clubs are super welcoming and friendly. You also have the competitive aspect of the sport, which I love, allowing me to challenge myself against the best players around, regardless of disability.

What's been the highlight of your career so far?

There have been two highlights of my career so far; one being selected to represent England at the World Championships in 2023 – it was truly amazing and an honour to put the shirt on. The most recent highlight off the green has to be winning the Para Bowler of the Year award, which was an honour to receive and never expected. It was made even more special for para bowls to be included in the awards.

How do you deal with losing?

I deal with losing by being proud of myself for leaving everything I could on the green and having some great support from friends and family. It can be heart-breaking at times to lose important games, but the experience gained from those moments is invaluable and what keeps pushing me forward.

What's your biggest goal within the sport?

My biggest goal in the sport is to win a medal at the Commonwealth Games one day while representing England.

Why should young people give bowls a go?

I truly believe it's a sport for anybody, no matter your age. There's a stigma around bowls being for old people, but going around different clubs and competitions, I see bowls is a really vibrant, lively sport, and I've made many friends for life.



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.

NEW ZEALAND KIDS 'BANNED' FROM BEING NAMED **KING**

KING has again topped the list of rejected names on New Zealand's baby register. Royal and official-themed names are "undesirable", including titles such as Duke, Prince and Princess. Eleven requests to name kids "King" were turned down in the past year, says an Official Information Act inquiry.

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 name King really is banned in New Zealand. The country has strict rules on what names can and can't be used, and those resembling an official title aren't allowed.

IN NEXT WEEK'S **ISSUE!**



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





A FABULOUS FUN FAMILY ADVENTURE!

RALLY your friends, grab some popcorn and dash to the cinema, as Disney's epic new live-action *Lilo & Stitch* is here! We've got the lowdown on what you can expect from this heart-warming Hawaiian movie.

What's the story?

Lilo Pelekai is a six-year-old girl living in Hawaii who longs for a best friend. Following the tragic loss of her parents, she and her older sister Nani are forced to go it alone. When their neighbour, Tūtū, allows Lilo to visit the local animal shelter, Lilo brings home a cute but wild creature. Unfortunately, her new pet, whom she names Stitch, is actually an alien! Cue the start of a rather crazy adventure!

From friend to family

Lilo & Stitch is all about the importance of 'ohana', the idea that family can be made up of more than just blood relatives. In turn, we get to see Stitch's journey from being an alien outsider to becoming a beloved family member. Pass the tissues, quick!



"Finding Lilo was the biggest challenge. Maia was the perfect choice."

Meet Maia

Eight-year-old Maia Kealoha from Hawaii makes her big-screen debut as Lilo. The movie's producer

Jonathan Eirich said: "Finding Lilo was the biggest challenge. After looking at over 800 audition tapes, [Maia] was the perfect choice. She embodies Lilo's personality, spunk and sense of wonder."

Sister steps up

Lilo's sister is also a huge part of the story. Nani is an intelligent and athletic 18-year-old who has taken on the role of Lilo's guardian. She struggles to juggle school, work and the responsibilities of raising Lilo, but perhaps Stitch can help her...

Alien encounters

Stitch isn't the only alien to look out for in the human world. You'll also meet Jumba and Pleakley, two representatives from the United Galactic Federation. They'll be bringing the sarcasm, wit and plenty of comedy!



Stars flock to BBC Radio 1's Big Weekend

It's a huge weekend for Liverpool as BBC Radio 1's Big Weekend descends on the city between 23 and 25 May. The star-studded line-up includes Tom Grennan (above), Myles Smith, Jorja Smith and Lola Young. Listen out for all the action on BBC Radio 1.

Comic Con comes to London MCM London Comic Con – a huge gaming, anime and pop event – is back at ExCeL London from 23–25 May. Thousands of people are expected to be there, with many dressing in cool costumes and outfits (like this guy!).



Fountain of Youth arrives on Apple TV+

An action-packed new movie hits Apple TV+ today (23 May). It follows two siblings who join forces on a global adventure to find the mythological Fountain of Youth. The duo must use their knowledge of history to follow clues that could possibly lead to immortality!



THE animated version of *Lilo & Stitch* was released back in 2002.

Magical music

The upbeat soundtrack includes authentic Hawaiian music from the Kamehameha Schools Children's Chorus. The choir features 40 children, who are all of native Hawaiian descent.

A lasting impression

It's hoped the movie will touch the hearts of all who see it! Co-screenwriter Chris Kekaniokalani Bright said: "I want people to laugh and have a good time, but also to feel the emotional depth of the story. It's about being there for your family, no matter what that looks like. By the end of the movie, we have a family that looks really weird, but that's what family is."

Lilo & Stitch is in cinemas now.



CHEESE ROLLING RETURNS



ON your marks... get set... chase that cheese!

Competitors will throw themselves down Cooper's Hill near Gloucester on Monday 26 May, chasing a wheel of Double Gloucester cheese (inset).

The cheese is given a short head start and can reach up to 70mph (113km/h)! Most contestants end up losing their footing and rolling down the 200-yard (183m) hill because it's so steep, much to the amusement of the huge crowds.

While competitors are likely to come away with a few cuts and bruises, the lucky winners of each race get to keep a wheel of cheese! There's also a safer uphill race for kids, allowing everyone to get a taste of the famous occasion.

