THE UK'S CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER WITH MORE THAN 2.6 MILLION* READERS!

INSIDE! YOUR WORLD BOOK DAY TOKEN! P24

WORLD BOOK DAY 4 MARCH 2021



ANT AND DEC ARE BACK P15



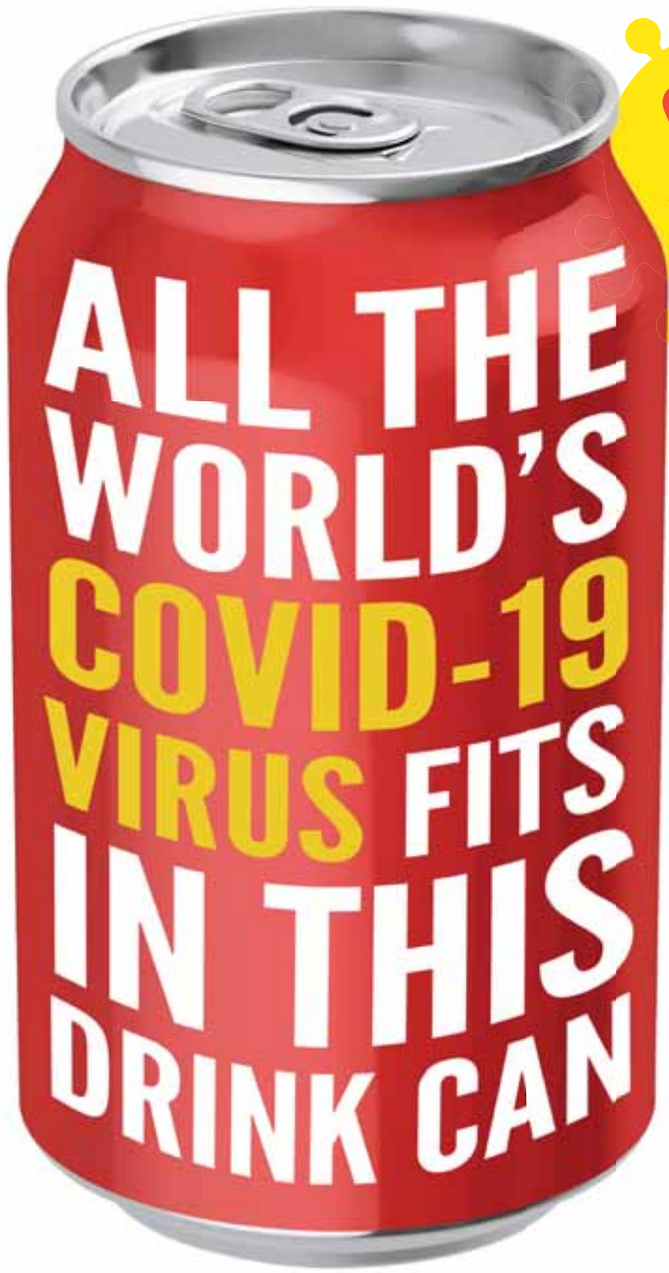
DAVID WALLIAMS ON TOUR P14

FirstNews

Issue 766 £2.25 19 – 25 February 2021

HELPING THE UK GROW

NEWS | SPORTS | ENTERTAINMENT | INTERVIEWS | PUZZLES | COMPETITIONS



OH, WOW!

ALL THE WORLD'S COVID-19 VIRUS FITS IN THIS DRINK CAN

by Shelley Moulden

A SCIENTIST has worked out the total volume of the new coronavirus in the world – and it fits inside a drink can (with lots of room to spare)!

Senior lecturer in mathematical biology at the University of Bath, Kit Yates, was tasked with finding out how many SARS-CoV-2 (coronavirus) particles there are in the world by BBC Radio 4. He calculated that there are roughly 200 million billion virus particles in the world at any one time. It's a huge number – and is roughly the same as the number of grains of sand on the planet.

However, the coronavirus particles are really, really, really small. So small, in fact, that the total gathered volume of coronavirus particles in the world is about 160ml, which is less than half the volume of a 330ml can of fizzy pop!

CHILDREN'S VACCINE TRIAL BEGINS



OXFORD University has launched a new study to test the COVID-19 vaccine on children.

The university says it is testing the safety of the vaccine it made with AstraZeneca on six to 17-year-olds, an age group hit hard by school closures.

Turn to p12-13, where an Oxford University scientist involved in the trials answers questions from children about the vaccine, including the ones below.

- Why might children need to be vaccinated if they don't get very sick from COVID-19?
- For kids, would it be a jab for life, or something we'd need regularly?
- How many children are involved in the trial?
- Will we be able to go on a summer holiday this year?

ANSWERS P12-13

*First News readership is 2,626,625. Source: Opinion Matters 2020. *First News* is the widest-read of all children's publications audited in the UK.
First News supports children's charities – see page 21

QUICK NEWS

TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS

WEETABIX & BEANS CONTROVERSY

Weetabix caused a stir online when it posted a picture of the breakfast cereal covered in baked beans! The unusual combo had Twitter users going crazy. Lots of big brands and official accounts responded to the tweet. Nando's asked: "You okay hun? DMs are open if you need to talk". What do you think? Would you eat Weetabix with beans?



Twitter/Weetabix

Yummy...?

ACTORS BUY FOOTBALL CLUB



Getty

Hollywood actors Ryan Reynolds (above) and Rob McElhenney are officially the new owners of Wrexham football club. The duo have invested £2 million in the Welsh non-league club and said they hope to get some new players, improve the stadium and give more support to the wider Welsh community, as well as boost funding for the women's team.

STATION REOPENS AFTER 56 YEARS

A village in Wales has welcomed its first train in 56 years! The revamped station has just opened at Bow Street in Ceredigion. It means locals can catch a train there for the first time since 1965. Once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, it's hoped that up to 30,000 journeys will be made from the station each year.

LITTLE MIX LEAKED

Little Mix's first single as a trio has been leaked online, weeks before it is due out officially. The girls were set to release the track *Heartbreak Anthem* – their first without Jesy Nelson – next month. The band's management are investigating the leak to find out how security was breached.



Getty

CAKE EATING STUDY



iStock

There are 520 different ways to eat a Jaffa Cake, an expert has claimed, and the way you eat yours says a lot about your personality. New research by McVitie's – which makes the chocolate and orange sponge treat – found that the 52% of people who eat theirs in just two bites tend to be self-assured, while the 26% who eat it in one are likely to be more impulsive. Statistician Dr Geoff Ellis also noted that the 2% who share theirs will probably be friendly, warm and popular.

HOTEL QUARANTINE FOR NEW VISITORS

From this week, travellers who arrive in England from a country with a high COVID-19 risk must self-isolate in certain "quarantine hotels". People must stay in the hotels for ten days.

NEW SWIFT SONGS

Taylor Swift has finished re-recording her album *Fearless* – and it'll feature six songs that never made it onto the original. The singer-songwriter told fans back in 2019 she would be re-recording her first six albums again. It came after she had a big falling out with music producer Scooter Braun over the rights to her songs.

ROYAL BABY BORN

The Queen's granddaughter Princess Eugenie has given birth to her first child, a baby boy. As *First News* went to press, the baby's name had not been revealed. There are reports that he will have the middle name Stamp, in tribute to one of dad Jack Brooksbank's ancestors.

PETS ON PARADE

Barnes Children's Literature Festival is hosting a virtual pet parade! On Saturday 20 February, some of the UK's best-known authors and their fluffy friends will be hitting your screens for some family fun. The likes of Axel Scheffler, Nick Sharratt and Francesca Simon are joining in. Check it out at barneskidslitfest.org/whats-on.



iStock

BAGS OF BOOKS

A book giveaway scheme at Tonyrefail Community School in Wales has delighted pupils. Around 150 new books were wrapped in bags and hung up on a fence outside the school, for children to collect and take home. The idea was part of a literacy project, encouraging pupils to read more while learning at home. All sorts of books were given away, including *Harry Potter, King Kong* and *The Snail and the Whale*. The bags also included a hot chocolate!

SKEGNESS REVAMP



Getty

Skegness Pier is set to get an upgrade, after being bought for a whopping £3 million. The seaside attraction, which has an amusement arcade and a bowling alley, has been bought by a British company that hopes to make it bigger and better for visitors.

TEN YEARS AT NO 10



Getty

Larry the cat is celebrating ten years at 10 Downing Street. The Chief Mouser moved into the famous residence after being adopted from Battersea Dogs and Cats Home. He has now served under three prime ministers: David Cameron, Theresa May and Boris Johnson. Good work, Larry!

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FirstNews is even better in print!

We hope you enjoy your free digital download of *First News*! Why not consider getting a copy sent by post to your home every week? It's a great break away from electronic devices and a good opportunity to share what you are reading with the rest of the family.

And, of course, you can do all the puzzles in the paper!



While stuck at home in lockdown, this is a great opportunity to benefit from free delivery to your home. The newspaper supply chain has been given key-worker status and we remain committed to delivering print copies of *First News* into homes across the UK every week.



Here's what our fans have to say!

> *To everyone at* First News, *thank you so much! I love it. I tell all my friends about it and they love it too. You do a fantastic job and it makes me understand the news much better. Every week I can't wait for it to come through the door.* — **Sienna, age 10**

> *I read* First News, *it is great! I keep randomly telling my family and friends facts and they say: 'Where did you learn that?' and I say:* 'First News'! — ***Popjam* user**

> *My kids race to the door when* First News *is delivered on Friday. Thank you for delivering something to pull them away from screens. We get some good conversations and the whole family have taken to the puzzles.* — **Jo, parent and teacher**

> *I love* First News. *It promotes brilliant conversation with my children at home, as well as encouraging them to read. Thank you!* — **Tracey, parent**

To order, visit www.firstnews.co.uk or call 0330 333 0186

TOP MENTAL HEALTH TIPS FROM DR ALEX



Dr Alex George/Instagram



Getty

THE Government has appointed part-time A&E doctor and former reality TV contestant Dr Alex George as its Youth Mental Health Ambassador.

Dr Alex has been working hard to promote good mental health over the last three years.

Last week, Dr Alex met with Prime Minister Boris Johnson to talk about making mental health a priority. The prime minister said: "For the current as well as future generations, we must do everything in our power to bring meaningful change."

Our *FYI* children's news show presenters had a chat with Dr Alex, which you can watch at **first.news/EducationTV** right now (episode 111).

He has also shared a video of his top tips for good mental health and wellbeing, which are:

1. Get outside
2. Exercise
3. Call a friend
4. Eat well
5. Look after your sleep routine

You can watch the full video of Dr Alex's tips at **first.news/FYI**.

Ahead of an announcement on Monday 22 February that will include plans for children to return to school, Dr Alex says it should happen gently: "You can't just expect someone who's very anxious to go back to school, to go back to normal. It might be that that child needs a bit of time to integrate slowly back in the classroom, so that rather than chucking them in and making the problem worse, we do it gently."



iStock

A TERRIBLE TIME FOR TEACHERS

A NEW survey has revealed that teachers are really struggling mentally and physically with the challenges of teaching through lockdown.

The survey, by teaching publication *TES*, showed that nearly two-thirds of teachers they spoke to have felt drained and mentally exhausted during the last term of home learning.

Around 17% felt like they were physically and mentally on the brink. Some say they are having to work longer days during lockdown.

Many teachers say that their workloads have increased massively due to having to teach remotely for so long.

A TUNNEL TO UNITE THE KINGDOM?

RAIL bosses have proposed building a tunnel under the sea between Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The idea came from the High Speed Rail Group, a team who have been asked to explore ways to improve transport links between the four UK nations.

They've come up with the idea of tunnelling under the Irish Sea between Stranraer in Scotland and Larne. The group says that cross-border rail links like these will help the whole of the UK's economy.

The tunnel has been pooh-poohed by business leaders and MPs. Some have pointed out that the Channel Tunnel took 30 years to build, and that there are tonnes of unexploded WW2 bombs in the Irish Sea.



iStock

A ferry at Stranaer harbour

WOW!

THE Met Office has revealed that the UK has had its lowest temperature in 26 years.



Getty

Temperatures as low as -22.9°C were recorded in Braemar, Aberdeenshire. Brrrr!

That's colder than a domestic freezer, which will generally be set to -18°C!

