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First News

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POPE MEETS SPIDER-MAN!



HERE's a photo we didn't expect to see at First News!

by editor in chief Nicky Cox

Pope Francis meeting Spider-Man in the Vatican City?! Eh?

It turns out that Mattia Villardita, the 28-year-old who dressed up as the superhero, has made it his mission to

bring joy to children in hospital.

Mattia began "Superheroes in the Ward" in 2019, with him and his friends dressing up as superheroes to visit sick children.

When Mattia met the Holy Father, he gave the Pope, who invited him

because he knew about his efforts, his very own Spider-Man mask.

And Mattia hasn't let the COVID-19 pandemic beat him. He's made more than 1,400 video calls to sick children because he could not visit them in person.

HOLY COW!



COWS may provide an answer to the world's plastic problem.

Scientists in Austria have discovered that bacteria from a cow's stomach can digest certain types of plastic – so could be a new and sustainable way to reduce litter.

Dr Doris Ribitsch, from the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna, carried out research on plastics commonly used in textiles and packaging, as well as compostable plastic bags.

Her team's results, which were recently published in *Frontiers in Bioengineering and Biotechnology*, showed all three types of plastics they tested could be broken down by the microorganisms from cow stomachs.

POETRY COMPETITION



If you're aged between 11 and 17, then the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award wants to hear what you have to say. Entry is absolutely free and young writers can enter as many poems as they wish into the competition. The closing date for entries is 31 July so head to foyleyoungpoets.org to get involved.

CANCER TEST TRIAL

A new blood test that can detect more than 50 different types of cancer before symptoms appear is going to be piloted (tested for the first time) by the NHS in England. The test looks for changes in DNA that can be found in the blood if a tumour is present. Dr Marco Gerlinger, from the Institute of Cancer Research in London, said: "For some of the most common tumour types, such as bowel or lung cancer, the test even picked up cancers that were very small, at a stage where many of them could potentially be cured." The trials will begin this autumn, and the results of the pilot scheme should be known by 2023.

PANDA TWINS BORN



Shin Shin (right) with daughter Xiang Xiang

Twin giant pandas have been born at a zoo in Tokyo. The duo are the first to be born at Ueno Zoo in four years. Mother Shin Shin was born in 2005 and arrived at the zoo with her partner RiRi in 2011. They also have a little girl called Xiang Xiang. Pandas are really difficult to breed in captivity and are classed as vulnerable as there are only a few thousand of them left.

QUICK NEWS

TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS

BUILDING COLLAPSE



As First News went to press, more than 150 people were still missing following a building collapse in Miami, Florida. The block contained 135 apartments, 55 of which fell away leaving piles of debris and rubble. After four days only 11 bodies had been recovered. While the families of those missing were still holding out hope their loved ones would be pulled out, hopes were fading. The cause of the collapse, which happened in the middle of the night, is unclear. A report from 2018 showed that there were serious structural concerns. It is not clear if any repairs took place but the cost at the time was estimated at \$9 million (£6.5 million).

HIGH WIRE RECORD

Two brothers from San Francisco have set a new world record for the longest high-line ever. Moises and Daniel Monterrubio, along with their friends, spent a week stringing a single 855m line across a huge gap in Yosemite National Park, stretching across a series of drops up to 487m deep. Moises walked the line in 37 minutes. The longest line previously walked in Yosemite was 228m.



RUBBISH BUSINESS

A woman who was put on furlough from her job has found a new career after picking up bits of plastic along the banks of the River Thames. Flora Blathwayt was helping with a river clean-up for an environmental charity when she had the idea of using the colourful pieces to decorate greetings cards. Now she has created a successful business from the washed up bits of rubbish and gets to spend lots of time outdoors. She produces around 4,000 cards a week using bits of old drinking straws and buttons.

RUN, TEACHER, RUN

Inspired by a man from the US who ran every street in San Francisco, Glasgow-based teacher Michael Shanks decided to give his lockdown exercise a purpose by running all the city's 6,112 streets. He has already run 1,584km and still has 1,500 streets to go. Michael says he has found out lots about the history and the people of his adopted home city, by talking to them on the way.

ACE STRAWBERRY

The world of strawberries is going mad for a new variety known as Ace. The reddest, juiciest varieties have a very short season in June, with less flavoursome varieties appearing during the rest of the summer. But Ace – announced just in time to coincide with the Wimbledon tennis championship – has all the flavour of June varieties and can be grown all year. Look out for the new super strawberry next summer!

SMELLY PROTEST

Campaigners dumped seven tonnes of horse manure outside the Daily Mail newspaper offices during an Extinction Rebellion rally last week. They claim some newspapers do not take climate change seriously enough because they are owned by a few billionaires. A spokesperson said: "The press isn't holding the Government to account."

ANGRY STUDENTS



Hundreds of students at the University of Kent have signed a letter calling for face-to-face learning to be made a priority. Student leaders have also been demanding discounts and refunds of fees for seeing little of teaching staff and university buildings due to COVID-19. Universities not being clear on how lectures will be delivered in the autumn has added to their frustration and anger. Until the coronavirus rules are made clear, disappointed students are facing a third year of online lectures.

"NICE WEATHER!"

A new report shows that Brits spend almost two days a year talking about the weather, despite more than half admitting they are dull for doing it! But more than three-quarters think it's the perfect subject because everyone has an opinion about it.

FOLDING FEAT

A British teenager spent nine-and-a-half hours making 1,000 origami cranes to raise money for charity, breaking the Guinness World Record of 12 hours. Evelyn Chia, 15, folded the bird figures without stopping to even go to the loo, and has raised more than £2,000 for NHS Charities Together. Evelyn said: "There is a significance to 1,000 cranes. There is an ancient Japanese legend which says if you fold 1,000 you can make a wish to the gods and it will come true."



MATT HANCOCK STANDS DOWN

MATT Hancock has resigned as Health Secretary, after breaking social distancing rules.

The politician was caught on camera kissing a work colleague. The footage was filmed in early May, but revealed last week in *The Sun* newspaper.

At the time, the rules stated we had to keep a safe distance from others to stop the spread of coronavirus.

Lots of people were angry at the news and felt Mr Hancock (below) should be sacked for going against his Government's own lockdown rules. He decided to resign.

In a video on Twitter, he said: "I understand the enormous sacrifices that everybody in this country has made... and those of us who make these rules have got to stick by them and that's why I have got to resign."

Sajid Javid, who used to be Home Secretary and Chancellor of the Exchequer, has replaced Mr Hancock.



BLAST OFF!



WOW!

THOUSANDS of people have signed up to become astronauts with the European Space Agency (ESA).

A whopping 22,589 people applied to the agency's astronaut corps programme, including 5,419 applications from women – a big jump from 1,287 in 2008.

Four to six lucky candidates will be selected to join the ESA corps.

NEW ANCIENT HUMANS DISCOVERED



TWO new types of ancient humans have been discovered in Israel and China.

Scientists have found the remains of a human that lived between 140,000 and 120,000 years ago near the city of Ramla in Israel. Among the discoveries was part of a skull and a jaw.

Dr Hila May of Tel Aviv University said the team had decided to name the new human the *Nesher Ramla Homo* type, after the place south-east of Tel Aviv where it was found.

It's thought the species could have moved from the Middle East through to Europe and was an ancestor of Neanderthals (another ancient human species). Most researchers believe that Neanderthals arrived in Asia from Europe about 70,000 years ago. This new discovery suggests that actually some

Neanderthals could have come from Asia originally.

Separately, in China, scientists are studying an ancient skull from at least 146,000 years ago. The specimen was found in 1933 in Harbin province but it is only now that it has caught experts' attention.

It also represents a new type of human. This species has been called the *Homo longi*, meaning Dragon Man. The skull is much bigger than other human types, but its brain size is roughly the same as a modern human's.

Experts believe this species could replace Neanderthals as our closest relative!



The comparison of ancient human skulls, with Dragon Man on the far right

MARMALADE CHAMPION

A NINE-year-old schoolgirl from the Isle of Wight has scooped a world marmalade award.

Flora Rider beat 3,000 competitors from across the globe to win Best in Show at the Homemade Marmalade Awards. She is the youngest ever winner with her homemade Seville orange and orange blossom spread.

Flora's marmalade recipe will now be reproduced and sold in Fortnum & Mason's stores and Dalmain Mansion in the Lake District. Some of the money from its sales will go to charity.



DINOS LIVED IN ARCTIC



TYRANNOSAUR bones have been discovered in the Arctic, suggesting dinosaurs could have lived there.

New research has found that the famous dinos would go in search of food and lay their eggs in the cold Arctic region all year round. It was thought before that the creatures would move to warmer climes in winter.