Christmas cheer to last all year



SORRY Santa, you've got a busy year ahead!

It's snow joke – Chessington World of Adventures has just launched an all-year-round Christmas hotel room.

Families who are already feeling festive will be able to check in to a room filled with twinkling decorations, surprising stockings and, of course, a huge Christmas tree.

Chessington says that it's in response to its research, which revealed that more than a quarter of Brits (29%) wish Christmas would last longer.

For those who are happy to wait until November, the theme park has announced it will be transformed by a Winter's Tail event. Visitors will be able to enjoy a silent disco and meet Santa in the Christmas village.

Sea lion spotted far from home



A SEA lion has surprised wildlife experts and visitors to a national park in Chile after being seen 50km (30 miles) inland, looking for food.

The animal left its home in the coastal city of Puerto Natales, travelling upstream into the Torres del Paine National Park.

CONAF, Chile's National Forestry Corporation, posted a video of the sea lion with the caption: "You wouldn't believe it!"

Experts from CONAF drove the sea lion two hours back home, where it rejoined its colony.



SEA lions bark like dogs! The animals are super noisy, using barking sounds to communicate with each other.



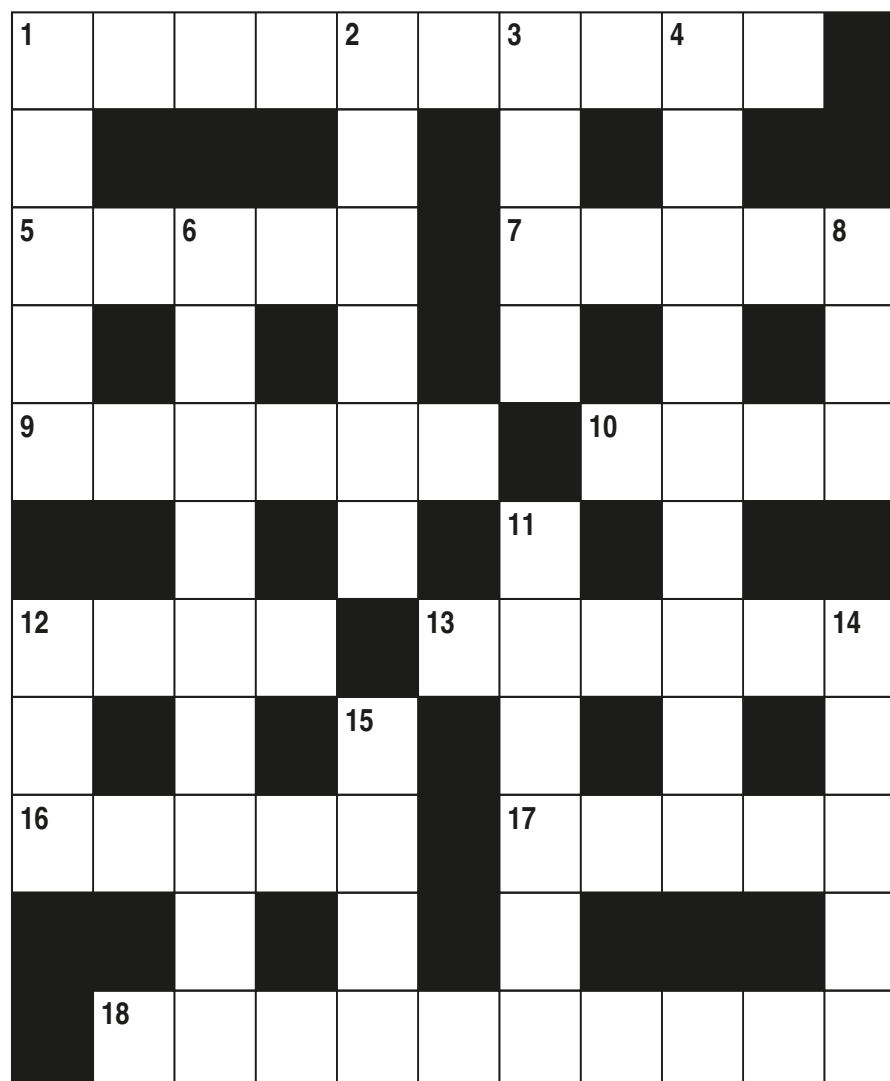
Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer





CROSSWORD

CAN you solve our crossword puzzle using the clues below?