UK



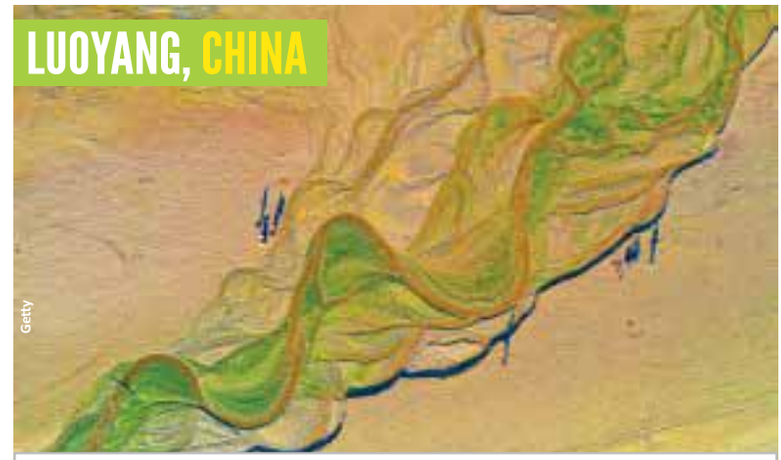
THE Royal Mint is celebrating 50 years of fun with a new commemorative coin collection featuring the Mr Men and Little Miss characters. The Mr Men Little Miss commemorative coin collection features Mr Happy, Little Miss Sunshine, and Little Miss Giggles with Mr Strong on a £5 crown. All three coin designs have been created exclusively by Adam Hargreaves, son of creator Roger Hargreaves.

LONDON, UK



COLD temperatures caused the fountains in Trafalgar Square to freeze. Heavy snow brought a week of freezing temperatures to many parts of the UK.

LUOYANG, CHINA



TOURISTS visiting the Yellow River Wetland National Nature Reserve in Mengjin County. The river bed has been called a natural "colour palette" with delicate patterns and has attracted more than 260 different bird species.

WASHINGTON, DC, USA



THE North Lawn of the White House was decorated with Valentine's Day messages of hope and unity. The hearts were placed by the First Lady's office.

RIZHAO, CHINA



BUILDINGS are surrounded by advection fog, which forms when warm, moist air passes over a colder surface.



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IS LOCKDOWN NEARLY OVER?

THE whole of England is counting down to Monday 22 February, when Prime Minister Boris Johnson has said he'll reveal a timetable for easing lockdown – including the date when you can all go back to school.

The plans come as the UK's COVID-19 infection and death rates continue to fall.

Infection rates have fallen from over 68,000 a day at the peak of the second wave to around 11,000 now.

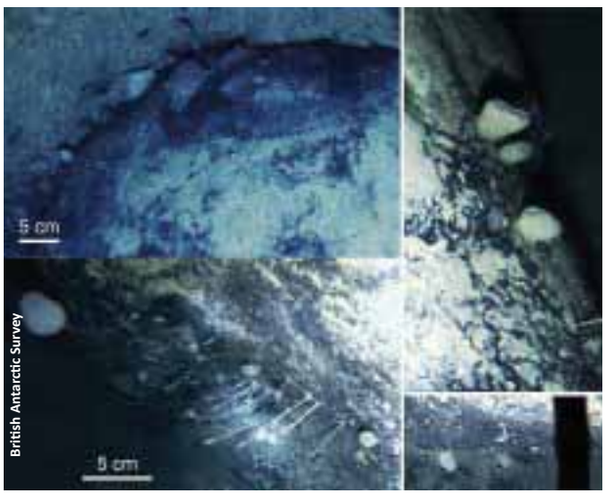
The World Health Organization (WHO) has revealed that reported cases of COVID-19 have also fallen globally for the fourth week in a row, and the number of deaths has fallen for the second week in a row.

Meanwhile, the UK's vaccination drive is speeding along, with over 15 million people having been given their first jab.

Although this is all encouraging news, and people can't wait to get out and see their friends again, the prime minister has said that ministers won't hesitate to delay easing lockdown if infection rates go back up again.

LIFE BELOW THE ICE

SURPRISED scientists have accidentally discovered marine organisms living 900m under the ice in the Antarctic.



The discovery of 16 sponges and 22 unidentified animals was made by researchers led by the British Antarctic Survey, who drilled through 900m of the Filchner-Ronne ice shelf looking for mud on the seabed.

They sent a camera down to take a look at what was going on and discovered the marine organisms, some of which could be unknown species, attached to a boulder.

"There's all sorts of reasons they shouldn't be there," said one of the team. The discovery has led scientists to rethink the limits of life on Earth.

EDITOR'S COMMENT



WE were astonished to find out this week that all the COVID-19 virus in the world could fit into a drink can (front page).

How incredible to think that something that actually takes up so little space, in total, could have had such a huge effect on the whole world.

But, thank goodness, the world's best scientists and doctors are working so hard to beat the coronavirus. We hear from one of them – Dr Grace Li – on p12 and 13 this week.

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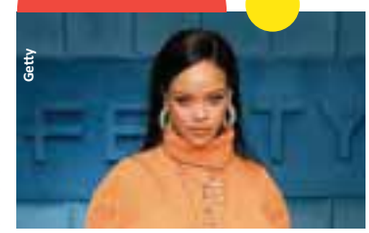
Visit first.news/subscribe

GOOD WEEK FOR PLASTIC-FREE TOYS



A COMPANY called Dantoy has developed a new range of toys called I'm Green, which are made of a type of biodegradable plastic produced from sugarcane. It's also 100% recyclable.

BAD WEEK FOR RIHANNA



THE singer has decided to shut down her fashion label Fenty after less than two years. However, lots of the star's other fashion and make-up ranges are still doing really well.

117 TODAY!



THE world's second oldest person – who has also beaten COVID-19 – has celebrated her 117th birthday.

French nun Sister André, who lived through both World Wars, celebrated her big day in style at the care home where she lives in southern France. She got video calls from her family, a mass in her honour and her favourite dessert, baked Alaska. She tested positive for COVID-19 on 16 January, but didn't develop any symptoms.

SCOTLAND

Testing time for teens

Secondary school pupils in Scotland will be asked to test themselves for the coronavirus at home twice a week then log their results online, when schools open after half term. Although the programme is voluntary, Education Secretary John Swinney said all pupils are encouraged to participate in the testing to help keep schools safe.



iStock

STOCKTON-ON-TEES

New park proposed

Since many of the shops have closed down in Stockton's town centre, the council has come up with a new plan for the high street. Rather than convert empty shops into flats, the council is planning to demolish half of the high street and replace it with a park. If it goes ahead, the project will see a shopping arcade replaced with a riverside park.



Stockton-on-Tees Council

BLACKPOOL

Lights last longer

The famous Blackpool Illuminations will be extended by two months this year. VisitBlackpool revealed that the illuminations season will start on Friday 3 September and will run until Monday 3 January 2022. Not only will the extension give more people the chance to enjoy the light displays, it will also help boost the tourism industry, which has been hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Visit Blackpool

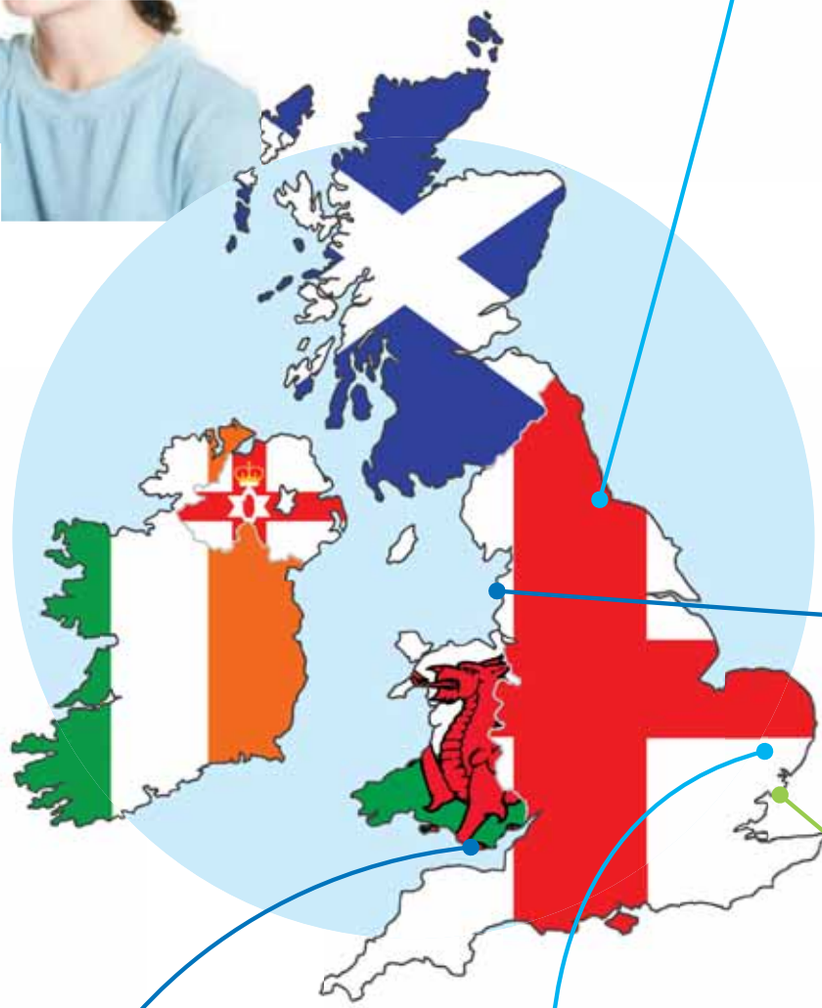
NORTHERN IRELAND

Royal thanks

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge have praised student nurses on front-line placements in Northern Ireland. William and Kate video-called students from Ulster University's School of Nursing to hear about their experiences of studying during the pandemic and told them they were "needed now more than ever."



Kensington Royal/Instagram



ESSEX



Palmer and Partners

Igloo for sale

An estate agent in Clacton-on-Sea listed an igloo for sale for a whopping £250,000. The joke advert by estate agents Palmer & Partners claimed the igloo was on the made-up North Pole Road, and was described as a "one bedroom house" which would make a "great first home". Brady Rackham of Palmer and Partners said of the funny advert: "If it made people smile and laugh then it was worth it."

WALES

Princess pupil

A princess is going to study in Wales this year. Princess Leonor de Borbon of Spain will be attending Atlantic College in St Donat's Castle in the Vale of Glamorgan. The 15-year-old royal is the daughter of King Felipe VI And Queen Letizia of Spain. Atlantic College is a boarding sixth form college for students aged 15-19 from all around the world.



Getty

SUFFOLK

Ed's art up for auction

Singer Ed Sheeran has donated one of his own paintings to raise money for charity. Ed's abstract painting, called *Splash Planet*, is being auctioned off in a raffle in aid of Cancer Campaign in Suffolk (CCiS). Ed revealed that the art will have been seen on the *Afterglow* cover.



Getty



Pupils from Milborne Port Primary School with their spring bulbs

HELP THE UK GROW



Reader Toby Little planting seeds to make bread!

THIS week Prince Charles launched a half-term nature challenge, and you can also get back to nature with our Helping The UK Grow campaign.

We're asking everyone to plant something as a symbol of hope and growth for all our futures. It might be bulbs in your garden, a tree at school or cress on your windowsill. Wherever you are, and whoever you are, let's all grow together.

All you have to do is take a photo of your planting and upload it at **www.helpingtheukgrow.co.uk** so we can share the wonderful growth of hope spreading throughout the country. Each flower, herb, plant or tree will be shown on our **#HelpingTheUKGrow** map and every picture will form part of a countrywide mosaic.

We can't wait to see your pictures!

SAY CHEESE!



IT'S official, folks… cheese is your favourite pizza topping of all time!

Loads of you voted in the pizza poll on our website at **first.news/polls**. Cheese was crowned the clear winner, with 331 of you voting it top.

Tomato came in second place, with pepperoni in third. Check out the full results above – where does your favourite rank?



Getty

TRUMP TRIUMPHS

DONALD Trump has been found not guilty in his second impeachment trial.

The former US president was accused of encouraging violence at the US Capitol on 6 January, after Joe Biden beat him in the election.

Mr Trump's lawyer insisted that the former leader was not to blame for the rioting and had told his supporters to protest peacefully.

