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A RIGHT ROYAL ROW, WITH HARRY AND MEGHAN P5

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT MASKS AT SCHOOL? P3



FirstNews

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HELPING THE UK GROW

NEWS | SPORTS | ENTERTAINMENT | INTERVIEWS | PUZZLES | COMPETITIONS

COULD YOU LIVE WITHOUT THE INTERNET?

by editor in chief Nicky Cox

MORE than a billion young people across the world don't have the internet.

That fact is holding back global change, says the World Wide Web inventor, Sir Tim Berners-Lee.

In a letter he's written for the web's 32nd birthday today (Friday), Sir Tim is calling for a global push to connect all young people safely to the internet.

Sir Tim's letter echoes a report from UNICEF at the end of last year, which showed two-thirds of the world's school-age children – or 1.3 billion children aged 3 to 17 years old – don't have an internet connection in their homes.

The fear is that this lack of internet access could cost the next generation their futures by isolating them from the world, and keeping education out of reach.

UNICEF says a digital divide means children and young people from the poorest households and countries are missing out. The charity is concerned these children are falling even further behind other children, with very little opportunity to catch up.

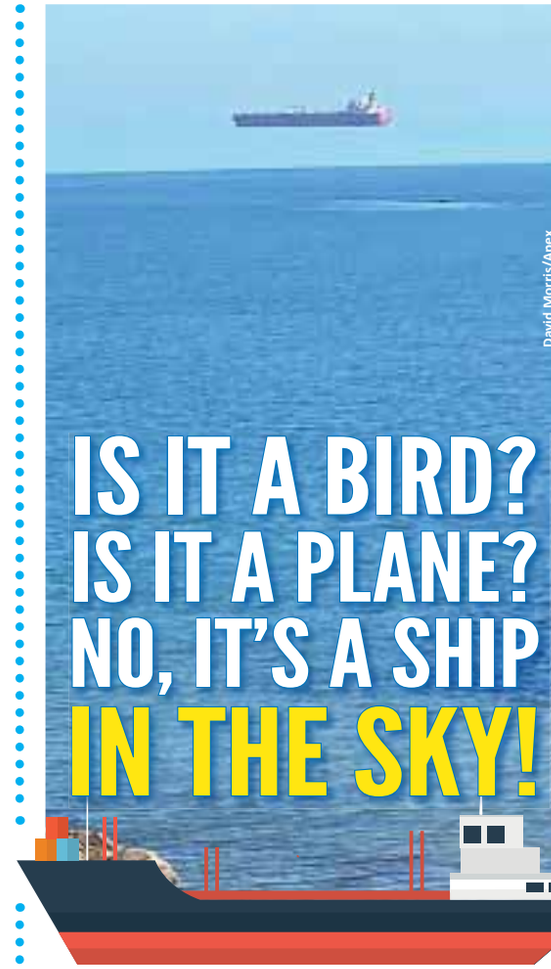
Today's letter, published by Sir Tim and Rosemary Leith from the Web Foundation, highlights young leaders who are using digital technology to tackle some of the world's problems – like inequality, COVID-19, environmental issues and other global challenges.

But Rosemary says these opportunities need to be open to all: "If half a generation of young people are unable to use the tools to thrive in a digital world – to learn new skills, run businesses, and build communities – society as a whole will miss out on their talents, ideas and efforts."

Sir Tim is also calling for tech companies and governments to work on ways to protect young people from harms online and make young people's rights and wellbeing a top priority.



Children in a doorway of a remote school in northern Ghana, where the levels of poverty are some of the worst in the world



A PHOTO of what appears to be a flying ship was taken this week.

David Morris took the picture near Falmouth, Cornwall, but is the ship really floating in mid air?

No, it was an illusion, said BBC weather expert David Braine. He said the "superior mirage" took place because of "special atmospheric conditions that bend light".

He said the illusion is common in the Arctic, but appears "very rarely" in the UK during winter.

"Superior mirages occur because of the weather condition known as a temperature inversion, where cold air lies close to the sea with warmer air above it," he explained. "Since cold air is denser [more closely packed] than warm air, it bends light towards the eyes of someone standing on the ground or on the coast, changing how a distant object appears."

*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 24.

QUICK NEWS

TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS

FAIRY TALE MUSEUM



A new fairy tale museum is opening in Denmark this year, inspired by the work of Hans Christian Andersen. The famous author wrote more than 100 classic fairy tales, including *The Ugly Duckling* and *The Little Mermaid*. The magical museum will re-tell the tales through interactive exhibits, gardens and sound installations.

BLOOMING LOVELY



Dorchester on Thames in Oxfordshire has come up with a unique way to celebrate its annual flower show – it's getting the whole village to join in! Instead of doing things virtually due to coronavirus restrictions, residents are being asked to display flowers outside their houses, decorate their windows and get creative in their gardens. It's hoped the whole place will be blooming for springtime and the Easter weekend.

SNOW WAY!

Snowbi Wan Kenobi, Duck Duck Orange Truck and Plowy McPlowface are among the winners of a naming contest for snow ploughs in the US. An impressive 122,435 votes were placed in the contest. Can you think of any better names for a snow plough?

FOOD BANK CRISIS

One in five schools in the UK has set up a food bank during the pandemic, according to a new survey by YouGov. More than a third of teachers also said their school had delivered food parcels to pupils' homes. The news follows concerns about how the coronavirus has affected families, especially those living in poorer areas.



PANTO IS BACK... OH, YES IT IS!



A panto in summer? That's right, folks! Kings Theatre in Portsmouth is bringing panto season back early. The theatre was forced to cancel lots of its *Dick Whittington* performances last Christmas due to the pandemic, so organisers have decided to reschedule the dates for July and August instead. Proof that even when the sun shines, there's still festive fun to be had!

MUSEUM IS JAB HUB

This week, the Science Museum in London reopened as an NHS vaccination centre, as part of science's fightback against the coronavirus. The museum, which was closed due to COVID-19, is also building a new coronavirus-focused exhibit to go on display once the museum reopens fully. It's the first national museum to host an NHS vaccination centre.

WEDDING SCANNER

Please put your marriage in the bagging area! A new self-service scanner has been set up in China's Jiangsu Province that allows couples to officially get married. The couple simply scan their ID, input their personal information and have some photos taken. The machine then prints out the marriage certificate and the couple add their fingerprints to make it legal. It takes just 15 minutes!

POP-UP PLAYGROUND

A primary school in Tower Hamlets, East London, is set to turn a road into a 'pop-up' playground for pupils this term. Chisenhale School is taking over the street in front of the building, with a little help from the community, to transform it into a fun outdoor space with plants and drawings. It will be used for play and learning, as well as hosting an arts programme.



UK CENSUS TIME

Households in England and Wales are being asked to complete a special survey this month. Known as the census, the survey happens every ten years, and tells the Government information about families, living situations and work. The answers help organisations decide about things in your area, such as transport, education and healthcare.

MUDDY POTATOES



Tesco has announced plans to sell unwashed potatoes to help cut down on food waste. Potatoes are the UK's single most wasted food in the home, says the charity WRAP. Back in the 1970s, most UK supermarkets and greengrocers sold potatoes with soil on them, which experts say blocks out light and makes the spuds last longer.

BANKSY BREAKOUT



Banksy has confirmed that he is behind the new artwork that has appeared on an old prison wall in Reading. The painting shows a prisoner escaping using bed sheets tied to a typewriter. It was first discovered at the beginning of the month, but the artist has now released a video claiming it as his.

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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**

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MASKS IN SCHOOLS



Getty

THIS week there's been lots of debate around whether you should be wearing face masks while at school. Here's what the Government has been saying.

Government advice is that primary school children don't have to wear a face mask. The Department for Education (DfE) says primary pupils need "to see facial expressions to develop their communication and language skills".

If you're in secondary school in England, the DfE says you should wear a face covering if you're not able to socially distance, for example, in the classroom.

Children's Minister Vicky Ford said that secondary school students should be "strongly encouraged" to wear masks in classrooms, but hasn't made it compulsory, as some pupils could be "anxious and nervous". Another MP has warned that leaving it up to schools to decide could cause chaos.

The Association of School and College Leaders has said it would be much easier for headteachers if the Government could make their guidance on masks "black and white".

In Scotland's secondary schools, face coverings will have to be worn at all times, while in Wales and Northern Ireland, face coverings will have to be worn when students can't be socially distant.

Both primary and secondary schools are likely to be a bit chillier than usual, as the Government has advised that indoor spaces "ventilate", meaning you should open a window or a door, to let fresh air in and stale air out.

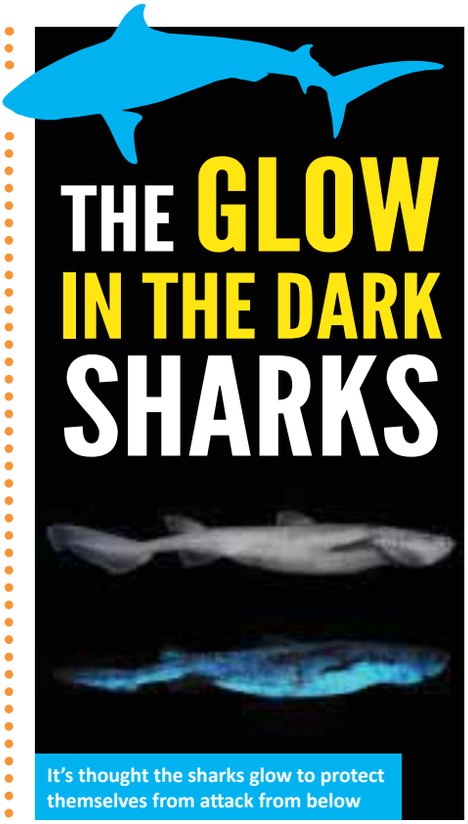
And you might want to bring a hat and scarf into school with you, as lessons may be held with all the windows open!

POLL OF THE WEEK

Are you happy to wear face masks while at school?

VOTE AT FIRST.NEWS/POLLS

THE GLOW IN THE DARK SHARKS



It's thought the sharks glow to protect themselves from attack from below

SCIENTISTS have discovered that three species of deep-water shark can glow in the dark – including the largest known luminous vertebrate.

It's well known that some fish can produce their own light, but marine biologists working near New Zealand were the first to discover that the kitefin shark, blackbelly lanternshark and southern lanternshark were also bioluminescent (able to glow in the dark).