ACROSS

- 1) Popular fast food item (10)
 5) E.g. touch or smell (5)
 7) The paper sheets in books (5)
 9) Slightly cold (6)
 10) _____ Murray: British ex-tennis player (4)
 12) Hurt or throb (4)
 13) A food derived from milk (6)
 16) The opposite of tight (5)
 17) Takes it easy (5)
 18) People who demonstrate against something (10)

DOWN

- 1) Very simple (5)
 2) Type of insect (6)
 3) Ready to eat (of fruit) (4)
 4) People who design and build machines (9)
 6) Someone who lives next door to you (9)
 8) Timid and lacking in confidence (3)
 11) Type of trousers worn in warm weather (6)
 12) Every (3)
 14) Becomes less difficult (5)
 15) Chair (4)

Sudoku

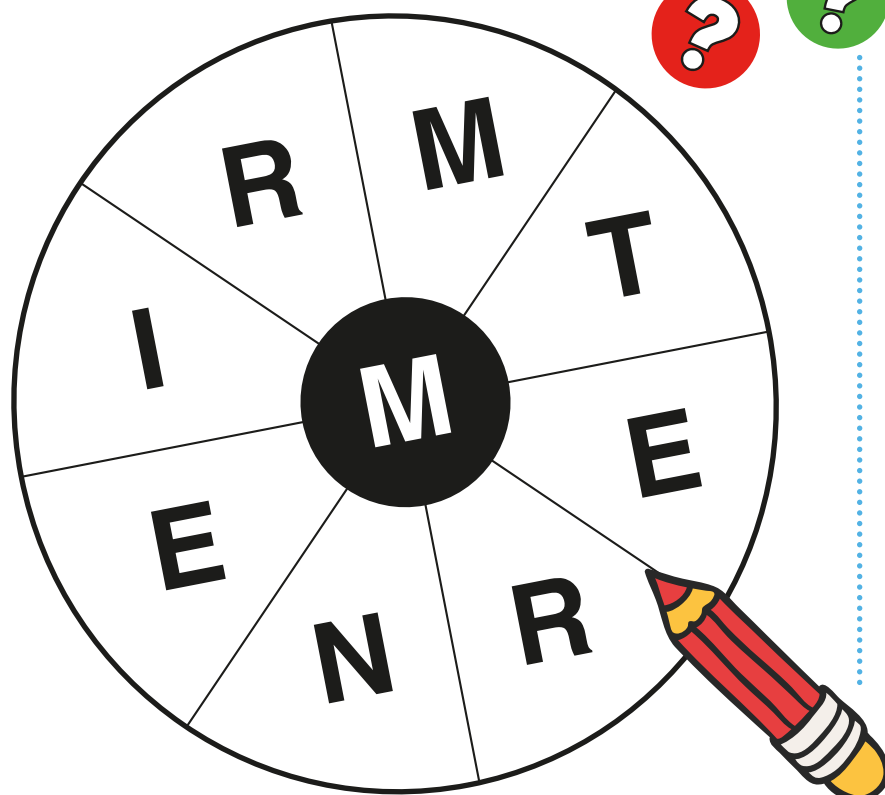
CAN you complete our sudoku puzzle, filling in the numbers one to nine?

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

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.

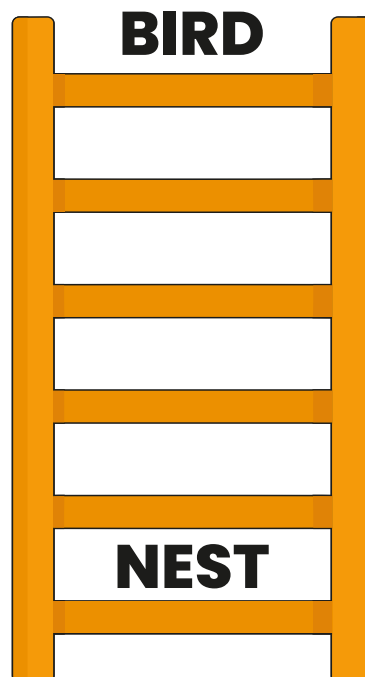
Word wheel

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 987 ANSWERS:

Word wheel: flammable.

Word ladder: menu, mend, mind, mild, mill, bill.

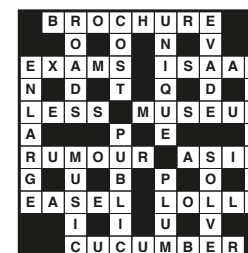
Spot the difference: 1) DJ's sunglasses removed

2) Guitar added 3) Drummer wearing headphones

4) Drum kit has extra drum 5) Light removed

6) Singer's shirt is blue 7) Guitarist's shoes are white

8) First News logo on DJ table 9) Fan in crowd has brown hair 10) Guitarist's pedal box is bigger.



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



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

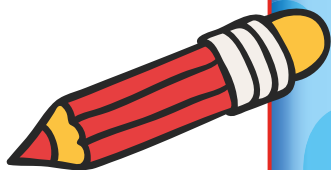
SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

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



Wordsearch

CAN you find all of these comic-book characters? Tick them off as you go!



- ☐ Hulk
 - ☐ Superman
 - ☐ Wolverine
 - ☐ Thor
 - ☐ Wonder Woman
 - ☐ Black Panther
 - ☐ Captain Marvel
 - ☐ Storm
 - ☐ Hawkeye
 - ☐ Thanos



s a x j d v j g h o w z a i o f i h v h m d k t a n p
 n t s y f m o g d n o k a l y e w p v b u t w h z p j
 h z o n s a h v r t n n s u p e r m a n m j o u z w j
 y y c r f s x t t r d c w z k w r l x n g k c m n r c
 v h n x m w l k h a e g a p v k x w z c v f t o t y w
 h z l r h s w b o u r y f p x m a i q d u i u i h p i
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GIVE 'EM A WAVE!

AN all-new crew of swashbuckling sealife is splashing its way into libraries and bookshops near you. Let's take a deep dive and meet the **Squid Squad**!

