

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

**PUPPY
WITH SIX
LEGS!**
P5



**RED
NOSE
DAY**

**FUNNY
IS POWER**

HA!

HA!

HA!

P12

**RAYA AND
THE LAST
DRAGON**
P24

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First News

**HELPING
THE UK GROW**

NEWS | SPORTS | ENTERTAINMENT | INTERVIEWS | PUZZLES | COMPETITIONS

PET SHOCK

**ARE YOU
LIVING NEXT
DOOR TO SOME
OF THE WORLD'S
DEADLIEST
CREATURES?**

Wild animals being
kept as "pets" in the UK

- 2 elephants
- 158 crocodilians
- 332 scorpions
- 106 venomous lizards
- 508 venomous snakes
(including 57 diamondback rattlesnakes)
- 320 wild cats (including 11 lions, 8 tigers,
11 leopards, 18 pumas, 10 cheetahs and 1 jaguar)
- 274 primates (including more than 150 lemurs)



NEARLY 4,000 dangerous wild animals are being kept as "pets" in Britain.

by editor in chief Nicky Cox

That's the finding of a new survey from Born Free. Now, the charity is calling on the Government to put a stop to some of the world's most remarkable but, sometimes, dangerous animals being kept captive as if they were pets.

Born Free's data shows that 210 Dangerous Wild Animal (DWA) licences were given out in 2020 for keeping 3,951 wild animals in the UK, including elephants, lions and crocodiles. Other

species on the DWA list that are being kept as pets or in private collections in the UK are zebras, camels, hyenas, sun bears, wolves and otters.

Vet Dr Mark Jones from Born Free says there's been a huge rise in the number of exotic pets with private owners. The demand is damaging wild populations that are often already under threat.

Anyone in Britain can keep a dangerous wild animal as long as they get a licence from their local council. But Born Free says not enough is done

to make sure the animals are cared for properly and that people are safe.

Just last year a hybrid savannah cat escaped in London, while a seven-foot-long (213cm) boa constrictor appeared in a garden on the Isle of Sheppey, then turned on its rescuer, biting his hand and wrapping itself around his wrist.

The Government has recently proposed a ban on the keeping of primates as pets, but Born Free says there are many other species that need to be protected, too.



**YOUR
QUESTIONS
ANSWERED
BY SCHOOL
CHIEF GAVIN
WILLIAMSON**

P10



UP FOR AN AWARD



Our children's news show FYI has been nominated for a Royal Television Society (RTS) Award. The special episode *FYI Investigates – Brazil: Children Caught In The Crossfire* can be watched now at [firstnews.org.uk/news/EducationTV](https://www.firstnews.org.uk/news/EducationTV) or [firstnews.org.uk/investigates](https://www.firstnews.org.uk/investigates). The award ceremony will be streamed live on Tuesday 16 March at 6:30pm at [rts.org.uk/award/rts-programme-awards-2021](https://www.rts.org.uk/award/rts-programme-awards-2021).

TREES FOR TOM



Trees will be planted around the world in memory of Captain Sir Tom Moore. The Woodland Trust in the UK and the international TreeSisters charity will help to plant the "legacy forest", as part of the Trees For Tom campaign. Sir Tom's family hope enough money will be raised to plant a memorial woodland in Yorkshire.

PM'S AWARD

Teenager Jack Berry has received the prime minister's Points of Light award. The award celebrates outstanding people in the UK. Fourteen-year-old Jack, who has autism, was recognised for creating his own book called *Flying High In The Sunlit Silence*. Jack illustrated the book during the pandemic, to help raise money for military charities. It features images of lots of different types of aircraft.

QUICK NEWS

TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS

CLIMATE CONCERNS

Climate change is the top concern for UK students, shows a new poll by education company Chegg.org. The research found that 35% of university students ranked it as the biggest issue facing their generation. That beat other issues such as healthcare, good jobs and housing.



LITTLE LESS RICH



Elon Musk is no longer the world's richest person. The Tesla boss lost \$15.2bn (£10.7bn), after shares in his electric car company fell. He's now the second most wealthy man again, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. Amazon founder Jeff Bezos moved back to top spot again, with a fortune of \$186.3bn (£131bn). The rankings change daily, so it could be all change again by the time you read this!

POWER OF READING

Singer Nicola Roberts is supporting a new reading campaign for better mental health. The *Masked Singer* star is fronting the Read, Talk, Share initiative. She's encouraging people to enjoy a good book, to help tackle feelings of loneliness and promote better wellbeing.

SURPRISE HARRY INTERVIEW

Prince Harry has taken part in a surprise interview with British talk show host James Corden. The pair toured LA on a bus, while talking about the royal family, Meghan and Archie. During the chat, the Prince revealed that his son's first word was crocodile and that the Queen bought the tot a waffle-maker for Christmas. Harry and Meghan's big interview with Oprah Winfrey airs in America this week (on 7 March).

SPLENDID SUNSET

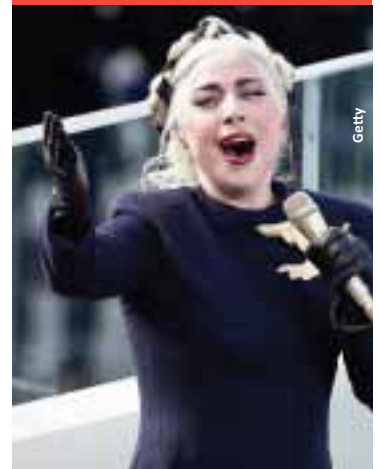
The Sussex coast has been voted among the 25 best places in the world to watch the sunset. That's according to travel company Far & Wide. The cliffs between Seaford and Beachy Head are said to be the best spots, or the Crabshack in Worthing if you want a bite to eat while you watch the sun sink.



NEW CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER

Dame Rachel de Souza has taken over as the new Children's Commissioner for England. She replaces Anne Longfield, who had been in the job since 2015. Dame Rachel de Souza has more than 25 years' experience working in education. She said it was a great honour to step into the role, adding: "I'm looking forward to standing up for children across England."

GAGA'S DOGS HOME



Lady Gaga's dogs have been returned safely, after they were taken during an attack on the singer's dog walker. Ryan Fischer was shot as he walked the star's French bulldogs Koji, Miss Asia and Gustav in West Hollywood. Two of the dogs were taken, but later handed over to police. Mr Fischer is now recovering, while an investigation has been launched.

PLASTIC SWAP



Ribena is to swap plastic straws for paper ones on its drink cartons. The move will help to save 16 tonnes of plastic a year. From July, the Government has banned plastic straws from being stuck on any juice cartons.

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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

HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES IS HELPING THE UK GROW



HRH, The Prince of Wales has campaigned for the environment for 50 years. Over the recent half term, HRH challenged children to engage with nature. In Challenge One: Seed Planting, the first of the week-long series of challenges, the Prince encouraged the UK to grow. Now, he is happy to support our #HelpingTheUKGrow campaign. Helping The UK Grow is seeing children at home and in schools growing something to symbolise growth and new life as we all get outside on the road to recovery from the pandemic.

Prince Charles, who is in line to be our next king, said during half term: "Plant the seeds left from cooking vegetables and see how long it takes them to sprout. But, whatever you do, look closely. Notice the way Nature organises everything so precisely, using the sorts of shapes I'm sure you have drawn in school with a pair of compasses – circles, spirals, five-pointed stars.

"I promise you, once you start looking at Nature and searching for these common shapes, you will see them everywhere. And that's because they are so useful to

Nature. The more you look at every leaf or seed or feather, you see that they have so much in common; they all work in the same way to keep life going.

"And, don't forget that we have those patterns in us too, which is why it's so important to spend this time looking at how Nature works – it teaches us how we work too. It makes us realise that if we help Nature thrive by making sure the soil is healthy, that there are trees, that there is birdsong, we thrive too."



HOMES WITH KIDS GET FREE COVID TESTS



THE Government has announced that English families will be given free COVID-19 test kits twice a week.

Rapid lateral flow tests, which can detect the coronavirus within 30 minutes, will be provided to all families and households with primary, secondary school and college-aged children.

The tests can be picked up from hundreds of locations across the country. Families can also take the tests at local testing sites.

The news comes as English pupils are set to return to school on 8 March. England's Education Secretary Gavin Williamson said the tests "will provide yet another layer of reassurance to parents and education staff that schools are as safe as possible".

The Welsh government has said that rapid tests will be available twice a week for pupils in years 11-13 from 15 March, when those year groups are due to go back to school.

Scotland has said that tests will be available for older secondary pupils in years S4 and S5. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon also said that all secondary pupils will be back at school part-time from 15 March, while P4-7 will be back full-time from the same date.

Northern Ireland has yet to agree to rapid testing in schools, although science officials are expected to recommend it shortly.

NEW VACCINE ON THE WAY



THE first COVID-19 vaccine that needs one dose instead of two has been approved in the US and should be heading to the UK shortly.

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine, made by its Belgian company Janssen, was approved for use by the US Food and Drug Administration.

The UK has already ordered more than 30m doses of the new vaccine, even though it's not yet been approved in the UK. There are rumours that the MHRA, the agency that approves medication in the UK, will start the approval process this week. However, the vaccine may not begin to be distributed in the UK until the second half of 2021.

WOW!

BABY Shark has reached another landmark, becoming the first video to hit eight billion YouTube views!

The song that delights toddlers (and drives everyone else up the wall!) was already YouTube's most viewed video ever. However, this new milestone puts it well ahead of the No2 video, the song *Despacito*, which has had 7.2bn views.





Mom Mosley III / Facebook

THE Mosley family spent ten hours working on this snake snow sculpture. The snake measures 23 metres (77ft) long. The family created the snake shape before using spray paint to bring the creature to life.



Getty

TRIUMPH the koala was taken into care in 2017 after being found alone. Vets discovered that Triumph was missing a foot, a birth defect that affected his ability to move. After a long search by Triumph's carers at Friends of the Koala, a specialist dentist took a cast of Triumph's stump and created a prosthetic boot-like attachment made from rubber, which he attached with Velcro. The five-year-old koala was recently fitted with his new foot and has been happily grooming, climbing and crawling.