A team of scientists from the University of Alaska Fairbanks and Florida State University studied teeth and bones found in the Prince Creek Formation in northern Alaska. Not only did they find that Tyrannosaurs could have lived there, but that they were joined by seven other dinosaur species.

The new discovery could support the theory that dinosaurs were warm-blooded.



LONDON, UK

WeShootLondon

THE Duchess of Cornwall united two charities she supports – the National Literacy Trust and Elephant Family – to celebrate elephants and reading. The CoExistence installation in St James's Park marks the launch of an elephant-themed story trail. Funds raised from the installation will go towards organisations in India to help people and elephants live alongside each other.



Getty

HONG KONG, CHINA

LUNAR soil brought back by China's moon mission goes on display at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.



MANCHESTER, UK

WORKERS finish installing the Big Ben Lying Down With Political Books installation in Piccadilly Gardens. The 42m replica of the Queen Elizabeth Tower, commonly known as Big Ben, is covered in political books that have shaped British politics. The installation officially opens on 1 July and can be viewed until 18 July.



Getty

NEW YORK, USA

PIER 17 is decorated in rainbow colours during the Pride Island celebration, as part of New York Pride month.



Longleat

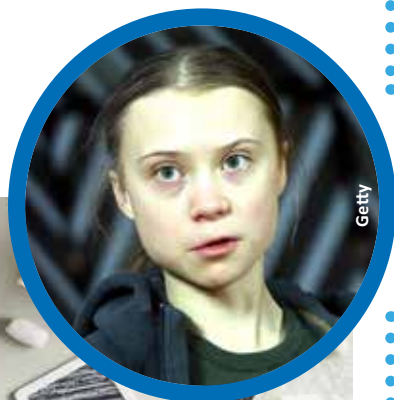
WILTSHIRE, UK

A BRONZE statue of a bandaged koala sitting on a eucalyptus tree stump has been unveiled by the Australian High Commissioner at Longleat to mark the attraction's support during the devastating bushfires in 2019-2020. The statue, which was created by the renowned artistic duo Gillie and Marc, is based on a real koala named Lewis, who was rescued heroically.



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GRETA SLAMS AMAZON



GRETA Thunberg has added her voice to criticism of Amazon for being wasteful and destroying thousands of unsold items.

The practice came to light following a report by ITV News. A document leaked to reporters showed that a warehouse in Scotland had marked 124,000 items to be destroyed in one week in April. The items included TVs, laptops, hairdryers, books and face masks. Most were either unsold or returns that were in good condition.

Greta tweeted: "This is just ONE warehouse. If you have a system where this is possible — and even profitable

— that's a clear sign that something is fundamentally wrong."

The problem arises because Amazon charges suppliers to keep stock in the warehouse. If they don't pay, it's cheaper for the company to dispose of the goods.

Amazon responded by saying: "We are working towards a goal of zero product disposal and our priority is to resell, donate to charitable organisations or recycle any unsold products."

GEORGE FLOYD'S KILLER SENTENCED



George Floyd's family

GEORGE FLOYD'S family have welcomed the sentence given to his killer.

American ex-police officer Derek Chauvin, who knelt on the neck of George Floyd for almost nine and a half minutes, was sentenced this week for his murder. He will serve 22 and a half years in prison.

Some members of Mr Floyd's family felt that it wasn't enough, but still celebrated the fact that it was a long number of years.

In the past, some white police officers involved in the deaths of black people in the USA have had very short sentences or even have been allowed to go free. Floyd's family feel that some progress has been made in the fight for justice.

George Floyd's sister Bridgett said the sentence signals that police brutality is finally being taken seriously.

EDITOR'S COMMENT



SOME of you will be going to summer school in what would normally be the school holidays. The booster lessons will help pupils who may have missed out on their education during the coronavirus pandemic.

First News has been working with Sky TV, the Government's youth mental health adviser, Dr Alex, and some surprise guests on some special extra stuff for summer school. Find out all about it in next week's First News.

GOOD WEEK

EXAM SMASHER

A music teacher has broken the world record for taking exams in the most number of instruments — nine in total — and passing them all! Estelle Jackson also raised £1,300 for charity.



BAD WEEK



MO FARAH

MO wowed crowds at London 2012 and Rio 2016 but has failed to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics. He said: "At the moment it's tough but I will continue. You'll see that smile again." We're hoping so, Mo!

WHEN THE FIRST STARS SHONE

ASTRONOMERS have worked out when the first stars started to shine.

A new study says that stars first shone during the time known as the cosmic dawn, 250 to 350 million years after the beginning of the universe 13.8 billion years ago.

Researchers analysed starlight from six of the farthest known galaxies using information sent back by the Hubble and Spitzer space telescopes.

The galaxies are so far away that, even through the most powerful telescopes, they appear as just a few pixels on a computer screen. But, it was enough for the scientists to make their calculations.

Dr Nicolas Laporte, who led the study, said that obtaining the result was a dream come true.

"It is fantastic to think that particles of light have been travelling through space for over 13 billion years and then entered a telescope."



Ralf Kachler/Tom Abel

PEOPLE SHOULD “EAT LESS MEAT”

BRITISH people should be urged to eat less meat and dairy by the Government, says an independent report.

The report, published by the Climate Change Committee (CCC), which advises the UK Government on emissions targets, says livestock, such as cows and sheep, are a major source of the greenhouse gas methane.

The CCC has called on the Government to encourage healthier diets and to set clear targets to cut the UK's meat and dairy consumption by 30% by 2030.

It's one of several recommendations that include reducing food waste, charging higher bills for those who take flights regularly, and increasing the number of electric vehicle charging points.

The report also says that, while the Government has talked a lot about climate change, and set good targets for the UK's emissions, there is no detailed plan in place for how to meet those targets.

The CCC said: “The Government has made historic climate promises in the past year, for which it deserves credit. However, it has been too slow to follow these with delivery. With every month of inaction, it is harder for the UK to get on track.”

The Government responded saying that, this year, they will set out “more of the very policies the Climate Change Committee is calling for as we redouble our efforts to end the UK's contribution to climate change”.



BIGGEST ACTIVE LEARNING DAY EVER



LAST week, more than 500 schools across the UK took part in the biggest active learning day ever!

In case you've never done any active learning before, it's when your usual desk-based classes are done on the move instead.

This might be playing 'punctuation police', where you march around, noting down punctuation errors written out on cards around the class or playground. Or it could be running around solving multiplication problems scattered across the playground.

Hosted by Teach Active, the day was held as part of the Youth Sport Trust's National School Sport Week.

GOING GREEN IS CHEAPER

RENEWABLES have become the cheapest source of electricity in the world.

The International Renewable Energy Agency (Irena) has found that, in less than ten years, the cost of large-scale solar power has fallen by more than 85%.

The cost of onshore wind farms has fallen by almost 56%, and the cost of offshore wind farms has gone down by almost 48%.

Irena says that almost two-thirds of wind and solar projects built last year will be generating cheaper electricity than the world's cheapest new coal power plants.

They say that replacing hundreds of existing coal plants with renewable energy sources could save \$32.3 billion (£22.8 billion) a year in energy system costs, and massively cut the amount of carbon dioxide which is released into the atmosphere.

DIARY DATES WORLD UFO DAY 2 JULY

Are we alone in the universe? Who knows! But we do know that today is dedicated to all things unidentified. Head to p10 to read about a recent report on strange sightings in the sky.



ALICE'S DAY 3 JULY

It's the 150th anniversary of Lewis Carroll's *Through the Looking-Glass* – the sequel to *Alice In Wonderland* – and a number of events are being held to celebrate! Find out more at: storymuseum.org.uk/about-us/alices-day-1

NATIONAL BBQ WEEK 5-18 JULY

It's the 25th anniversary of National BBQ week, and we can't wait to get grilling to celebrate! Let's just hope it doesn't rain...

SECRET MoD PAPERS FOUND AT BUS STOP



HMS Defender

TOP secret Ministry of Defence documents about British ship HMS Defender have been found at a bus stop in Kent.

The documents say that HMS Defender's "innocent passage through Ukrainian waters" last week was a planned mission to test how Russia would respond to the ship's presence.

The classified papers also said that the journey would create an opportunity for the UK Government to talk to the Ukrainian government, and suggests three different ways that Russia might respond to the destroyer.

The documents, which were handed in to the BBC, were marked 'Secret UK eyes only'.

A spokesperson for the Ministry of Defence said that the documents showed that "as the public would expect, the Ministry of Defence plans carefully."

An investigation into how the papers were lost has been opened.

What happened?

Last Wednesday 23 June, the Royal Navy destroyer HMS Defender sailed through waters near Crimea.