THE deep sea is a mysterious place, filled with crazy creatures – some slimy, some stinky, some downright strange!

You don't have to get your toes wet to meet them, though. Writer, illustrator and comedian Aoife Dooley (right) is bringing a colourful cast of them up to the surface in her unmissable new graphic novel, *Squid Squad*!

Led by best friends Ollie and Zing, the gang cause chaos in four funny mini-stories set under the waves.

As Aoife explains to us, while she came up with the friends' wild adventures, the sealife they're based on is very, very real...

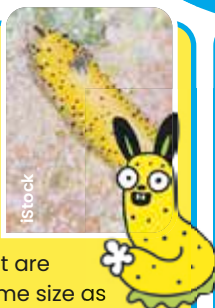


Squid Squad: Nothing to Sea Here... by Aoife Dooley is out now.

Zing

Aoife says:

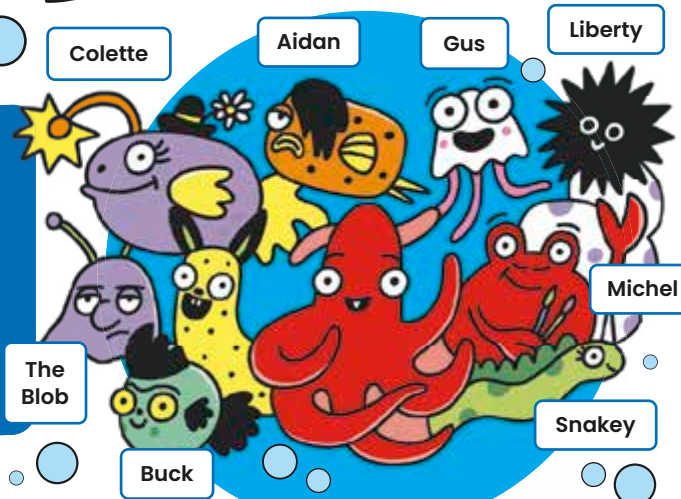
"Zing is a sea bunny. These are sea slugs that are about the same size as your fingernail. Zing is a rare type of undiscovered sea bunny, though, and is about the same size as a teapot. Sea bunnies come in all different colours and are extremely toxic. They have stingers to protect themselves in sticky situations. Sometimes, when Zing is over-excited, he can accidentally release his toxins, causing those around him to go for a nap (and almost always at the most inconvenient times)."



Ollie

Aoife says:

"Ollie is a vampire squid – the friendliest squid in the ocean! Vampire squids have been around since dinosaurs roamed the Earth. They live in the deep sea and have the biggest eyes of any animal in the world in proportion to its body. Ollie can glow and turn himself inside out (like an umbrella on a stormy day) to protect himself. Those things on the side of his head aren't ears, but fins that he uses to swim. Ollie loves dancing and collecting rare things found at the bottom of the ocean."



Recommended reads

in partnership with Peters



Came from a game

THERE are games that have inspired films, like *Minecraft* and *Sonic the Hedgehog*, but there are games that have inspired stories, too. Are you a gamer? These books might be right up your street!



Level up!
by Tom Nicoll and Anjan Sarkar

Best friends Flo and Max are trapped inside a hostile videogame, and the only way to avoid GAME OVER is to win!

Choose it! Videogame Edition by Desma Palmer-Fettig

The ultimate gaming 'would you rather!' Share fun facts and bizarre questions with friends, featuring games like *Animal Crossing*, *Mario*, *Sonic* and more.

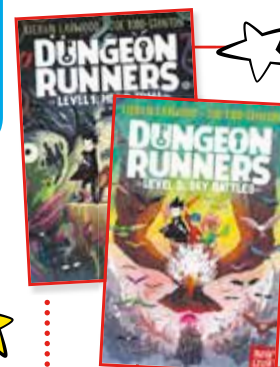


How to Beat Minecraft by Eddie Robson and Kevin Pettman

Whether you're a diamond-standard expert or have only just started playing *Minecraft*, this guide tells you everything you need to know to complete survival mode.

Escape Room by Dr Gareth Moore, illustrated by Diego Vaisberg

Crack codes and solve puzzles on your own or with friends and family. Can you make it through the game levels and escape?



The Dungeon Runners series by Kieran Larwood, illustrated by Joe Todd-Stanton

These books, perfect for fans of fantasy games, star Kit, a gnorf (part-gnome, part dwarf) who dreams of making it big as a legendary dungeon runner. Book three arrives in August!

Meet the author

Jasbinder Bilan, author of *Naeli and the Secret Song*



What were you like as a kid?

A daydreamer, and maybe a bit bossy to my younger brothers and sisters. I always had my nose in a book.

What's your best ever memory?

Going to my uncle's house in the countryside, building dens and having adventures by the river.

What's your favourite book of all time?

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.

Tell us a cool fact about yourself!

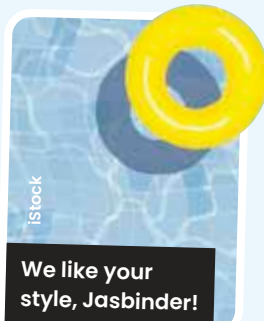
When I was little, my party trick was standing on my head for ages. I can still do it, but not for so long!