Although 57 senators voted 'guilty' and 43 voted 'not guilty', a two-thirds majority was needed to convict Mr Trump. He remains the only US president to have been impeached twice.

The verdict means that, at the moment, there's nothing to stop Mr Trump running for president again in 2024 if he chooses to.

POSTIE'S WHEELY COOL GIFT



Ciaran McCrickards/PA Wire

AN 80-year-old postman has postponed his retirement after being given an electric bike to help him on his rounds.

George Bailey is one of Britain's oldest paperboys and delivers newspapers around the village of Headcorn in Kent. He was considering retiring from his 4km (2.5-mile) round until British cycling companies Raleigh and Evans Cycles teamed up to give him a brand new e-bike. George was thrilled with the gift and said he might now carry on with his paper round until he's 90!

USA



Texas freezes

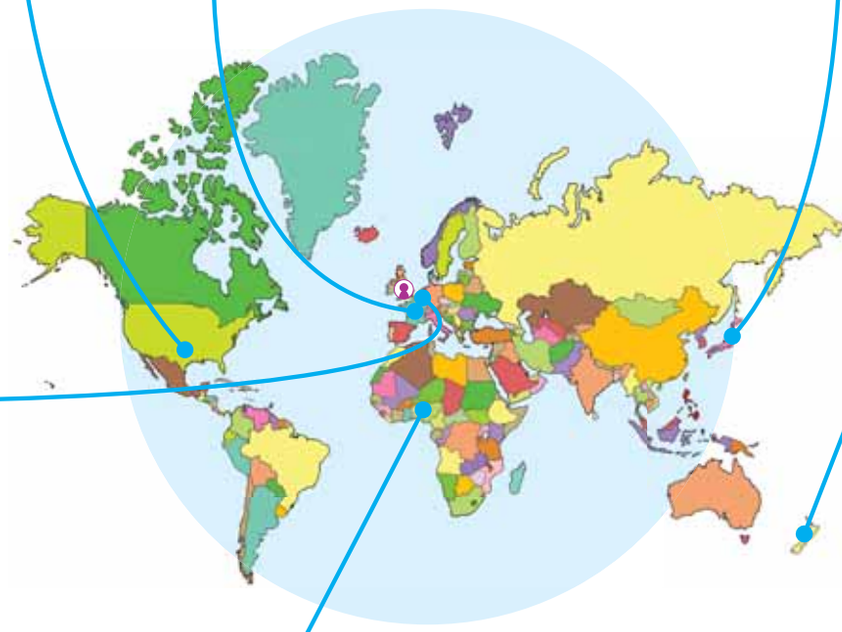
Texans are feeling pretty chilly this month, as the US state sees record-breaking low temperatures. Some parts of Texas hit -18°C last weekend and, for the first time ever, all 254 counties in the state are under a winter storm warning. President Joe Biden has declared an emergency in Texas, which allows the state to access disaster relief funds. Icy roads have led to huge car crashes, and some areas have had power cuts.

FRANCE

France is failing the Paris climate agreement

France has been found guilty of failing to meet the climate change goals set out in the Paris Agreement, an international deal that was signed in the French capital. Four environmental groups accused the French state of "climate inaction" back in March 2019. The court ordered France to pay the four groups one euro as a symbolic gesture for what was called the "first major climate trial in France". The French government said that it had "taken note" of the court's decision, and that new laws were on the way that would be a "step in accelerating" the country's green transformation.





JAPAN



Olympic resignation

The head of the Tokyo Olympics organising committee has stepped down, after being accused of making sexist remarks. Yoshiro Mori, 83, reportedly said that women talk too much during meetings. He later apologised for his comments, but gender equality activists say that Japan still has a lot of work to do, and that it's unlikely that Mori would have left his job if his comments hadn't made international headlines.

NETHERLANDS



Returning artifacts

The Dutch government has announced plans to return objects and artifacts taken from other countries. In the 1600s, the Netherlands set up colonies in Asia, Africa and North and South America. The Dutch government explained that at the time, "cultural objects were – effectively – often stolen." A committee will be formed, and if it finds "that an object was indeed stolen from a former Dutch colony, it will be returned".

NIGERIA

Oil spill justice

The Supreme Court in the UK has ruled that Nigerian communities that have been polluted by oil spills will be allowed to take the giant Shell oil company to court in the UK. Lawyers say Shell's records show there have been at least 40 oil spills from Shell's pipelines in the Niger Delta region since 1989, destroying the fishing industry, causing fires and poisoning water. Shell said the court's decision was "disappointing".



NEW ZEALAND



No more ties

The co-leader of New Zealand's Māori Party, which represents the country's indigenous (native) population, has won the right not to wear a tie in Parliament. Rawiri Waititi was told that his traditional Maori pendant, called a hei-tiki, didn't fit the dress code and that he had to leave the chamber. Mr Waititi protested, saying that ties weren't part of his culture. A meeting was then held, and the rule was scrapped.

OUR WORLD

NAME: CARA-MIA
LIVES: UK

CARA-MIA learnt her DJing skills at DJ School UK, which uses funding from Comic Relief to support young people through music.

At the organisation, Cara-Mia helped establish a girls-only class to address the gender imbalance within the DJing industry.

The classes help girls learn new skills within a safe space where they can discuss issues that matter to them. For Cara-Mia "everything I did there was essential to get me to where I want to be, and for that I'll be eternally grateful".



To find out more, go to www.comicrelief.com/rednoseday

HM Government

LOCKDOWN LEARNING TIPS

Here are some handy top tips from teachers to help keep you healthy, happy, and motivated to learn while at home.



SET A ROUTINE

Wake up at a set time and get dressed like it's a normal school day.



CREATE AN AREA TO WORK

Make sure you set up a comfortable and quiet space to work.



GET INVOLVED

Take part in the lesson. Talk, message in the online chat or ask questions.



TAKE REGULAR BREAKS

Time away from your screen and schoolwork will help you re-focus.



MAKE TIME FOR PLAY

Socialise online with friends and family to help you relax and have fun!



BE ACTIVE

Exercise will help improve your mood and energy so get up and get moving!



TALK TO YOUR PARENTS OR CARERS

Share what you're learning with your parents or carers to keep them involved.

STAY HOME › PROTECT THE NHS › SAVE LIVES

FirstNews ● Issue 766 ● 19 – 25 February 2021

ZOOS UNDER THREAT



Getty

ZOOS across the UK are facing an uncertain future as they remain closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Zoo Animals Fund was set up by the Government to help zoos struggling because of lockdown closures, but the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA) say it is not enough. The group has written to the prime minister claiming the fund has not provided enough support for zoos while they are closed. It is calling for a plan to be put in place to help zoos, wildlife parks and aquariums get back on their feet once lockdown ends.

Zoos and aquariums are currently closed to the public, but teams of staff are still working behind closed doors to feed and care for the animals, many of which have a special diet that can cost thousands of pounds a month.

Most wildlife parks and attractions rely on the money made from ticket sales to pay for the cost of caring for their animals.

FLIPPING COOL

DRAGONFLIES can perform backflips to help them turn the right way up when they are blown off balance.

CGI technology and high-speed cameras used to study dragonflies have found that the insects perform a backflip if they get caught upside down. This move helps them turn the right way up and is known as 'pitching'. Researchers found the insects can also perform the move while they are asleep!

The findings add to current knowledge about insects and the ways in which they fly and move. The full study has been published in the journal *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*.

iStock



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NEW SPECIES!

A NEW species of whale has been discovered off the coast of America, but it is already classed as endangered.

Experts found the new species by checking the DNA and the skulls of the whales that they believed to be Bryde's whales (pictured). They found clear differences after taking samples from the whales, which are also often mistaken for fin whales. The new species has been named Rice's whale, after a biologist called Dale Rice. There are believed to be only around 100 of the animals in existence.



Mike Symes

BEAVER BOOM

A RECORD number of beavers are due to be released by The Wildlife Trusts this year, making 2021 a brilliant year for beavers.

This week, the first beaver family was released in Dorset, with more animals planned to be released in Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Montgomeryshire, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

The massive reintroduction plans have been developed by The Wildlife Trusts, who first reintroduced beavers to the UK 20 years ago as part of a trial project in Kent.

Beavers are native to Britain but were driven to extinction in the 16th century, mainly for their fur and meat. Experts agree that bringing them back will have huge benefits for the environment and other wildlife, as well as humans.

Craig Bennett, chief executive of The Wildlife Trusts, said: "Beavers help stop flooding downstream and filter out impurities – they also create new homes for otters, water voles and kingfishers. What's more, people love seeing them, and their presence boosts tourism in the countryside."

ICONS OF SCIENCE



THE Royal Institution (Ri) has been encouraging science learning since 1799. Its home in London is full of some of the most important objects in scientific history. The building may be closed to the public due to COVID-19, but here's a peek inside the Ri's incredible collection of iconic objects and inventions. One of our favourites is the image above – an original glass plate of the first ever image of the moon, taken in 1859 by British astronomer Warren De La Rue.



This slab of meteorite fell to Earth 10,000 years ago! It was discovered in Mexico in 1776 and given to the Ri in the early 1800s. It's made almost entirely of iron





On the left is the first electric motor, invented by the Ri's Michael Faraday. Made in 1822, it uses a mercury bath to transform electrical energy into mechanical energy. Nine years later, Faraday created the first ever electric generator (above)

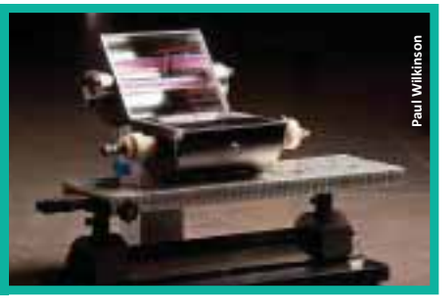


Next time you watch TV or a film, think of the hurdler above! British photographer Eadweard Muybridge showed these pictures at the Ri in 1882 in the first public demonstration of moving images. Muybridge showed them on his zoopraxiscope – the first moving picture projector



Medical doctor Kevin Fong looks slightly terrified as he test-drives a 'rocket chair' (made with fire extinguishers!) during his Ri Christmas Lecture in 2015. Dr Fong's talk explored what it takes for humans to lift off into space

This laser was developed in the USA in 1964, and was one of the first to come into the UK when George Porter, director of the Ri, bought it. Known as a ruby laser, it was used to speed up chemical reactions with short bursts of energy





Dating back to the start of the 19th century, this is one of the first electrical batteries. It was invented by Italian scientist Alessandro Volta and was given to Michael Faraday in 1814



This object from 1859 has had a huge influence on our understanding of climate change. It's a tube used by Irish scientist John Tyndall to measure whether gases absorbed or transmitted heat in our atmosphere. Tyndall's experiments discovered greenhouse gases and their effects on our planet – the basis of climate change

First News has teamed up with sky KIDS show *FYI* and the young audiences CONTENT FUND to make programmes and videos about the news, which you can watch on First News Education TV. This week the show spoke to Dr Grace Li, one of the lead investigators working on the COVID-19 vaccine trials with children.

COVID VACCINES FOR CHILDREN?



Dr Grace Li

WATCH THE INTERVIEW AT FIRST.NEWS/EDUCATIONTV
***FYI* EPISODE 111**

A COVID-19 vaccine study began this week with children. But what for, when the virus mainly affects older people? *FYI* presenter Tilly Lockey investigated with a panel of young people – Ruby from Kettering, Oliver and Trey from London, Nikita from Walsall and Farrah from Pontypridd, Wales. They put their questions to Dr Grace Li, part of the Oxford University AstraZeneca vaccine team.

TILLY: The team behind the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine is doing what's known as a clinical trial. It's to make sure that their vaccine works for children as well as it works for adults. But how exactly is this trial going to work?

DR GRACE LI: We're going to recruit 300 children aged between 6 and 17, based at four different centres. One is here in Oxford, the other three are in Bristol, Southampton and St George's in London. We're going to start off by enrolling teenagers aged between 12 and 17. And, then, after that, we're going to recruit younger children aged between 6 and 11.

TILLY: Should this trial be successful, when do you think children above the age of five will be able to get vaccinated?