Russia said that they fired warning shots near the ship, and that one of their war planes dropped four bombs nearby to force the ship to leave the area.

The Ministry of Defence said that no shots had been fired, nor had any bombs been dropped.

A BBC journalist who was on board HMS Defender said the Russian military had "harassed" the ship.

In 2014, Russia annexed (took over) the Ukrainian region of Crimea. Most countries still recognise the area as Ukrainian, but Russia says it's part of their country now.

Britain and Russia, as well as other countries, test each other's defences from time to time. In the past, Russian jets have come close to British airspace, and warships have sailed down the Channel. It's very rare for weapons to be used.

2M HAVE LONG COVID

NEW research has found that more than two million people in England have suffered, or are still suffering, from long-lasting coronavirus symptoms.

Experiencing symptoms for more than 12 weeks is known as long COVID, and there is a lot we still don't understand about it.

Oxford researchers asked half a million people whether they had COVID-19 and if they were still suffering from symptoms. More than a third said they had experienced at least one symptom for more than 12 weeks. This was usually tiredness, but several symptoms including shortness of breath and chest pain have been reported. The Government has provided £50 million for research.



COVID TRAVEL UPDATE

New countries have been added to the green travel list of places that are safe to visit without needing to self-isolate on your return, including Malta, the

Balearic islands and some Jamaican islands. However, Malta says UK travellers to their country must be fully vaccinated. Spain and Portugal have similar rules.



LAST week, we asked you if unhealthy food and drinks should be allowed to sponsor sport. More than 800 readers answered, with 48% saying YES, and 52% saying NO! The vote was pretty split but the comments were mainly against. Here's what you said...

YES 48%

NO 52%

Sport is about getting active, having fun and being healthy, so I think that unhealthy food should not be allowed to sponsor sports.

brizoceto

Definitely not, if you want to be fit you want to have healthy stuff!

scarlet10

Hard to decide! Need money from sponsors to pay but unhealthy food and drinks is bad for football players who need to be fit.

izzy89

They shouldn't have unhealthy food for advertising because it will encourage others to eat and drink them, which can be bad. Especially for the football players!

monkey61

Join in the conversation and vote at first.news/polls



LIVERPOOL

City may lose World Heritage status

Liverpool could lose its World Heritage status, after the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recommended it to be taken off the list. The city’s waterfront was awarded in 2004, joining the likes of the Great Wall of China and Egypt’s pyramids. UNESCO says the waterfront has changed too much and lost its value. The plans will be discussed later this month.



SCOTLAND

New research to help save native birds

Bird experts are working on new scientific research to help save the UK population of capercaillies. The number of capercaillies in the UK has fallen by more than 90% in the past 50 years. Habitat loss and climate change are among the causes. The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland’s WildGenes experts have now teamed up with the Cairngorms Capercaillie Project to tackle the problem. They want to study capercaillie DNA samples to decide the best conservation plan. The capercaillie is the world’s largest grouse species.

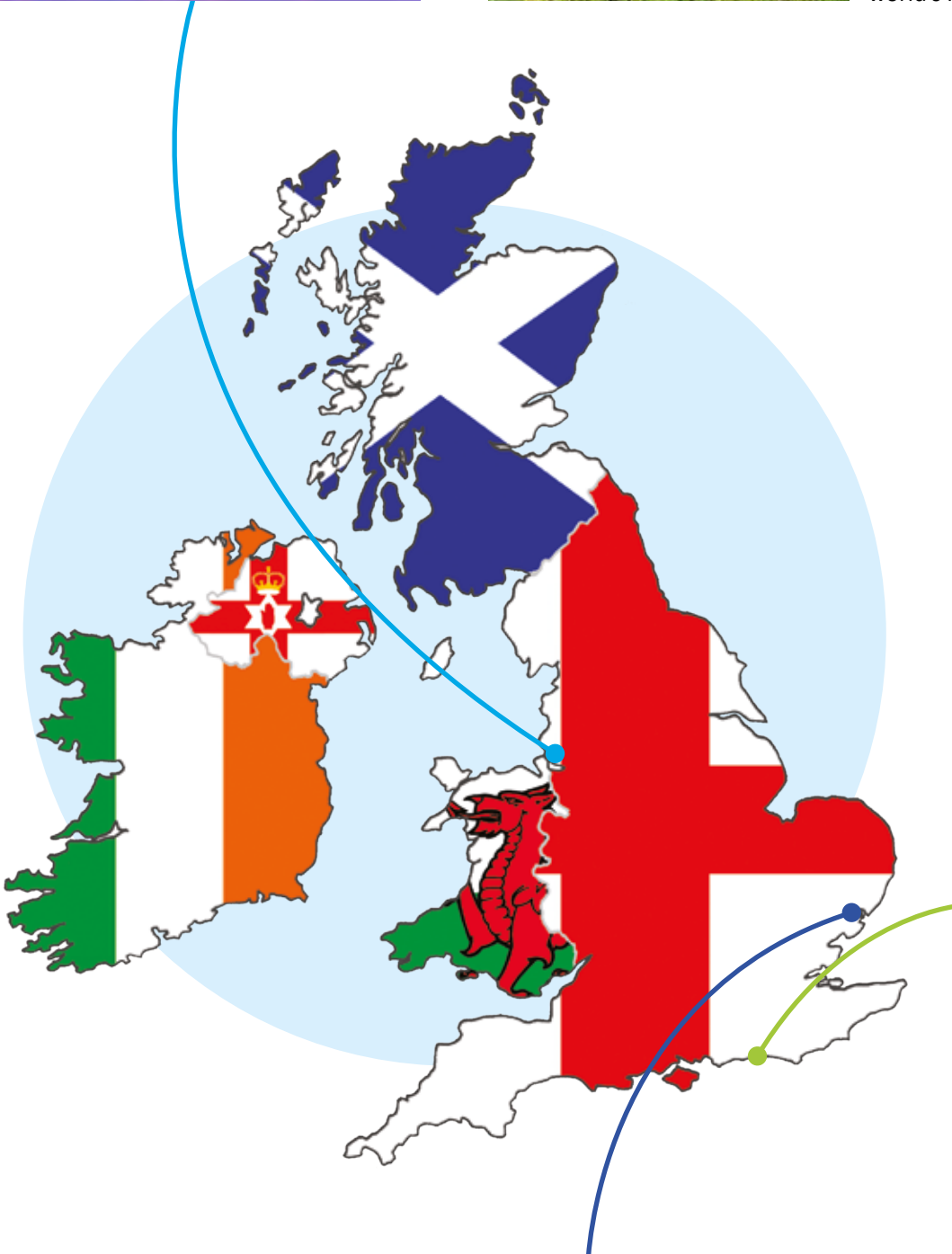


UK



National cat award finalists announced

A line-up of fabulous felines has been announced as the finalists in this year’s National Cat Awards. The contenders include Paddy, the ginger cat who spends his days comforting mourners at a burial ground; Minty (above), a three-legged cat who is best friend to six-year-old Connor Raven who has severe learning difficulties and a range of medical conditions; and Tobi, a supportive cat who helped his owner Misha through foster care. The awards, held by the charity Cats Protection, will take place online on 5 August with an overall winner selected on 12 August.



BRIGHTON

Visitors charged thousands for pier rides

Hundreds of people were charged more than £2,000 to use the fairground rides on Brighton’s Palace Pier after a payment error by Worldpay. Visitors to the attraction were left stunned when they checked their bank accounts following a day out at the seaside resort. The owners of the rides have apologised for the “serious error” and explained that the date was accidentally put in as the amount of money to take. Worldpay says it is working hard to refund the money as a “matter of urgency”.



UK

MP says we should all have a picture of the Queen!

A Conservative MP is campaigning for everyone to have a picture of the Queen in their house. Joy Morrissey, the MP for Beaconsfield, says she is writing to the prime minister for his support on the idea and hopes it can be discussed further in Parliament. But her idea was met with a lot of criticism on social media. *Dragons’ Den* star and business leader Deborah Meaden described it as “ridiculous”. What do you think?



IPSWICH

Marvel loans out Black Panther costumes

Three iconic Black Panther costumes have been loaned to Ipswich Museum for a new exhibition. It’s the first time Marvel has allowed the pieces to go on display in the UK. The *Power of Stories* exhibition is all about different forms of storytelling, with a particular focus on black culture. Visitors will get to see the costumes worn by the movie characters T’Challa – the Black Panther – his sister Shuri and Wakanda’s military leader, Okoye.



First News has teamed up with sky Kids show FYI and the young audiences CONTENT FUND to make a series of videos called I Don't Get It for you to watch at home or at school. The plan is to explain stuff that might be difficult to understand. This week, an ex-policeman in America was jailed for the murder of black man George Floyd. Tia asks why racism exists.