What gives you the creeps?

Having to go to the bathroom in the dark at night... I always imagine someone hiding to give me a fright!

If you had a million pounds, what would you buy?

My own outdoor swimming pool. It would be heated and look like a lake!



We like your style, Jasbinder!

Can you describe your book in one sentence?

A quest to uncover a dastardly plot, involving a sea voyage to London and beyond.

Tell us about the main character.

Naeli is headstrong, brave and determined. When a mysterious ticket arrives, she jumps at the chance to find out more about her English father. Naeli takes a voyage to London with her precious violin and she is key to unlocking a long-buried family secret!

Which character is most like you?

I think it would be Naeli. Like me, she was born in India and is also English. And she stands up for herself, which I think is a good characteristic to have.

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

I enjoyed writing the scenes in Northumberland. Watch out for the spooky house that seems alive!

Naeli and the Secret Song is out now.



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!



TIME MACHINE TO INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

by Suzanne Heath, creative producer at English Heritage

IMAGINE a huge, fancy house with its roof missing and walls crumbling. That's kind of what Witley Court in Worcestershire looks like! Now, something really cool has popped up there – a brand-new artwork by an artist called Keith Harrison.

Keith makes art that reminds us of the past, and his new *Fountain 1937* installation at Witley Court is like a memory of a time when things were very different. He's built something that looks like a 'pithead bath'. Now, what on Earth is that?

● The incredible Industrial Revolution

Between the 18th and 19th centuries, Britain went through a huge period of change called the Industrial Revolution. This was when lots of amazing new machines were invented, and factories and mines popped up everywhere. One of the most important things that miners dug out of the ground was coal. Coal was the fuel that powered the Industrial Revolution, making trains go, factories work, and even heating homes.



A recreation of a pithead bath

● A modern pithead bath

Keith has built an artistic version of one of these pithead baths right in the middle of the grand ruins of Witley (above). It's not a real working bath, of course! The outside is made of wood that looks like it's been burnt, a bit like the fire that all but destroyed Witley Court many years ago. This also reminds us of the black coal that the miners were digging for.

Inside, the walls are covered in tiles that are slanted, like they're sinking a little bit. This happened to lots of buildings that were close to mines. The ground would sometimes move and dip where the miners lived because of all the digging underground. You might also see bright, colourful floats (below), which are copied from the steel shapes that were made at the Earl of Dudley's (Witley's owner) steelworks.

● Why here?

So, why put a pithead bath here? Well, Witley Court was built on the money made from things like coal mines. The rich earls who lived there got their wealth from the hard work of the miners. Keith's artwork is a way of remembering those workers – the ones who toiled in the dark to help build the world we live in today.

It's like the ghost of the Industrial Revolution has come to visit the grand house. It makes us think about who built these amazing places and what their lives were really like. It's a chance to see history from a different angle and remember the stories of the people who often get forgotten.

● See it for yourself

There is a special seven-part soundtrack you can hear on a free audio guide. The music mixes sounds inspired by the noisy past of the Merry Hill shopping centre, which was once the site of the Earl of Dudley's old steelworks; Baggeridge Country Park, where the coal mine once stood; and even Witley Court's basement pool. You might also hear electronic sounds that mix together strangely in the ruins, sometimes even blending with the bells of the nearby church – it's like a musical mix of history and now!

If you get a chance to visit Witley Court, keep an eye out for this special artwork. It might look a bit strange at first, but it has a fascinating story to tell about Britain's past and the amazing changes that happened during the Industrial Revolution!



Looking out from the bath

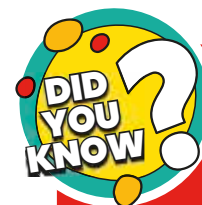


A steam-powered tractor

Lots of people worked in coal mines, and it was a tough, dirty job. When they finished a hard day underground, covered in black dust, they needed somewhere to wash. That's where the pithead baths came in! They were big, basic washrooms near the entrance of the mine where the miners could scrub off all the grime before going home to their families.



The owners of Witley Court bathed in much nicer surroundings



DURING the Industrial Revolution, even children worked. They took on a wide range of jobs, including factory work, chimney sweeping and delivering newspapers.

Unfortunately, some children had to work extremely long hours, which completely replaced their education. Many were punished if they made any mistakes, but conditions began to improve for all workers as new laws were introduced.



Goodbye from me!

HELLO! I'm Milly and as many of you know, I've had the amazing privilege of leading the *First News FYI News Club* for the last couple of years (apart from during a six-month travel break)!

But now my time has come to say a final goodbye to you all, as I head off on a new adventure.

It's been such a pleasure hearing from all of you each week and getting to share your brilliant ideas and passions. You are all truly amazing and I know the world will be a great place with the future in your hands.

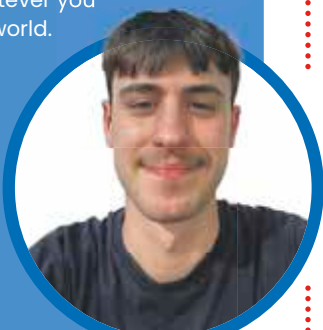
So, it's over and out from me. I'm handing the baton to my good friend Charlie, whom you might recognise...