Getty

THE full moon sets behind the southeast crater of Mount Etna, as it sends steam into the still night air. Etna is Europe's highest active volcano and one of the world's most active volcanoes. In recent weeks it has had lots of sudden outbursts of ash emissions from its southeastern crater.



Getty

A ROBOT zooms down a slope during a robot skiing competition.



Getty

BEDFORD, UK

A VINTAGE C-47 Dakota performs a flypast as the funeral service for Captain Sir Tom Moore took place. WWII veteran Sir Tom raised almost £33 million for NHS charities ahead of his 100th birthday last year by walking laps of his garden.



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FOOD GOING TO WASTE

AN unbelievable 17% of all the food produced for consumers (people who buy things for themselves and their families) is wasted around the world, says a new report by the United Nations Environment Programme.

That's enough food wasted in a year to fill 23 million fully-loaded 40-tonne trucks, which together could circle the Earth bumper-to-bumper seven times.

The report found that no matter which country was looked at, a lot of food was being wasted, with the majority being binned by households.

This week is also Food Waste Action Week, which aims to show us all the things we can do to reduce waste. This includes using up leftover food and freezing food to make it last longer.

Sarah Clayton, head of Love Food Hate Waste, said: "The last time we measured food waste in the UK we saw a big drop of nearly half a million

tonnes over three years. That's enough food to fill the Royal Albert Hall ten times over! Stopping that food going to waste saved the UK £1 billion per year. And when the United Nations reported on how well the world's countries are doing in preventing food waste, it called the UK a very good example and one of two top performers. But we do need to do more, and that's why Food Waste Action Week is so important and something we can all get involved in."

To find out more about Food Waste Action Week, which is taking place until 7 March, head to www.lovefoodhatewaste.com.

EDITOR'S COMMENT



MONDAY sees all children in England going back to school.

Some pupils in other parts of the UK have already gone back. For many of you, I'm sure it's a big relief to have normal lessons again and to see your friends and teachers.

But, we know some of you are feeling a bit anxious, too. Turn to page 10 to hear from the Government's Education Secretary, which should answer some of your questions.

Happy schooling!

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GOOD WEEK FOR

THIS RARE BEE

A RARE bee has been spotted for the first time in almost 100 years. *Pharohylaeus lactiferus* is native to Australia, and was last seen in 1923.

Only six have ever been found, and it was rediscovered while bee scientists were trying to find out whether it had become extinct.



James Dorey Photography

BAD WEEK FOR

PRIMARK

THE high street store has lost around £1.1 billion of sales during the current lockdown. The chain has been hit by store closures and its refusal to set up online shopping.



Getty

SIX-LEGGED SKIPPER



A SIX-legged puppy with two tails has been born in America.

Vets have described little Skipper as a "miracle", after she was born with double body parts. The team at Neel Veterinary Hospital thinks she was supposed to be a twin, but the two didn't separate properly.

Skipper is thought to be the first puppy to have ever been born alive with her rare condition. Vets say she is strong and should hopefully live a healthy life.



Facebook / Neel Veterinary Hospital

Destiny Africa & Kampala Children Centre

DIARY DATES

DESTINY AFRICA LIVE ONLINE 5-7 MARCH

Destiny Africa Children's Choir is having its first digital concert! It will feature a cappella music, drumming, traditional dancing and uplifting songs.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 8 MARCH

A day to celebrate women's achievements and call for more equality for women.

CAIRNGORMS

● Climb a mountain at home!

All 1,700 square miles (4,402km²) of the Cairngorms have been recreated in *Minecraft*. Dan Harris, who is planning manager for the mountain range, created the epic landscape as a lockdown project. His work is being used to help young people understand how to run a national park. He said: "They've been asked to create a community that meets the aims of the national park. So, things they have to start thinking about are how they protect and enhance the natural environment and how they make sustainable use of resources."



Disaporan/Dan/Twitter

ABERDEENSHIRE

● MRI pioneer dies

A man who helped create a scanner that can detect cancer has died at the age of 94. In the 1970s, Professor John Mallard led a team at the University of Aberdeen who developed the first whole-body magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner. Nowadays, MRI scanners are used around the world to detect and treat a range of conditions and injuries, from cancer to dementia.



University of Aberdeen/Twitter

BRISTOL



Scott_W_UK/Twitter

● Plane grounded

Most planes take to the skies, but one took to the tarmac last Saturday. If you were in a car going along the M5, M4 or M32, you might have been surprised to see the fuselage (body) of a Boeing 727 aeroplane! The plane was on a trip to Bristol from Cotswold Airport, where it will be turned into office space for a tech company called Pytch. As it was driven by a lorry along the motorway at a steady 20mph, the plane took up two lanes and had a police escort to make sure it reached its new home safely.



Pytch UK/Twitter

DEVON

● WW2 bomb exploded

A bomb from World War 2 was found and safely detonated in Exeter. More than 2,600 homes and around 1,400 students living at the University of Exeter had to be evacuated from the area before the blast could take place. The city of Exeter was attacked a lot by German bombers during World War 2 – a total of 19 raids took place.



Exeter Council/Twitter

DORSET

● Bournemouth's beautiful beach

Bournemouth has one of the best beaches in the world, rankings for Tripadvisor's Travellers' Choice awards have shown. It was ranked 20th in the world and the fifth best in Europe. Whitehaven in Australia topped the rankings.



Getty

UK



Cherry blossom trees

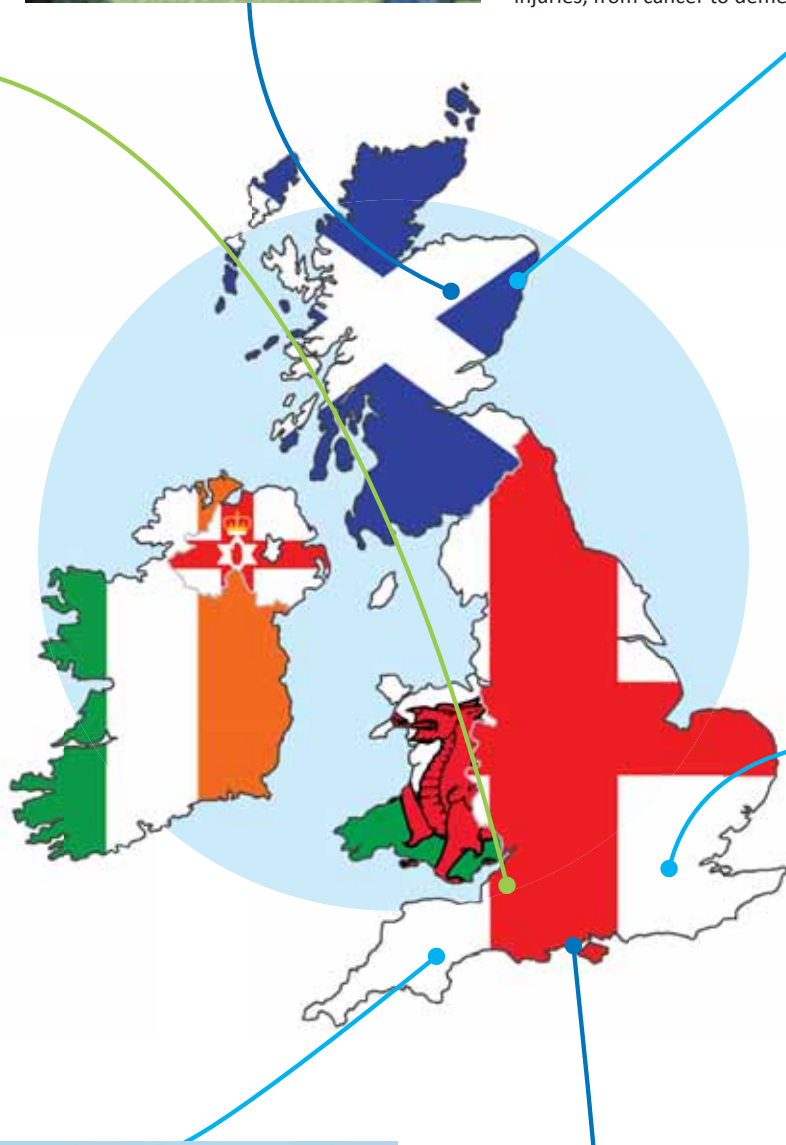
● Blossom boost for UK

The National Trust wants to plant dozens of blossoming trees around the UK, to give people living in towns and cities more access to nature. London, Nottingham, Newcastle and Plymouth will all receive trees, with other areas to follow.

GREATER LONDON

● Warmth from waste

Plans for England's first poo-powered heating could soon warm thousands of homes in London. Thames Water hopes to harness the sewage to heat homes in Kingston upon Thames and help the area become greener. Thames Water says that by using the renewable waste energy instead of fossil fuel gases, it could save 105,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions over a 30-year period.



RUNNING FOR GOSH



THESE two boys each ran more than 100 kilometres during February to raise money for Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH).

Oli Broadwith (left, aged 12) and his brother Tom (right, aged nine) from Berkhamsted aimed to run 100km by Rare Disease Day on 28 February, with the goal of raising £150.

Despite the freezing weather, the brothers smashed their target distance, each running an incredible 135.34km! Together, they raised a whopping £5,171.

The two are regularly monitored at the GOSH Zayed Centre, having been diagnosed with a rare heart condition themselves.

To hear from Oli and Tom themselves in their thank-you video message, head over to first.news/happynews.

HOLS ON HOLD?



THERE'S been lots of talk about whether 'immunity passports' will allow people to take holidays soon, but since children won't be vaccinated for a very long time, what does that mean for your chances of a holiday this year?

Some countries want to use some kind of digital or paper certificate so that people can show they've had their COVID-19 vaccination and are safe to travel. But not everyone is convinced this is a good approach.

"We don't know if vaccines completely stop transmission [passing the virus on], and we don't know how long that might last," says Professor David Heymann, a global health expert from Chatham House. "Until we understand these things completely, vaccine certificates will be a false security."