DR GRACE LI: The trial at the moment is meant to be running over approximately a year, so we're going to take blood tests from children over the next 12 months or so. And, as we've seen in the adult trial, sometimes you can get some results early, and that means, sometimes, that the vaccine can be approved before the end of the trial.

RUBY: So if all the adults are protected and most children don't get very ill from coronavirus, should we actually make a vaccine for children?

DR GRACE LI: Actually, in the first wave, you're right, most people who got admitted to hospital were mostly grandparents and older people who got really sick. What we haven't seen as much in the news is that there were a few children, mostly children who already had what we call pre-existing medical conditions, and there were some of them who got very sick and got admitted to children's intensive care. So, it might be that the vaccine is used in a really small group of children who are very vulnerable. Also, we're still finding out quite a lot about how coronavirus affects both adults and children. We're not sure, for example, whether there are long-term effects of COVID on our health. There are some people who say they still have symptoms a couple of months later. And there are lots of other things we don't know about how coronavirus spreads yet, so this trial is going to look at how effective the vaccine is.



Dr Grace Li (top left) spoke to *FYI* presenter Tilly (bottom) and answered questions from (top) Nikita, Ruby, (middle) Oliver, Trey and Farrah

FARRAH: Will it be dangerous for kids to take part in the vaccine trial?

DR GRACE LI: So, the vaccine trial that's taking place now, we planned initially when we started all of the adult trials 12 months ago, so it was always our intention to do a trial on children. And, at the moment, we've got safety data from over 25,000 adults in the UK, Brazil and also in South Africa as well. So, we've got data from 25,000 adults, which shows that the vaccine is really safe and works really well in adults. That makes us really confident that actually there will be almost no safety concerns when we're going into a trial with children. So, we don't expect there to be any concerns, no. And, the way that safety is monitored in the study is that we very carefully watch and we ask people to put into a diary any side effects that they might have from the vaccine. And, if there are any worries at all, then we obviously chat and we think about whether or not we can go on with the study.

RUBY: And what if a child is afraid of needles? Will it be made compulsory for them to take the vaccine?

DR GRACE LI: If you'd like to have the vaccine at school and you're scared of needles, you're allowed to refuse it in the same way as you refuse any other vaccine. But, for the majority of children, we hope that, because you've had vaccines before and you realise that they don't hurt, this one won't hurt any more than any other vaccine.

OLIVER: I know recently there's been some concern about whether or not the Oxford vaccine will be able to defend against different strains of COVID around the world. Is that something that you're potentially worried about?

DR GRACE LI: It's not something that we're going to be able to look at in this study. So the study is going to use the same vaccine that we used in the adult trials of the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine 12 months ago. This trial is what we call the phase two trial. So it's looking primarily at how safe the vaccine is. This trial isn't actually going to look at how effective it is in terms of different variants. At the moment, I think we're still gathering information on different variants. So it's really hard to say right now. The

UK is in this amazing position where we have some of the best sequencing and capabilities in the world. So I think that's something we still need more information about.

NIKITA: I'm just wondering when everyone has been vaccinated, obviously adults and children, does that mean we can finally start living normal lives again, and this pandemic is over?

DR GRACE LI: I'm sure all of you are aware that one of the biggest problems we have with the vaccine is the supply. So, if we could vaccinate everybody, absolutely everybody, then that, possibly, could be one reason why we might be able to get back to normal life. But, at the moment, vaccine supply is really one of the biggest stumbling blocks to recovering from this pandemic. And we have to really target certain parts of the population, the ones we know are the most vulnerable and the ones we know are the most likely to get really sick. We have to really prioritise those people because we just don't have enough. We can't make it fast enough for the whole world. So, at the moment, if there are children who are very vulnerable, as we mentioned, there are some children who have pre-existing medical conditions, then those are the ones who we should prioritise for vaccines.

NIKITA: And when I do get this vaccine, will I have any side effects from it?



iStock

DR GRACE LI: So, if you are enrolled in the trial we're starting this week, and if you did receive the COVID vaccine, the side effects we'd expect to be very similar to adults. I'm sure you've also read in the news about some of the side effects that adults get. So some of them might feel a little bit of pain at the site where you inject the vaccine and others might have a bit of a temperature or some muscle aches shortly after. But often these only last for a couple of days and often they are better after you take some paracetamol. They're very similar to all the other side effects that you get when you take other vaccines.

FARRAH: And will we need vaccines every year as a sort of top-up, or would one be enough for a lifetime?

DR GRACE LI: We're not sure about this yet because we're not sure about the way that COVID will behave as it evolves. Often viruses try to escape our immune responses by changing a little bit, so we're not quite sure how coronavirus is going to change in the next six months. It might be that we need annual vaccinations, but we can't be sure yet. So, we have to do some more observations of the virus and how it behaves in the wild before we can decide.

TREY: So, what about the summer, before children are vaccinated? Do you think it will be safe for us to go on holiday with our families?

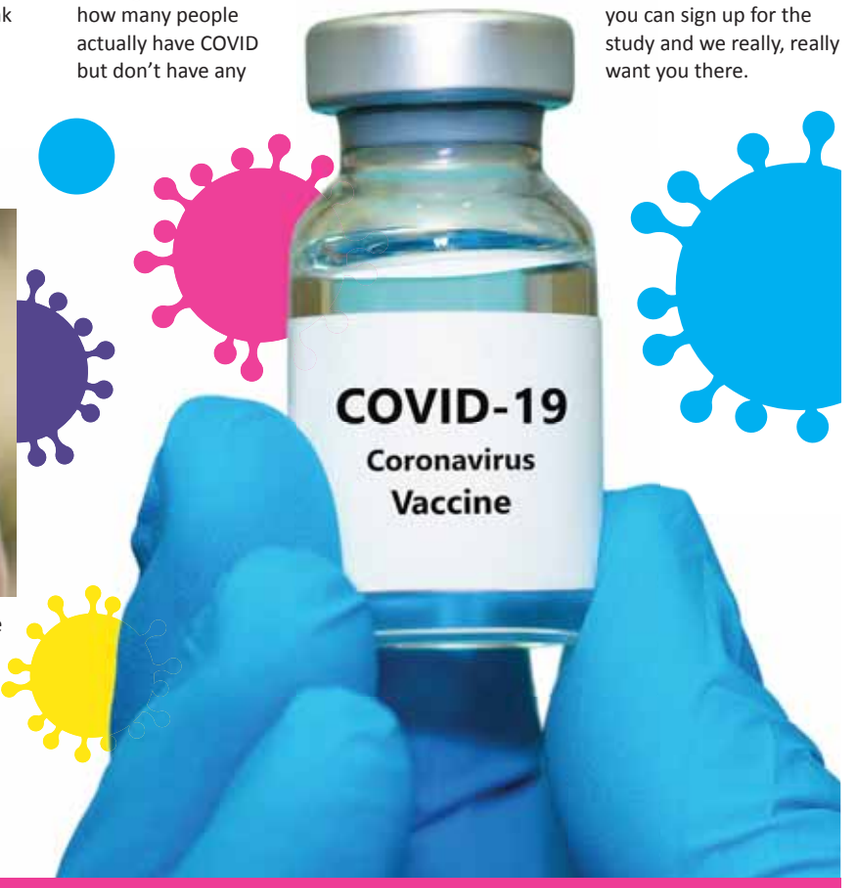
DR GRACE LI: I think that's the million dollar question that everyone would love to answer for this summer. I think there are a few questions that we really need to answer before we're able to make any progress towards going on holiday and thinking about going back to school. And one of them is really making sure that we've protected all the most vulnerable people. And, so, at the moment, we're doing that by starting with the eldest people in the country and moving down to those who are least vulnerable. And the next issue is thinking a bit more about knowing how it spreads. We still don't know very much about how coronavirus spreads, and we're still learning a lot about how it spreads from one person to another – and especially around children because, although children don't get very many serious symptoms from it, we know that there still might be some spreading and we're still trying to figure that out. So, we need to do a bit more research before we're able to confidently say go back to school and go back on holiday. I think we need a bit more time and a bit more information.

TREY: They say children are asymptomatic [don't show any symptoms], but we still spread the virus. Would having the vaccine stop us from spreading the virus?

DR GRACE LI: That's a really tricky experiment, actually, to prove. So, obviously, if you don't have any symptoms but you spread it, it makes it really difficult to know which people to test. And this has been one of the biggest problems in the study so far. I'm sure some of you might have had friends or family [who got] notes through the post asking you to do a swab regardless of whether you have symptoms. So what they're trying to do in those swabbing tests is to figure out how many people actually have COVID but don't have any symptoms and how does that change across different ages. So, those tests that they're sending out around the country, they're testing different ages and different symptoms and trying to get a picture of how many people who actually do have COVID don't have any symptoms. And that's an incredibly huge study to do – if you can imagine how many people you need to test and how many swabs you need to do every week. So the biggest problem they're trying to solve right now is what exactly does transmission look like? What sort of numbers are involved and what does this mean for school and going on holiday?

FARRAH: There remains a concern in the black and minority ethnic [BAME] community as to whether these trials will be safe. I'm just wondering if the clinical trials in children will have a diverse population tested?

DR GRACE LI: I'm really glad you asked that question. Absolutely. We're really actively encouraging children from BAME backgrounds to be recruited into the study. On all of our promotional material and all of the websites, we clearly state that we'd really love anyone who's from any minority background to take part. And we have a website where you can sign up for the study and we really, really want you there.



You can watch highlights from the interview on *FYI*, episode 111, at first.news/EducationTV

Teachers – you can use your *First News* login to access education resources to accompany the films at first.news/EducationTV

FirstNews ● Issue 766 ● 19 – 25 February 2021

DRIVE-IN THEATRE FUN



DAVID Walliams' best-selling book *Billionaire Boy* has already been turned into a successful stage show, and now it has been adapted to take place in car parks! The socially-distanced drive-in show will tour the UK this April. We caught up with David to find out why it is so important for the arts that the show must go on.

● How do you feel about *Billionaire Boy* being turned into a Car Park Party production?

It's brilliant! It's very imaginative. I think people are craving some entertainment, and especially live entertainment, because although the TV has still been on, you haven't been able to be part of an audience, so this is a great and safe way to enjoy a show. If you have kids who are in all day and home schooling, you really want something you can take them to do or see. Hopefully this will really entertain families.

● How important is it to support theatre and other arts at the moment?

Well, it is important. I have friends who are actors, directors, designers and so on who have all been out of work because nothing's been happening. They are absolutely all raring to go to do something. I feel like the audience wants it too. It's hard to put an exact value on the arts because they enhance your life, but you can't put a figure on it because it's not like that. When you read something or see something though, it moves you. It changes the way you think, how you feel about the world and about life. It's a massive thing and hits people at home.

● What do you love so much about theatre?

It's a form of storytelling. We always want to tell stories all the time and it's just a different way of doing it. I think it's really important, it's very life enriching, but obviously it's hard because it's not exactly quantifiable [measurable], but that's part of the magic, isn't it? It's just this wonderful and life-enhancing thing. We all respond differently with different tastes and abilities, and that's part of the magic too. Not everyone agrees on what they like or is interesting to them. It's a big part of our culture and also, it's something we can really celebrate in this country because we've had so many brilliant playwrights, and we have the West End. If there's any other place like it, it's only Broadway. No other place in the world has that. We have always had a very, very vibrant arts culture here and it's something we really need to protect.

● One of the themes of *Billionaire Boy* is friendship. Do you think keeping in touch with friends is even more important for kids now that lots of us are at home?

I think it's very important that they can keep in touch with their friends at the moment. Luckily, technology exists, though not everyone has access to it, but at least with phones and computers you can see people and speak to them. It's not the same as being with someone though, so it can't take the place of it, but it is important.



Birmingham Stage Company



Birmingham Stage Company

***Billionaire Boy* live on stage**

● How have you been keeping busy during lockdown?

Fortunately, writing is something you can do on your own at home, so I have been able to work. Last year I brought out four different books, two or three of which were written during lockdown, and I'm writing my new one at the moment. I've been able to be pretty busy in that department. I also got to do some filming at the end of last year, but it's quite complex. The rules are changing all the time and it's quite hard to do all the things I want to, but I've been able to do some of them. I feel quite lucky in that respect, as I have friends who are stand-up comedians or actors on the stage who haven't been able to work at all. So, I feel lucky that I'm a writer as well, that the books are successful and people want to read them, so there's always hunger for new ones. So in that department I feel very lucky indeed!