Hello from Charlie!

HELLO! I'm Charlie, the new leader of the *First News FYI News Club* – it's great to meet you!

I'll be taking over from the wonderful Milly, putting together these pages each week, full of all your incredible stories. I'm so excited to hear about all the wonderful things you're doing. I'm very passionate about sport, so I can't wait to hear how you've been getting active and going outdoors as the weather gets warmer. Remember these pages are yours to share whatever you like with the world.

Find out how to become a junior journalist for *First News* in the top right of these pages!



AN UNFORGETTABLE DAY AT LEGOLAND



AJ at the LEGO Festival

AJ headed to LEGOLAND to check out the LEGO Festival. Here's how he got on!

by AJ Cummins

My name is AJ Cummins, and I am eight years old. I was so excited to be invited to experience the LEGO Festival at LEGOLAND Windsor Resort because I am a huge LEGO fan!

The festival celebrates the power of play – to build more, laugh louder, explore endlessly and play always. My family and I did just that. We had the best day ever!

I managed to experience most rides and took part in building activities at each festival play zone, collecting a Play Pact stamp as I completed each area. There are five festival play zones that I covered in my day.

Some of my highlights included riding the Minifigure Speedway – the world's first LEGO-themed duelling rollercoaster, which even races in reverse; seeing the many types of sea life on the Deep Sea Adventure; and taking part in the LEGO mural. This was one of the festival's activities. It was wonderful seeing everyone's creations come together.

LEGO is inclusive for everyone. I have something called coeliac disease, meaning I can't eat foods with gluten in, but there was plenty of choice for gluten-free options at LEGOLAND. This shows that LEGOLAND considers different people's needs.

My visit was truly magical. The LEGO Festival is running every weekend until 8 June and daily throughout the spring half-term, so there is still time to visit.

Thanks so much to *First News* and LEGOLAND Windsor Resort for an unforgettable day!

Unsung heroes: Muslim contributions throughout history

MARYAM is a young activist who is shining a light on the contributions that Muslims have made throughout history, including during World War Two. Learn more below!

by Maryam Jazeem

On 8 May 2025, people across the country marked 80 years since VE Day, when Germany surrendered and WW2 ended in Europe. Many inspiring people helped to win that war, and surprisingly, around 5.5 million Muslims fought for the Allies. Sadly, about 1.5 million lost their lives. But some veterans are still around today, like Sergeant Muhammad Hussain from Windsor and Mirza Khan from Bradford.

May is also International Muslim History Month (IMHM), started by Nazma Khan in the United States and officially recognised in the US since 2021. It's not yet official in the UK, but I'm campaigning for that! If we all come together, we can help to ensure that every achievement is acknowledged.

A lot of people don't realise how much Muslims have contributed, past and present. Fatima Al-Fihri founded the world's first university, Al-Zahrawi designed surgical tools in the tenth century and even YouTube's co-founder Jawed Karim is Muslim too. Pretty cool, right? So let's take a moment to appreciate these stories, and especially the Muslims who have made a difference to this world.



Maryam



NEWS CLUB SHOUT-OUT!

THIS WEEK WE'RE GIVING SHOUT-OUTS TO... Hale Preparatory School, Mauricewood Primary School, The Richmond Primary Academy, The Oratory Preparatory School and Swimbridge Church of England Primary School!



Cheetah design wins book token prize

JASPER won the Design a National Book Token Competition 2025. National Book Tokens can be used by children to buy books. Here, Jasper tells you about his design and winning the competition.

by Jasper

I couldn't believe it when I found out I'd won the Design a National Book Token Competition 2025. It was such a big shock!

I really like comics, so I knew I wanted to design the National Book Token in that sort of style. Cheetahs are one of my favourite animals and I just thought it would be funny to do a cheetah riding a washing machine to a bookshop with a silly smile on his face.

It was so exciting to find out my design had been chosen as one of the winners! It was even more amazing when the book token arrived in the post with my drawing on!

I spent my £100 National Book Token in Waterstones on lots of new comic books, including the new *Donut Squad* book, which I started reading as soon as I got home.

I love reading so much, so this was just the best prize ever!



Jasper choosing his books



The book token that Jasper designed

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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/fynewsclub.

A royal Anne-tarctic adventure



Princess Anne meeting pupils of Selborne C of E Primary School

PRINCESS Anne went to Selborne C of E Primary School to find out all about some polar explorers. Here Eada tells us what happened during the special royal visit.

by Eada

On Thursday 1 May, Princess Anne (King Charles' sister) visited Gilbert White's House in Selborne for a special event with the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust and New Zealand Antarctic Heritage Trust. Children from Selborne Church of England Primary School (my school) were also in attendance.

Badgers Class was invited to visit the museum to learn about some explorers who travelled to Antarctica over 100 years ago.

During our visit, we met experts on the South Pole (some of whom were from New Zealand), did a few explorer-based activities and tried on virtual reality headsets.

Although there was not enough time for me to do the VR activity when we went to the museum, I had been allowed to try them the previous day. They were unbelievable and I felt like I was actually in Antarctica!

This was not the only exciting event that day, though... I also had the pleasure of seeing and talking to Princess Anne! She had also seen the VR videos and asked us several questions about what they were like. I am so glad that I took part in this once-in-a-lifetime experience.