RACISM

WHY IS IT SUCH A BIG ISSUE?

SKY Kids FYI presenter Tia explores the origins of racism and asks why it remains such a big issue today. She discovers there's still work to be done to stamp out racism and achieve equality.

GOING BACK 250 YEARS

These days we take it for granted that, whatever our cultural background and whatever our skin colour, we should all be treated the same and given the same opportunities.

But it wasn't always that way. To see how things used to be, we're going back 250 years to 1770.

This was the height of slavery, when black people were transported from Africa to work on plantations in the Caribbean and the Americas, harvesting sugar, tobacco and cotton.

It was a cruel business and, while British slave owners quickly got rich, millions of Africans were killed because of the harsh conditions, both on the slave ships and on the plantations.

In those days, Africans were seen as not as good as white Europeans and, even though slavery was banned in 1834, those misguided attitudes towards black people continued for years afterwards.

One of the turning points came during the two world wars, when white soldiers fought alongside black and Asian men to defeat the enemy.

One of those men was war hero Walter Tull, the grandson of a slave, who quit his career as a footballer to become Britain's first black army officer.

After the Second World War, Britain needed extra workers to help rebuild our shattered country. Hundreds of young men from the Caribbean signed up to help, and sailed to the UK on a ship called the Empire Windrush. There were also new workers arriving from south Asia.



But they didn't get the warm welcome they expected. Their children were bullied at school, just because of the colour of their skin, and some landlords wouldn't let them rent their houses.

But slowly, things were starting to change.

Increasing numbers of people were heading to the UK to make it their home. And, in America, there was a new campaign for equal rights, led by Martin Luther King. He had a dream that one day black people would be treated as equals and, 45 years later, Barack Obama was elected as the president.

Rose Hudson-Wilkin, who recently became the Church of England's first ever black female bishop, says: "Imagine people from my parents' or the Windrush generation seeing someone like them occupying the top position in the world – that was pretty amazing! But there is still work to be done."

Back in 1976, a new law called the Race Relations Act made it illegal to discriminate against anyone because of their race. It was an attempt to stop people being singled out and treated badly because of the colour of their skin. But by the 1980s, there were still problems, with riots in cities like Bristol, London, Birmingham and Liverpool. People from ethnic minorities were angry about poor living conditions and the unfair way they were being treated, particularly by the police.

Even today there is still work to be done to stamp out racism. Rose Hudson-Wilkin says: "If we think we are victims of racism, or we hear people making racist comments, then what I want us to do is – with a smile – to call it out. Don't be silenced, because ultimately what we want to do is to give the one clear message that we are all part of the one human race. We belong together."

These days there are loads of people to inspire us. We have sporting superstars, Glastonbury headliners and even Oscar winners. Every day they remind us that, with hard work and determination, we can all achieve anything.

"We are all part of the one human race. We belong together"

– Rose Hudson-Wilkin, the Church of England's first ever black female bishop



Getty



Join in the discussion and set up an FYI News Club in your school! Ask your teacher to go to first.news/FYInewsclub to find out more about the FYI News Clubs.

Watch the I Don't Get It film on racism at first.news/educationTV

USA



A mock-up image of a UFO, created by artists

UFO report released

Last week, we told you about a report from the Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Task Force that examined cases of “unidentified aerial phenomena” (UAP) – also known as unidentified flying objects, or UFOs. The report has now been released, and the US government has said there is no explanation for the UAPs spotted. The report found no signs that any of the UAPs had come from outer space, but also didn’t rule out the possibility. The only UAP that was identified in the report with “high confidence” was a large, deflating balloon.

HUNGARY



Anger at anti-LGBT law

Hungary has passed a law banning all LGBT content from schools. UN human rights expert Victor Madrigal-Borloz said that the law will encourage “stigma and discrimination” of LGBT people and was “disgraceful”. Hungarian prime minister Viktor Orban met with EU leaders at the European Parliament, which was illuminated in rainbow colours, last week. The Hungarian PM said that “the law is already announced, it’s published, it’s done”. Dutch prime minister Mark Rutte said that Hungary must “realise they are either a member of the European Union, and so a member of the community of shared values that we are... or get out”. European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen said the law was “shameful”.

USA, CANADA, RUSSIA



Historic heatwaves

Russia, Canada and the US have all faced record-breaking high temperatures in the past week. On 24 June, Russia’s capital city, Moscow, saw temperatures of 33.8°C – the hottest the city has ever seen. In Canada and the US, heat warnings have been issued. People in the US city of Seattle were seen trying to enjoy the sun in a record-breaking 38°C, while in British Columbia, north-western Canada, all-time high temperatures of 46.1°C were recorded. In some places, air-conditioned ‘cooling centres’ have opened to shelter people struggling with the heat. The heatwaves are thought to have been caused by changes in atmospheric pressure. However, extreme weather events, like heatwaves, are likely to become more common and more severe as the climate crisis worsens.



People find relief in a cooling centre in Portland, USA



AUSTRALIA



Oh deer!

Two men have been fined \$1,000 (£540) for breaking coronavirus restrictions, after they were scared by a deer while sunbathing nude on a beach, then got lost in nearby woods. Greater Sydney is in lockdown, and travelling outside of local areas is forbidden for non-essential reasons. New South Wales police commissioner Mick Fuller said the men “should be feeling embarrassed” – and that it was “difficult to legislate [make laws] against idiots”.



ISRAEL



Masks back on

Just ten days after telling citizens that they no longer needed to wear masks, Israel has reintroduced the ‘mask mandate’ rule. The change comes after hundreds of new COVID-19 cases were recorded in a matter of days. Israel’s vaccination programme has been one of the world’s fastest, and 60% of the population have been given two doses of the jab. Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said that he hoped not to impose new restrictions, and that “at the moment” there had been no increase in the number of people going to hospital with the disease. Dr Mariangela Simão, World Health Organization assistant director-general, said that “the vaccine alone won’t stop the disease from spreading within communities”. She has urged fully vaccinated people to continue to wear masks.

JAPAN



Four-day work week

The Japanese government has suggested that businesses give their workers the choice to work four days a week instead of five, as part of the country’s latest economic plan. Many Japanese people work long hours, and there are often stories in the news about staff falling ill after working too hard. The government hopes that, with an extra day off, workers will be encouraged to go out and spend more. It’s also hoped they will feel able to raise a family without leaving their jobs.



THE EARLIEST SHARK VICTIM

THE discovery of a 3,000-year-old shark attack victim means our fear of these creatures and our fascination with them may have been sparked long ago.

Archaeologists believe the man was likely to have been out on a joint fishing trip when he was attacked. The other fishers were able to recover his body, but not before he suffered terrible injuries and died. His body was buried in the Tsukumo cemetery in Japan, which is now being excavated.

A group of scientists from across the world, including Professor Rick Schulting and J Alyssa White from Oxford University, have been looking at bodies from the site to see how the prehistoric hunter-gatherers died. Shark victims from archaeological sites are rare, so this has given the research team a great opportunity to study such an ancient attack.

Using archaeological and forensic techniques they were able to recreate the dramatic event. To help them work out what happened, they used a 3D model of a human skeleton to map out the hundreds of wounds on the man's body. Most of the injuries were to his arms, legs and torso.

The number and position of the injuries enabled the scientists to rule out death from a fight with another human. The pattern of the cut marks also showed that it would not have been another kind of animal. These curious cut marks on the bones were sharp-edged and curved, suggesting they were bite marks from a shark. The team called on the Florida Museum of Natural History to confirm the identification by comparing them with wounds from other shark attacks. They were even able



The excavated grave of Tsukumo 24

to say that the species of shark was most likely to have been either a tiger shark or a great white shark.

The study showed that the man, known as Tsukumo 24, was young to middle-aged and lived around 1370 to 1010 BCE. While it must have been terrifying for him at the time, the evidence suggests that his ordeal was brief and he died quickly.

Shark attacks are extremely rare and mainly occur in warm seas around places like Florida in the US, Australia and South Africa. Sharks don't really like to eat humans, they much prefer something like a nice blubbery seal!



A great white shark



Part of the leg bone showing teeth marks

Courtesy of the Laboratory of Physical Anthropology, Kyoto University.

BLINKING STAR CONFUSES ASTRONOMERS



A GIANT star has confused astronomers by fading and then shining brightly again.

Scientists have named the star VVV-WIT-08. WIT stands for 'What Is This?'. They have a few theories but still don't know what caused the strange blinking spotted by the mountain-top VISTA telescope in Chile. "It's really quite unusual. That's not something that's been seen before," said astrophysicist Philip Lucas of the University of Hertfordshire.