The researchers, from Université Catholique de Louvain in Belgium and New Zealand's National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, were most surprised to find that the kitefin shark was luminous, as it can reach sizes of 180cm – making it the largest known luminous vertebrate (creatures with spines).

Seen from below in the dark ocean, fish are silhouetted against the surface of the water. It's thought the sharks glow from below as camouflage to protect them from attack.

YEMEN AID HALVED BY UK

IN this year's Budget (see p10), the Government announced that it is cutting the amount of money it sends to help Yemen each year by 50%.

More than 100 charities, including Oxfam, Save the Children and Care International, have joined forces to ask the Government to reverse the planned cut.

The head of the UN's office for humanitarian affairs said the aid cut would cause many more deaths and damage the UK's reputation. He said the UK has decided to "balance the books on the backs of the starving people of Yemen" ('balance the books' means to add up all the money that a business or country earns and spends).

Some Conservative MPs have demanded a vote on the decision to cut the money spent on aid, but the Government has said it's unlikely that they'll have a chance.

By law, Britain must spend an amount equal to 0.7% of the money made by the UK each year, on foreign aid. In the Budget, that amount is being cut to 0.5%.

A spokesperson for the prime minister said that it was legal to cut the amount of aid because of the coronavirus pandemic.



Getty

ERZURUM, TURKEY



Getty

A CLIMBER takes on an ice wall climb near the Palandöken ski resort close to Erzurum, in the east of the country.

NAJAF, IRAQ



Getty

POPE Francis meets with Grand Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Al-Husayni Al-Sistani. It's the first time a pope has visited the country. The Vatican said that the meeting lasted about 45 minutes, and "the Holy Father stressed the importance of co-operation and friendship between religious communities for contributing – through the cultivation of mutual respect and dialogue – to the good of Iraq, the region and the entire human family."



Getty

CHANDIGARH, INDIA

WOMEN take part in a sari run on International Women's Day, which is celebrated every year on 8 March in order to create awareness about women's issues. It was first celebrated in a handful of countries in 1911, but began to be observed by countries across the globe after 1975.

UK



LEGO

THE LEGO Group has announced the brand-new LEGO Ideas Winnie-the-Pooh set, the first time the Hundred Acre Wood has been recreated in LEGO bricks.

LONDON, UK



Getty

A SEAL rests on the banks of the River Thames, where the blubbery mammals can feed on more than 120 species of fish. While it's not unusual to occasionally spot seals on the Thames, it's rare to see a seal returning to the same spot. Seal populations in the Thames have been on the rise in recent years, and this particular seal has been a regular at this part of the river.



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A ROYAL RUMBLE


Getty

PRINCE Harry and Meghan Markle have revealed all in an exclusive interview with US chat show host Oprah Winfrey.

by Hannah Timson

The couple, who stepped down from royal duties earlier this year, are now living in California.

They decided to open up to Oprah about life in the British royal family, and why they felt they needed to leave the UK.

The two-hour interview touched on lots of personal subjects, including racism, mental health and the pressure from the media. The couple also talked about how they were concerned about security for their family.

Prince Harry admitted he has fallen out with his father Prince Charles and his brother Prince William over his decision to start a new life in America. He said he still has a good relationship with his grandmother, the Queen.

As well as touching on more serious things, the couple also shared the news that they are having a baby girl in the summer – a little sister for their son, Archie.

The programme aired in America last weekend, before being shown on ITV in the UK on Monday (8 March). Millions of people tuned in to watch.

As *First News* went to press, Buckingham Palace hadn't commented on the interview.

EDITOR'S COMMENT



IT'S hard to remember what life was like before the World Wide Web was invented, but it's had a huge impact on our lives.

Now we can easily look up facts, check routes, book tickets, stay in touch, or just watch daft cat videos. But now imagine your life without it (front page). And then imagine you're one of the billions of kids who are missing out on all the knowledge and opportunities that it gives us. The world can only benefit from weaving the web into all corners of the world.

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GOOD WEEK FOR


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THIS MOBILE PHONE OWNER

FATEMEH Ghodsi has been reunited with her mobile phone, six months after she lost it in the huge Harrison Lake in Canada (left). It was discovered by someone trawling the bottom of the lake one day. What's even more remarkable is that it still works!

BAD WEEK FOR


iStock

THE GOVERNMENT

THE UK has been found guilty of breaking air pollution limits. The European Court of Justice says the Government has failed to tackle the problem of nitrogen dioxide emissions. The UK has now been ordered to pay court costs and take action.

GRAB AND GO!


Getty

AMAZON has opened its first grocery store in the UK – and there are no tills!

Shoppers have to scan a smartphone app to enter the Amazon Fresh store in Ealing, west London. They can then walk in, put whatever they want in their bag and leave again. Motion sensors, cameras and other technology notes down what the person has taken and automatically charges their Amazon account. No need for money, cards or queuing! Clever, eh?

WOW!

THE world's oldest known wild bird has had a baby!

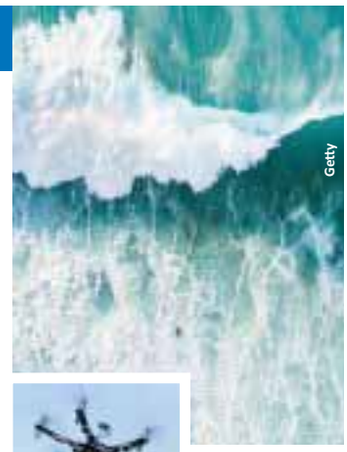
Wisdom the albatross, who is believed to be at least 70 years old, welcomed her latest chick in February. She gave birth in a wildlife refuge in the North Pacific Ocean. Cute!


Jon Brack/Friends of Midway Atoll NWR

SCOTLAND AND WALES

Drones to look for best tides

Scientists will use drones to search for the best offshore sites to use for renewable energy projects. Tidal energy uses the natural rise and fall of the sea to power turbines to create energy. Dr Benjamin Williamson, who is leading the drone project, said: "Measuring the flow speed and movement of water is vital for developing offshore renewable energy. However, gathering these measurements is typically high-cost and high-risk." It's hoped that using drones will save lots of time and money during the search for the sites.





TYNE & WEAR

GCSE genius

A nine-year-old boy has passed his GCSE maths exam six years early. Tom Van der Velde from Gosforth studied with his dad during lockdown and scored 85% in the exam. Dad Simon said that Tom "does it for the joy of maths" and "if he stays enthusiastic, we'll do A Level when he's 11".



LANCASHIRE



Flying for food

A pilot's 129km (80-mile) round trip to pick up a beef sandwich has come under fire after a local councillor called his actions a "flagrant abuse" of lockdown rules. Chipping Farm Shop near Preston delivered the sarnie to the pilot, who landed in a nearby field, and posted the video on their social media. The reaction to the video was mixed, with some seeing it as light-hearted fun, while others, including councillor Simon Hore, criticised it for breaking lockdown rules.



A staff member delivers the snack

LINCOLNSHIRE



Teacher's trek ends

A teacher who made headlines (including our front page!) for delivering school meals to children during lockdown has made his final deliveries. As schools reopened on Monday, Zane Powles, from Grimsby, estimated he has delivered around 15,000 meals and walked more than 900 miles (1,448km). The deputy head's work was acknowledged in the Queen's Birthday Honours last year.



Mr Powles hits the headlines way back in April 2020

OXFORDSHIRE

Water company fined

The UK's biggest water company has been fined £2.3m after pollution caused the death of more than 1,000 fish. Thames Water apologised after high ammonia levels were found in Fawley Court Ditch. Jackie Outhwaite, from the Environment Agency, said the company "could and should have prevented this pollution through better management of sewage treatment".



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Bear hugs for pupils

More than 500 teddy bears were waiting at assembly for pupils (and teachers) when Thrapston Primary School reopened this week. Each teddy even had the name of a pupil on it. Head teacher Pauline Turner said: "[Pupils] might be a bit nervous about coming back. An anxious child might need a hug, and we can't do that, but their bear will be there for a hug if they feel a bit wobbly."



MAN MAKES HISTORY IN EPIC DIVE



collectSPACE Twitter

A VIDEOGAME creator and entrepreneur has made history after becoming only the 14th person alive to reach the deepest part of the ocean.

Richard Garriott's trip to the depths of the Mariana Trench also makes him the first person in the world to have gone into space, been to the North and South poles, and visited the lowest physical point on the planet.

Having gone so far up, down, north and south, it makes sense that Richard was elected president of the Explorer's Club, which promotes scientific exploration. We wonder where he'll go next!

GLOBAL RECYCLING DAY



Getty

ON Thursday (18 March) it's Global Recycling Day. This year, the Global Recycling Foundation is showcasing unsung #RecyclingHeroes to highlight how recycling can contribute to a greener future for all.

The Global Recycling Foundation says that, each year, recycling saves more than 700 million tonnes in CO_2 emissions, which is projected to increase to a billion tonnes by 2030.

However, more needs to be done. In the UK, Channel 4's *Dispatches* says that lots of recycled goods are actually being burned. The TV programme claims that, in 2019, 11.6m tonnes of rubbish were incinerated (burned), while 10.9m tonnes was recycled.

Some argue burning is better than dumping in landfill, as burning can be used to create useful energy. However, the UK's 48 incinerators now produce more CO_2 emissions than coal. And with more than a third of household recycling being burned and not reused, you can see why it's important to promote those who are making a difference.

As well as highlighting green businesses and world leaders, the Global Recycling Foundation is celebrating younger people fighting for a greener planet too.

Campaigners like 15-year-old Timoci Naulusala, who gave a speech at the UN when he was just 12, show that you can take action at a young age.

The foundation also applauds the work of 11-year-old Ryan Hickman, who, in America, has collected over 700,000 bottles and cans to be recycled.

To find out how you can celebrate Global Recycling Day, visit **globalrecyclingday.com/resources**. There are loads of great facts and tips on how you can make a difference.

TURN ON THE SUBTITLES



Getty

SKY Kids is putting subtitles on more than 500 of its kids' TV shows, to help improve reading skills.

The *Turn On The Subtitles* campaign says that having subtitles on while children watch telly can double the chances of a child becoming good at reading.

The smart but simple idea is now growing with Sky Kids' involvement. Shows like *SpongeBob SquarePants*, *PAW Patrol* and *The Amazing World of Gumball* will have their subtitles turned on.

Lucy Murphy, from Sky, said: "We're delighted to… help improve the literacy skills of thousands of children in the UK and Ireland through something as simple as turning on the subtitles to their favourite shows."