● Will you be joining the cast on stage at any of the performances of *Billionaire Boy* this spring?

I haven't been asked to perform, but I definitely want to come and see it, and if I do, I'll definitely come onto the stage and say hello to everybody.

Tickets for Car Park Party's *Billionaire Boy* are on sale now from carparkparty.com



SATURDAY NIGHT FUN!

THIS week sees the return of *Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway*, hurrah! Check out these fun facts about the show and the new series.

The "happiest show on telly" is back for its 17th series and some of your favourite segments are back, including *Ant & Dec Undercover* and the hilarious *I'm A Celebrity... Get Out Of Me Ear*!

As usual, there will be a whole host of famous faces appearing on the show. Some of the celebs taking part in the hidden camera pranks include Davina McCall, Sir Mo Farah and Jamie and Harry Redknapp.

A brand-new mini-series called *Double Trouble* will start during the first show. Ant and Dec have been cloned and the presenters have to deal with the clones, who have gone off the rails and got themselves into all sorts of trouble. Look out for the famous faces taking part in the show, including Bear Grylls and Prue Leith.

This series will have a virtual audience, with over 300 families taking part!



Pop star Fleur East joins the show with a brand-new segment.

The Ant vs Dec challenges are back, with Stephen Mulhern putting the guys through some of their trickiest tasks yet!

Pandas Bam and Boo are back, but this time they've swapped London Zoo for Hamleys toy shop. The bears are hiding out and hosting a teddy bear's picnic while they plan their great escape...

Gary Barlow is the first famous face confirmed for the *End of the Show Show*, with lots more amazing celebs every week.

For the first time, the show will get its own spin-off on ITV Hub. There will be behind-the-scenes gossip and interviews with Ant, Dec and the celeb guests.

Join in with the fun! *Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway* is on ITV, Saturday at 7pm

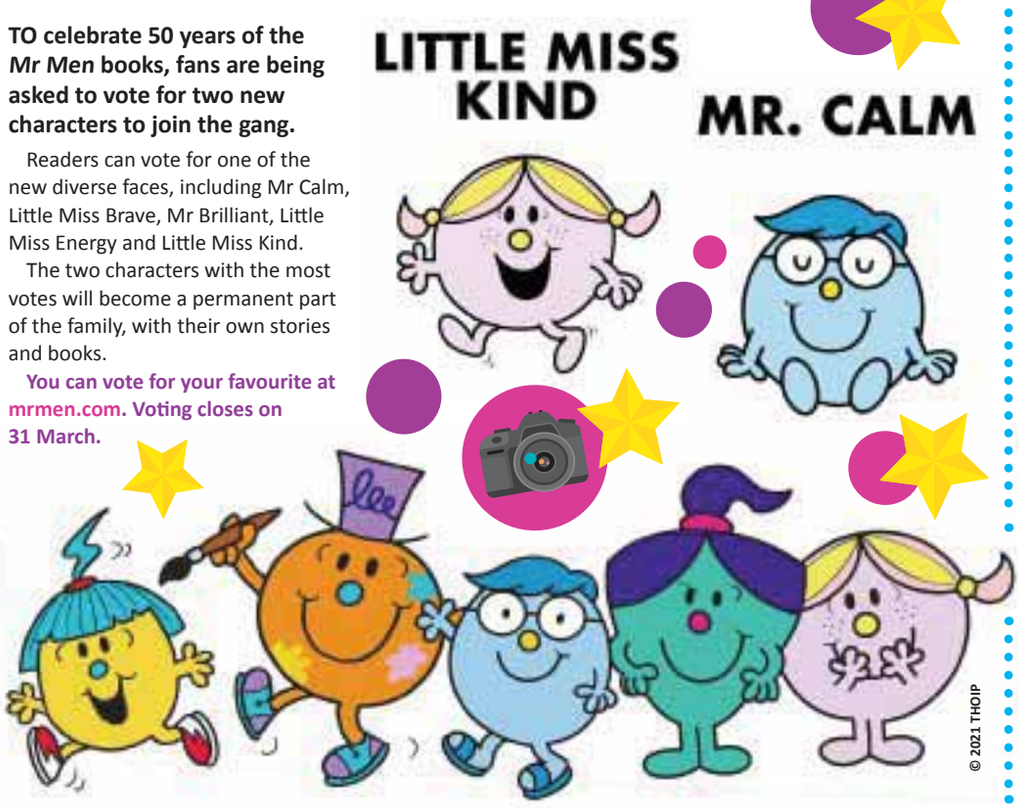
PICS OF THE WEEK

TO celebrate 50 years of the *Mr Men* books, fans are being asked to vote for two new characters to join the gang.

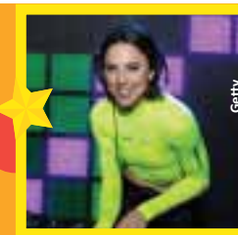
Readers can vote for one of the new diverse faces, including Mr Calm, Little Miss Brave, Mr Brilliant, Little Miss Energy and Little Miss Kind.

The two characters with the most votes will become a permanent part of the family, with their own stories and books.

You can vote for your favourite at mrmen.com. Voting closes on 31 March.



THIS WEEK



1 Former Spice Girl Mel C has been confirmed as the new coach for *The Voice Kids*. The star is taking over from Paloma Faith, who has left to have a baby. The new series is due around Christmas. Mel C said: "I've always been a huge fan of *The Voice*, so I am super excited to be a coach on *The Voice Kids* this year. I can't wait to get in one of those big red chairs and Spice things up!"

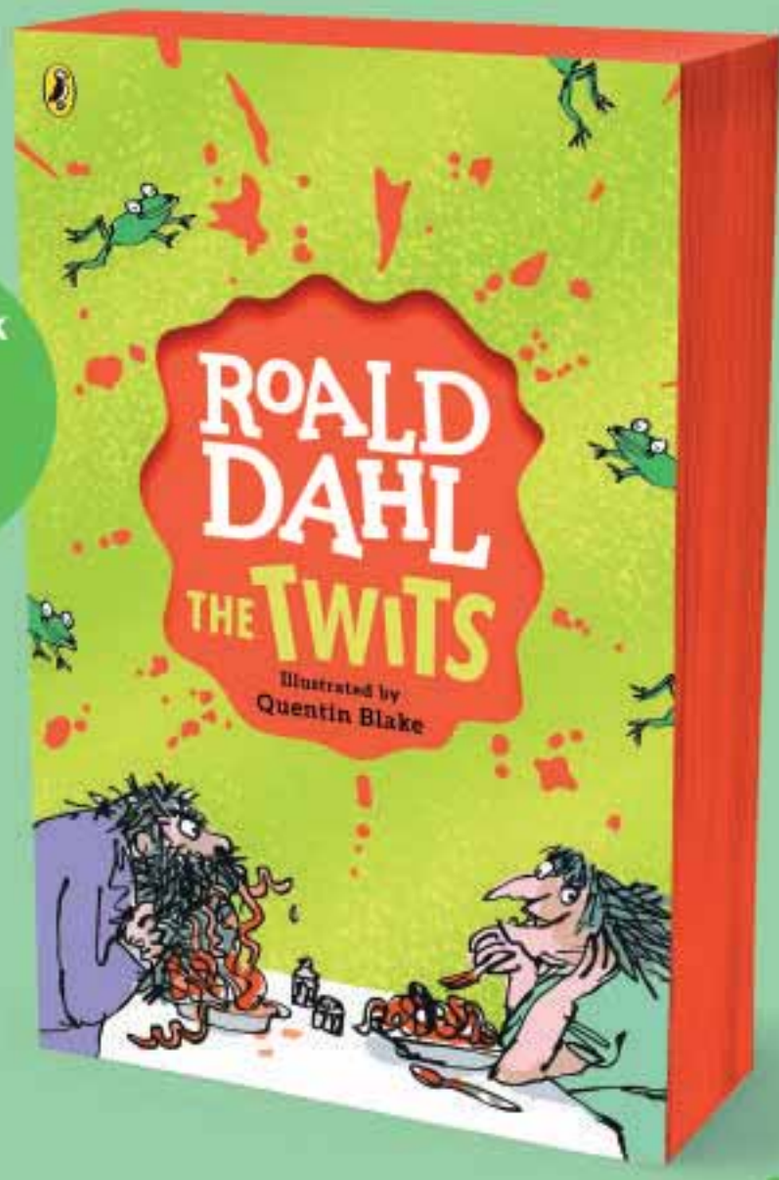
2 Singers Joss Stone, Ne-Yo and Aston Merrygold have been unveiled as the three finalists on *The Masked Singer*. Joss won the show as Sausage, with Ne-Yo as Badger coming second. JLS star Aston was the first celeb to be unmasked in the final – he was Robin!

3 Michelle Obama is appearing in a new children's show for Netflix. The former First Lady will play a supermarket owner alongside a cast of puppets in *Waffles + Mochi*. Waffles and Mochi are fed up with frozen food and dream of being chefs, so they go on a journey to discover home-cooked food from around the world. The show will launch on Netflix in March.



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WANTED: WILL'S WELLBEING WARRIORS!

DO you wear your heart upon your sleeve? Are you sometimes the green-eyed monster? Does your tongue tell the anger of your heart? Perhaps your doubts are traitors that make you 'fear to attempt' something? Although William Shakespeare was writing more than 400 years ago, his ability to explore human emotions and the creative language he used to describe the human spirit remains relevant today. His words provide a wonderful way to explore and understand our own and others' identities and feelings.

Which is why this year's Shakespeare Week (15-21 March) is themed around wellbeing, with lots of fun activities, projects and challenges to inspire you with Shakespeare's wonderful words, and become a Will's Wellbeing Warrior!

ABOUT SHAKESPEARE WEEK



Shakespeare Week is the annual national celebration of Shakespeare in primary schools, organised by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust in Stratford-upon-Avon. Since its launch in 2014, over eight million primary school children have had fun, first experiences of the world's greatest writer. This year, due to COVID-19, we're taking Shakespeare Week online from 15-21 March. Joining the virtual celebrations are some of the country's best-loved children's authors, artists and celebrities, including CBeebies presenter Ben Cajee and CBBC's Nikki Lilly, providing a wealth of activities, events and workshops to bring Shakespeare to life.

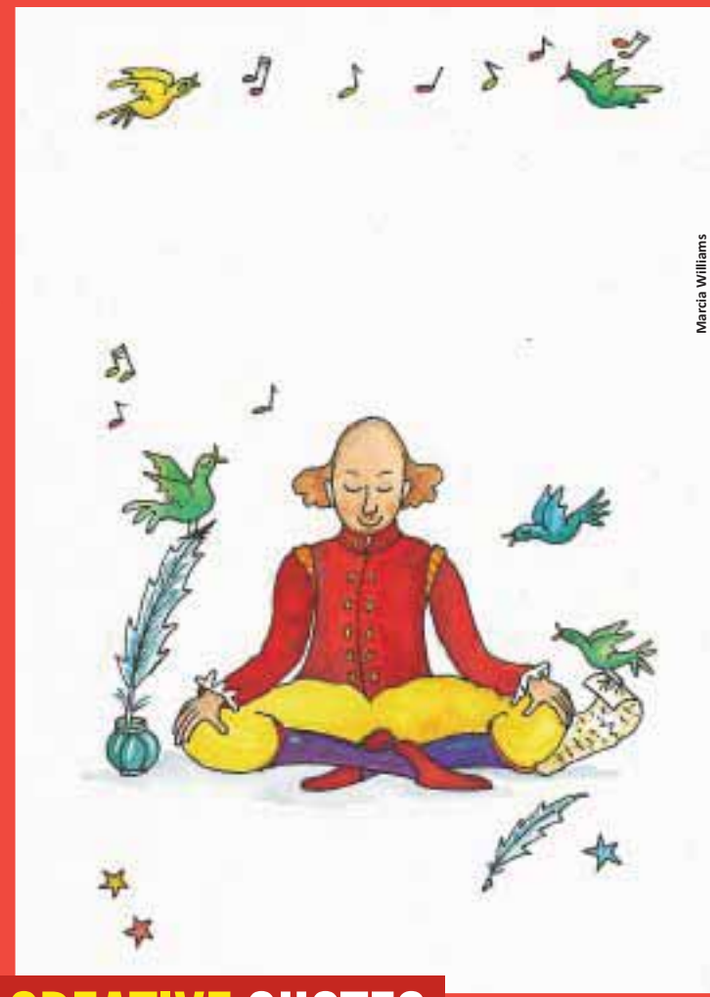
DAILY BROADCASTS

Every day from 15-21 March you can tune in to a different Shakespeare broadcast. Try your hand at making LEGO Shakespeare animation with Ricky Martin from CBBC's *Art Ninja*, Tudor baking with *Junior Bake Off* winner Nikki Lilly, listen to a Shakespeare story read by a host of children's authors, actors and celebrities, enjoy meditation and mindfulness exercises with Marcia Williams or join an interactive drawing event with *Horrible Histories* illustrator Martin Brown!