The old cool star is located 25,000 light years away near the centre of the Milky Way and is 100 times bigger than our sun. It is one of nearly a billion stars constantly watched by the telescope using infrared light.

Losing brightness is quite common in stars, but what makes this observation unusual is that the star dimmed until it almost disappeared and then returned to its original brilliance. The way it occurred suggests that maybe something passed in front of the star, but scientists believe that this is very unlikely. Another idea is that there is a large dusty disc of material around the star that sometimes blocks the view. The most exciting prospect for the astronomers is that it is something entirely new.



TRIALS BEGIN ON NEW COVID TREATMENT

OXFORD University is trialling a drug to treat the coronavirus.

The vaccination roll-out may be going well, but most scientists agree that COVID-19 will be with us for a long time yet. Treatments for

those that do catch it are therefore an important area for research. Countries across South America and South Africa have been using a drug called Ivermectin, which is normally used to treat certain infections. COVID studies using the drug have so far been small, so its effect is unknown across a wider section of society. Scientists at Oxford are including it as part of a much larger study. The aim is to stop people ending up in hospital by easing their symptoms. The team will compare the effects of Ivermectin against the normal treatment given to COVID patients by the NHS.

DID YOU KNOW?



BRAZIL nuts always rise to the top in a bag of nuts, but why? It seems that the shape of the nuts and the way they turn as they are shaken means the larger Brazils get pushed up by the smaller ones. As the Brazils turn they leave space for smaller nuts, like peanuts, to fill, and the downward flow causes the bigger nuts to rise further. It takes about 50 shakes for the Brazil nuts to rotate from horizontal to vertical, with the smaller nuts jostling alongside giving them a push. Experts say the research will help make mixtures more even in medicines, food processing and building materials.



RSPCA YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER AWARDS

ENTRIES
CLOSE ON
16 AUGUST

Enter
now at
rspca.org.uk/ypa

IT'S back! The RSPCA Young Photographer Awards is our annual animal photography competition for anyone aged 18 years or younger and it's **FREE** to enter.

This year's competition opened in May and closes on 16 August 2021. It's a fantastic opportunity to get creative this summer.

We want to encourage young people's interest in animals and the natural world, as well as develop their photography skills. No fancy equipment or specialist skills are required to take part, just a love of animals and a keen eye.

The categories to choose from include the new Schools Challenge (Animal Welfare Watch), where pupils enter individually but also represent their school. We crown a winner in each category and an overall winner.

WHAT YOU CAN WIN

There are some fantastic prizes to be won, including a UK weekend photography break (for the overall winner and a parent/guardian) with Natures Images. There are also certificates, trophies and up to £3,000 in Amazon vouchers up for grabs.

Our panel of award-winning and professional wildlife photographers will judge the entries in September. Our awards ceremony takes place in December, hosted by naturalist and broadcaster Chris Packham, who is also on the judging panel.

HERE ARE SOME OF LAST YEAR'S WINNERS TO HELP YOU GET INSPIRED

CATEGORIES

- Under 12 years
- 12-15 years
- 16-18 years
- Small World
- Portfolio
- Mobile phone and devices (under 12s, 12-15, 16-18)
- Picture perfect pets
- Instagram *Please be aware of age restrictions on social media
- New Schools Challenge (Animal Welfare Watch)



OVERALL WINNER
Jake Kneale, 17



**MOBILE PHONE AND DEVICES
UNDER 12 WINNER**
Wilfred Maidment, 10



**MOBILE PHONE AND DEVICES
12-15 WINNER**
Molly Tolson, 14

Check out rspca.org.uk/ypa for more information

WATER WARNING

A beaver building a dam at Longleat



HIPPOS AND BEAVERS BACK TOGETHER

HIPPOS and beavers are living alongside each other in the UK for the first time in over 100,000 years!

Staff at Longleat Safari Park in Wiltshire were delighted to discover wild beavers living in the woods and around the lake at Longleat. The lake is home to Spot and Sonia, Longleat's resident hippos.

It's thought the last time hippos and beavers were found together in the UK was during the Eemian period, when they lived together in the great European swamps.

Darren Beasley, Longleat's Head of Animal Operations, said: "For decades we've been renowned for our exotic wildlife, but for me the return of these amazing native species is just as exciting!"

The beavers are believed to have come from one of the groups that have been re-introduced into areas of the UK as part of an ongoing beaver trial.

KEEP A LOOKOUT FOR NESTING SNAKES!



Grass snakes can nest in compost heaps

THIS month, the UK'S largest species of snake will be looking for places to build a nest and lay their eggs!

Grass snakes can be found throughout the UK and are the only native species of snake that lays eggs instead of giving birth to live young.

Wildlife charity Froglife is urging gardeners to look out for eggs that may be hidden in compost heaps and piles of rotting vegetation when they tidy their gardens.

WARM weather in the UK has led to an increase of blue-green algae in natural bodies of water, which could be dangerous for dogs.

The British Veterinary Association (BVA) is warning all dog owners to keep their dogs on leads and out of ponds, lakes, rivers and lochs when they are out walking.

The natural algae blooms (grows quickly) in warm, sunny conditions and may look like a greenish-brown sludge on the surface of the water. The algae contains dangerous toxins and if the infected water is drunk by a dog, accidentally swallowed while swimming or

even just licked off a dog's coat after paddling, it can cause serious illness and even death.

Keep your pet safe by keeping them on a lead near water and looking out for signposts and notifications that will confirm if blue-green algae has been detected in the area. If you suspect your dog has come into contact with blue-green algae, the BVA recommends that you get them checked out by a vet as soon as possible.

TELL YOUR FRIENDS

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Learn about the changing world around you while keeping up to date with the latest science, sport and entertainment news.

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THIS WEEK

1 Actor Rachel Zegler will play Snow White in a new, live-action version of the Disney classic that will start filming in 2022. This year, you'll be able to see Rachel in *West Side Story*, which hits cinemas in December.



2 The new trailer for *Sing 2* has been released. It shows Buster Moon and his troupe of performing animals facing their biggest challenge yet. This time they face the bright lights of Redshore City, the entertainment capital of the world. There are new songs, new characters and big new dreams to follow!



3 Anton Du Beke is joining the *Strictly Come Dancing* judging panel for 2021. The professional dancer is taking over from Bruno Tonioli, who won't be taking part in this series because of ongoing travel restrictions. Anton said: "It's a dream come true to be judging alongside the best of the best, and I promise to be kinder to all the couples than any of them have ever been to me!" *Strictly Come Dancing* will return to BBC1 later this year.

PICS OF THE WEEK



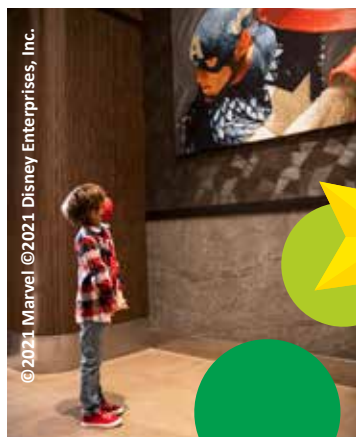
MORE than 350 pieces of Marvel artwork have gone on display at Disneyland Paris' brand-new hotel.

Hotel New York – The Art of Marvel is the first hotel in the world to be entirely dedicated to Marvel artwork from the films and comic books.

More than 110 artists from around the world have contributed their work.

The hotel also features a Spider-Man selfie station and an outdoor activity field called the Hero Training Zone.

Find out more about the hotel and visits to Disneyland Paris at www.disneylandparis.com.



“THE ACTION IS UNREAL!”

SCARLETT Johansson tackles some epic stunts in the superhero adventure *Black Widow*. Adam Tanswell found out more...

● How would you describe your new Marvel movie?

Black Widow is something that the Marvel Universe has never experienced before. The action is unreal! You have these huge, armoured vehicles going through these iconic streets in Budapest.

● How much fun is it to play a superhero like *Black Widow*?

I absolutely love playing this role. She's such a great character. It's been really fun to chip away at the pieces of her past and discover different parts of her background. I love the fact that she's got a lot of different layers. There's something mysterious about her that draws you in.

● What excites you the most about the new film?

I've spent a decade of time with this character and she's finally able to write her own story. That's exciting to me. Plus, there are some of the most intense fights we've ever had in the MCU [Marvel Cinematic Universe].



● How much do you love the stunts?

I'm very fortunate that I have a team that is super supportive and does a lot of choreography and fight moves and bad-ass stuff. It's exciting because I get to do a lot of things that I get to do.