"There is unlikely to be a vaccine for under-16s until 2022," Professor Kelley Lee, the head of the Pandemics & Borders Project, told us. "Children do tend to have less severe illness, but there is some evidence that variants spread more easily among children. What does this mean for travel? There are two risks to consider: risk to children and

risk to others. Countries with high levels of vaccination reduce a child's risk, but all travel remains risky until large numbers of people are vaccinated worldwide. You also risk taking the virus elsewhere and infecting others. If vaccine certificates are made mandatory by some countries, unvaccinated children may not be allowed in. On balance, while the UK is on track for vaccination targets, most countries are not. I would recommend holidaying within the UK until next year, when some countries will have caught up."

A spokesperson for travel association ABTA told us: "The Government wants to get people travelling overseas again before the summer, but we don't yet know how that will happen. Showing that you have had a vaccine could be one way to travel abroad, but we think there needs to be other ways to travel, such as showing proof of a negative test."

MORE CHORES FOR GIRLS IN LOCKDOWN

NEW research from global education charity Theirworld has found that girls have been doing more chores in lockdown, and it's affecting their schoolwork.

Two-thirds (66%) of girls and women aged 14 to 24 say they are spending more time cooking because of the pandemic, compared with just a third (31%) of boys in the same age group.

Girls were also found to be doing more household chores like cleaning and shopping.

Justin van Fleet, president of Theirworld, said that the results were "alarming" and that even after lots of progress, "girls risk falling behind as a result of the pandemic".

Are you doing more chores while at home? Tell us about your experience in an email to newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk.



A BIG NEW BUDGET



THE UK's economy has been hit hard during the pandemic, and this week we found out what Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak (the man in charge of the country's money) is planning to do to help the country recover during 2021.

Each year, the UK's Chancellor sets out how the Government will spend its money for the oncoming year and beyond. This plan is called the Budget.

When First News went to press, Rishi Sunak hadn't actually set out his big Budget plans to Parliament yet, but a few details had already slipped out.

It's thought that a massive £5 billion fund will be set up to help the high street recover from COVID-19. Businesses on the high street would be able to claim up to £18,000 each to help them reopen.

As much as £400 million will be given to the UK's cultural sector, to help concert venues, art galleries and performance spaces.

There are also plans to help communities to buy businesses and buildings that are important to them, if they're in danger of going bankrupt. The new fund set to open over the summer will give communities the opportunity to bid for up to £250,000 to help them buy sports clubs, theatres, music venues or even post office buildings.

There's sure to be plenty more to talk about, so look out for next week's issue, where we'll be looking at what this week's Budget means for you and your family.

FRANCE



Getty

● Former president found guilty

The former president of France, Nicolas Sarkozy, has been found guilty of corruption [dishonest, illegal behaviour], and has been given a three-year jail sentence. The court ruled that Mr Sarkozy had offered a judge a nice job on the southeast coast of France in exchange for information on a separate investigation into Mr Sarkozy's finances. It is unlikely that the former president will spend any time in jail, however. It was agreed that Mr Sarkozy would only actually spend a year at home with an electronic tag, instead of in prison. However, his appeal against the sentence means he is still free for now.

MYANMAR



● Violence in Myanmar

The military and police in Myanmar have used lethal violence against protesters, who were holding rallies against the military's takeover of the country. The UN says at least 18 people have been killed, and condemned the violence. Across Asia, in Thailand, Taiwan and Hong Kong, activists held rallies to support Myanmar's protesters.



Getty

ISRAEL



Getty

● Vaccine arguments

Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, has been stopped from shipping COVID-19 vaccines to other countries after a legal challenge that argued vaccines were being used for political gain. Mr Netanyahu has also been criticised for sharing just a few thousand doses with the millions of Palestinians who live under Israeli control. UN human rights experts say it is "unacceptable".

INDONESIA



Muhammad Suranto

● Hello stranger!

In the 1840s, a mystery bird was caught, described to science and stuffed. For 180 years, the stuffed specimen has been the only proof of the black-browed babbler's existence. But, in October last year, two men captured a bird they didn't recognise, took photos, and sent them off to be studied by researchers. Experts have now confirmed that the bird is a black-browed babbler. Conservationists plan to visit the site where the bird was photographed, as soon as they're allowed to travel again.

USA



Getty

● Punishing the prince

Last week, a report from the US said that Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the leader of Saudi Arabia, ordered the murder of US citizen and journalist Jamal Khashoggi. Mr Khashoggi criticised Saudi Arabia in his articles, and was murdered while visiting the Saudi embassy in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2018. US President Joe Biden said to the Crown Prince that he will hold Saudi officials "accountable for human rights abuses."

ANTARCTICA



● Iceberg breaks away

A big iceberg, nearly the size of London, has broken away from the Antarctic. The iceberg is on the Brunt Ice Shelf, which is a massive chunk of the Antarctic in the Weddell Sea, close to the Atlantic Ocean. It's an entirely normal process for ice to break away, but Professor Adrian Luckman, a remote-sensing expert at Swansea University, said that huge events like these "remain quite rare and exciting."



BAS/Andy Van Kints

OUR WORLD



NAME: KALEB
LIVES: LEICESTERSHIRE

FOUR-year old Kaleb has cerebral palsy, a condition that affects his whole body.

He is also non-verbal [doesn't talk] and visually impaired. He attends Steps Conductive Education, a project funded by Comic Relief, which helps children with motor learning difficulties develop the skills they need to progress.

Kaleb's mum Becki said: "They helped me to open up my eyes, to be able to recognise what he can do and focus on the cans, not the can'ts, the ability and not the disability."



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



Let's all stay **safe.**

Schools are working really hard to help you and your friends stay as safe as possible with the following protective measures in place.



keeping children in the same groups or 'bubbles' to limit mixing with others



schools using outdoor space as much as they can



having staggered break and lunch times, as well as drop-offs and pick-ups



more cleaning



reducing the use of shared items



not travelling to school on public transport if possible



regular handwashing

BACK TO SCHOOL



GAVIN Williamson is the Government's Secretary of State for Education. That means he is in charge of everything to do with schools in England. He's answered your questions about what to expect when you go back to the classroom on Monday 8 March.

STAY HOME PROTECT THE NHS SAVE LIVES

First News has teamed up with



show FYI and the



to make programmes and videos about the news, which you can watch on **First News Education TV**. This week, FYI is looking at what it's going to be like going back to school after lockdown, with Children's Minister Vicky Ford. Tune in to **episode 113** at first.news/EducationTV.

"We are not making children go to summer schools!"

● How do you know it's safe for us to go back to school?

Thanks to the efforts everyone has made over the last few months, including children and young people, we are in a much better place now. COVID rates have started to go down and we have offered vaccines to the people who need them the most. This means we can welcome back children in all year groups, which has always been top of our list of important things. We are doing even more to help prevent the virus spreading in schools, including COVID testing twice a week for all school staff, secondary school pupils and families, and using face masks in secondary school classrooms. The Chief Medical Officer, Chris Whitty, has said there is a low risk of children getting seriously ill from COVID and the risks are outweighed by the impact of missing school.

● Why haven't our teachers been vaccinated yet? Isn't going back to school putting them in danger?

I am so thankful to all the teachers and staff who have worked so hard throughout this pandemic, making sure you can all carry on learning. The group that gives scientific advice on vaccinations (the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation) has said that the best way to help as many people as possible as quickly as possible is to continue prioritising people by age. Teachers who are over 50 years old and staff, as well as pupils who have underlying medical conditions, are also getting vaccines in the first roll-out of the vaccination programme. In schools, things like rapid testing for staff and pupils, and face masks, will help to keep you and your teachers safe.

● I am worried about coming back to my home and spreading COVID-19 to my family. Is it right that kids can be super-spreaders of the virus?

Of course you want to make sure your families are kept safe, and the measures we are introducing will help to find out about cases quickly and stop it spreading to more people. There is no strong evidence that suggests schools play a big part in spreading lots of cases locally, and research shows that when more children are catching COVID, it tends to be because more adults are already getting it, not the other way around. Pupils in secondary schools will be taking COVID tests twice a week in school, and your families and households can also use weekly rapid testing at home so that cases can be found swiftly.

● What ideas do you have to boost the learning for any kids who have been left behind during home learning?

Making sure pupils can catch up on the work they've missed is really important to us. Schools will get lots of extra money for things like tutoring and summer schooling. But there will also be money for clubs and activities over the summer – because having fun is important too!



● Have you thought about cancelling the whole school year and starting again where we left off when schools were first closed?

This has been such a tough time for children and young people, and I am proud of how well you have handled the challenges the pandemic has thrown at you. But we do not want young people to have to put their lives on hold. We know the impact that not being in school has on pupils – not just for their school work and development, but their wellbeing and mental health. That is why we are prioritising the return for all pupils, so you can carry on learning, seeing your friends and getting the grades you need for the future.

● What can be done to boost both our physical and mental health when we go back to school?

One thing that I tell my children all the time, and I'm sure that your parents say the same, is that being active is so important for both physical and mental health. That's why letting young people play sport and have physical activity will be prioritised as the rules start to lift, and my department is working hard to improve school sport and help children exercise more.

● Will we be better prepared for home learning if this ever happens again? Or will there be better ways to protect us so we can stay in school?

I certainly hope that this won't happen again but, if it did have to, then I am confident we will all be better prepared for home learning. We have the equipment we need for it, and you and your teachers will have done it before. But we are lifting lockdown rules gradually and putting lots of measures in place to help keep everyone in school.



● You're not really going to make us go to summer school, are you? I have heard that in the news.

No, we are not making children go to summer schools. We are helping teachers to put them on for children who they think might benefit from it or might want to. They will have a mix of learning and fun activities and will be really helpful for lots of young people.

● How come we can mix with other kids in school but we can't have play dates and sleepovers with our friends?

I know it's very hard to not be able to see your friends as much as you normally would. There are lots of safety measures in school that mean the risk of spreading the virus is much lower than if you were at a friend's house. But we know how important it is to be with your friends, which is one of the reasons why we're getting pupils back into school.