**THIS
WEEK'S
POLL!**

We asked 4,248 of you:

**Would you give your
Ferrari a crazy paint job?**



43%
of you
said NO

57%
of you
said YES

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

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



Learning about the Antarctic

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 Flying taxis could be used to transport fans at which multi-sport event?

2 What's the name of this TikTok science star, who's just published a new book?



Charlotte Knee Photography

3 Which song contest did Austria win?

4 Which historic document, dating from 1300, has been confirmed as an original?

5 UK pupils have been connected with schools from which other country?



The British Council

6 Two new raven chicks are settling in at which famous attraction?



Historic Royal Palaces

7 Which tennis star was invited into the Vatican to meet Pope Leo XIV?



Getty

8 In which country is the city of Seville?

9 A man was arrested in Manchester after police discovered a stolen stash of what?

10 In Chile, what animal was spotted far from its home?



CONAF

11 A Mexican ship crashed into which New York bridge?

12 A robot named Revenger has solved which cube in record time?

13 What is the name of this heart-warming new movie?



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14 Which football team has won their first major trophy?

15 Which country is hosting this year's Women's Rugby World Cup?

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) 2028 Olympic Games 2) Big Manny 3) Eurovision 4) Magna Carta 5) Ukraine 6) The Tower of London 7) Jannik Sinner 8) Spain 9) Pokémon cards 10) A sea lion 11) Brooklyn Bridge 12) Rubik's Cube 13) Lilo & Stitch 14) Crystal Palace 15) England.

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POKÉMON PRIMARY SCHOOLS' CUP



Young football stars shine at **National Finals**

YOUNG primary school footballers from across the nation came together at Stoke City's stadium for the finals of the 2024/25 Pokémon Primary Schools' Cup last weekend. After a spectacular season, the winners were crowned national champions and lifted the trophy while being cheered on by Pikachu!

What's the competition all about?

The Pokémon Primary Schools' Cup was set up by the English Schools' Football Association (ESFA) and The Pokémon Company International. It is the largest primary-aged schools' cup competition in England, with more than 5,000 school teams and over 50,000 children taking part. This year's competition was all about community, teamwork and friendship.

THE 2024/25 NATIONAL FINALS WINNERS ARE:

- U11 Schools' Cup Champions:
Wolfson Hillel Primary School
- U11 Girls' Cup Champions:
Valley Gardens Middle School
- U11 Small Schools' Cup Champions:
Kelsall Community Primary School

Wolfson Hillel Primary School give us the lowdown...



PREPARATION IS KEY

Ahead of the tournament, we practised at school with lots of training. There was lots of energy, lots of talking to each other, training and thinking about plans. We worked as a team doing tactics.



OUR FAVOURITE MOMENT

Winning the cup and playing was really fun. When the final whistle went and the nerves went away, it was a very good feeling.



ADVICE TO OTHERS

Play your hardest but, as it's a tournament, be strong, do your best and take your chances!



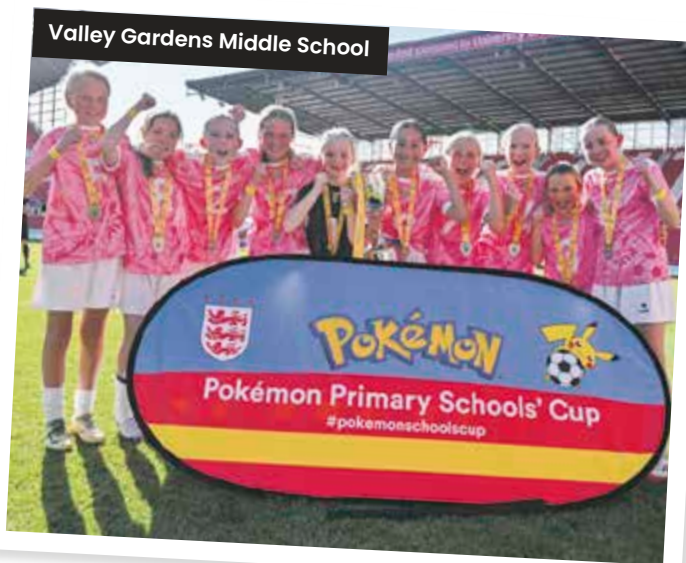
MEETING PIKACHU AND THE TROPHIES

It was a lot of fun to meet the famous Pokémon! Pikachu was very energetic. The trophies are so cool, too.

MEET THE WINNERS!



Wolfson Hillel Primary School



Valley Gardens Middle School



Kelsall Community Primary School



EAGLES SWOOP TO TAKE THE CUP

Getty

Eberechi Eze
takes it all in

CRYSTAL Palace have won the first major trophy in the club's history, after beating Man City in the FA Cup final at Wembley.

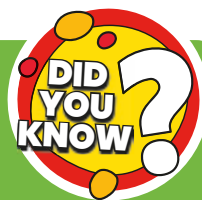
The Eagles had less than 22% of possession and just seven shots compared to City's 23, but Eberechi Eze's superb finish after 16 minutes ended up being the only goal of the game (see Braydon's column for more).

It was third time lucky for Palace in the final, after losing out to Man United in 1990 and 2016.