● **Do the stunts become easier over time?**

Oh gosh, it takes longer to recover now! Plus, I am scared of hurting myself, but I am pretty proficient [skilled] at most stunt work. I have definitely had a lot of training over the past decade.

● **What martial arts training did you tackle for the role?**

I didn't take martial arts lessons before this, so I've had to learn a lot. To be honest, I am better at learning stunt choreography than mastering a martial art because I don't have the discipline of years and years of martial arts training.

● **Were you into comic books when you were little?**

Growing up, I never really read a lot of comics. I watched *Superman* and I liked all of Tim Burton's *Batman* movies, but I wasn't really reading about it. I became familiar with the Marvel Universe through working with [director] Jon Favreau on *Iron Man 2*, and now I'm part of this big family.

● **How much has *Black Widow* changed since we first met her?**

Over the past ten years, she has changed a lot. My character started in *Iron Man 2* as a glorified secretary with a secret skill-set, but the big reveal of her true identity wasn't unveiled until the last fraction of the movie. In *Avengers*, I really got to be one of the boys – for better or worse. It's been fun.

● **It must be thrilling to know that she's now the star of her very own movie...**

Very few actors can say that they've worked on a character for ten years and then suddenly have this chance to delve deep into the inner workings of this person. We're going to be able to create something that's a different flavour for the Marvel Universe. It's very exciting!

Catch **Black Widow** on Disney+ (premier access) and in cinemas from 9 July

SUMMER SING-ALONG!

In the Heights is the big summer musical, and is in cinemas now. Here's the lowdown on one of this year's must-see movies.



● *In the Heights* was written as a stage show by Lin-Manuel Miranda (the creator of the hit musical *Hamilton*) when he was still at university. It has since become a hugely successful show on Broadway and a theatre tour, before finally being adapted into a film.

● The film is set in Washington Heights, New York, where Lin-Manuel grew up. He says: "The whole thing is a love letter to this incredible neighbourhood. It's a first chapter in so many stories – American stories start here."

● *In the Heights* follows a diverse mix of characters who all live in the same neighbourhood during a summer they will never forget. It's a full-scale musical with big songs and massive dance numbers.

● The songs and music in the film are a mix of styles that reflect the different cultures and influences found in Washington Heights. They include hip-hop, Latin, pop and musical theatre.

● Anthony Ramos plays Usnavi, one of the central characters of the story. Usnavi runs a local shop, saves everything he earns, is in love with his friend Vanessa and dreams of a better life in the Dominican Republic, where his family originated.

● Melissa Barrera, who plays Vanessa, is a lifelong *In The Heights* fan and auditioned for the Broadway show and touring productions many times. She says: "I feel like my being here now is a dream. It is the product of a lot of hard work and a lot of dreaming, and auditions where I got rejected... and just not giving up!"

● A lot of the extras and background characters in the film are real people who live in Washington Heights. Men playing dominoes, children playing with fire hydrants and people walking past listening to music on their boom boxes are just a few of the local people that feature in the film!

● Sixty dancers plus the main cast of characters perform in the film's big summer number, *Carnaval del Barrio*.



In The Heights is in cinemas now

Happily ever smarter

HAPPILY Ever Smarter aims to get thousands more children in some of the world's most remote places into school for the very first time. Here is a letter from Preeti, just one of the 43,000 children who are now getting an education thanks to United World Schools.

Dear First News readers,

My name is Preeti and I'm 10 years old. I live in Heluwabesi in the hills of Nepal with my aunt and uncle. Our house is made of wood and straw and sits high on stilts and our cows sleep below our home.

My mother left when I was just a small girl and so my father took me to live with someone in the village, as he was unable to look after me on his own.

Then one day, Auntie Bhim came to get me – at first I didn't want to go with her but now, my aunt is everything. She loves me and I feel like she is my real mother. She got me clean and gave me new slippers and new clothes to wear.

Until four years ago there was no school in the village, but now a beautiful school has been built by United World Schools. Although Auntie Bhim never went to school she insists that I go every day – it makes her happy to see me go.

On my way I see lots of beautiful fields, but it takes a long time to get there as it's a bit far away from our home.

I like being at school and enjoy studying. My favourite subject is Nepali. We also study English, maths, science, computers and social studies.

I'm in Grade 4 which is the right class for my age, but I find the work hard and my aunt isn't able to help me as she never learned to read and write.

I feel glad when our teachers let us play – I love to skip! Before the school was built, I would spend my days helping my aunt. I still help her now but only before and after school. I clean the house, sweep the front yard, feed the pigs, cows and goats and look after the rooster.

And in the evenings I do my homework when Auntie Bhim cooks. I also teach my little sister to read.

When I grow up, I want to become a doctor.

Thank you, from Preeti.

Preeti at school



To download free resources for your school or get a fundraising pack, visit unitedworldschools.org



Preeti working in the fields



FIRST NEWS HOME iHUB

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What can you tell us about your new book? Is it scary?

My son, who's eight, came up with the title! He kept on saying: "Wouldn't it be great if there was a monster called a Megamonster that was made up of lots of different monsters?" And I thought it was a really good idea. I had this other idea about a girl hero who was fighting an evil teacher using homemade gadgets and I thought maybe these two ideas could go together. So it's about a girl called Larker who is sent to the Cruel School, where badly behaved children are sent by teachers. There's no way of getting out, it's on a volcanic island surrounded by sharks and if you get sent there you are there for life! Larker discovers the students are being turned



into monsters and she has to fight back using her wits. It's meant to be exciting, it's meant to be thrilling in parts, maybe a little scary in parts, but ultimately I wanted it to be funny, too.

Was it a lot of fun writing about a school that isn't set in reality?

It is fun to do that! I found it took longer because everything has to be different; it can't just be a bit like a normal school. So I was trying to create a world as much as possible and that I found quite challenging, just because you have to think about every single detail. I didn't want a bell to ring for the end of a lesson, that's too ordinary, so there is this albatross that is chained to the roof and it squawks every time it's the end of the lesson – things like that. Everything had to be original, but I had fun creating it and it was very nice talking to my son about it and asking what he thought. He was super-excited that the book stems from his idea, so it was a labour of love and hopefully it will entertain kids over the summer holidays. One thing that I know gives parents pleasure is seeing their kids with their nose in a book they are really enjoying and reading for themselves.



Reading for pleasure can be really hard for some people!

That's what I try to do: write entertaining stories that kids will happily choose to read. I think that is important. Some kids don't like reading very much and when I go around schools I always ask: "Who doesn't like books? Who thinks books are boring?" And there are always hands up, so I think: "Right, I'm gonna get you to read! I'm gonna write a book that will be irresistible to you, that won't feel like work." It will just feel like fun, and that's my aim. So I try to make it as fun as playing



© Charlie Clift

"I WAS QUITE CHEEKY TO TEACHERS!"

THIS week we caught up with best-selling author David Walliams to talk about his brilliant new book *Megamonster*.

a computer game, watching a movie, playing a game of football, whatever those kids prefer to do. If a kid is reading a book for their own pleasure, they're a reader and they are going to go on and read lots of other different things, so I think getting kids to read is a good aim in itself. You want them to think that reading is a fun thing to do.

Is your son a fan of your books?

He's interested but I just kind of let him choose what he wants to read. We have dipped into my books and read my stories but we've covered a lot more ground with lots of other authors. I am looking forward to reading this one to him now it's completely finished!

Naughty children feature a lot in your books. What's the naughtiest thing you did as a child?

I think Larker in this book is a hero, even though she's kind of cheeky. She's been in trouble at her previous school for being cheeky to the teachers, but she's basically a really good person. I sort of drew a bit on my experience. I was quite cheeky to the teachers

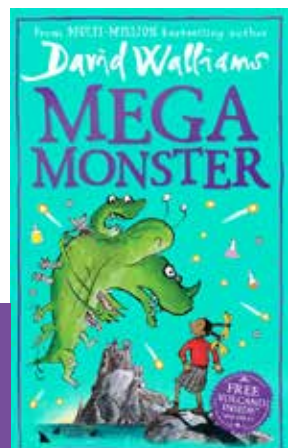
because I liked making jokes. We had this room called a language lab and you would go there once a week and you'd sit there and you had to repeat the words in French, or whichever language it was you were learning. The teacher could listen in and one day I said something like: "Oh, how much longer have we got of this rubbish?" And he heard me! He sent me out of the lesson and he was really upset with me; he took it really personally. I wasn't intentionally naughty. I didn't think he was going to hear me, it was really bad luck. But then it made me think. As a kid, you forget that teachers have feelings and are human beings as well. He was just trying to do his best and then there was me, being rude because I was too lazy or too bored to take it seriously. So there we are: be grateful to your teachers, they put in a lot of work!