WILD AT LAST

TEN orangutans have been released back into the forest in Borneo, after a year where orangutan releases were paused because of the global pandemic.

Seven of the animals were released into the Bukit Batikap Protection Forest and three have a new home in Kehje Sewen Ecosystem Restoration Forest. The animals were flown by helicopter to remote areas where they can live safely away from villages.

The releases were organised by the Borneo Orangutan Survival

Foundation (BOSF), which was forced to close its rehabilitation centres to visitors, volunteers and researchers over the past year to keep the animals and the staff caring for them safe.

Most of the animals who are now enjoying a life in the wild had been at the rehabilitation centre for a long time, learning how to be wild again after many years in captivity.



© BOSF 2021 / ANDRANA

STILL CLOSED

ZOOS, aquariums and wildlife parks in England are unhappy with the roadmap out of lockdown, which leaves them closed until at least 12 April.

The date means they will miss out on the Easter weekend and the first week of the Easter holidays, usually an extremely busy time for wildlife attractions. They have been shut for large portions of 2020 and 2021, and many are now concerned about their future.

The British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums said: "It is more important than ever zoos are provided with a Recovery Fund that gets them through #YourZooNeedsYou".



Getty

PAW PARTY!

IF you're barking mad about dogs, then Paws at the Palace could be perfect for you.

The brand-new, two-day festival will be held at Blenheim Palace on 3 and 4 July and will feature a host of doggy-related fun, such as agility shows, grooming tents and talks from breed experts. The event is aimed at families and four-legged friends, with a lot of interactive activities for everyone to get involved in.

Find out more at www.blenheimpalace.com.



HELLO DEER

SAY hello to this cute baby Javan chevrotain (mouse deer), which has been born at Marwell Zoo.

The tiny deer is one of the smallest hoofed animals in the world and weighed just 370g when born.

Tim Rowlands, Marwell Zoo's hoofstock team leader, said: "There are very few zoos who care for any of the mouse deer species, as they are so small in size, very secretive and nocturnal, so any youngster born is great news for the conservation breeding programme. It's vitally important that we work to ensure these wonderful animals do not disappear for good."



Marwell Zoo

In the wild, the animals are found in the evergreen and semi-evergreen forests on the Indonesian Island of Java, and very little is known about them!



Patch Dolan/Comic Relief

MEET ETHAN

At nine years old, Ethan loves to play football with his school friends and to make others laugh. But when Ethan was a baby, his family noticed a difference in the way he was developing. He couldn't sit up and his left hand and foot were turning in.

At 14 months old, Ethan was diagnosed with bilateral polymicrogyria, a brain condition that has impacted his development. The left side of Ethan's body is weaker than his right, and he requires splints on both his legs and left hand. Ethan is also non-verbal and communicates instead through body language, a digital voice program and Makaton, a sign and symbol language.

WHAT HAPPENED?

Ethan's parents turned to Steps Conductive Education Centre for help with his development. Steps supports children with motor learning difficulties to develop the skills they need to make progress and reach their potential. They also provide parents with the knowledge and strength to understand how they can help their child.

Ethan's mum Laura believes that his ability to walk and sit up is because of the support he has received from Steps. Laura says: "They were able to be so specific to what Ethan needed; you walk out of Steps and you know it's the best thing you can be doing. They teach you how to do it from home, so the work continues every day of the child's life."



Patch Dolan/Comic Relief

RED NOSE DAY RETURNS!

RED Nose Day returns this month and it seems more important than ever to have some fun, while making a difference. Money raised through Red Nose Day is used to support people living incredibly tough lives in the UK and around the world. This week we learned about Ethan's story.



Patch Dolan/Comic Relief

THE NEXT STEPS

Ethan attended Steps full-time until he started school this September, only a year later than his classmates.

He now goes to the after-school gym group for older children, called the Gorilla Group, where he does movement tasks, plays football and uses special equipment funded by Comic Relief.

With help from a support worker, Ethan is doing really well at his new school. His mum Laura says: "He takes every opportunity. He rocks up and plays football, and he just fits in with everyone."

A HELPING HAND

Steps Conductive Education Centre supports children under five with motor learning difficulties and runs five days a week. It helps families who may feel isolated and confused by giving them hope and friendship and providing them with the skills they need to help their children at home. Comic Relief funding goes towards specialist sensory and gym equipment. This is used by the centre to help with the children's development and make a difference in their lives.



Patch Dolan/Comic Relief

RED NOSE DAY

- Red Nose Day hopes to bring the nation together to show just how powerful humour can be through the toughest of times. It has never felt more important to raise smiles and money for those who are struggling, as the impact of COVID-19 brings challenges to many.
- The money raised by Red Nose Day will support people in the UK and around the world, and help tackle child poverty, homelessness, domestic abuse and mental health issues.

WEATHER CHANGES ON THE WAY

GLOBAL warming is behind major changes to the Atlantic Ocean weather system, which could lead to more storms and colder winters in Europe.

New data studied by scientists from Ireland, the UK and Germany has found that the Gulf Stream System is the weakest it has been in over 1,000 years.

If global warming continues at its current pace, the system could weaken even further. This is expected to lead to higher sea levels on the Atlantic coast of America and wild weather in Europe.

Researchers studied “natural archives” of ocean sediments and ice cores going back over 1,000 years. They used data from these ancient bits of nature to reconstruct the history of the Gulf Stream System, which is part of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC).

They found startling evidence that the slowdown in the past few decades is far worse than anything seen in the past millennium – and is likely due to human-caused climate

change. Stefan Rahmstorf from the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, who led the research, explained that the AMOC “works like a giant conveyor belt, carrying warm



The Gulf Stream System

surface water from the equator up north, and sending cold... deep water back down south.”

This circulation provides mild and warm weather to western Europe, including the UK, which is why a potentially major change to the system has left scientists so concerned.

FOSSIL HUNTER HONOURED

THE work of Mary Anning, a 19th century British palaeontologist (fossil expert), is being honoured on a special new set of 50p coins.

Anning was previously on the shortlist to appear on the £50 note, but that honour went to mathematician Alan Turing.

Now, her discoveries of Jurassic-era creatures will appear on three very special coins. The first to be released features the *Temnodontosaurus*, which was up to ten metres long and had an eye the size of a football. The other coins will feature a marine reptile called *Plesiosaurus* and a pterosaur called a *Dimorphodon*.

The coins aren’t going into general circulation; they cost from £10 up to £1,100!



Royal Mint

BRING ANIMALS BACK TO LIFE!



Museum Alive

A NEW science app featuring David Attenborough allows you to bring extinct animals into your home.

Museum Alive, an augmented reality app, uses skeletons, behaviours and mannerisms to create accurate 3D models and animation of three long-lost animals.

The app, which features footage from David Attenborough’s TV programmes, allows you to meet a 300-million-year-old fish-like creature with five eyes and a trunk, an early flying dinosaur and a fearsome sabre-toothed tiger.

SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

This report is from the Science Museum in London

FOR International Women’s Day we’re commemorating Lise Meitner.

She was a pioneering physicist who co-discovered nuclear fission, the process of splitting an atom to release energy. Meitner was born in 1878 in Vienna, Austria, and developed a love for physics from an early age. She was one of only four women admitted to the University of Vienna in 1901. Four years later, she became the second woman to receive a doctorate there. In 1926 she became the first female physics professor in Germany.

She later worked on the discovery of nuclear fission. Sadly, she did not get the credit she deserved until recently, but her contributions to physics continue to impact our world today. In 1997, a chemical element was named ‘meitnerium’ in her honour.



Getty

KIDS’ TECH SHOWCASE LAUNCHES



Coolest Projects

AN international online scheme to showcase technology created by young people has launched.

Coolest Projects, which is organised by Raspberry Pi, is a free online showcase that allows children and teenagers’ tech ideas to be viewed by people all over the world.

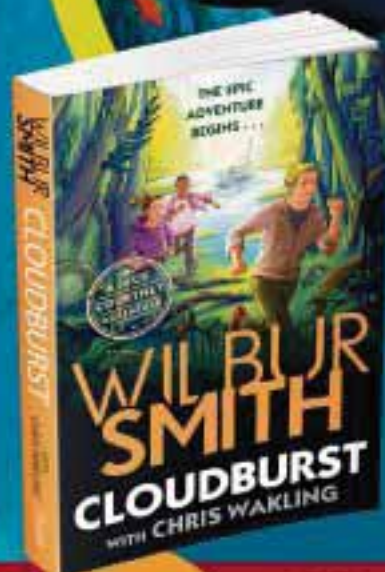
You can enter a project that’s an animation, a website, game, app, robot, or anything else – as long as it’s built with technology.

All project types at all levels of skill are encouraged, from beginner to advanced, and it doesn’t matter whether the project is a work in progress, a prototype or a finished product.

The scheme aims to help young people develop skills including idea creation, project design and planning, coding and user-testing.

A panel of judges will assess entries and choose their favourites later in the year. To find out more and register your idea, visit coolestprojects.org before 3 May. You can also view last year’s showcase on the website. One of our favourite projects from 2020 is an *Interactive Journey Through the Solar System*, a part-animation, part-game, which was created by an Italian student.