"I couldn't breathe," said Eze. "They keep the ball so well, you've got to work so hard to get anything from

them. But we also know that when you get up there into their box, you've got to take the chance, you've got to make it count, and I'm just thankful to God that it went in today because it's not easy."

PALACE'S win means that they qualify for next season's Europa League, which will be the club's first ever appearance in a major European competition.

Sandy Baltimore
enjoying the taste
of success

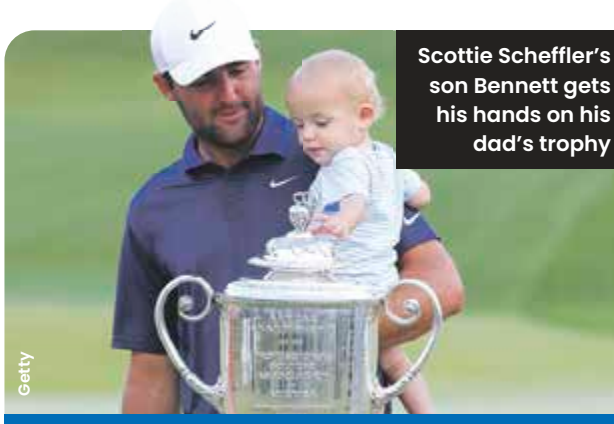
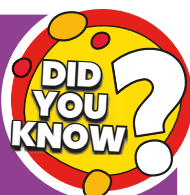
Chelsea sealed the treble with a confident 3-0 win over Man United in the Women's FA Cup final. Two goals from France star Sandy Baltimore and one from substitute Catarina Macario capped a superb season that saw the Blues go unbeaten in the league and also lift the League Cup. "I feel valued and important in this team," said Baltimore, who added that winning the treble "wasn't easy because all the matches are very difficult here. The teams in England are very strong."

Sheffield Hatters have won the Women's Super League Basketball play-off final, beating Oaklands Wolves 83-73 at the O₂ arena in London. It was a much more tense game than the men's final, which saw Leicester Riders hammer Newcastle Eagles 105-74.



Sheffield Hatters/Instagram

MAN United fans probably can't wait until this season's over – their defeat to Chelsea means that Ruben Amorim's side will finish the season without winning two league games in a row. It's only the third time in the club's history that that's happened, and the last two times were in 1893-94 and 1921-22!

Scottie Scheffler's
son Bennett gets
his hands on his
dad's trophy

American golfer Scottie Scheffler had a tough last round, but ended up winning the US PGA by five shots after a disastrous finish by his nearest rival. Jon Rahm had pulled level with Scheffler midway through the final round, but dropped five shots over the last three holes. It's Scheffler's third major victory, adding to his two wins in the Masters.



Tristan Jones/LIT

Another golfer celebrating this week is Britain's Mimi Rhodes, whose first season as a pro is starting to look a bit too easy. Her two-shot victory at the Dutch Ladies Open is her third win in four tournaments on the Ladies European Tour. "It's unbelievable", she said. "It's really hard to put into words how happy I am right now. It's very exciting for the future and for my career."

Braydon's on the ball



THE FYI presenter takes us through his rollercoaster day at the FA Cup final!

09:30: In the car and off on a four-hour journey from Manchester to Queensbury Tube station.
13:45: The crowds are gathering and there's a good atmosphere, with fans singing in the station.
14:15: Meet my mate, Palace fan George, on Wembley Way. He thinks it'll be Palace's day. For me, I'm thinking a 2-0 win for City.
14:35: Into the fan zone with the City fans outside the stadium. A sunny day and plenty of songs!
15:30: We catch up with some more friends inside the stadium. Great seats and the noise is building.



Braydon Bent

16:15: The pre-game entertainment in full flow, with the cup final hymn and some fireworks (left).

16:30: Kick-off! Plenty of City possession to start, a couple of

chances and Erling Haaland goes close.

16:46 GOAL! Palace on the counter-attack and Eberechi Eze sweeps home Daniel Muñoz's cross to send the Palace fans into dreamland!

16:56: That's handball, surely? The big talking point as VAR takes

centre stage but decides that the Palace keeper won't be shown a red card for handling outside the box (right).

17:01: Penalty to City! Bernardo

Silva is brought down and the referee points to the spot. Haaland hands the ball to Omar Marmoush, who sees his shot brilliantly saved by Henderson, diving to his right. A massive moment for both teams.

17:40: Second half. A chance for City, but a shot from Jérémy Doku is deflected and Palace survive.
17:54 GOAL... but VAR says no! Palace thought they were two up, but it was offside. Hope for City.

18:09: Nico O'Reilly has a shot blocked and Palace are beginning to think that this could be their day.
18:12: City substitutes, with Claudio Echeverri on for his debut. What a game to make your first start!

18:25: Ten minutes extra. Still time for an equaliser...
18:35: The whistle blows and Palace have won their first major trophy! Time for their fans to celebrate.
23:10: And we are home. Palace win the cup, while for City it's been a disappointing season overall. One to forget for us City fans, but great to see a game at Wembley, even though we lost.

Braydon's Man of the Match: Palace keeper Dean Henderson, who was at the heart of all the main talking points, and a true hero on the day.

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



Getty

Was it a red card?

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