Check them out at www.shakespeareweek.org.uk/events.



***Art Ninja*'s Ricky Martin and David Atherton are just two of the stars taking part**



Marcia Williams

CREATIVE QUOTES

We've got a cool competition this year and we want you to get creative with the famous quote from *Hamlet*: "This above all, to thine own self be true…"

It's not always easy being ourselves and sometimes we're afraid to be who we are in case others judge us. But being true to ourselves is important for our wellbeing and self-esteem. This Shakespeare Week we're inviting you to explore your identity and be proud of yourself!

Show us what this quote means to you, and you could win some fantastic prizes. To get you started we've asked some of the nation's favourite children's celebrities, such as CBeebies' Ben Cajee and CBBC presenter Nikki Lilly. Check out their responses on our competition page at www.shakespeareweek.org.uk/competition. Entries can be in any format: it could be a poster, video clip, song, artwork, poem or a piece of writing – the choice is yours. Good luck!



Nikki Lilly



Ben Cajee

To find out more, see www.shakespeareweek.org.uk

WIN! BABY ANNABELL

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

Send in your answers and one lucky winner will win a brand-new Baby Annabell Lunch Time Annabell Doll for you or your younger sibling. Baby Annabell's mouth opens and closes automatically when being fed with the spoon; you can also press her tummy so she can use the potty. This realistic doll also comes with mealtime accessories.

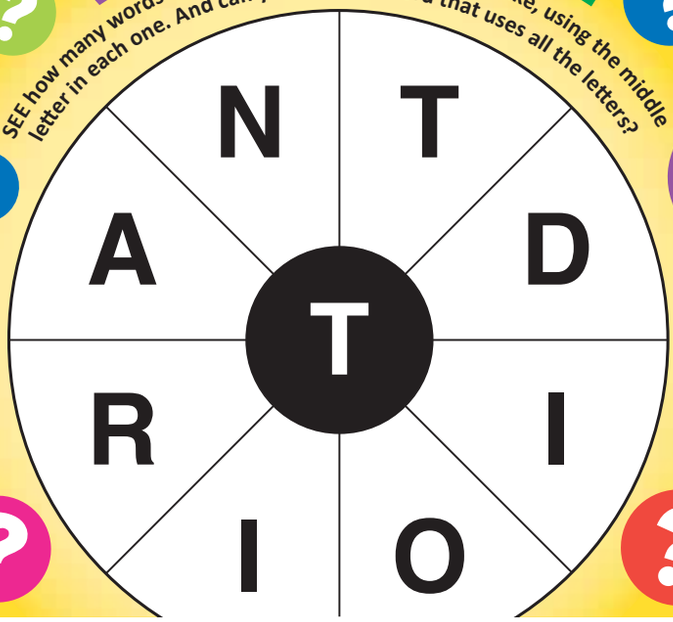


www.baby-annabell.com

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

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.

EARS

LOBE

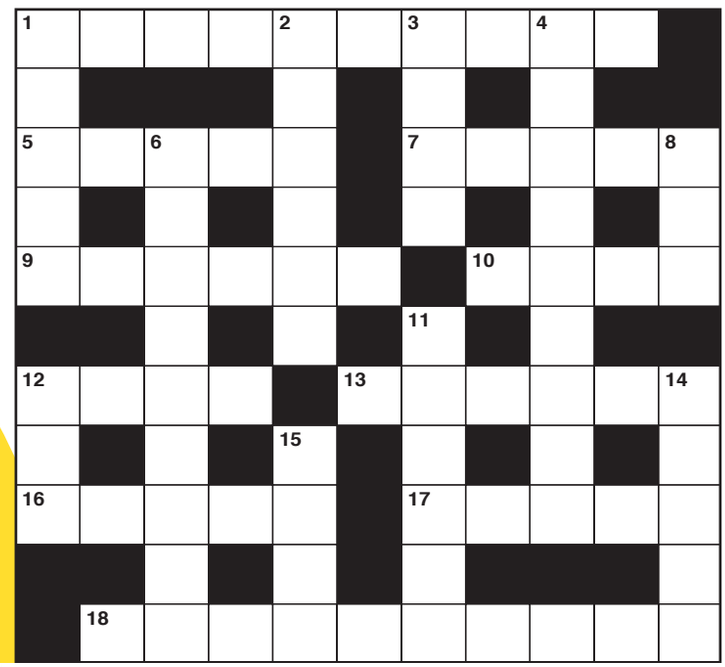
WIN! STABILO CAPPIS

CAN you complete our crossword puzzle by using the clues below?

Send in your answers and five lucky winners will win a pack of STABILO Cappis. These brilliant fibre-tip pens are perfect for card making, drawing and colouring.

www.stabilo.com/uk





ACROSS

1 All the words you know (10)
5 Pales (anagram) (5)
7 A moral principle (5)
9 Happenings (6)
10 Baby sheep (4)
12 The outer covering of the body (4)
13 Party or festival in Spain (6)
16 Selfish desire for something (5)
17 Home made out of snow (5)
18 Make stronger (10)

DOWN

1 What something is worth (5)
2 Air taken into the lungs (6)
3 Untruths (4)
4 Practice performance (9)
6 E.g. Joe Biden (9)
8 A young bear or lion (3)
11 Sport that Tom Daley is famous for (6)
12 Droop like a plant without water (3)
14 This grows into an oak tree (5)
15 Border (4)

HOW TO ENTER: Send your finished puzzles by email to **win@firstnews.co.uk**. Don't forget to put **Puzzles 766** in the subject box. We're afraid we can't accept postal entries for now. The closing date for puzzle entries is **Thursday 25 February 2021**.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

CAN you spot the five changes we've made to this picture from *The Masked Singer*?





© Bandicoot TV

WORDSEARCH

CAN you find the words in our Shakespeare-themed wordsearch? Remember that the words can be horizontal, vertical or diagonal.

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

- [ ] Macbeth
- [ ] Romeo
- [ ] Tragedy
- [ ] King Lear

- [ ] Verona
- [ ] Bard
- [ ] Comedy
- [ ] Monologue

- [ ] Theatre
- [ ] William
- [ ] Hamlet
- [ ] Sonnet

WHERE ON EARTH?

CAN you guess which country these are all associated with?











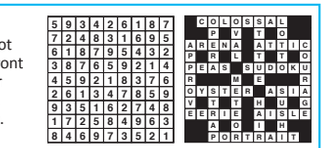


COMPETITIONS: You can enter *First News* competitions in one of two ways. **1.** Go to **firstnews.co.uk/competitions** and follow the instructions. **2.** Email us at **win@firstnews.co.uk** putting 'competition name' (e.g. Holiday), in the subject box. Please note: *First News* will not share your personal details with third parties. First News will only use your details to contact the competition winners. *First News* competitions are only open to those aged 17-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 the first correct entries drawn after the closing dates. No purchase necessary. No responsibility can be accepted for entries that have been lost or damaged in transit. First News will not enter into any correspondence. All winners will be notified accordingly and their names and location will be available on request. No cash alternative for any prizes will be offered. The winner may be required to partake in media activity relating to the competition.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS:

Spot the difference: Tank cannon is longer, boot has an extra buckle, numbers removed from front of tank, headband has been removed, Wonder Woman's top is blue. **Word wheel:** enhancing. **Word ladder:** free, flee, glee, glue, glum, plum. **Where on Earth?:** Mexico.

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



FirstNews QUIZ

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED THIS WEEK?

HAVE a go at our *First News* Challenge! See how well you did by using the answers at the bottom. Good luck!

1 The co-leader of New Zealand's Māori Party has won the right to not wear what in Parliament?

.....

2 Where is Princess Leonor de Borbon of Spain going to study?

.....

3 Which British athlete won Snowboard Cross gold at the World Championships in Sweden?

.....

4 Which series of books is Roger Hargreaves famous for?

.....

5 Scientists have discovered a new species of whale off the coast of America. What have they named it?

.....

6 What did Alessandro Volta give to Michael Faraday in 1814?

.....

7 Which town has just turned its Christmas lights back on?

.....

8 Who has been confirmed as the new judge on *The Voice Kids*?

.....

1) A tie 2) Atlantic College in St Donat's Castle 3) Charlotte Bankes 4) Mr Men and Little Miss 5) Rice's whale 6) An electrical battery 7) Tankerton in Whitstable 8) Mel C

BAKING SPECIAL

REECE'S RECIPES

***Junior Bake Off* champion Reece shares another delicious recipe with us. This week it's Kinder cookies! Don't forget to share pictures of your bakes with us at newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk.**



Channel 4

TOP TIP!

Always measure your ingredients properly!

KINDER COOKIES

Ingredients

- 450g melted butter
- 440g dark brown sugar
- 4 large eggs
- 1 ½ teaspoons of baking powder
- 600g Kinder chocolate bars, chopped into small pieces
- 620g plain flour
- 400g caster sugar
- pinch of salt

Method

1. Preheat your oven to 185°C
2. Whisk together the brown sugar, caster sugar and melted butter until lighter in colour
3. Add the eggs and mix well until smooth
4. Add the dry ingredients and fold in gently
5. Fold in the chopped Kinder bars
6. Form balls from your cookie dough and place on a lined baking tray. Put them in the fridge for 30 minutes to chill
7. Bake for 12 minutes and then serve!



Recipe © Reece 2021

If you're inspired by Reece and fancy showing off your baking skills, then why not apply for *Junior Bake Off* 2021? If you're aged between 9 and 15, and can whip up a cool cake or some brilliant biscuits, then this could be your year! To apply, visit junior.take-part.co.uk, but make sure to check with a grown-up first. Entries close on 28 March 2021.

FirstNews ● Issue 766 ● 19 – 25 February 2021

"YOU CAN'T SAY NO TO WORLD BOOK DAY!"


Getty

THE author behind the wickedly cool Skulduggery Pleasant books has written a special entry into the series for World Book Day this year. We had a chat with Derek Landy about what he's been up to over the last year, and why he can't say no to World Book Day!

● Tell us about your World Book Day book, *Skulduggery Pleasant: Apocalypse Kings*.

It's not just another Skulduggery Pleasant story, since it has to appeal to people who've never read the series! So, I've written it from the point of view of a 15-year-old schoolboy who unwittingly releases three gods from captivity, who, for various reasons, want to destroy the world. This completely seemingly ordinary schoolboy is suddenly confronted with Skulduggery Pleasant and Valkyrie Cain and has a kind of… harsh introduction to the world of magic.

● With 13 books in the series, and a 14th on the way, it must have been quite hard to condense the story.

It's tricky! I have to write a book that's not just for those who haven't read the series, but also for those who have read absolutely everything. So I can't repeat the rules or the introductions because the long-term readers have already been through it. Which is why viewing it from an outsider's perspective is hugely helpful, because he will ask all the questions that a reader would ask in his position. I've found as long as you put in enough jokes, you can get away with pretty much anything!

● The book is set earlier in the series, so what was it like going back?

When the books started, the character of Valkyrie Cain was 12 – in the latest book she's 26! In *Apocalypse Kings* she is, I think, 15 years old… I'm absolutely awful at keeping track of what age she is! The books are actually riddled with mistakes here and there; it's awful! I think it's set between books four and five, or five and six, which I wrote ten years ago! I don't have time to read them again, and I'm currently writing another Skulduggery book, and a spin-off thing. But when the wonderful people at World Book Day said: "Derek, we know you have two books that you're actually writing right now. Can you fit in a third one?" I couldn't say no!

● What's the best thing about World Book Day?