Illustrations from *Megamonster* © Tony Ross

What would a ten-year-old David Walliams have said if you had told him that he would grow up to be a best-selling author?

I would have said: "Oh no, I don't really want to do that, I want to be a famous actor!" I wanted to be a spy or a detective or something like that, so I think I would have thought writing books sounded boring! Unfortunately I have left it too late to be a spy or a detective, so that's a shame. I did like books when I was a kid and there were a lot less distractions! You would play a computer game and it took two minutes; now it takes two years to finish a game. Children can play them all day. If we wanted to watch *Star Wars* we used to have to wait until it was on TV and then your parents would have to let you stay up and watch it. Now virtually every film that's ever been made is a click away, so there are a lot more distractions for kids now. But I did like books and I did like reading alone. I started off reading the *Beano* for pleasure, which I thought was fun. It doesn't feel like work because there are so many pictures and it's funny. I always think that the *Beano* is a great place to start, just before you start to read *First News* – you're not reading a book, but you're still reading!



Megamonster
by David Walliams
is out now

CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY FIRST NEWS



SAND DRAWING

SAND drawings often pop up on beaches across the world, delighting thousands of people. We decided to chat to the artists at Sand In Your Eye to find out just how these amazing images are created.



HOW DO YOU START?



Armistice Day rake art

"Our designs are usually drawn up on an iPad and then converted to Photoshop. We then scale up the image to fit the part of the beach we are working on. We usually go to the beach the day before to find a good patch of sand to work on, as we are racing against the tide on the drawing day!"

DIFFERENT DESIGNS



Surfers Against Sewage



Anamorphic art like this only looks right when viewed from a certain angle

"We create lots of different types of sand drawings, from giant ones such as the Surfers Against Sewage one [above] to anamorphic images such as the Schubert drawing we created in Scotland a few years ago. We also create stencilled drawings (our Fallen 9,000 project opposite is a good example of that) and free drawings, which is where we don't stick to a strict design, we just doodle!"

TIDY ART



"As you can only make sand drawings on wet sand, we wear low-tread trainers so they don't leave footprints. We generally draw an outline of the design first and then rake it all in at the end. Once the sand has been raked in, we can't stand on it without causing damage."

TOUGH WORK



The Fallen 9,000 project in France

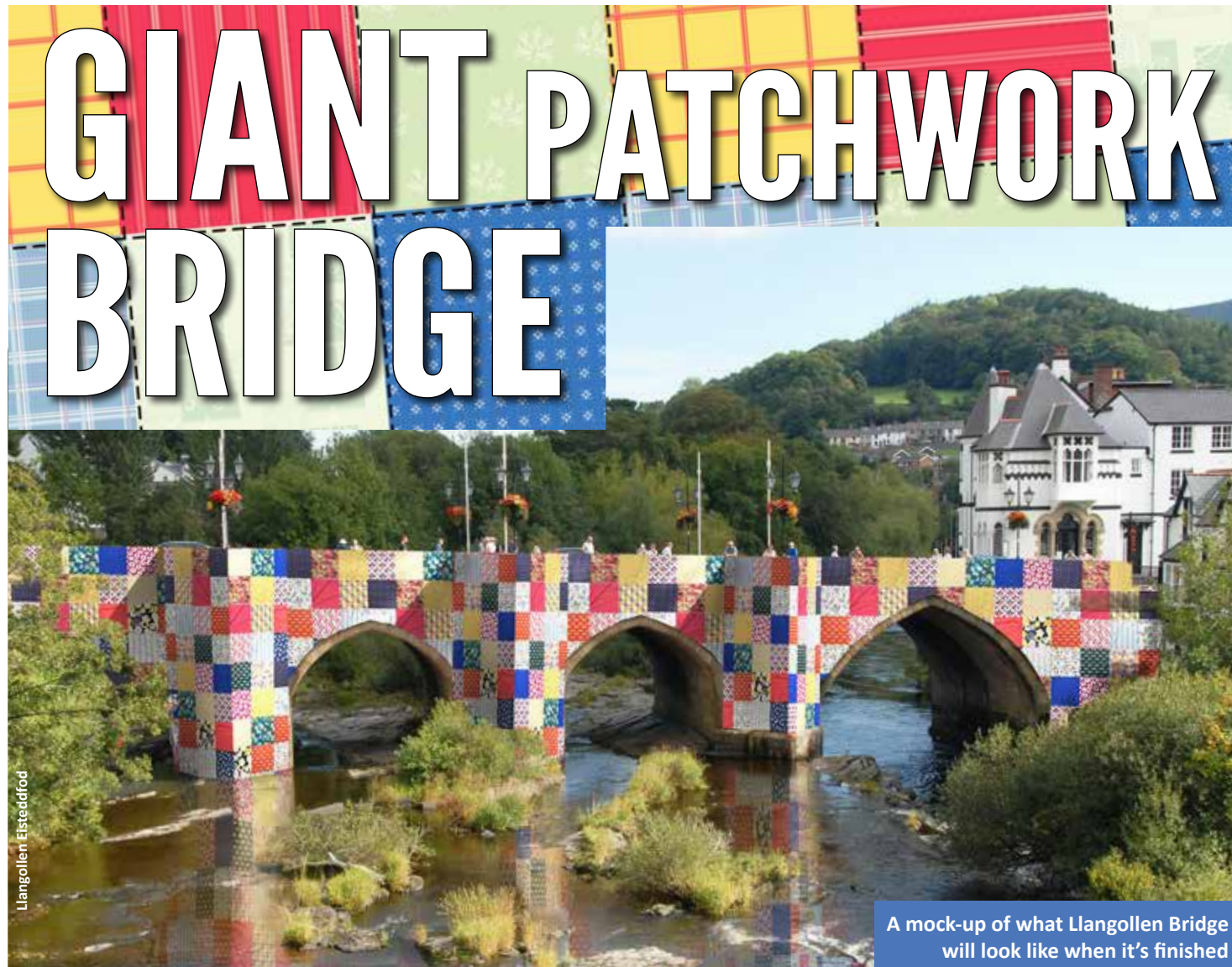
"The raking at the end is very physical but also quite relaxing, too. Each drawing typically takes between four and six hours."

WHAT SKILLS DO YOU NEED?



Cookie Monster in Blackpool

"You just need to be able to draw and enjoy being outdoors in all weather! Why not have a look at our galleries at www.sandinyoureye.co.uk?"



A HISTORIC bridge in Wales is set to be transformed into a giant quilted artwork.

Llangollen Bridge is to be covered from top to bottom in colourful fabric squares this July. It's being done to celebrate the world famous Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod, a festival featuring music and dance.

The huge patchwork, called *Bridges*,

Not Walls, is being created by artist Luke Jerram. It aims to celebrate peace, creativity and togetherness.

People from across the world have been encouraged to make their own square to add to the giant 'blanket'.

In total, the artwork will be made up

of 800 fabric squares – enough to cover both sides of the 60-metre-long bridge.

The festival is taking place online this year because of COVID-19 restrictions, but it's hoped that the bridge artwork will still attract lots of visitors to the town this summer.

A mock-up of what Llangollen Bridge will look like when it's finished

LONG-LOST DOGGY



Crumpet as a puppy...



...and when she came home!

A DOG has been reunited with her owners after a staggering 11 years.

Crumpet, a little Jack Russell terrier, was only three months old when she disappeared from the Covell family's garden in Dorset in 2010. Mum Sarah said the family tried their best to find her but they had no luck.

Then, remarkably, this June, Sarah had an unexpected call from Bournemouth. Crumpet had been brought in to an emergency vets and when staff scanned her microchip they were able to track down where she'd come from. It was the Covells' missing pup!

Unfortunately no-one is sure what happened to Crumpet, and she's now suffering a few health problems that need to be sorted out. But Sarah and her family say they are delighted to finally have their lost pet home!

GREATEST TEACHERS

A GROUP of teachers have gone viral after performing a song from *The Greatest Showman* movie with their students.

The teachers from Ormiston Sudbury Academy in Suffolk took part in a dance to the track *From Now On*, to mark their Year 11 students finishing school.

The dance was uploaded to the school's TikTok account so that everyone could enjoy it. It turns out that it wasn't just a hit with the local community, but with users around the world – the video has now been viewed over 1,000,000 times!



FIRST EVER TRILLIONAIRE?!

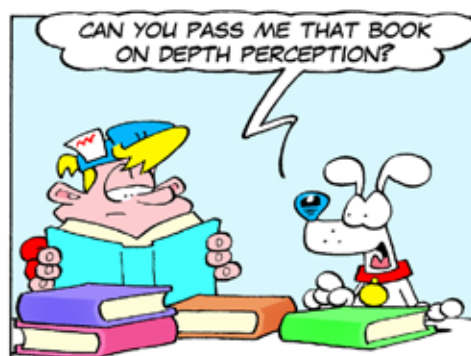
A MAN from America was stunned to discover that he'd become the world's first trillionaire (kind of).