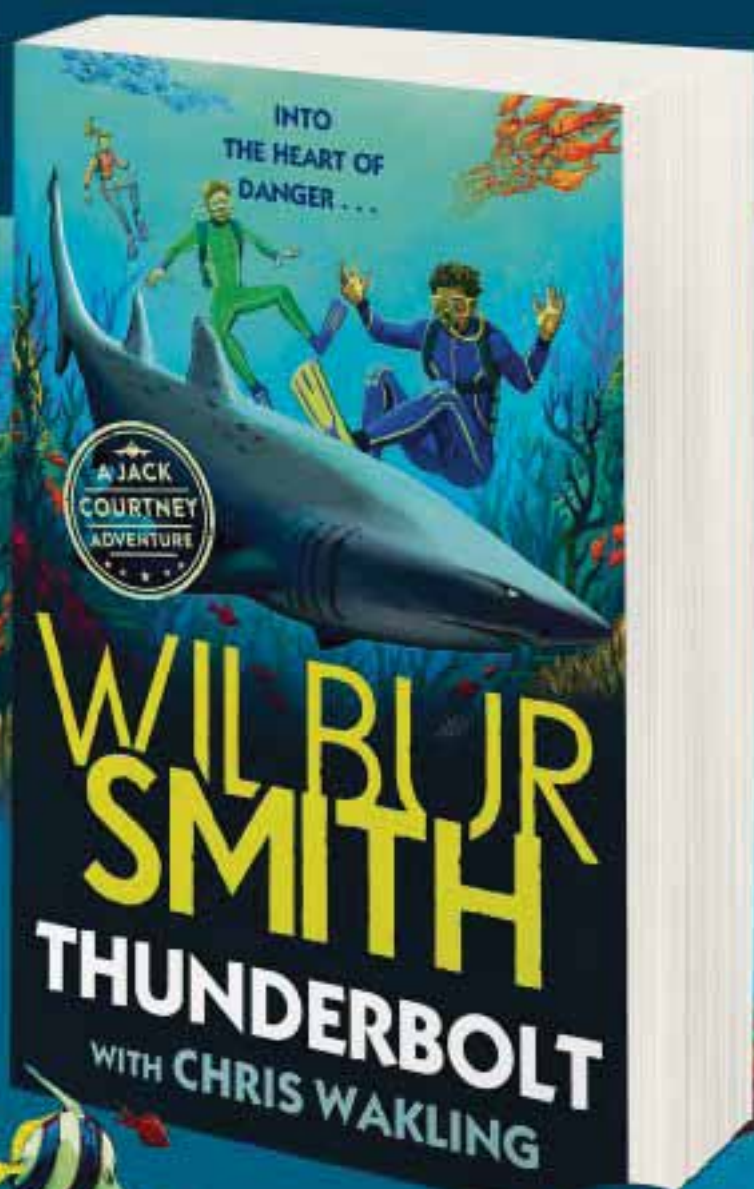
THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES



FOR fans of Alex Rider, here comes the second book in a jaw-dropping adventure series from best-selling author Wilbur Smith with Chris Wakling.

Jack Courtney and his friends are in Zanzibar, diving for lost treasure to support Jack's mother's coral protection project. Going further than usual on their last day, they dive deep into trouble when they are captured by Somali pirates.

Can the friends escape or have they bitten off more than they can chew? Find out in this epic, action-packed read!



If you're new to the adventures of Jack Courtney, don't forget to check out *Cloudburst*, the first book in the series!

10 WAYS YOU CAN HELP CORAL PROTECTION

1. Educate yourself and others about the places you visit when you travel.
2. Only support responsible fishing.
3. Check that land and water-based leisure activities do not harm marine life.
4. Wear a long-sleeved shirt or a rash guard in the sea instead of using harmful sunscreen.
5. Recycle and avoid littering the oceans and beaches.



6. Support charities and initiatives that help to protect coral reefs.
7. Only support businesses and developments that behave responsibly towards marine life and the ocean.
8. Walk, bike or use public transport whenever possible.
9. Minimise the use of fertilisers, as they will end up in our oceans.
10. Take any other measures you can to help to reduce climate change and warming temperatures.

OUT NOW



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE WITH THE ZANZIBAR QUIZ!

- 1 Zanzibar is in which ocean?
a) North Atlantic b) Indian c) South Pacific d) Arctic
- 2 What is Zanzibar Island's official name?
a) Mpapa b) Jendele c) Pongwe d) Unguja
- 3 Which famous singer was born in Zanzibar?
a) Freddie Mercury (of Queen) b) Beyoncé
c) John Lennon (of the Beatles) d) Adele
- 4 Which of these animals will you find in Zanzibar?
a) Giraffes b) Lions c) Red colobus monkeys d) Elephants
- 5 Which of these colours is not on Zanzibar's flag?
a) Red b) Blue c) Black d) Green
- 6 Zanzibar is renowned for its incredible...
a) Mountains b) Desert c) Jungle d) Beaches
- 7 The island's capital is...
a) Bububu b) Zanzibar City c) Mwera d) Stone Town
- 8 Which of these is Zanzibar famous for?
a) Its marine life b) A music concert c) Vineyards d) Cold weather
- 9 At its greatest length, Zanzibar is around _____ long.
a) 82 miles b) 24 miles c) 129 miles d) 53 miles
- 10 Which language is most widely spoken in Zanzibar?
a) French b) English c) Swahili d) Arabic

ANSWERS:
1. a) Indian 2. d) Unguja
3. a) Freddie Mercury (of Queen)
4. c) Red colobus monkeys 5. d) Blue
6. d) Beaches 7. b) Zanzibar City
8. a) Its marine life 9. d) 53 miles
10. c) Swahili

GET ARTY!

AFTER appearing on *Celebrity Supply Teacher* and showcasing his art skills, Ricky Wilson has got his very own series. *Ricky Wilson's Art Jam* will feature celebrity guests, unusual art and some very exciting makes. We found out more from the man himself...

● **In your new show you make art for celebrity guests, so what was that like?**

It was a lot of fun. The important bit is what they bring in to show me, and then it was a real test of my imagination what to do for them. I had to do all the making and I had to come up with all the ideas about what to make them. It was really hard, and at some points it was going wrong and I thought: "Oh no, this is really bad" and I really wanted to make it good. It was at that point that I realised: this is what art is, just let go, have fun with it. As soon as I got back to that point, I realised they were going to be really pleased with anything I make for them because I've put some love into it.

● **Some of your art must have taken ages!**

Oh yeah, some of them took longer than others, but Nick Grimshaw's one was quite impressive. I wanted to make him a toy tower and it turned out great. It was really easy though, and I want to give people

the confidence to try something new. All I did was pile them up and glue them together, but it looked great. There are bits in the show where I touch on technique with drawing and stuff like that, which is really great because obviously rules are important in life. I loved all the hands-on stuff though, all the building stuff!

● **Did any of the celebrities put the art you made them in their houses?**

I know Nick Grimshaw has his lamp in his front room. The painting I did for Nile Wilson, I'm going to unveil it at his gym when COVID is over; it'll be on the wall as you walk in. The last thing we told the celebrities as they left the studio was not to put what I made them on social media, so when the show comes out we will see where the art is in their houses!

● **You do a variety of roles on this show: making, interviewing and being a roving reporter. How did you deal with it?**

It was nerve-racking and it filled me with anxiety. I thought: "Can I do this? Should I be doing this? Is this the thing that I want to do?" And the answer to those questions was yes. We should be pushing ourselves to do things. It's such a weird time and I like the fact that my career has gone in a sort of zig-zag [Ricky was an art teacher before he was a famous pop star]. I'd really like to tell kids out there it is really important to learn maths, English and chemistry and all those subjects that are rule-based. But for a few hours a week in art you get a subject where there are no rules, you are free to be who you want to be and use your creativity. Do what you want and do it again and again and you will learn

and become confident in everything you do in life through art – I promise you!

● **Did you learn any new art skills or uncover any new creativity in yourself?**

I discovered that I needed it more than I thought I did. It really helps me in my everyday life. I love being able to walk into a room with nothing and being able to walk out with something, it's amazing. Also, to be able to gift that to someone is amazing and it means so much more than trawling the internet for a present for someone. I took some paint home and I started painting and I gave my dad a painting of his house for his birthday.

● **Did you watch any art shows when you were young?**

Of course, art shows were my favourite shows on television! I won a Blue Peter badge for designing a poster for a new thing that was coming out called unleaded petrol! I loved it and I always wanted to send something in. When I did *Celebrity Supply Teacher*, within seconds of the show I had kids sending me pictures on Twitter of what they had done, it was fantastic. There was no worry about sending it in and that's what is good about social media: here's what I've done, bang. There's no anxiousness about it, it's great and I'm looking forward to that element of *Art Jam*. Send me what you've done and I'll see it and I'll like it!



Catch *Ricky Wilson's Art Jam* on CBBC Monday to Friday, with all episodes on BBC iPlayer right now as part of BBC Lockdown Learning

PICS OF THE WEEK

THESE stunning images are taken from the brand-new nature series *Attenborough's Life In Colour*.

The two-part series looks at wildlife and how it uses colours. Sir David Attenborough says: "Animals of all kinds use colour in a multitude of different ways. New discoveries are giving us fresh insights into the lives of these animals, and new cameras are allowing us to see into a world of colour as never before. We're only just beginning to understand the many ways in which animals use colour, particularly those colours we can't even see. For us, colour in the natural world is a source of beauty, of wonder, but for animals it's a tool for survival."

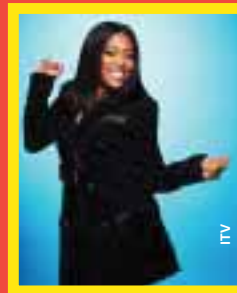
You can catch *Attenborough's Life In Colour* on BBC iPlayer or on BBC One on Sunday at 7pm.



THIS WEEK



1 *Dancing On Ice* will finish a week earlier than planned this year, as so many stars have quit the show because of injury. Jason Donovan was the latest to pull out this week because of ongoing back pain. The final will now take place on 14 March with Sonny Jay, Lady Leshurr (pictured), Colin Jackson and Faye Brookes still in the competition.



2 The BBC Young Composer 2021 competition has launched! If you're aged between 12 and 18, and can write, compose and record your own original piece of music (of any genre), then visit bbc.co.uk/youngcomposer for more information.

3 *Horrible Histories* is getting a Car Park Party revamp. The theatre productions of *Horrible Histories – Barmy Britain* and *Horrible Histories – Gorgeous Georgians & Vile Victorians* will be performed in car parks around the UK this spring. The COVID-safe productions kick off on 12 April. For a full list of dates and venues, visit carparkparty.com.



REECE'S RECIPES

TOP TIP!

Think about texture and make sure it is spot-on!