DON'T LOSE YOUR HEAD!



Sayaka Mitoh

SCIENTISTS in Japan have discovered that certain types of sea slug have the ability to remove their head and grow a whole new body!

The incredible talent belongs to two species of sacoglossan sea slug. Researchers at Nara Women's University were shocked at what they saw. Sayaka Mitoh said: "We were surprised to see the head moving just after autotomy."

Autotomy is when a creature can lose part of its body. The most well-known examples are probably the lizards that can 'drop' their tail if threatened, then grow one back later.

That's pretty amazing in itself, but the sea slug's ability is on another level. Once removed, the head can move around on its own. Within a few weeks, it can grow a whole new body, complete with heart and other internal organs.

It's not known why the slugs detach their heads from their body. One reason could be a way of removing a parasite (something harmful that lives on or inside something else).

The sea slugs' other trick is to fuel themselves from the sun, just like plants do, by using bits of algae that they eat.

SWITZERLAND



Getty

A poster in favour of the ban

Burka ban

Switzerland has narrowly voted to ban facial coverings (except masks worn for health reasons). The vote was described by politicians and the media as a ban on burkas, although the vote didn't mention burkas or niqabs specifically, and the new rules will also outlaw masks worn by protesters. The Central Council of Muslims said that the vote was a "dark day for the Muslim community". A study by the University of Lucerne in Switzerland found that hardly anyone in the country wears a burka anyway.

SENEGAL


Getty

Arrest causes unrest

Five people have been killed in violent clashes across Senegal, after the leader of the country's opposition party, Ousmane Sonko, was arrested. As *First News* went to press, 19 foreign embassies had called for an end to the violence, as Mr Sonko called for his supporters to "massively descend onto the streets" for more protests.

ICELAND

Earthquake storm

More than 20,000 earthquakes have been detected in Iceland during the last two weeks. On Sunday 7 March, people were kept awake by almost constant quakes for two hours from 2am. While none have caused serious damage to buildings or hurt anyone, five have been "moderate in size". Some scientists are worried that the spate of quakes could lead to some of Iceland's volcanoes erupting.


Getty



RUSSIA


Getty

Fake vaccine news

US officials have accused Russia of spreading misinformation and fake news stories about vaccines produced by countries in the West. The US government's Global Engagement Center monitors fake news around the world, and says Russian agencies are running news websites that falsely claim western vaccines have serious side effects and don't work very well. The US says the sites don't have a lot of readers, but other larger organisations in Russia and around the world sometimes share the stories.

AUSTRALIA


Getty

Most dangerous in Oz

Despite Australia being home to some of the most venomous creatures in the world, Australians are twice as likely to end up in hospital due to a bee or wasp sting, than from a spider or snake bite. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found that from 2017 to 2018, five in every 100,000 Australians were taken to hospital for bee and wasp stings. Twelve were killed by bees and wasps, compared to seven deaths caused by snakes.

THE NETHERLANDS

Party in a pandemic

For the first time in a year, a dance night was held in the Netherlands, as an experiment to see how events can be organised safely during the pandemic. More than 1,300 people won tickets to the event, which was held at Amsterdam's Ziggo Dome. Partygoers were given sensors to monitor how much contact they had with others, and some were asked to wear masks. Some even had coloured drinks, to monitor saliva in the air when they sang!


Getty

OUR WORLD

NAME: HENRY
LIVES: UK

HENRY was diagnosed as profoundly deaf a few days after birth.

Having no previous experience of deafness in their family, Henry's parents were referred to The Elizabeth Foundation, a project funded by Comic Relief that supports children who are deaf. Henry has since received cochlear implants, which he calls his "magic ears". Henry's mum Hannah says: "I really hope other families have the opportunity that we did to be welcomed into such a warm and caring community."



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

HM Government

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

by Rachel Austin, Director, Tax and Legal, Deloitte

BRITAIN'S BUDGET EXPLAINED

EACH year, the Chancellor of the Exchequer makes an announcement on the UK's finances, known as the Budget. Just like you might negotiate how much pocket money you get and decide how to spend it, the Chancellor announces how the Government will collect money from taxes and how much will be spent on public services like schools, hospitals, police and the armed forces.



Getty

Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak holds the red dispatch box before announcing the Budget

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

The current Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, delivered his 2021 Budget speech to Parliament on 3 March. This year's Budget is particularly important because the Government has spent a lot of extra money helping people and businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. People wanted to know whether the support will continue over the next few months while many businesses remain closed and some people can't work, and whether the Chancellor will increase taxes to pay for the extra spending.

The Chancellor explained that, like most countries in the world, the UK has been badly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Over 700,000 people have lost their jobs since last March and the UK economy was 10% smaller in 2020 than it was in 2019 – the biggest fall in 300 years.



Getty

Rishi Sunak is the man who announced the 2021 Budget

DID YOU KNOW?

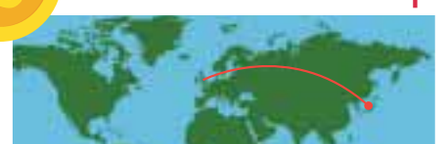

Getty

THE Government is spending £5 million helping zoos and aquariums feed and care for animals while they're closed to the public.

HOW MUCH MONEY DOES THE GOVERNMENT SPEND?

Over the next year, the Government will collect £820 billion in taxes from people and businesses, and spend £1,053 billion on public services. It's hard to imagine this much money. If you stack £10 notes on their side next to each other, £1 million pounds would make a stack 10m long – the length of a bus. £1 billion would be 10km long, which would take about two hours to walk. £1,053 billion would reach all the way from the UK to Japan!

The Government plans to spend more than it will collect in taxes, so it will need to borrow the rest. The last time the UK borrowed this much money was during World War Two.


The money being spent in the Budget could reach from the UK to Japan!

WHAT WILL THE CHANCELLOR DO THIS YEAR?

The Chancellor explained his plan to help the UK recover from the COVID-19 pandemic:

1. The Government will carry on helping businesses and families until September.
2. The Chancellor will raise more money from taxes to start paying back the money the Government borrowed. He said that people and businesses who can afford it will be asked to pay more.
3. The Chancellor said he wants to start planning for the future by helping businesses reopen safely after lockdown, helping people to learn new skills, creating new jobs in the UK and helping businesses to grow.

WHAT WAS IN THE BUDGET FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?

The Government will spend an extra £700 million helping children catch up on things they missed while schools were closed. Some of the money will be used for summer schools.


iStock

The Government will spend extra money on sports, TV and film, theatres and museums, plus a bid to bring the FIFA World Cup to the UK and Ireland in 2030.


Getty

France won the 2018 World Cup in Russia. Will the UK host in 2030?

The Chancellor said he wants to improve the environment and announced investment in green energy.

What would you do if you were Chancellor? Think about the things that are most important to you. Maybe you'd spend more money on schools and sports facilities, or use taxes to encourage people to be more environmentally friendly.



POLL OF THE WEEK

What would you spend money on if you were Chancellor?

VOTE AT FIRST.NEWS/POLLS



Ervin Szombathelyi

TROUBLE FOR MOTHS

A NEW report has found that the population of Britain's larger moth species has dropped by 33% in the last 50 years.

The data was released this week as part of the *State of Britain's Larger Moths* study from wildlife charity Butterfly Conservation, in partnership with Rothamsted Research and the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology.

Loss of habitat, changing climate and chemical pollution are just a few of the issues that are putting native moths under threat. Moths play a huge part in ecosystems, and if their numbers drop it will have a knock-on effect for plants, crops and other wildlife species.

It isn't all bad news, though: some species have seen a population boost thanks to warmer temperatures. The Jersey tiger moth (pictured) was once only found in Devon but has slowly spread across southern England and coastal areas in southeast Wales.



iStock

PLATYPUS REFUGE

CONSERVATIONISTS in Australia are planning to open the world's first platypus refuge in a bid to help save this unusual species from extinction.

Platypus numbers are under extreme pressure after bush fires and drought in Australia, the only place in the world these animals live. The Taronga Conservation Society Australia plans to create a refuge where staff can care for up to 65 platypus at a time during emergencies like bushfires.

It's hoped that by rescuing and rehabilitating platypus who are in need, conservationists will be able to learn more about one of the most unique animals on the planet.

MARVELLOUS MUMS



Sikhote-Alin Biosphere Reserve

TIGER mums in far east Russia let their cubs hang around for longer and may even share their territory, says a new study.

Tigers are known for being solitary animals with large territories, but a new study has found that Amur tigers in parts of Russia behave in a slightly different way.

Researchers from the Wildlife Conservation Society found that once female Amur tigers have cubs, their home range shrinks by 60%, meaning they stay close to their dens at all times. It takes around 18 months for them to start to use the whole of their territory again, gradually taking their cubs further and further afield as they grow. If the cubs are female, the mother tiger may expand her territory so her daughter can have her own territory, sometimes even sharing or overlapping the mum's territory.

Scientists hope that by understanding tigers and how they use their territory, more can be done to protect them. The full study has been published in the journal *Mammal Research*.

CRUEL CROPPING



iStock

LEADING vets from the British Veterinary Association (BVA) are calling on the UK Government to help close loopholes in the law that allows dogs with cropped ears to be brought to the UK.

Ear cropping is where the floppy part of a dog's ear is cut off and the remaining part is attached to a splint to make it stay upright. The cruel practice is only done to make a dog look a certain way and there are no health benefits at all. Ear cropping is already banned in the UK, but people can still buy and import dogs with cropped ears, often not realising what a cruel and painful procedure it is for the animal.

CELEBRATING SHAKESPEARE


Getty

IT'S Shakespeare Week next week (15-21 March), and nearly two million primary school children across the country will be celebrating William Shakespeare's life and his brilliant stories. We've got lots of fun activities, challenges, projects, online events and a cool competition to get creative with, whether you're at school or at home.

William Shakespeare had a wonderful way with words, and the way he described the characters in his plays, the plots he created and the settings he imagined can all help us to think about a range of situations and a variety of emotions. This year we'll be using Shakespeare's stories and words to inspire us to be true to ourselves and to support our emotional wellbeing. There are lots of fun activities on the Shakespeare Week website that explore Shakespeare's plays and characters. You can also find out about wellbeing in Shakespeare's times – you'll be surprised at how some things haven't really changed, but glad that some things are really different!