It's such a great idea, and it's an honour to be asked. I know the impact it has too. So many readers come up to me in signing queues, and they say: "I was in school, and I read your World Book Day book and got absolutely hooked; now I've got everything and please sign them all!" I know the impact it has on a writer. I know the impact it has on a writer's series and I know the impact it has on an actual reader. A lot of kids don't actually own any books; this is a way to give them a book that they actually own. It's a short little story, so if they aren't used to reading, they don't have to devote too much time to it. I firmly believe that for even the most reluctant reader, there is that one book, and if they find it at the right time and it speaks to them in the right way, then it will convert a reluctant reader into a reader.

● It's set in a school – did you draw on your own school experiences for it?

In the more recent books, I've introduced a teenage character called Omen, and Omen, I have found, is pretty much me as a schoolboy! He is kind of unexceptional in a lot of ways, and he doesn't really try that hard in school. I'm sure he could do wonderful things, but he finds it hard to get motivated. And that was me precisely.

● If you could go back in time and talk to yourself, would you have any advice?

There's a problem with asking a question like that to a science fiction writer, because we'll always say: if I could give my younger self advice, it would change the future! But if I could – without any repercussions! – I would reassure myself that it was going to be okay. After school, I messed up in my final year exams and I had to repeat the entire year in another school, and I was completely miserable. Then I went to art college, and I got kicked out for not being quite good enough! I spent the next ten years working on the family farm, which is something that I always swore to myself I would never do. But after all that failure, I realised that okay, I still have writing – and I wrote the first Skulduggery book. So yes, there is more than one way to your future. It isn't a straight line! It can go off in weird tangents, it can curl and loop back, so don't panic.



● While it's all about the books, for lots of readers World Book Day is also about dressing up! What's your costume this year?

When I was a kid we didn't have the range that readers have now, so it was always like sleuths, amateur detectives, teenage detectives. So my World Book Day costume would probably be like one of the Hardy Boys, which is just jeans and a T-shirt – but that's so boring! I'm sent pictures on Twitter of readers dressed up as all the Skulduggery Pleasant characters – all the bad guys and good guys. And I see them dressed up as Artemis Fowl and as Harry Potter… so there are so many awesome options out there, but I just end up dressed in jeans and a T-shirt!

Head to p24 for your £1 book token!

***Skulduggery Pleasant: Apocalypse Kings* is out now, while the 14th book in the series, *Dead or Alive*, is out on 1 April**





CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY FIRST NEWS

Save the Children · unicef · aid · Jeans for Genes Day · actionaid · NSPCC · WellChild · Children United · Sightsavers · COMIC RELIEF · childline · Achievement for All

MEET THE METAHUMANS

TAKE a good look at these pictures. Believe it or not, they're videogame characters!

Fortnite (PEGI 12) developers Epic Games don't just make smash-hit games, they also create the software that some of those smash-hit games are made with.

Last week, they revealed their new character creation software, called MetaHuman Creator, and the characters made with it look scarily realistic!

It'll be free to use, and can be accessed through a web browser if you don't have a computer powerful enough to run the fancy software.

According to Epic, the software has been developed to help bring down the cost of character creation.

The company says that creating realistic humans can take "weeks or even months", so decided to work on something that could "make the process radically simpler and faster without compromising on quality."

The fancy tool is due to be released sometime later this year.


Epic Games


Epic Games



FITNESS BOXING 2: RHYTHM & EXERCISE

MOTIVATING yourself to stay active in winter is tough Playing videogames during winter is much easier! *Fitness Boxing 2: Rhythm & Exercise* combines the two, and Lucy, aged 12, tried it out for us.

"I wasn't sure about *Fitness Boxing 2: Rhythm & Exercise* when I started playing, as I don't really like PE, but it turns out that I do like boxing!

I've never boxed before, but this game teaches you how to, in time to fun music. Each day you learn a new move, and get to practise moves you've learnt before.

You can unlock new songs to box to, and new outfits for the instructors. There are lots of different instructors; some of them are better than others. My favourite was Sophie.

My mum played too, which is rare, since she doesn't usually play videogames. She said she wished there was more music in the game, but that it 'felt like a proper workout!'"

FIRST NEWS HOME iHUB

IDEAL FOR HOMESCHOOLING



HEAD TO FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK/HOMEIHUB TO FIND OUT MORE

WIN! A Funko GIFT VOUCHER



FUNKO, the global brand behind some of the world's most famous collectable vinyl figures, toys, games, fashion accessories and more, is giving you the chance to win a £50 voucher to spend in its European online store, FunkoEurope.com!

From *Harry Potter* to *Pokémon*, or *Fortnite* to *Star Wars*, or *DC Comics* to *Pusheen* and much, much more, there is nothing that Funko doesn't have!

Looking for a new card game? Board game? Funko's got it. After a new soft toy? Vinyl collectable? FunkoEurope.com has got it.



We have seven FunkoEurope.com gift vouchers up for grabs. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

The first Harry Potter book was released in what year?
a) 1997
b) 1999
c) 2001

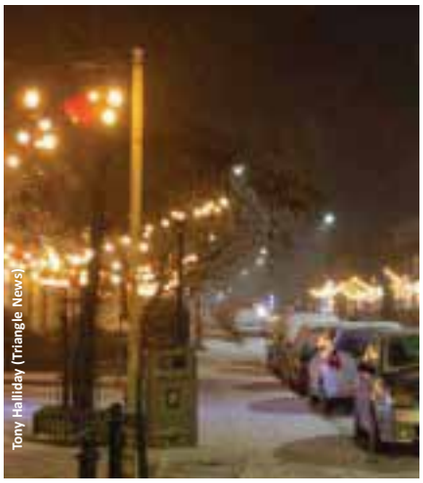


www.FunkoEurope.com

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY FUNKO

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 19. The closing date is 4 March 2021.

CHRISTMAS IN FEBRUARY



Tony Halliday (Triangle News)

A TOWN in Kent has decided to switch its Christmas lights back on to help bring some festive cheer – in February!

Residents of Tankerton in Whitstable felt something needed to be done to lift people's spirits during lockdown, so they hatched a plan! The locals decided Christmas lights were just the thing and set about raising money to get them twinkling once more this month.

The target for the display was £300, but more than £1,200 has been raised. The extra money will go towards this December's lights.

A group of local businesses called Talk of Tankerton helped to organise the switch-on. Co-founder Julie Corke said: "Everyone needs a bit of light and sparkle through lockdown to make them smile." We couldn't agree more!



Tony Halliday (Triangle News)

BRRR-ILLIANT ART



Getty

THIS amazing artwork has been created entirely from footprints in the snow.

A team of volunteers stomped their way through the white stuff to create this super cool snowflake design. They used just snowshoes and lengths of rope.

The whole thing took two days to complete and measured an impressive 160 metres across. It was created at a golf course in Helsinki, Finland, and could be the largest snow-drawing ever to be made in the Nordic country!

Artist Janne Pyykkö came up with the idea for the frozen fun.

TINY TEDDIES



Facebook/WimborneModelTown

A GROUP of miniature bears are getting ready to move into their new home.

Two hundred tiny teddy bears known as the Wareham Bears have found a new miniature home in Wimborne Model Town in Dorset.

The famous bears were collected by a lady called Mary Hildesley, all the way back in the 1970s and '80s. She created little outfits and characters for them. The group are described as the "perfect fit" for Wimborne's miniature buildings and will go on display to the public as soon as the attraction is allowed to open. Check out their super cute masks in preparation!

The model town has also added miniature road signs to help with the new social distancing route.



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer



FIRST NEWS TEAMS UP WITH WORLD BOOK DAY!

WORLD Book Day is here once again, and this year we're helping to get £1 Book Tokens out to readers across the UK!

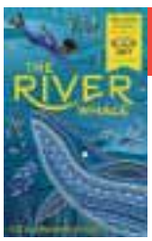
WORLD BOOK DAY 4 MARCH 2021

It's really important that we celebrate the power of reading while we're in lockdown. If you're having a tough time, reading for pleasure can be a way to escape to another world, or you could share a story with family or friends.

The book token below can be cut out, and used at booksellers across the UK.

You can find a list of these booksellers at nationalbooktokens.com/spend-everywhere

SOME OF THIS YEAR'S £1 BOOKS



The River Whale
Sita Brahmachari



Little Badman
Humza Arshad and Henry White



Skulduggery Pleasant: Apocalypse Kings
Derek Landy



Football School: 20 Fantastic Football Stories
Alex Bellos and Ben Lyttleton



Protect The Planet
Jess French

To see all of this year's £1 books, head to worldbookday.com

National Literacy Trust's Virtual School Library





STEP into a magical world with Dominique Valente.

Visit the Virtual School Library from the National Literacy Trust and the Oak National Academy to read *Starfell: Willow Moss and the Lost Day* for free!

Dominique recommends these books:

- *The Last Bear* by Hannah Gold, illustrated by Levi Pinfold
- *The Train to Impossible Places* by PG Bell, illustrated by Flavia Sorrentino
- *The Borrowers* by Mary Norton

Visit library.thenational.academy to find out more.

"Words for Life"

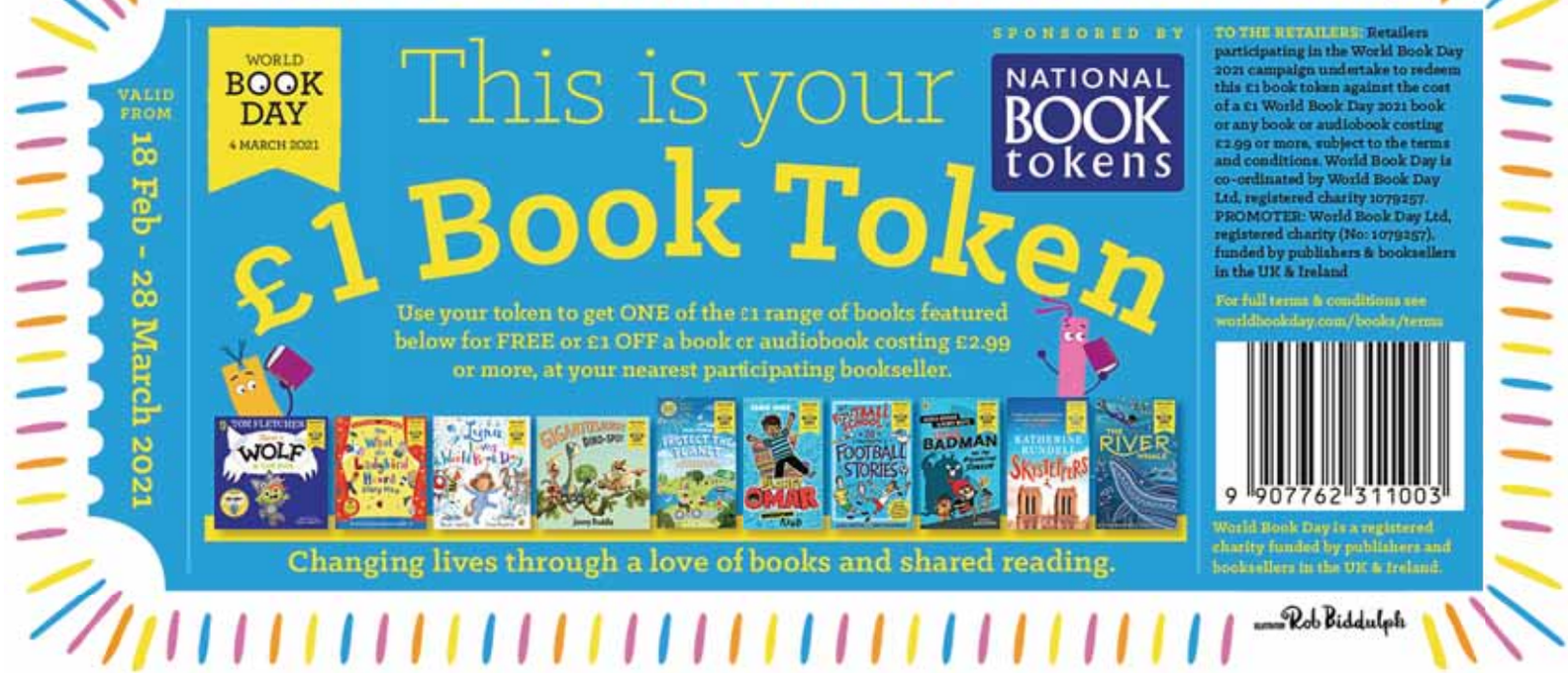
Virtual School Library

FOR MORE TIPS AND ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE YOUR READING, WRITING, SPEAKING AND LISTENING AT HOME, VISIT WORDSFORLIFE.ORG.UK



NATIONAL BOOK tokens

Illustration Rob Biddulph





FIVE MINUTES WITH... TAMZIN MERCHANT

THE actor and author of *The Hatmakers* told us all about her new book!