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

ROCKY ROAD

Ingredients

- 400g milk chocolate
- 55g butter
- 95g biscuits
- 3 chocolate bars of your choice
- Around 50 mini eggs
- 50ml golden syrup

Method

1. Break your biscuits into chunks – you could put them in a sandwich bag and roll a rolling pin over them. Don't make them too small though, as you want some crunch in your rocky road
2. Melt the chocolate, butter and golden syrup in a pan on a low heat until everything has melted and mixed together
3. Add in the biscuits, chocolate and half of your mini eggs, then stir until everything is coated in the chocolate mix
4. Line a square baking tin with baking paper, then pour in the rocky road mixture
5. Sprinkle over the remaining mini eggs
6. Refrigerate overnight, then cut into pieces and enjoy!



Recipe © Reece 2021

If you're inspired by Reece and fancy showing off your baking skills, 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.

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

BOIL

CURD



A box of 'Amazing Magic Changing Pens' featuring a rainbow design and various icons.

Send in your answers and three lucky winners will win a set of Marvin's Magic pens. Create marvellous magic art using 25 magic pens with amazing powers! These magic pens allow you to write secret messages, create stunning 3D lettering, change colours and make your art vanish! MarvinsMagic.com

1		2			3		4		5	
6					7					8
9			10			11				
12						13		14		
					15					
16	17						18			
			19							

1 Task a teacher asks you to do away from school (8)

6 Type of light (4)

7 Tiny pieces of bread (6)

9 Happen again (5)

11 Clothing fastened around the waist (5)

12 E.g. Shrek and those like him (5)

13 Jewel from an oyster shell (5)

16 Shape of a ball (6)

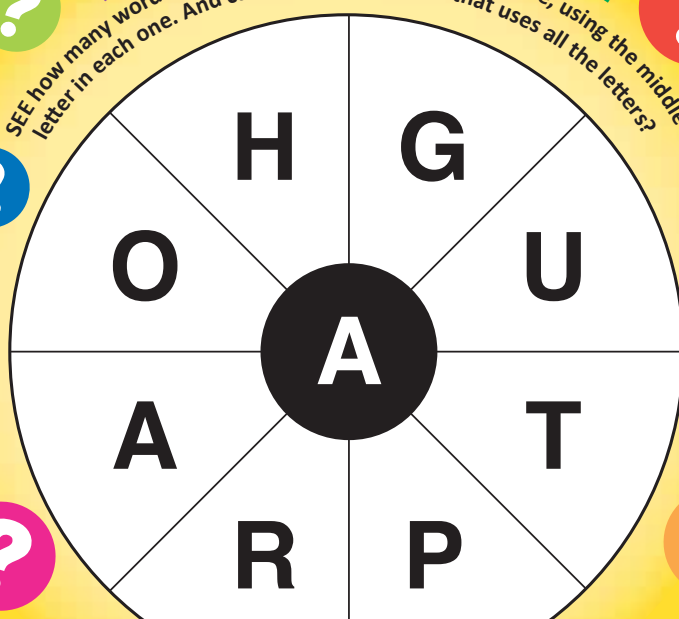
18 Vehicle used to transport passengers for a fee (4)

19 You might do this on a beach (8)

- 1 Very funny (9)
- 2 Copy or imitate (5)
- 3 A single time (4)
- 4 Part of the hand (7)
- 5 Lie (3)
- 8 Spacecraft that orbits the Earth (9)
- 10 Serving no purpose (7)
- 14 Not together (5)
- 15 Unkind (4)
- 17 Animal that oinks (3)

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?



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

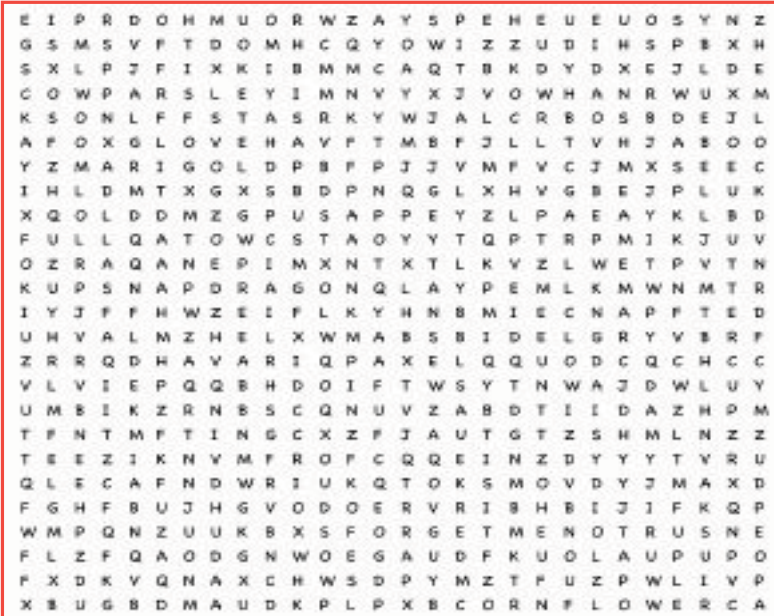
CAN you spot the five changes we've made to this picture from Roald Dahl's *The Witches*?



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WORDSEARCH

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



- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ☐ Daisy | ☐ Dandelion | ☐ Buttercup |
| ☐ Hemlock | ☐ Cornflower | ☐ Marigold |
| ☐ Snapdragon | ☐ Foxglove | ☐ Primrose |
| ☐ Forget-me-not | ☐ Cow parsley | ☐ Bluebell |



WIN! A TOBI ROBOT SMARTWATCH



THE Tobi Robot Smartwatch combines all the interactive features of a smartwatch with a playful robot that's packed with personality.

Watch as Tobi Comes To Life Before Your Eyes™ with its moving robot arms and legs, fun sound effects and 100+ expressions that will keep you giggling, dancing, playing, learning and more!

From learning to tell the time, playing augmented reality games to dancing and using the built-in pedometer, the Tobi Robot Smartwatch offers hours of fun! Plus, it has two cameras for taking selfies and videos, room for up to 3,000 photos or 30 minutes of video, and you can customise your photos with stickers too.

Six lucky winners will each win a Tobi Robot Smartwatch.

To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:



On which planet in our solar system is a day two years long?
a) Mars b) Venus c) Mercury

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY TOBI

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see below. The closing date is 18 March 2021.

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: Scooby has an extra spot, part of Shaggy's belt is missing, pattern on shield has been removed, stripe on Velma's hairband is missing, Daphne's hair is now green. **Word wheel:** twentieth. **Word ladder:** bake, bare, bore, fore, ford, food. **Where on Earth?:** Thailand.

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

WIN! A STEM BUNDLE FROM BANDAI UK

THE incredible National Geographic Kits from Bandai UK will not only draw you away from your screens, but encourage your desire to learn, and inspire you to become scientists.

The National Geographic Explorer Sensory Science Kit is a one-stop science pack that has more than ten awesome activities with varieties of slime, putty and play sand!

You'll even get a selection of slime recipes to make yourself! Young scientists can explore the incredible textures and behaviours of slime, putty and play sand creatively with all the elements in this kit. The Glow-in-the-Dark Mega Science Kit is an astounding collection of experiments and activities that all glow when the lights are out! Inside the kit you'll find a crystal growing set that produces a glow-in-the-dark crystal specimen you can proudly display.

Seven lucky winners will each win an Explorer Sensory Science Kit and a Glow-in-the-Dark Science Kit. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

Available from Next



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What does K stand for in the periodic table?

- a) Titanium b) Potassium
c) Platinum

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY STEM

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 19. The closing date is 18 March 2021.

TELL YOUR FRIENDS

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Reader, age 9



BRAND NEW

Illustrations © Nick East, 2021

Available in paperback from Waterstones.com



LEARNING TO HELP WILDLIFE



Chris Jackson

AN estimated 20,000 elephants are killed by humans every year, and if this continues there is a real chance that they will be extinct by 2040. Wildlife charity Tusk is working with communities in Africa to try to teach them how to live peacefully alongside wildlife.

UNDER THREAT

Elephants are the world's largest land mammal – an adult male can weigh up to 7,500kg. Sadly, the future of these giants is uncertain. The African elephant population has decreased by around 90% in the last century, with only an estimated 415,000 left in the wild. It is widely known that elephants are hunted by poachers for their tusks, but they also come into conflict with other humans. As farmland and human development creeps further into wild areas, elephants and local communities often clash, competing for land, water and other natural resources, which is where organisations like PACE come in.



Tusk



Tusk

WHAT IS PACE?

The Pan African Conservation Education project (PACE) is run in partnership between Tusk and Siren Conservation Education. PACE supports conservation and sustainability education and provides ideas,

information and training for teachers and students across Africa. It is all about sharing simple ideas to make big changes in communities. The programme sprang from a design for a low-technology water pump that was installed by Tusk in northern Kenya. When the idea was passed on to other projects, PACE realised that sharing practical, sustainable solutions to everyday problems could help communities across Africa improve their living standards and help to reduce their impact on wildlife at the same time. Tree nurseries, composting toilets and crop raiding prevention are just a few of the initiatives put in place with the help of PACE.

HRH the Duke of Cambridge, the Royal Patron of Tusk, said: "Today, perhaps more than ever before, Africa's natural heritage – this incredible, sustainable resource for our and future generations – is gravely threatened.

"This is why Tusk's PACE programme is so vital, educating local people to create a sustainable life balance with the wonders of Africa's nature. Already, it has made a real difference. Going into the future, it represents one of the most powerful tools to strengthen communities, combat poaching and save what is irreplaceable."

EDUCATING WITH A STORY

AUTHOR and illustrator Michael Foreman has written and illustrated a new book, in association with Tusk, that tells the story of a young elephant who is orphaned because of poachers. He told us more...

● What made you want to write a story about elephants?

Like everyone else, I have watched programmes on the TV and read articles in newspapers, showing us appalling images of these wondrous animals being killed by poachers simply for their tusks. I felt I had to do something about it, and the best way for me to express myself is in a book. I wanted a child to be at the heart of this story of hope.

● What did you learn while working with Tusk on the book?

In researching for this, Tusk was invaluable, and its worldwide efforts to bring the plight of so many of Africa's animals to the attention of us all deserves all the support we can give. For instance, Tusk informs us that the African elephant population has fallen by over 30% in the last seven years, largely due to poaching. It is believed that by 2040, if we don't act now, the African elephant will be extinct. This means that, by the time today's children are adults, there will be no more African elephants in the wild.