BOILS, PLAGUE SORES AND EMBOSSED CARBUNCLES

How gross can you go? Ever wanted to know more about the revolting remedies that people used to take in Shakespeare's day? Health, wellbeing and medicine were a little different in Tudor times, though you may be surprised to find some interesting similarities. Join our guest curator, Martin Brown, *Horrible Histories* illustrator, in our online exhibition for a tour of medical mayhem. You can also go behind the scenes and learn some of the techniques in drawing your own *Horrible Histories*-style cartoon.



ENTER OUR COMPETITION: TO THINE OWN SELF BE TRUE

There's still time to enter our cool competition, 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, including CBeebies' Ben Cajee and children's author Marcia Williams, to share their thoughts.

Check out the details 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.

Closing date for entries is **31 March**. Good luck!

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE SHAKESPEARE QUOTE?


Marcia Williams

"I am going to go with: "This above all, to thine own self be true," as my favourite Shakespeare quote, because it reminds me of the importance for our own wellbeing, of being true to ourselves and respecting other people's right to be true to themselves. Yet another moment when Shakespeare puts a thought into a few short words that has taken me multiple paragraphs and six dolls to say!"

MY CREATIVE RESPONSE

Can You Live With Yourself? by Ben Cajee

This above all, to thine own self be true
When you look in the mirror that person you see is you
Got to be able to walk along with your head held high
And think: "Hey, it's okay – I quite like that guy!"
There are going to be times when things are tough
You'll wake up in the morning and think: "Man, I feel rough!"
When life's got you all caught up in a spin
And you just don't know where to begin
You'll need to speak up, hold faith, stand tall
We're told it's how we bounce back after we fall
So answer me this and tell me no lies
Can you live with yourself, in this world, through those eyes?

ABOUT MY CREATIVE RESPONSE

"Well, I can't draw, I'm not much of a singer and I am not great at making things with my hands, so I decided to write a poem and then film it," says Ben. "I chose a video as it is the thing I am most used to. I feel it helps me connect directly with an audience. I recorded it at home on my mobile during the lockdown in November."

WHEN HAVE YOU BEEN 'TRUE TO YOURSELF'?

"I really value honesty and truthfulness. It matters to me to be genuine and true in my presenting work across television and radio. Last year, I spoke about issues of equality, tolerance and kindness and these links went viral across social media. Speaking out about these things is a big responsibility (and some people can disagree, and aren't always nice to you), but I felt that it was important to stand up and use my voice and influence. The things I said have been viewed millions of times all over the world and hopefully they've connected with lots of people in different ways."


Ben Cajee

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE SHAKESPEARE QUOTE?

"The wheel is come full circle: I am here" (*King Lear*)

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

METEOR HITS UK

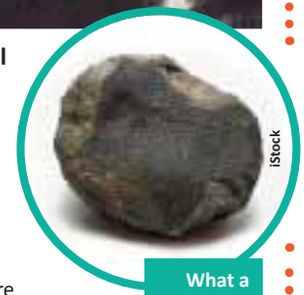

Ben Stanley

The fireball was captured on camera by an observer, even though it only lasted six seconds

GAZING upwards last week you might have been one of those surprised to see a fireball streaking across the night sky. Was it a phoenix? Was it a plane? No, it was a meteor!

The meteor – or space rock – was travelling at 29,800mph (47,960km/h) and lit up the sky as it burned up on its way to Earth. People who saw it were puzzled. Reports say it got bigger and bigger before bursting into a blaze of sparks. Some people even heard a boom as it passed over. The rare and very brief appearance of such a sight was spotted by a record number of people in the UK. Nearly 800, from Northern Ireland to Land's End, have registered seeing it.

Scientists from the UK Fireball Alliance (UKFall), which is led by staff from the Natural History Museum, say the meteor would have been part of an asteroid orbiting the sun before Earth got in the way. Meteors land regularly, but most end up in the sea or remote areas. Those that become fireballs are much brighter than usual and easier to spot. There were signs that this one broke up as it approached the ground, and fragments have been found in the Winchcombe area of Gloucestershire. These pieces are called meteorites.


iStock

What a meteorite looks like

Scientists believe that some more of the meteor's fragments might be out there, but say they should not be touched directly because that will leave fingermarks.

Dr Katherine Joy advised that if any more are found they should be photographed where they are, the location noted by phone GPS and then sent to **ukmeteornetwork@gmail.com**. They can then be picked up using a plastic bag or clean foil.

CLEVER CUTTLEFISH


iStock

A STUDY has shown that cuttlefish are clever enough to miss out on a snack to get an even tastier one.

Looking at the eyes of cuttlefish, you get a feeling there is more going on inside than you would expect, and it has been known for some time that they show signs of intelligence. We know they are cunning when hunting prey and use camouflage to completely disappear, but how intelligent are they? Could they pass the 'marshmallow test', designed to show signs of complex problem solving? A team in Cambridge decided to adapt the test to find out.

The test was originally devised for young children to see if they could delay eating one marshmallow if they could get two by waiting. The scientists replaced marshmallows with seafood snacks that were put in glass boxes. The door on the box with the less tasty option opened immediately, but the door on the tastier snack opened a few seconds later. The cuttlefish would hang around at the bottom of the tank until their favourite was released.

Not many animals are able to show such self-control, and the behaviour is usually found among longer-living animals, such as apes and parrots.

SUPER CHARIOT

EXCAVATIONS in Pompeii, Italy, have uncovered a magnificent chariot that would have been the Ferrari of its day!

The Roman chariot, discovered when archaeologists were securing the site from looters, is the finest from that time found in Italy so far. It is highly decorated with Roman gods, goddesses and spirits. It is thought the chariot would have been used for special occasions like festivals or parades and possibly even for weddings.

Pompeii was covered in ash from a huge eruption in 79 AD from the nearby volcano of Vesuvius. The town and many of the people living there were buried. Nearly 2,000 years later it is still revealing its amazing secrets.


Archaeological Park of Pompeii

SQUISHY FISHY ROBOT


Li et al./Nature

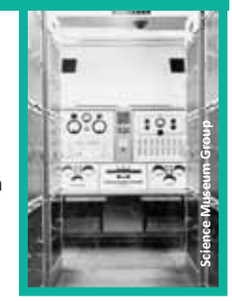
A SQUISHY robot is being used to get to the very bottom of the deepest part of the sea, the Mariana Trench.

Reaching the ocean depths is hard due to the incredible pressure that the weight of water creates. It is like the weight of an elephant pressing down on your thumb. Now scientists have designed a robot with flapping fins like the Mariana hadal snailfish that lives in the deep sea. The fish has a soft, see-through body and soft bones. The robot, still in development, is being tested in the South China Sea.

SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

This report is from the Science Museum in London

WHAT does tea have to do with computers?


Science Museum Group

Well, a British teashop helped create the very first office computer! Lyons & Co was a catering company best known for its teashops and was a familiar sight on the British high street throughout most of the 20th century. They recognised that computers could be used for business and to keep track of their sales and supplies.

So they developed the Lyons Electronic Office computer (right) to help with ordering, statistics and paying their employees. Better known as LEO I, it was the world's first automated office computer system, transforming office work and kick-starting the British computer industry! Find out more at **tinyurl.com/TeaComputer**.



IMOGEN FAIRES

***GOLDIE'S Oldies* is a brand-new comedy about a girl called Goldie who moves in with her grandad and his friends.**

What's *Goldie's Oldies* about?

It's about my character, Goldie, who moves, with my mum and my older brother Danny, to live with my grandad in London. It's all very exciting until we find out that he is actually already living with some very unique housemates, who end up being called the Oldies. So we have these new housemates and everything that comes with it, which leads to things happening in the house that we need to solve.

How do you think you'd cope living in a house full of oldies?

During filming I was spending a lot of time with the oldies, so it felt a bit like I lived with them anyway. I think it would kind of be the coolest thing in the world, especially if they were the oldies in the show. It would be interesting because there is a such a big difference between generations and the show definitely highlights that! I think I would kind of love it.

The house has to go without tech for a day, so how would you deal with that in real life?

I think I would go into some sort of rejection mode, my body would shut down and I wouldn't know where I am, who I am or what time it is! In a way it would be kind of a relief, because it is such a big part of our lives that it isn't really a choice any more. The phone is always going to be in our hands, and it's such a habit now that it would be a struggle – and you do see them struggle in the show, even the Oldies.

Goldie's housemates are definitely unique, but who would be your dream housemates?

Ooh, I think we'd need a range of people. I think Louis Theroux because I just need to hear what he has to say; I just need to talk to him multiple times a day. I feel like Michelle Obama, because she's amazing and because my mum would cry and clap every time she came round, which would be so funny. I feel like I just need to throw it out there and say Beyoncé, because I just can't not say Beyoncé! Any questions like this, I always throw her in, even if it just makes no sense.



***Goldie's Oldies* launches Monday 15 March at 5:30pm on Nickelodeon**

JUST SAY YES!

IF you could have a day where your parents said "yes" to everything, what would you ask for? That's what happens to Jenna Ortega's character in the fun new family film *Yes Day*!

Yes Day is so much fun to watch, but what was it like to make?

I had the most incredible experience shooting *Yes Day* and I think that the fun that we had on set definitely translates on the camera. It's not every day you get to go to work and throw water balloons at people or ride rollercoasters, or go to concerts and perform with these incredible, insanely talented artists. Shooting the film was even more fun than you could ever imagine.

What is your character Katie like?

Katie is 14, she's very independent and I think that she's in a bit of a rush to grow up. She cares for her younger siblings a lot, she's the oldest out of three and they do get on her nerves sometimes. She's the misunderstood teen who, you know, is just waiting for the fast life. I think part of that is unnecessary pressure she puts on herself for being the oldest kid and feeling like she should take more responsibility, and wanting to be allowed to do more adult things.



Did you ever feel like that?

I feel that way all the time. I just turned 18 and I was like: "Oh, now I can do a bunch of stuff I wanna do!" But then you're kind of lost because you're like, wait, it's not good not having my family here. It's cool because I think that you get to see Katie in a position where she's suddenly uncomfortable with the freedom that she's been given, and she kind of struggles navigating her way through that, which I think is relatable.



One of the scenes in the film involves going through a car wash with the window open...

That was not fun! I thought it would be fun – that had definitely crossed my mind, what it would be like to go through the carwash with the windows down. But it's cold, there's soap everywhere, sometimes it gets in your eyes and there's a big blowdryer at the end, which makes you so cold. The water pressure is really tough and very aggressive and you pretty much just feel like a wet dog, so I wouldn't recommend it. But it looks like fun, which is the main thing!

You filmed on a rollercoaster too, did that get a bit sickly?