Can you tell us a bit about the world of *The Hatmakers*?

In the world of *The Hatmakers* there are five Maker families who weave magical ingredients into the clothes they make. These ingredients can be very powerful, and it takes great skill to weave them into clothes. In fact, some ingredients are very dangerous... When these dangerous ingredients start to go missing, it's up to Cordelia, the youngest hatmaker, to find out who's stealing them!

Where did the idea of magical hatmakers come from?

The idea actually came from a dream I had after acting in a Victorian-era TV show, when I overheard a costume designer talking about a special hat! Then, I dreamt about magical hatmakers and decided I had to write it down. The idea became so big, it had to be a whole book!

If you could wear an enchanted, magical piece of clothing, what would it be and what would it do?

I would like to wear a magical hat that allowed me to hear what trees are saying. The hat would probably have long branches poking out of it like radio antennae and be made of bark and leaves. Some trees have been here so long that they've lived through hundreds of years of history. I'd love to know what they think of us humans, scurrying about underneath them!

What's your favourite type of hat?

Right now I'd have to say a cosy woolly hat, because it's so chilly outside! But in summer I love a big floppy straw hat. I adore a fedora all year round. I'm still looking for the perfect occasion to wear a bicorn, though bicorns have been out of fashion for about 200 years. I reckon I could pull it off!

Do you have any advice to readers who might want to write their own story?

1. Write the story you most want to read, but that doesn't exist yet. It's up to you to bring that story into existence!

2. Try to write a little bit every day, even if it's just 20 minutes.

3. And if the first draft of your story doesn't turn out quite how you want it to be, that's okay, you can do another draft! *The Hatmakers* took seven drafts to become the book it is today.

Anything you can tell us about a sequel to the book?

I'm not sure what I'm allowed to say at the moment, but I can tell you it's called *The Mapmakers*!

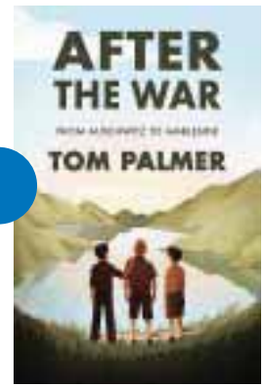
***The Hatmakers* is out now!**



YOUR READS!

AFTER THE WAR
TOM PALMER

reviewed by Luke Randell, aged 11



This book is about three boys who survive the Holocaust, and end up in the Lake District – where they're safe and sound after a very difficult time in their lives.

It's based on real things that happened, after the author did a lot of research talking to experts and survivors of the Holocaust.

I thought the story was very good, and it made me think about the Holocaust from the perspective of someone who lived through it.

FERGUS THE FURBALL
EMILY SNAPE

reviewed by Florence Moniz, aged eight



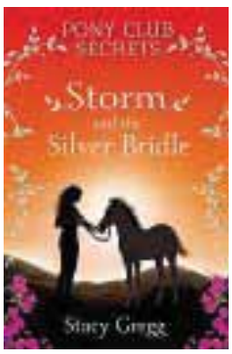
This book is about a boy called Daniel who never enjoyed his birthday because his younger brother Fergus kept ruining it by showing off to his parents.

On his tenth birthday, when Daniel's mum and dad went to Scotland and his aunt had to look after him and Fergus, Daniel made a special birthday wish. He wished that his brother would become a guinea pig, and his wish really came true!

As the days went past, Daniel started to get worried that if his mum and dad came back early, they would be mad at him that his brother was a guinea pig. So he tried to undo his wish.

I enjoyed this book because it is very amusing to read and I met the author during her visit at our school.

There are many amazing illustrations inside the book that I love too. I can imagine that I will miss my brother if he turns into something else like Fergus.



STORM AND THE SILVER BRIDLE
STACY GREGG

reviewed by Alyssa Mercer, aged nine

Horses are a major part of my life just like they are for Issy. Issy and her colt Storm are an inseparable pair. But when Storm gets stolen, she has to travel all the way to the other side of the world to get him back.

Danger lurks around every corner, but Issy's true heroic nature helps her on her adventure to rescue Storm. Join Issy while she ventures to find Storm and makes friends along the way.

Not just horse lovers will love this story; anyone will. It will be with you from a child to adulthood.

WE WANT YOUR BOOK REVIEWS!

We'll need around 100 words on a book you've been reading and a picture of yourself (with parents' permission!) sent to bookreviews@firstnews.co.uk.

WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?

POND TROOPER LIGHT-UP BATH DUCK
IWANTONEOFTHOSE.COM £9.99



This amazing bath duck features an internal light that turns on when it comes into contact with water and switches off when you lift it out of the bath. The automatic colour-changing LED bulbs light up and cycle through a range of fun colours.

*All prices correct at time of printing

LIGHTS

MOTION-CONTROLLED LIGHT-UP LED HELIBALL
MENKIND.CO.UK £9.97

This cool little flying ball has two modes to choose from. Use sensor mode to gently guide the heliball towards the ground, or control its speed and height using the remote control. The heliball also has four light modes for you to choose from, allowing the LEDs to put on dazzling light displays while flying.



PORTABLE USB DISCO LIGHT
TEMPTATIONGIFTS.COM £5.99

Take the party with you anywhere you go with this super-bright and portable disco light. The light will respond when it hears music, creating a colour-changing disco show for you to dance to!



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WIN! UNITED KINGDOM CELEBRATION PRESENTATION SETS

ROYAL Mail has issued four new stamps in celebration of the United Kingdom's greatest strengths and accomplishments.



The stamps explore just some of the ways in which Britain leads the way. From sporting achievement to technological innovation, and from creative excellence to our strong sense of community spirit, the UK excels in a host of different ways.

The four stamps are printed within a miniature sheet in a colourful interpretation of the Union Flag.

We have 15 United Kingdom: A Celebration Presentation Packs containing all four stamps up for grabs.

For your chance to win one of them, just answer this question:

In which county would you find Land's End?
a) Pembrokeshire b) Cornwall c) Shetland

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY UK
firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 19. The closing date is 4 March 2021.

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FUN FUNDRAISING

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

by Alexa Drakes

OVER lockdown, I have done lots of different fundraising activities to raise money for two charities: Together for Short Lives and Macmillan Cancer Support.

Last year, I qualified for the finals of the Little Miss Teen Great Britain competition. It is meant to be happening in October 2021 and I am so excited!

To prepare for the final I have been doing lots of fun fundraising activities, such as a virtual Macmillan Coffee Morning, hosting an online quiz and even helping my mum do an online dance competition. In the end, I raised £1,608 for Together for Short Lives and £60 for Macmillan Cancer Support, but I have even more events planned!

Together for Short Lives is a charity that supports children and young adults with life-limiting conditions. Macmillan Cancer Support is a charity that pays for nurses to look after people with cancer.

I have also been taking part in online campaigns to raise awareness about discrimination (and how it should be stopped), ASD (autism spectrum disease) and premature babies.

Miss Teen Great Britain is a competition open to girls aged 10-18 that helps girls with their self-confidence and lets them make lots of new friends.

There are three different sections and I am in the Little Miss division, as I am ten. At the finals, we all participate in a challenge day, where we all take part in lots of fun activities and a photoshoot.

The finals will run over one weekend. Preparing for this has been so much fun and I can hardly wait until the finals in October!



Alexa taking part in the virtual Macmillan Coffee Morning

WE WANT TO HEAR WHAT YOU/YOUR SCHOOL IS UP TO

Write in to tell us what you've been doing! Have you been making something? Discovered a new hobby? How has the coronavirus affected your school, friends and family? Why not share your experiences with *First News* readers?

Email your report (including pictures) to **yournews@firstnews.co.uk**

Don't forget to include your name and age (and your school's name and address for school news reports). By writing in, you give consent to *First News* printing details and photographs of those involved in the report.

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MARVIN'S Magic's Ultimate Magic: 250 Tricks & Stunts is a great selection of amazing magic tricks to impress your friends with.

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Six lucky winners will win a Marvin's Magic Ultimate Magic: 250 Tricks & Stunts set. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:



Which of these was a famous magician?
a) Harry Houdini
b) Hector Houdini
c) Henry Houdini

Marvin's Magic

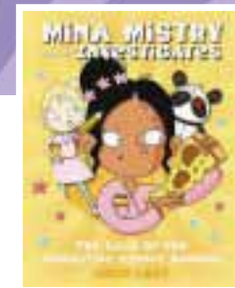
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WIN! A MINA MISTRY INVESTIGATES BOOK BUNDLE



CHICKEN nuggets on pizza? Covered in chocolate?! Hang on! Disappearing hamsters? Vanishing toads? This needs investigating...

School's boring when you're going to be something cool like a private investigator! Until then, Mina's going to practise for her future...

Mina Mistry Investigates by Angie Lake (published by Sweet Cherry Publishing) is a laugh-out-loud detective series packed with fun illustrations, case notes and top-secret profiles!



We have 25 *Mina Mistry Investigates* book bundles up for grabs. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

What is the name of Mina's sidekick in the books?
a) Mr Toad b) Mr Mouse
c) Mr Panda

Sweet Cherry

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SPORT IN NUMBERS

1 point separated Scotland and Wales in their Six Nations clash at Murrayfield, as the Welsh won 25-24. The Scots led 17-8 at half-time before Zander Fagerson was sent off and Wales took control. Louis Rees-Zammit (below) scored two of four tries, which earned the Dragons a bonus point.


Getty

317 runs was the winning margin for India as they thrashed England in the second Test in Chennai. England were chasing a target of 482 on the fourth day, but ended up being bowled out for 164. Ravichandran Ashwin (below) was the stand-out bowler for India, taking 8-96 across both innings. The series is tied at 1-1.



Getty

14 minutes 43 seconds was the record-breaking time set by Beatrice Chepkoech in the women's 5km road race. Chepkoech set the record at the Monaco Run. The Kenyan took a whole second off the previous record, set in 2019 by Sifan Hassan.


Getty

BANKES BANKS GOLD!


Getty

Snowboarder Charlotte Bankes on her way to a gold medal

BRITAIN'S Charlotte Bankes has won her first Snowboard Cross World Championships title, after bagging gold at Idre Fjäll, Sweden.

The 25-year-old pipped Olympic champion Michela Moioli of Italy by just 0.08 seconds. The Czech Republic's Eva Samková took bronze, while five-time world champion Lindsey Jacobellis of the USA finished a disappointing ninth.

Although she was born in the UK, Bankes previously represented France, where she lived from the age of four. She switched to Team GB in 2018.

Meanwhile, at the Alpine Ski World Championships in Italy, there was drama in the women's alpine combined event as 17 out of 33 riders failed to finish the race due to the icy conditions. Three of those didn't complete the first race, and the other 14 struggled in the second.

The USA's Mikaela Shiffrin (right) battled on to win the first alpine combined world championship gold of her career, and her ninth world medal overall. This makes Shiffrin the most decorated American skier in World Championships history, with six golds, one silver and two bronzes.


Getty

It has also been a great World Championships for Switzerland. Lara Gut-Behrami won the Super G title and Corinne Suter took gold in the downhill.

Suter is the first Swiss woman to win the downhill world title since Maria Walliser in 1989.

FLY-BY FAN


Getty

TRESPASSERS aren't normally allowed on to the courts at the Australian Open.

But this fluttering fan was permitted special access. Japanese tennis ace Naomi Osaka was about to serve during her third-round win against Ons Jabeur of Tunisia when a butterfly landed on her legs.

Osaka gently picked up her flying friend and placed it on the side of the court, only for it to return and land on her face.

The court invasion didn't fluster the world number three, though. As *First News* went to press she was preparing for a semi-final against the legendary Serena Williams.

Fans were barred from the tournament for five days after a cluster of COVID-19 cases were discovered in Melbourne. The outbreak was not linked to any players.

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