● What can we do to help elephants from our homes in the UK?

We should do all we can to support Tusk in its efforts and spread the word that we do not accept what is happening to our planet.

● What message do you hope people will take from this book?

I am sure that young people today are far more aware than we were about the importance of conservation and saving the planet. It is up to all of us, young and old, to join together and do what we can. We are all one family, animals and humans, trying to live together on this planet, which is, itself, also under threat because of man's greed and ignorance. This was the whole point of my book.



Noa And The Little Elephant: A Tale Of Friendship And Survival, in association with Tusk, is out now



Illustration © Michael Foreman

NEW POKÉMON GAMES ANNOUNCED

The Pokémon Company announced two new games on Pokémon's 25th anniversary (27 February) – one from Pokémon's past and one looking very much forward.

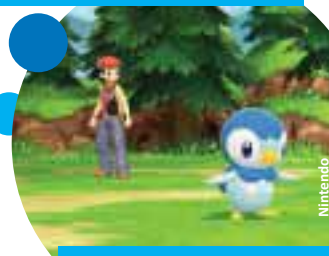
The first announcement revealed a full HD remake of Pokémon's fourth-generation games, *Pokémon Diamond and Pearl*.

Coming out later this year, *Pokémon Brilliant Diamond* and *Pokémon Shining Pearl* are set in the Sinnoh region, which features the space and time-bending characters Dialga and Palkia in a story that was first released back in 2006.

The second bit of news from the Pokémon Company was a bit more significant. They revealed that their next big game would be *Pokémon Legends: Arceus*, an open-world Pokémon adventure, set long before any other Pokémon games.

In it, characters settle in the Sinnoh region for the first time, and it will be up to you to create the first ever Pokédex. The game still features Pokémon Battles, but looks a bit like *The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild*.

We can't wait to hear more, but we have a little while to wait, as the game isn't due to be released until 2022.



Pokémon Brilliant Diamond and Pokémon Shining Pearl



Pokémon Legends: Arceus

NINTENDO SWITCH



SUPER MARIO 3D WORLD

THIS Wii U classic has been re-released on Nintendo Switch, and it now features a bonus game that sees Mario take on a furious Bowser! We checked out both games, and here's what we thought.

Super Mario 3D World is pretty different to *Super Mario Odyssey*. Instead of adventuring through worlds to find moons, you have to make it through a series of levels, with bonus stars to find in each one.

You can play with up to three other friends, who play as either Luigi, Princess Peach or Toad. Each of the characters has strengths and weaknesses, so you have to try them out to find out your favourite. The power-ups are loads of fun, and you'll often be surprised how you'll use them!

Bowser's Fury, on the other hand, is much closer to *Super Mario Odyssey*. In this shorter side-game, you've got to help Bowser Jr to stop his dad from turning into a giant raging monster, by collecting Cat Shines across an island, which turn Mario into a giant golden cat.

The package of games features a ton of cleverly crafted levels, both played alone or with friends!

FOUR BEST FRIENDS, TWO BOYBANDS,
AND AN EVIL UNCLE WITH A
MONSTROUS SECRET...

WHAT COULD POSSIBLY GO WRONG?

KID NORMAL MEETS
BRITAIN'S GOT TALENT
IN THIS HILARIOUS NEW SERIES





MOVING HOUSE... LITERALLY!



A MAN in America bought a house, but wished he could move it somewhere else – so that's exactly what he did!

Tim Brown paid thousands of pounds to move his home from one street in San Francisco to another, about six blocks away.

The Victorian property, known as Englander House, was lifted and towed in a military-style operation. The tow truck could only move at 1.6km/h (1mph).

Trees had to be trimmed and road signs temporarily moved to make room for the two-storey house to get through.

As bizarre as it may seem though, it's actually not the first time this has happened in San Francisco. The area has a long history of relocating houses!

Getty

A ROSY RECORD



Guinness World Records

WHAT better way to celebrate love than with a giant bear made out of roses?

This super cute creation was built in Wanning City in China. It was designed to mark a massive wedding vow renewal ceremony for 108 married couples.

Not only did the bear provide the perfect backdrop for the romantic event, but it also set a new Guinness World Record for the largest rose bear.

The giant teddy is 6.138m (20ft 2in) tall, features an incredible 48,000 red roses and weighs a hefty seven tonnes.

The organisers are now hoping to replace the roses with fake flowers so the bear can remain on display.

LOCKDOWN LITTER ART



UKrubbishwalks

AN Ipswich artist has been creating art from litter he's found during lockdown.

Jason Alexander uses rubbish found on his walks to create giant murals in his garden. He's made all sorts of interesting pictures, including a huge heart, a bird and a stick man holding an umbrella.

The artist hopes his unusual artwork will help to inspire people to clean up the UK, especially during the pandemic. Jason says he's noticed lots of masks often end up as litter.

TOO-TH KIND!



THE tooth fairy has been very generous in lockdown, new research has shown.

The Royal Mint revealed that the fairy has gifted a staggering £40.5 million to children during the coronavirus lockdowns. She left an average of £9.05 per child in 2020, compared to £8.45 in 2019.

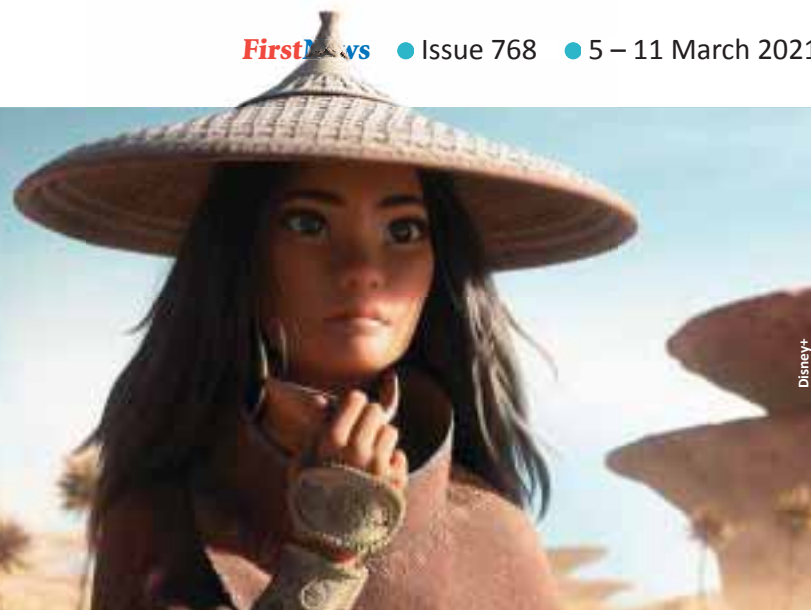
Clare MacLennan, Tooth Fairy Liaison Officer at The Royal Mint, commented: "From my conversations with [the Tooth Fairy], I can confirm that she's busier than ever!"



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer



RAYA OF LIGHT



Raya And The Last Dragon is Disney's all-new animated adventure. Adam Tanswell chatted to the film-makers to bring you this exclusive behind-the-scenes peek at the making of the magical movie.

RIGHT ON, RAYA

Raya And The Last Dragon follows the animated adventures of a girl called Raya and a mystical dragon called Sisu. "Raya is a warrior who goes on a journey to restore the fractured fantasy land of Kumandra and its divided people," explains the film's co-director, Paul Briggs.

TOTAL TRUST

The film-makers pulled together a group of experts to help bring the enchanting story to life. They called the talented team the Southeast Asia Story Trust. "The Story Trust worked with us throughout the making of the film," reveals producer Osnat Shurer. "The team includes choreographers, musicians, linguists, architects, cultural experts, martial artists and more."



ART ATTACK

A titanic team of talented Disney artists have been working on the Disney+ project direct from their homes during the pandemic. "Hundreds of story artists, animators, modellers and technologists have put their heart and soul into the making of this movie," reveals director Carlos López Estrada. That's a colossal clever crew!

WORLD WONDER

In order to research the awe-inspiring look of the film, Disney artists took a number of fact-finding trips overseas. "*Raya And The Last Dragon* is a fantasy film, but it is heavily inspired by the beautiful cultures and people of Southeast Asia," explains Carlos López Estrada. The researchers visited key locations within the region, including stops in Laos, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia and Singapore.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

"At its very core, *Raya And The Last Dragon* is a fun action movie," explains screenwriter Qui Nguyen. "Even though it's a fantasy film, we didn't want our fight scenes to be fantastical. Nobody runs on the tops of trees or shoots fireballs from their fingers. All of the punches and kicks are grounded in the real world. All of the fighting styles are rooted in martial arts from Southeast Asia." Ka-pow!



HIDE AND SEEK

Disney artists love to sneak secret Easter eggs into the animated action, so keep your eyes wide open. "There are definitely quite a few Easter eggs to spot," admits director Carlos López Estrada. "If you look closely in the land of Talon, you might find a character from another Disney movie that Don Hall also directed."

IN THE STARS

Star Wars star Kelly Marie Tran provides the sweet and sassy voice of Raya in the movie. "From her very first recording session, we all saw that Kelly was our hero," explains screenwriter Qui Nguyen. "Kelly brings the perfect blend of emotion, humour, heart and heroics to what will be Disney's first Southeast Asian princess."

DRAGON DELIGHTS

Loads of dragon research went into the super quirky character of Sisu. She is a magical, mystical dragon who can run on water and shape-shift into a human. "Making Sisu was one of the most difficult tasks because she has to be funny and wise, as well as incredibly cuddly," reveals Qui Nguyen. *Jumanji* actor Awkwafina steps into the role of the movie's magical dragon, Sisu.



PET POWER

"Tuk Tuk is a fantasy creature that is part armadillo, part pangolin and part bear," reveals Carlos López Estrada. "Raya uses him for transportation, so he's her trusty steed. Tuk Tuk's design became cuter and cuddlier as we went along. He's a little furrrier than he was in the early character designs, where he was a little more reptilian. He's very loveable."