I didn't mind. I know Jennifer Garner thought it was sickly. I loved it; it was cool

Stream *Yes Day* now on Netflix!





because we got to stay afterwards and keep riding. I would ride those coasters a million times over!

There's a scene involving a giant ice cream too. Did you get to eat it for real?

Yes, it was really awesome – the first day! I've eaten a lot in scenes before, so I know how to pace myself, but my little brother [played by Julian Lerner] was not ready for that. When you're offered that much ice cream as an 11-year-old boy, that's pretty exciting. We got towards the end of that scene and we didn't have to act too much, because we were all feeling pretty sick!

Did your parents ever give you a yes day?

No. I would have loved a yes day. I had never heard of a yes day, so this film opened my eyes and I wish I had known about it sooner! When I was younger, I used to be really into making pillow and blanket forts, so I'd like to make a huge fort using pillows, running through the entire house and even outside!



THIS WEEK



1 **OTI Mabuse has joined the panel of *The Masked Dancer*, a new spin-off series from *The Masked Singer*. Oti will join Jonathan Ross, Davina McCall and Mo Gilligan as they attempt to guess which famous face is dancing while disguised in a crazy costume!**

2 **THERE'S still time to enter the Song Academy Young Songwriter competition. If you're aged 8-18 and have written your own, original song, then this is the competition for you. All entries will be judged by top musicians and music industry professionals. You have until 31 March to enter and the full details can be found on the website at www.songacademy.co.uk/SAYS21.**



3 **WHILE trips to the indoor cinema may be off for a while, next month the Luna Drive In Cinema is back! The COVID-safe screenings will feature a host of top films that you can watch from the comfort of your family car. Screenings start from 12 April, so check www.lunadriveincinema.com to find a location near you!**

PICS OF THE WEEK

IF you love *The Amazing World of Gumball*, then you'll think Cartoon Network's new series is out of this world!

Elliott From Earth is made by the same talented team who created *The Amazing World of Gumball*. The animation follows a boy called Elliott, his mum Frankie, and pet dinosaur Mo, as they travel through the universe trying to work out how they ended up in space. The gang will meet some amazing cosmic creatures as they make their new home among the stars.





Catch the first four episodes of *Elliott From Earth* on Cartoon Network now, with the full series coming later in the year!

SHARE YOUR CREATIVITY AND GOOD VIBES WITH VIDIYO™



GET creative with LEGO VIDIYO and share your #VIDIYOVibes with your best friends and family.

With LEGO VIDIYO, you can create awesome versions of your favourite music videos from HRVY, Katy Perry, The Weeknd and LOADS more on the free LEGO VIDIYO app. Follow these five simple steps to get creating and spread the positivity and good vibes!



1 Download the free VIDIYO app on your smart device.



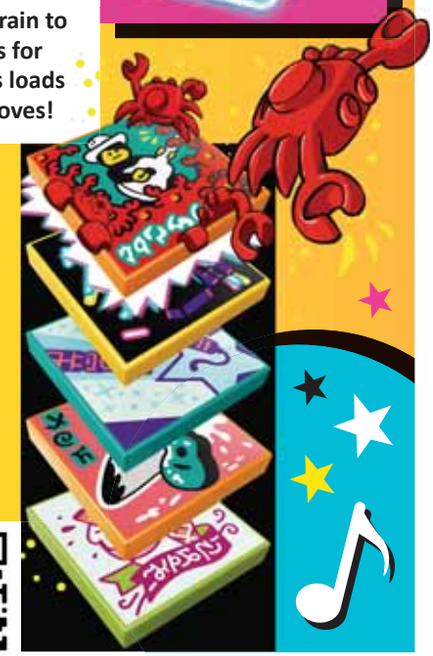
2 Then it's tune time! Choose your music.



3 Create a character for free or scan your BandMates. There are 12 to collect!



4 **Action!** Choose your location, start recording and get customising your video with BeatBits, from glitter rain to fun and silly costumes for your BandMates. Plus loads of awesome dance moves!



5 Once you've finished, share your #VIDIYOVibes to spread smiles!

SHARE YOUR #VIDIYOVIBES!

Please be aware of age restrictions on YouTube and social media.

Head to the LEGO YouTube channel to check out HRVY's #VIDIYOVibes and get inspired!

Search for the free LEGO VIDIYO app in the usual place you go to, or scan this QR code to get creative!

A CHALLENGE LIKE NO OTHER



All images: Comic Relief

FOR Red Nose Day, professional racing driver Billy Monger embarked on a huge triathlon-inspired challenge. The 21-year-old double leg amputee battled the elements – as well as physical and mental exhaustion – as he attempted to walk, cycle, and kayak a staggering 140 miles (225km).

DAY 1 POUNDING THE PAVEMENT – 18 MILES FROM THE MILLENNIUM BRIDGE, GATESHEAD, TO DURHAM CATHEDRAL



I didn't sleep brilliantly the night before the start of the challenge. I think it was a mix of excitement and nerves. I knew I needed to get my head down, stay focused and get the job done.

I might be smiling, but I'd had a few issues with my right leg just before this photo was taken. Some days you put your legs on and it feels fine, but then the next day you can struggle to walk even a few steps.



I was blown away by the support I got along the route. Chris Ramsey even came down to the Angel of the North to keep me company for a few miles.

DAY 2 THE BOAT TAKES A BATTERING – 50MPH WINDS HIT THE LAKE DISTRICT AS THE CHALLENGE HANGS IN THE BALANCE



My face shows how disappointed I was for the kayak day to be cancelled. If I had made it out on the lake, I would have spent more time in the water than on the water!



What a difference a day makes. It was still windy and a bit blowy, but I was delighted to finally be out on the water – albeit a day late.

DAY 3 SADDLE SORE – BIG CYCLE DAY FROM THE BULLRING IN BIRMINGHAM TO BLENHEIM PALACE. A MERE 65 MILES!

I've not really ridden a bike since my accident; I really struggled to get the hang of it. Less than six weeks later I was cycling through a busy and very hilly city centre.





I never expected to meet Cheryl, having just cycled up the steepest hill of my life! She came out to surprise me during a much-needed pit stop. Cheryl climbed Mount Kilimanjaro for Red Nose Day in 2009, so we talked about how incredibly tough these challenges are.

DAY 4 THE FINISH LINE IS IN SIGHT – WELL, SORT OF... JUST 50.5 MILES TO GO!



Zoe Ball came down to Brands Hatch to help me kick off the final day of my challenge. Due to the kayaking delays, I had extra laps to do on the bike in order to make up the full 140 miles.

I know every inch of Brands Hatch, but I'm usually racing around it at 120mph in a car. It feels a lot longer when you have to walk it! I was so exhausted and pretty much running on empty when Joel Dommett turned up to cheer me up.

So many people helped me after my accident, which is why I took on this challenge. I wanted to raise as much money as possible to make sure other people can get support if they need it. It was this motivation that kept me going during that last gruelling mile to the chequered flag. I didn't expect to be so emotional at the finish line, but I had physically pushed myself to the absolute limit to get there. This was by far one of the hardest things I have ever done!



To see the highs and lows of Billy's Big Red Nose Day Challenge, and to find out how the money he raises will be helping charities in the UK and overseas, tune in on Thursday 18 March at 9pm on BBC One. Go to comicrelief.com/billy-monger

RED NOSE DAY FUNNY IS POWER

WIN! SUPERTHINGS POWER MACHINES



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

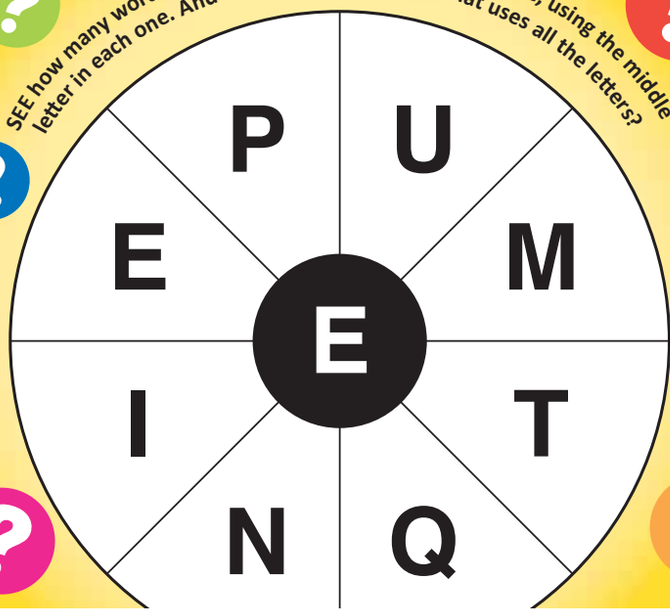
Send in your answers and one lucky winner will win a SuperThings Power Machines bundle, thanks to Magic Box Toys. Collect 80 characters, including a new Ultra Rare glow-in-the-dark character – Dr Volt. Plus there are also Power Jets, Giant Power Bots and Battle Spinners to collect, along with great value packs and the ultimate Battle Arena Playset.

Find out more at www.superthings.com.

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

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.

TAKE

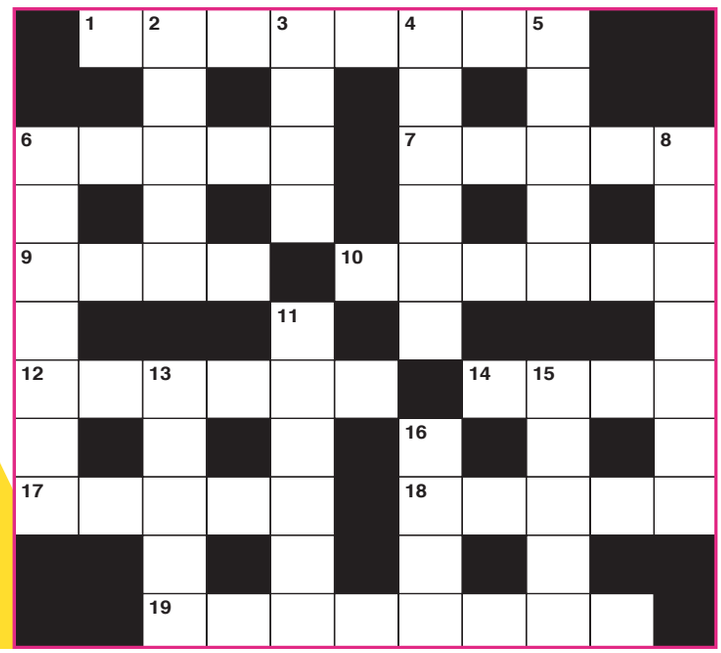
GIFT

WIN! MARVIN'S MAGIC PENS



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

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



ACROSS

1 Time when the whole school gets together (8)
6 Selected (5)
7 Tailless amphibians (5)
9 *Finding* ___ : film about a clownfish (4)
10 Opposite of greater (6)
12 Done for free (6)
14 ___ Moore: Hollywood actress (4)
17 Two times (5)
18 Express in words (5)
19 Soft part of a bed (8)

DOWN

2 Extreme weather involving rain and lightning (5)
3 What we see with (4)
4 Annoy or disturb (6)
5 Periods of 365 days (5)
6 Control the way music is played (7)
8 Live through danger or hardship (7)
11 Process food (6)
13 Glass object that splits light (5)
15 Amends (5)
16 Finished (4)

HOW TO ENTER: Send your finished puzzles by email to **win@firstnews.co.uk**. Don't forget to put **Puzzles 769** in the subject box. We're afraid we can't accept postal entries for now. The closing date for puzzle entries is **Thursday 18 March 2021**.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

CAN you spot the five changes we've made to this picture from Paramount Pictures' *Rumble*?





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First News 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 Who is the first female Syrian refugee pilot in the world?

.....

2 When did International Women's Day take place?

.....

3 What is the Mariana Trench?

.....

4 Who is the current Chancellor?

.....

5 Where are conservationists planning to open the world's first platypus refuge, in a bid to help save this unusual species from extinction?

.....

6 Which book won Best Story at the 2021 *Blue Peter* Book Awards?

.....

7 What did Megan Keppie recently discover?

.....

8 Where has Amazon opened its first grocery store in the UK?

.....

1) Maya Ghazal 2) 8 March 3) The deepest part of the sea 4) Rishi Sunak 5) Australia 6) A Kind of Spark 7) A 21-year-old message in a bottle 8) Ealing, West London

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' (eg, 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: Mouse has been removed, bottle is larger, liquid is now blue, curtains have been closed, photo removed from back room. **Word wheel:** autograph. **Word ladder:** boil, coil, coin, corn, cord, curd.

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

H	O	M	E	W	O	R	K	F
I	T		N		N		I	
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WIN! A NIGHT SKY PROJECTOR FROM Brainstorm TOYS

TRANSFORM your room into an outer space light show with the awe-inspiring Night Sky projector!

Learn about the night sky with four incredible projection discs. View the planets of the solar system, constellations, the moon or over 20,000 stars in the stunning night sky. The images are ultra-sharp and can be projected up to 3.65m (12ft) wide on your walls and ceilings.

We have seven Night Sky projectors up for grabs. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:



How many moons does Mars have?
a) Eight b) Five c) Two





Available from Amazon

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY STAR

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 19. The closing date is 25 March 2021.

TELL YOUR FRIENDS TRY 3 ISSUES FOR £1



Still delivering the news to your door every Friday
Learn about the changing world around you while keeping up to date with the latest science, sport and entertainment news.

www.firstnews.co.uk/subscribe Follow-on price: 13 issues for £22.99

PUFFIN BOOKS *Advertisement feature*

BECOMING

ADAPTED FOR YOUNGER READERS

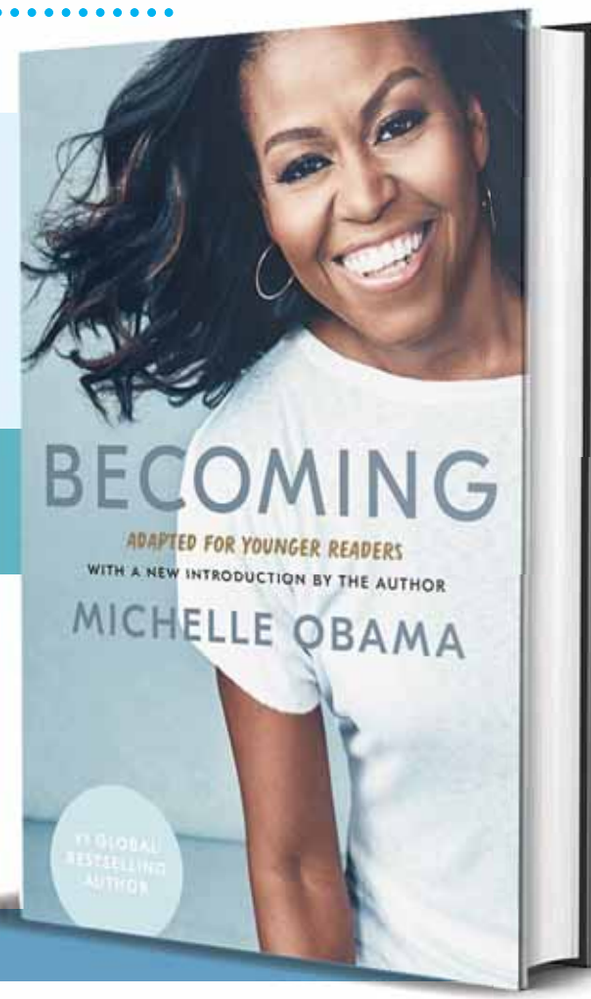
MICHELLE Robinson started life sharing a bedroom with her older brother Craig, in their family's upstairs apartment in her great-aunt's house. She would go on to become Michelle Obama, the inspirational First Lady of the United States of America.

Now adapted for readers aged 10+, with new photographs and a new introduction from Michelle Obama herself, this memoir tells a very personal, and completely inspiring, story of how, through hard work and determination, the girl from the South Side of Chicago built an extraordinary life.

A tale of ups and downs, triumphs and failures, this book will take you from the early years – first kiss, first school, first love – to the wonders of the White House, and the moment Mrs Obama shook hands with the Queen of England.

A book to read, share and talk about with the adults in your life, this is a call to action and compassion, and hope for change in uncertain times, in a scary world.

Above all, it is a book to make you think: who are you, and what do you want to become?



Available in store and online at WHSmith

A SUPER SWITCH



LAST week, the Nintendo Switch turned four years old. Half home console, half portable games machine, the Switch has proved to be immensely popular. But what's next from Nintendo? Last week, we heard reports that a Nintendo Switch Pro is on the way…

Compared to the new Xbox Series X/S and the PlayStation 5 consoles, the Nintendo Switch has a lot less power.

For a couple of years there have been rumours of a souped-up Nintendo Switch swirling around, but at last there's been some believable news.

A report from respected news organisation Bloomberg says that Nintendo is planning a version of the Switch with a larger, higher definition screen that will be able to show more detail.

Apparently, the screen will be made by Samsung, which makes the popular Galaxy smartphones.

There aren't many more details than that, unfortunately. But we're definitely looking forward to seeing Mario's glorious moustache in more detail than ever before!

THIS YEAR'S BAFTA GAMES AWARDS NOMINEES ARE...

THE nominees for the BAFTA Games Awards 2021 have been announced, and it's looking to be a tough competition! Which games do you want to win?

BEST BRITISH GAME

- *Dreams* (Media Molecule)
- *F1 2020* (Codemasters)
- *Fall Guys* (Mediatonic)
- *RÖKI* (Polygon Treehouse)
- *Sackboy: A Big Adventure* (Sumo Digital)
- *The Last Campfire* (Hello Games)

BEST FAMILY GAME

- *Animal Crossing: New Horizons* (Nintendo)
- *Astro's Playroom* (SIE Japan Studio)
- *Dreams* (Media Molecule)
- *Fall Guys* (Mediatonic)
- *Minecraft: Dungeons* (Mojang Studios)
- *Sackboy: A Big Adventure* (Sumo Digital)



A BIG WEEK FOR *FALL GUYS*

ALONG with receiving lots of BAFTA nominations (above), Mediatonic, the company that makes *Fall Guys*, has been bought by Epic Games!

Epic, which owns and develops *Fortnite* (PEGI 12), bought Mediatonic in the latest of a series of purchases, which also saw it snap up Psyonix, the maker of *Rocket League*.

BAKING SPECIAL

REECE'S RECIPES



TOP TIP!
Experiment with different ingredients for different occasions!

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

EASTER BARK

Ingredients

- 200g chocolate (any kind you like)
- 100g mini eggs
- sprinkles or other cupcake decorations

Method

1. Melt the chocolate. You can do this in a microwave (30 seconds at a time) or in a bowl over a pan/bowl of boiling water
2. Line a baking tray that has a lip/shallow side with parchment paper
3. Pour the chocolate over your lined baking tray
4. Top with mini eggs and sprinkles of your choice
5. Put in the fridge for 20 minutes to set
6. Once chilled, take the chocolate out of the tray and break into shards and enjoy!



Reece says: "These shards are so easy to make and can be used to decorate cakes, or just to eat on their own!"

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.

SOPHIE SIMPSON

FIRE ENGINEER TECHNICIAN



SOPHIE uses her science degree to help make buildings safer for residents and firefighters, thanks to her job with the London Fire Brigade (LFB).

WHAT I DO

My role mainly consists of carrying out Building Regulation consultation reviews. This includes reading fire strategies, looking at plans and sometimes reviewing computer simulations of fire scenarios, known as computational fluid dynamics, or CFD. My day can also include project work. As a technician, I get less involved in projects and committees than the engineers do, but I have been included in writing Government consultation responses.

WHAT CAREER I WANTED WHEN I WAS AT SCHOOL

I'm not sure I knew. In Year 6 I said I wanted to be a marine biologist. That could have been because I was a competitive swimmer, or it could have been because three-quarters of the girls in the class said that's what they wanted to be. In secondary school I enjoyed science and maths, so decided to study chemical engineering at university, as I found it interesting but also saw it as a way of keeping my horizons fairly open.



Sophie and her dad, John

HOW I GOT MY JOB

I think competitive sport really helped me. I decided that if I could train with the boys, I could study with them too. When I chose to do chemical engineering, I knew that it was a subject that could open lots of different career paths for me. There are lots of options, from oil and gas, to energy, to working for famous chocolate brands. I think it was my dad who first suggested that I could join the LFB as a fire engineer technician. He was a firefighter in the LFB for 30 years. It was something that definitely interested me, as it was a way to improve the safety of the built environment in London every day. And seeing women, like my head of department and my colleague, already in the role and in leadership positions was an inspiration.