Raya And The Last Dragon is available on Disney+ with Premier Access from 5 March

YOUR READS!

SLIME DAVID WALLIAMS

I thought this fiction book was outstanding and really funny!

The main character is called Ned and he creates a new friend called Slime by mixing thousands of extremely yucky things like bat eggs, slug juice and very mouldy mould together.

They live on an island called the Isle of Mulch, where all the adults are horrible except Ned's parents.

Slime and Ned get revenge on the nasty grown-ups that were treating children horribly. My favourite part was when Slime turned into a slime-odactyl and Slime and Ned stepped on Captain Pride's park that no-one had ever stepped on before.



reviewed
by Chloe
Dubus,
aged eight

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.

National Literacy Trust's Virtual School Library



HEAD on an adventure with Will Mabbitt!

Visit the Virtual School Library from the National Literacy Trust and the Oak National Academy to listen to *The Unlikely Adventures of Mabel Jones* for free!

Will Mabbitt recommends these books:

- *When Stars Are Scattered* by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed
- *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase* by Joan Aiken

Step inside the library to find tips on spending your £1 World Book Day book token and keep an eye out for some exciting surprises happening in March. Ask your school if you missed the token in last week's *First News*.

Visit library.thenational.academy to find out more.



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10 FACTS ABOUT MICHELLE OBAMA

FORMER First Lady of the United States of America, Michelle Obama, has a new edition of her book *Becoming* on the way for younger readers, so here are some facts about her that you might not know.



- 1 Michelle Obama skipped second grade (the same as Year 3 in the UK) because she was so ahead of the rest of her class.
- 2 When she was in middle school (ages 11 to 14), Michelle was placed in a 'gifted' class, so she could start learning biology and French early.
- 3 Her father worked at a water plant and her mother was a secretary, and they all lived together with her brother in a one-room apartment.
- 4 She went to Princeton and Harvard, two of the top universities in America.
- 5 Michelle met her future husband Barack Obama while they were both working at a law firm – he was her intern.
- 6 During her time as First Lady, she launched the Let's Move! public health campaign to tackle childhood obesity in the US.
- 7 She once hugged the Queen, something royal rules say you shouldn't do. But the Queen didn't mind, and said that the hug showed the First Lady's "affection and respect".
- 8 Michelle Obama, Melania Trump and Eleanor Roosevelt are all equal tallest First Ladies, at 1.8m (5ft 11in).
- 9 Michelle will be 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*.
- 10 She says the inspiration behind writing her book *Becoming* was to show how much she had accomplished regardless of marrying Barack.



WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?

RSPB PUFFINS COSMETICS BAG

RSPB.ORG.UK £14.99

This pretty puffin cosmetics bag is roomy enough for all your mum's essential bits of make-up, but small enough to fit nicely in a handbag. The vegan-friendly,

faux leather make-up bag captures the puffin's quirky looks perfectly. The range also includes a mug, coin purse, glasses case, wash bag and coasters.



WAX & WICK CANDLE MAKING KIT

FIREBOX.COM £25.99

This candle making kit from Calm Club is the ideal opportunity for your mum to indulge in a little creative, hands-on mindfulness this Mother's Day. The set contains everything needed to create two calming candles, including natural soy wax, scented oil, amber glass jars and wicks, plus easy step-by-step instructions to follow.

*All prices correct at time of printing

JELLYCAT AMUSEABLE FLOWER

TEMPTATIONGIFTS.COM

£18.95 EACH

If your mum is a flower fan, then this is ideal. With soft cord leaves, fluffy brown hair and a happy face, the amuseable flower's plant pot body is filled with beans so she can sit upright, with two little legs poking out at the bottom.

Her velvety soft flowers will stay in full bloom all year round, brightening up any room. Choose from a daffodil or red tulip.



MOTHER'S DAY

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Advertisement feature

THE EPIC FINALE IS HERE!

STORM Keeper Fionn Boyle's worst nightmares have come true!

Evil sorceress Morrigan has risen, her brothers are stalking the land and, as the sea between them and Arranmore drains away, the final battle nears. The islanders are ready to fight, but when the last candle goes out, what will be left of Arranmore?

Find out in the epic finale to Catherine Doyle's best-selling, award-winning and magical Storm Keeper series.

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BOOK OF INCLUSION

by Eva and Amaira

WE are twins Eva and Amaira, and we have written a book together.

The book is called *Short Stories: By the children, for the children!* It is available on Amazon and is a collection of eight great stories. We wrote the stories during the first lockdown. The Earth is changing fast, so we wanted to record nature as beautiful as it was in 2020. We understand that we are the youngest authors in the UK.

We have a website called www.beingpurple.co.uk to support people with disabilities. We are making videos to spread awareness and raise money. The money from the website and books is going to a charity called NDF [the Norrie Disease Foundation].

We have been talking about our book and BeingPurple at various events, at Microsoft, on the news and on the radio. We have raised £1,700 for the

charity so far.

It all started when we looked at our dad, who has muscular dystrophy and faces lots of challenges. We told him it's not fair for him to have these challenges. We came up with the idea of BeingPurple to help everyone with similar disabilities.

Our dream is that a new, better world comes and we aim to help make that better world, however long it takes. If we can manage to achieve that, we will be proud to have helped others.

Please support us in our mission for disability inclusion by making people aware of hidden disability and challenges faced by people with disabilities.

We want everyone to be whatever they want to be, and do whatever they wish to do.



Eva and Amaira with their book

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

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

Write in to let us know what you've been up to lately! Have you been getting creative? Been for a great day out? 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.

LITTER CLUB

by Eliza Wilson

I LIKE reading First News every week. My brother Hector and I were inspired by a nearby group that collects litter.

We decided to make our own club, called the Clean-Up Party. We would collect rubbish in Bristol along the River Trym, which flows into the River Avon and then the River Severn.

It's important to collect rubbish because people drop lots of litter, which might be sharp and hurt animals, or it could be a net they can get caught in. If it's plastic, fish can eat it.

We made a poster and advertised our club. It was a good activity to do over half-term, as individual families could take part in lockdown.

Six families and ten children were involved for three days over half-term. Every day we wrote a newsletter on the computer and shared it with the group on

WhatsApp. We also made a collage poster. Altogether, we got 31 bags of rubbish.

Peter was the winner, collecting 16 on his own! We made him some chocolate cookies as a prize.

Now we are planning to do it every term and invite even more school friends.



Eliza and Hector

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

ROBOT FRIENDS

by Amy

LOTS of people have been lonely in lockdown. I wanted to make a robot friend for people who could be helpful and always lend a hand, like a Brownie.

I chose to make a rainbow robot cat because I wanted her to be colourful and furry and because rainbows have been in lots of windows for the NHS and key workers. I was a Rainbow before I was a Brownie and it was super fun. I wanted a super fun robot friend.

I called her Broogle (said: brew-gull) because she is a mix of Brownies and Google and she brews tea. Tea helps make a lot of things better and I wanted to make

things better because they have been hard for a lot of people. Broogle also does other things like makes biscuits, cakes and brownies.

I thought her body should have an oven (because she bakes) and have some storage space. I made her so she has a flat back that can be used as a table.

Her fur comes off so it can be a blanket. Her ears are also a knife and fork! She is very useful. A Google engineer brought Broogle to life as an animation, using my voice for its commands. I really enjoyed making Broogle and love the animation. It is amazing to have a gif of my own and to see Broogle moving. She is so cute.

The Google Digital Adventure badge was lots of fun to do. I learned a lot and love doing badges for Brownies.



Amy with Broogle

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

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SPORT IN NUMBERS

35

percent of Forest Green Rovers' new shirts are made from recycled coffee grounds. The

other 65% is made from recycled plastic bottles. The environmentally-conscious League Two football club previously played in a kit made partly from bamboo.



137

years is how long St Johnstone have had to wait to win the Scottish League Cup. In other words,

their entire lifetime! Since formation in 1884, they had twice reached the final, in 1969 and 1998. Shaun Rooney scored the only goal of this year's final as the Saints beat Livingston.



45

-year-old golf legend Tiger Woods sustained multiple leg fractures after a serious car accident

last week. The American star was rushed to hospital and had a long operation on his right leg and ankle, but is now said to be in good spirits.



Captain Alun Wyn Jones holds the Triple Crown trophy

BIG WYN FOR WALES!

WALES, led by captain Alun Wyn Jones, won the Six Nations Championship's Triple Crown after a thrilling win over England in Cardiff.

The award goes to one of the so-called "home nations" – England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland – who beats all the others.

The Dragons thumped England 40-24, following earlier wins over Scotland and Ireland.

Tries by Josh Adams and Liam Williams helped Wales take a 17-14 lead into half-time. Ben Youngs scored a try for England in the second half, but his side were once again let down by their discipline – just as they were in their opening match against Scotland. Having levelled the match at 24-24, England conceded three penalties and then a last-minute try that sealed Wales' win. The victory means the Welsh have won all three of their games so far.

Wales are top of the table and head to Italy for their next match on Saturday 13 March. If they win there and against France the week after, they will claim a

second Grand Slam in three years.

The French were due to play Scotland last Sunday but the match was postponed after coach Fabien Galthié (right) and 11 players all tested positive for COVID-19. It was later revealed that Galthié had left the squad's bubble on the opening weekend of the Six Nations to watch his son play rugby.

The French Rugby Federation has said Galthié's job is safe but France's Sports Minister, Roxana Mărcineanu, threatened to withdraw the team from the Six Nations. She spoke following reports that French players went out in Rome to eat waffles after they played Italy.

France, who won their first two matches, are set to play England at Twickenham on 13 March.

In last weekend's other match, Italy suffered another thrashing – this time they lost 48-10 to Ireland (right).



Dutch striker Vivianne Miedema opens the scoring in Arsenal's 4-0 win over Aston Villa – the Gunners' first victory of 2021. Jordan Nobbs, Katie McCabe and Lisa Evans scored the rest as Arsenal moved within six points of the Women's Super League top three, with a game in hand. Manchester City thrashed Birmingham 4-0 and Everton won 3-2 at Tottenham.

PIC OF THE WEEK