WHAT I LOVE ABOUT MY JOB

The best thing has got to be the wide range of projects I get to work on – every week brings something new, and that keeps things exciting. Also seeing first-hand how the work we do is making the built environment and London safer is definitely up there.

WHAT MESSAGE I'D GIVE TO ANY READERS WHO WANT TO WORK IN SCIENCE

If it's something you enjoy, do it! I wasn't sure what I wanted to be, even when I finished uni, but I knew the subjects I enjoyed. And if you enjoy it, it makes studying and working a much better experience! Also, don't let anyone ever tell you "you can't", or "you won't succeed". A lecturer told me I couldn't balance studying and competitive sports, but I set my mind to proving him wrong and I did!

VISIT FIRSTCAREERS.CO.UK – A SHOWCASE OF HUNDREDS OF JOBS AND CAREER PATHS TO INSPIRE YOU

WIN! A FAMILY TREASURE TRAIL

STEP outside and re-discover a world of fun and adventure with Treasure Trails this Easter.



Solve the clues and uncover the secrets with one of more than 1,200 self-guided adventure Trails across the UK.

With themes including Treasure Hunts, Spy Missions and Detective Mysteries, Treasure Trails provide the perfect solution to those looking for responsible, socially-distant entertainment.

Lasting around two hours, each Trail has its own specific theme and makes use of well-known local landmarks, signs, statues, monuments, images, engravings or any other unique or eye-catching features to create an exciting adventure.

From remote locations to wide-open spaces, there are hundreds of Treasure Trails to choose from across the country.

35 lucky winners can pick the Trail that is closest to them to complete. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

Sherlock Holmes lived on which street?
a) Baker b) Harris c) Mead

Visit www.treasuretrails.co.uk for more information

Winners must redeem their prize with Treasure Trails by 31 October 2021

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY TRAILS

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 19. The closing date is 25 March 2021.

WIN! A GALAXY SCHOOL BUNDLE FROM SMIGGLE



TO celebrate the return to the classroom, Smiggle is giving three fans the chance to win their fan favourite School Gift Bundles from the new Galaxy range!



Smiggle has everything budding learners need to embark on an exciting new learning adventure and get set for the classroom. The lucky winners can get their hands on a backpack, lunchbox, drink bottle, pencil case and a scented pen pack – meaning they will be fully equipped to return to school in style.

Three lucky winners will each win a Galaxy School Gift Bundle, which includes a Galaxy Attach Backpack, Galaxy Attach Square Lunchbox, Drink Bottle, Galaxy Pop Out Pencil Case and an Inkball Scented Pen Pack. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:



Shooting stars are actually what?
a) Comets b) Meteors c) Satellites

www.smiggle.co.uk

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY SMIGGLE

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 19. The closing date is 25 March 2021.

UN BEAN LIEVABLE!


Gil Privett


Cameron Vince


Ashleigh Gahagan

HAVE baked beans ever looked so tasty?!

Pupils at Frome College in Somerset have been showing off their creative talents as part of the Fine Dining Beans Challenge, which was dreamt up by teacher Emily McMunn. She tasked her Year 9 and 10 students with making a plate of baked beans and toast look unique and professional. Check out some of the tasty entries!

Gil Privett scooped first prize for his amazing swan creation (top left). Ms McMunn told her students that she would donate the winner's height in beans (and tins) to the Frome Food Bank. Gil is 160cm tall, so that works out at about 15 tins!

Email **newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk** if your school has had any creative contests!

BOWLED OVER


Sotheby's

A SMALL bowl bought at a garage sale has turned out to be a rare Chinese artifact.

The white and blue porcelain bowl was bought for just $35 (£25) when the owner spotted it in a yard sale in Connecticut, USA.

When the new owner took it to be valled, they discovered it was actually a very rare 15th century piece worth up to $500,000 (£360,000)!

The item is one of only seven such bowls known to exist in the world. Most of the others can be found in museums.

The bowl is now going up for auction on 17 March as part of Sotheby's Auction of Important Chinese Art.

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE


Facebook/Megan Keppie


Facebook/Megan Keppie

A MESSAGE in a bottle has washed up in the Shetland Islands after 21 years at sea.

Megan Keppie was walking on a beach in Mangaster, when she spotted the bottle and noticed the note inside. It was dated from 17 January 2000 and written in Faroese, a language spoken by people on the Faroe Islands, near Denmark.

Megan shared her exciting find on Facebook and asked if anyone could help her translate it. It turns out the bottle was sent by a Scout group from the town of Klaksvík.

Remarkably, Megan managed to track down the Scout group and find the letter's actual writer, Finn Johannesen, to let them all know she'd discovered it.

WOW!

JAMIE Oliver has revealed he puts grapes on pizza!

The TV chef said red grapes were the "secret ingredient" to his sausage pizza recipe. He made the shock confession on the TV show *Keep Cooking Family Favourites*. The unusual topping divided viewers. So, would you eat grapes on pizza?


Getty



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer

FirstNews ● Issue 769 ● 12 – 18 March 2021



THE SKY IS THE LIMIT

MAYA Ghazal, 21, is a Syrian refugee, student, activist and the first female Syrian refugee pilot in the world. We spoke to Maya about her experience of coming to the UK, how she became a pilot and how it felt this week when she was made a Goodwill Ambassador by the UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency.

"Reading the news, getting educated on what's happening in the world is great. High five to *First News* readers!"

● You've been made a Goodwill Ambassador for the UNHCR on International Women's Day. How does that feel?

It's very exciting! I'm very happy it's happening – I've been working with the UNHCR for five years now. I feel honoured to have a title and the opportunity to speak for refugees using the UNHCR platform. It's pretty cool! It's an important issue that touches me personally because I myself had to leave my country.



● Do you remember the first time you worked with the UNHCR?

I do, I took over their Instagram. I told the world about being a refugee, the struggles I faced, how my community helped me and how other people can help too. I did feel I was putting myself out there, but because I used their platform and was supported, it didn't end up feeling that scary at all. It encouraged me to keep speaking out about my experience.

● What was it like when you arrived in the UK?

Everyone expects an adventure, but because I arrived here on a family-reunion visa as my dad was already here, we just came on the plane! When I arrived, I'd just turned 16, and needed to go to school, but the schools I visited didn't recognise the exam results I received in Syria. Even though I'd got good grades, they just weren't accepted. One school completely refused to see me!

● Then you went from not being able to get into a school to studying aviation (flight) engineering at university!

I went to an open day at a college where they told me: "We don't accept your qualifications, but go and speak to this teacher. It probably won't lead to anything. But just in case, go and speak to him." So I went to an engineering teacher and said: "I have no friends. I have nothing to do. I just want to study." It made my life sound so sad! But I think he saw something in me and offered to help me complete tests in English, maths and science. He gave me a chance. I didn't always want to study aviation, but after staying at a hotel near Heathrow Airport, where I could see the runway, I just thought it was so cool. I told my mum there and then I wanted to study aviation.

● How did your family react?

My mum thought it was a bit impulsive! But I couldn't let it go, even though I faced people telling me: "You're Syrian, you're Muslim, you're not even from this country. Do you think you're going to be working in an airport? It was already hard for you to come to this country!" For a while I thought maybe they're right, but after a week I was like: no, I want to do this. The whole point of my dad making this journey of coming to the UK was for us to have dreams, and be able to achieve them!

● You've faced a lot of disruption in your life. For many *First News* readers, the pandemic might be the first time they're experiencing disruption. Do you have any advice for them?

I understand what *First News* readers are going through. For five years in Syria, we went through a very similar disruption. The pandemic has definitely brought back old memories! My advice is to focus on the future, rather than the present. What would you like to happen in the future? We don't have much control in these uncertain times, so we have to make the best of what we have. Explore your interests, learn a new skill. Maybe even just spend some time thinking! I think that reading the news, getting educated on what's happening around the world is great. Honestly, high five to *First News* readers! Maybe *First News* readers could read my story, and educate themselves on what it's like to be a refugee.

"Anybody could be a refugee. It doesn't mean anything, they're just human beings, not numbers. They have lives and futures and hopes and dreams"

● What message will you be sharing as a Goodwill Ambassador?

I want to share my story in the hope that people can understand that refugees have potential, and can reach that potential if they are given the chance. I also want to give refugees hope that their dreams for the future can come true! It's possible for you to achieve your dreams, you just have to believe in yourself. There are over 80 million people in the world who have been forced from their homes; people forget that those people left everything behind, just to look for safety. They're starting from zero, often in a different country with a different language. You know, anybody could be a refugee. It doesn't mean anything, they're just human beings, not numbers. They have lives and futures and hopes and dreams. Just say hi to the new refugee kid at school, you could make their life much better!

Learn more about Maya and her work with the UNHCR at www.unhcr.org/maya-ghazal

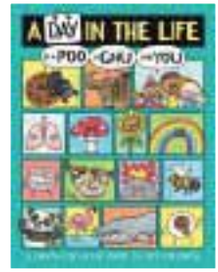
CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY FIRST NEWS

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

BOOK NEWS

BLUE PETER BOOK AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED!

ON World Book Day last week, the winners of the annual *Blue Peter* Book Awards were announced!





The two winning titles were voted for by more than 200 children from 12 schools across the UK, who voted for the Best Story of the year and the Best Book with Facts.

There was a lot of tough competition, but unfortunately there could only be two winners. Taking the prize of Best Story was *A Kind of Spark* by Elle McNicoll, and winning the Best Book with Facts award was *A Day In The Life Of A Poo, A Gnu And You* by Mike Barfield and Jess Bradley.

Author Elle McNicoll said: "As someone who grew up watching *Blue Peter* and discovering brilliant new books from the show, it is an extraordinary moment to be recognised."

Author Mike Barfield said on receiving the award: "Winning any award is a huge honour but winning the *Blue Peter* Book Award is extra special. The child in me that still persists to this day does find it rather amusing that a book with 'poo' in its title will now have to be mentioned several times on the show."

To find out more about the winning books, head to **www.booktrust.org.uk/bluepeter**.

STEP INSIDE YOUR STORY



Mara the Storyteller shows off her concertina book. Below: the book in more detail

Mara the Storyteller

THE British Library is launching a new initiative to celebrate and help promote diversity in children's books.

Launching with submissions by renowned writers, poets, illustrators and storytellers, the library wants to get kids across the UK creating 'concertina books' about themselves.

By making one of these foldable books, the British Library hopes to show that anyone can be the author, illustrator or star of a story.

To find out more about Step Inside Your Story, head to **www.bl.uk/childrens-books/activities/step-inside-your-story**.



YOUR READS!



reviewed by Ektoras Crisp, aged ten

THE CITY OF SECRET RIVERS JACOB SAGER WEINSTEIN

Hyacinth Hayward is a normal girl, or that's what she thought! One day she moves from America to London, and everything is very different. For example, her neighbour isn't her grandma, but some weird old woman called Lady Roslyn. And her gran's letter now switches between saying "you are in grave danger" and "here's a gift".

But most importantly, she finds out you should never mix hot and cold water or your elderly neighbour will have to save London, while you make friends with a talking pig and spot your relatives everywhere! Oh, and your neighbour is trying to murder and steal your mum's blood!

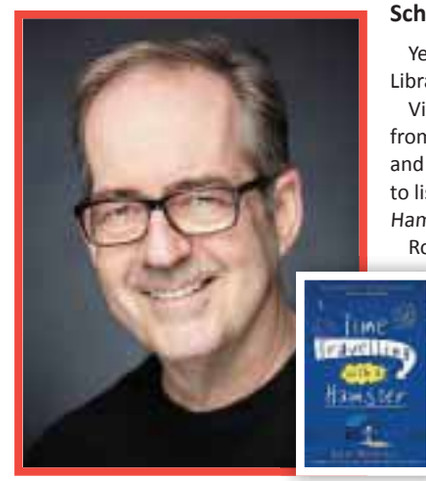
I really enjoyed this book because it's about my home town, London, and its rivers. Strongly recommended if you are interested in learning about a secret side of London.

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

GO back in time with a hamster and Ross Welford in the Virtual School Library!



Yes, Ross is our Virtual School Library author of the week!

Visit the Virtual School Library from the National Literacy Trust and the Oak National Academy to listen to *Time Travelling with a Hamster* by Ross Welford for free!

Ross Welford recommends these books:

- *Bridge To Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson
- *Worst. Holiday. Ever.* by Charlie Higson
- *The Brothers Lionheart* by Astrid Lindgren, illustrated by Ilon Wikland

"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

WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?

COMIC RELIEF

WATER BOTTLE
SAINSBURY'S £10.00



Bright, bold, blue and covered in noses, this drinks bottle is spot-on for supporting Red Nose Day 2021 and keeping you hydrated while on the move. At least £5 from each bottle sold will be donated to Comic Relief.



2021 RED NOSES
SHOP.COMICRELIEF.COM £1.50 EACH

The first ever 100% plastic-free, plant-based noses have arrived. This year there are ten woodland creature noses to find, including the ultra-rare Gold Tommy Nose. Each Red Nose comes in its own special box that you can turn inside out to build a treehouse for your nose. At least 75p from each one will go to Comic Relief.

*All prices correct at time of printing

RED NOSE DAY T-SHIRTS
TKMAXX.COM FROM £7.99

TK Maxx has launched an exclusive Red Nose Day range of T-shirts featuring iconic Disney and Pixar characters, including Jessie, Buzz or Woody from *Toy Story*, Nemo and the guys from *Monsters, Inc.* Available up to age 12, in short or long sleeve and in a range of colours – you'll be spoilt for choice. At least £2.50 from the sale of each T-shirt will go to Comic Relief.



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WIN! A MARVIN'S MAGIC MIND-BLOWING COLLECTION BUNDLE



MARVIN'S Magic is recognised as the brand leader and number one for magic worldwide.

Magic is normally based on dexterity, skill and many years of practice, but with Marvin's Magic, budding magicians can perform similar sensational effects in no time. It's professional magic made easy.

The Marvin's Magic Mind-Blowing collection of tricks is guaranteed to impress and entertain your family and friends.

Six lucky winners will each receive Marvin's Magic 30 Amazing Tricks & Stunts, 30 Miraculous Mind-Reading Tricks and 30 Incredible Card Tricks.

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

Traditionally, what type of hat would a magician wear?

a) Top hat
b) Bowler hat
c) Fedora

Marvin's Magic®

www.marvinsmagic.com

For 15% off discount during March 2021, visit marvinsmagic.com and use code MagicFN15

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY TRICK

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 19. The closing date is 25 March 2021.

FIRST NEWS HOME iHUB

FIRST NEWS HOME iHUB
IDEAL FOR HOMESCHOOLING

PERFECT FOR YEAR 2 TO YEAR 8



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

FEBRUARY CHALLENGE

by pupils from Finton House School

THIRTY-EIGHT pupils from our school pledged to walk and/or run 100km each in February in support of two causes: Breathing Spaces at Great Ormond Street Hospital and Harry's Giant Pledge.

Year 2 pupil Freddie, whose brother Alfie is in Year 5, had drawn a wishing star in art, and wished that their cousin Harry (who died of bone cancer at the age of five) would come back to life.

Barnaby, also in Year 5, and Jamie in Year 1 sadly lost their own brother Rory a few years ago, so four friends, Kieran, Mathilda, Alfie and Barnaby, decided to set themselves a challenge to raise funds for the charities.

We told our friends about it in Class Time over Zoom and before we knew it, loads of our friends pledged to do the same, along with a couple of their younger siblings too.

We had 38 'Fintonians', mainly from Year 5, who all committed to walking or running 100km during February.

Not only are we raising money for two small, but much needed, charities, we are also working as a team to a shared goal, despite not physically being together during lockdown.

Early morning walks before Zoom school lessons, lunchtime runs and after 'home learning' school outings all counted towards our 100km goal.

So far we have raised just over £23,500.

The Fintonian February team



SCHOOL NEWS

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.

MY BOOK

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

by Olive Jamieson

I BEGAN my book in the first coronavirus lockdown back in March 2020. It started as a diary.

I was frustrated, because I felt like people didn't understand what it was like for children during the coronavirus pandemic. It was my goal just to put my thoughts down. I felt like I could share my experiences through writing them down, and that made me feel better.

I kept on writing, and my diary turned into a book, *The Coronavirus Kids*. It covers my experiences during the pandemic: cancelled plans, missing out on school and being separated from my friends, as well as some other themes, including Donald Trump.

My biggest hope for the book is that it will help people understand how hard it is for kids in coronavirus times, and that it will help alert the Government that it is so much harder than they think for kids not going to school.

I decided to donate all profits from the sale of my book to Ella's Unlocking Freedom charity as charities need more help because of coronavirus.

I chose Ella's because the women they support have been through horrible experiences and they need a lot of support. Like children, their voices are being heard less than others during the pandemic. And their freedoms have been even more limited. I want to raise as much money as possible for Ella's.



The Coronavirus Kids is available to order now on Amazon

SNAPPED

WE asked you to send in photos of you with your copy of *First News*, and to tell us why you and your family like reading the paper each week.

Here's Hazel, reading her first copy of *First News*. Hazel said: "I have only just discovered *First News* and I love it! The headlines are catchy and you want to read them. Now I have asked my mum to subscribe and we have. I can't wait to get the next issue."



The Majid family love *First News* and eagerly wait for their copy every week. They enjoy reading the paper and love the activities in it, providing weekend fun for all the family.



SUBSCRIBE FOR SCHOOL – FIND OUT MORE AT SCHOOLS.FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK
CALL: (020) 3195 7256 EMAIL: SCHOOLS@FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK

FirstNews ● Issue 769 ● 12 – 18 March 2021

SPORT IN NUMBERS

2 titles were won by Alfie Hewett at the World Wheelchair Tennis Tournament in the Netherlands. First, he beat fellow Brit Gordon Reid in two sets in the singles final. Then, Hewett and Reid teamed up for the doubles final, taking just one hour and seven minutes to win 6-1, 6-1.


Getty

31 runs not out by Fran Wilson helped England's cricketers secure a 32-run victory over New Zealand, as the tourists won the three-match Twenty20 series 3-0. England are in excellent form, having now won their last 11 completed Twenty20 international games.


Getty

6 league losses at home in a row is Liverpool's unwelcome tally. The defending champions' 1-0 defeat to Fulham means that the Reds now have the worst home record this year in England's top four leagues, collecting one point from seven games. Liverpool will be hoping to stop the rot when they host Aston Villa on 10 April.


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Ryan Kent celebrates scoring the first goal against St Mirren (left), watched by Rangers manager Steven Gerrard (below)
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RANGERS RISE TO THE TOP!

TEN years since last winning the Scottish Premiership, Rangers took the title with six games left to play!

Rangers' 32nd league match of the season was at home against St Mirren, and after 16 minutes the Glasgow side were already 2-0 up, thanks to goals from Ryan Kent and Alfredo Morelos. A third from Ianis Hagi at the start of the second half put the game beyond doubt... but not the title. Although second-placed team Celtic were more than 20 points behind, they could still catch their rivals. However, a goalless draw with Dundee United the following day put paid to those slim chances and Rangers were confirmed as the 2020-2021 champions.

This incredible success marks the end of a difficult decade for the club. After winning the league title in 2010-2011, Rangers saw financial problems replace success on the pitch. Unable to settle its debts, the club had to close down and its assets were sold to another company, which was later renamed Rangers Football Club. Playing its first games in the Third Division, the new team managed to gain promotion back into the Premiership in just four seasons.

In June 2018, Liverpool legend Steven Gerrard was appointed as manager, having only previously managed at under-18 level before. It proved to be a smart move. To claim this season's title, Rangers won 28 games, drew four and lost none, scoring 77 goals and conceding just nine. "I am so proud of the players," said Gerrard. "It has been an incredible journey we have been on and we deserve it."


Getty

INSIDE STORIES!

TEAM GB collected a haul of medals at the European Athletics Indoor Championships.

One impressive performance came from Keely Hodgkinson in the 800m. Leading for most of the race, she crossed the line in two minutes and 3.88 seconds to take gold. Victory meant that the 19-year-old became Britain's youngest European Indoors champion for more than 50 years.

Andrew Pozzi was a contender for the gold medal in the exhilarating men's 60m hurdles. He equalled his personal best time of 7.43 seconds, but took silver, finishing just 0.01 seconds behind Frenchman Wilhem Belocian.

The women's 60m hurdles saw sisters Cindy Sember and Tiffany Porter compete against each other. Favourite Nadine Visser, from the Netherlands, was the winner, while Sember collected silver and Porter came in third for the bronze.

Britain ended this year's competition in third place, with 12 medals. This matched their best ever performance, set at the Glasgow Indoor Championships two years ago.



The 2021 Championships were Keely Hodgkinson's first attempt at winning a major title

Tiffany Porter and Cindy Sember

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