Chris Williamson invests in cryptocurrency (digital money), but when he checked his accounts, he discovered he'd suddenly made more than \$1 trillion (a million million).

Unfortunately, all was not quite as it seemed. He later realised it was likely a computer glitch and he needed to contact the bank, Coinbase. The issue is now being investigated. Boo!



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer



YOUR READS!

SKIN TAKER MICHELLE PAVER

Disaster strikes when a flaming ball of fire comes hurtling down to Earth, destroying everything that Torak, Renn and Wolf love, including their beloved forest. They find themselves in a pit of misery and despair, thinking there is no hope, but they find luck when the mysterious Walker sends them off on a treacherous quest.

This book gives the real meaning of friendship, love, teamwork and diligence, making you happy and sad at all the right times. Will Torak, Renn and Wolf save the forest and all who live in it?

I was thoroughly engrossed throughout this adventure and I felt as if I was living every moment with the clans. I enjoyed seeing the situation from different characters' viewpoints.



reviewed
by Lexie,
aged ten

National Literacy Trust's Virtual School Library



PICK your favourite poem with Kate Wakeling.

Kate 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 read *Moon Juice* for free!

Kate recommends these three reads:

- *It Might Be An Apple* by Shinsuke Yoshitake
- *When Secrets Set Sail* by Sita Brahmachari
- *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase* by Joan Aiken

Step inside the library to watch an exclusive video with Kate and read a Q&A!



Words for Life

Virtual School Library

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WIN! TICKETS TO DINO KINGDOM



THIS summer, from Friday 23 July – Sunday 8 August 2021, the team behind the award-winning light and lantern festival Lightopia presents Dino Kingdom at Wythenshawe Park.

Enjoy an epic outdoor, prehistoric exploration, featuring 100 life-like moving and roaring dinosaurs and creatures to uncover, plus state-of-the-art 3D and AR technology bringing dinosaurs 'back to life' with unforgettable interactive experiences, along with thrilling fairground rides for all the family.

Four lucky readers will win a family ticket to Dino Kingdom for two

adults and two children on a date of your choice (subject to availability).

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

Which of these dinosaurs was herbivorous?

- a) Velociraptor b) Diplodocus
c) Albertosaurus



See more at www.dinokingdom.com

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY DINO

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 23. The closing date is 15 July 2021.

WIN! AN ECO SCOOTER AND ACCESSORIES FROM **m-cro**



AT Micro Scooters, sustainability is baked into our DNA.

We were born out of a mission to give children and families a cleaner, greener way to explore their world.

Every scooter is designed with replacement parts so they're fit for a lifetime of scooting, rather than ending in landfill.

Our new range of recycled decks and accessories is one more step on our planet-friendly journey.

We think it's up to all of us to treat our world kindly.

The scooters are made from recycled fishing nets, and the accessories from recycled plastic bottles.

Helping tackle the ocean's plastic pollution crisis, helping you to tread lightly.

We have two Eco Scooters and Eco Accessory

sets up for grabs.

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

What are Micro Scooters made from?

- a) Recycled fishing nets b) Recycled plastic tubs
c) Recycled tyres



Find out more at micro-scooters.co.uk

Micro Scooters – Exploring today, protecting tomorrow

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY ECO

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 23. The closing date is 15 July 2021.



THE BIG PICTURE

PEOPLE gather around the collapsed Federal Highway 98 in Manzanillo, Mexico.

The road was destroyed by a landslide caused by the first hurricane of 2021's tropical season, which has been named Enrique.

Mexico was warned of flash floods and severe rains last week, as the category one hurricane moved along the country's western coast.

As First News went to press, the hurricane was expected to have slowed into a tropical storm.

SUDOKU

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

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

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.



NICE

WORD

CROSSWORD

CAN you complete our crossword puzzle using the clues below?

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

ACROSS

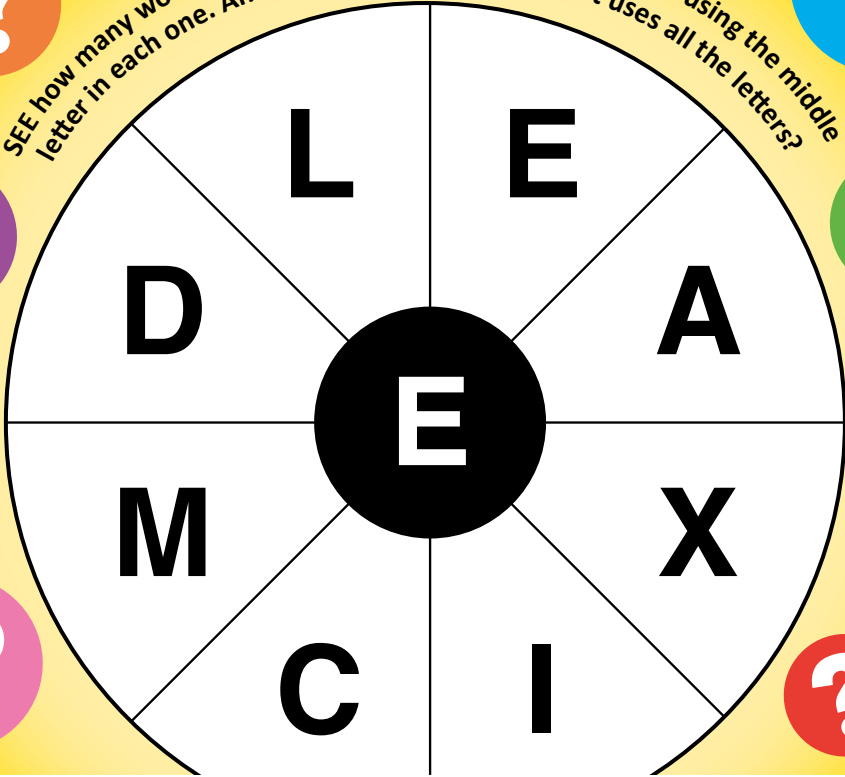
- 1 Person travelling in a vehicle (9)
- 6 Love dearly (5)
- 7 Command (5)
- 9 Normal and usual (7)
- 12 E.g. the Queen and Prince Charles (7)
- 16 Of lesser importance or rank (5)
- 17 Sobbed (5)
- 18 Yellow vegetable (9)

DOWN

- 2 An attempt to score a goal (4)
- 3 Choose a politician for office (5)
- 4 Collection of people (5)
- 5 Make smaller (6)
- 6 A word made by rearranging the letters of another (7)
- 8 Belonging to the same family (7)
- 10 Until now (3)
- 11 Wild dog-like animals known for their laugh (6)
- 13 Big (5)
- 14 Sailing boat (5)
- 15 Public open-air swimming pool (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?



WIN! X-SHOT WATER BLASTERS

CAN you spot the five changes we've made to this picture from *Big Shot* on Disney+? Send in your answers and three winners will each win an X-SHOT Epic Fast-Fill water blaster from ZURU – the fastest-filling water blasters EVER created! Refill your blaster in one second and get back to the water blasting action long before your mates! Available from Smyths Toys



Disney+

WIN! A FAMILY TICKET TO VALLEY FEST

VALLEY Fest, the best-tasting music festival in the southwest, takes place in Chew Valley Lake, near Bristol, from 29 July – 1 August.

There really is something for everyone at this small family-friendly festival, from waffle eating and ice cream licking, to learning how to beatbox or make natural bird feeders. You can join in with a wildlife walk around the farm or learn to pickle. Take part in the Junk Ball Run, giant garden games, traditional playground games and lots of fairground rides. Will you be able to spot the cow? If you do, you'll be in with a chance of winning big prizes. The weekend is perfect for first-time festival goers as well as families of all ages. You are advised to arrive hungry! One lucky winner will win a weekend family ticket (for four). To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:



For more information, visit www.valleyfest.co.uk

Which country do crepes originate from?
a) South Africa b) China
c) France

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY FEST

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see below. The closing date is 15 July 2021.

WIN! A BUNDLE OF BATTLE BALLS FROM



MARVEL Battleworld: Treachery At Twilight has unveiled a range of must-have collectable characters from the Marvel Universe including Agent Venom, Hobgoblin and Spider-Man 2099, as well as a range of limited edition collectables including Captain Marvel and Wanda Maximoff.



The Marvel Battleworld: Treachery At Twilight range includes a series 2 Battle Ball containing a Starting Hero, a Hero Card, Attack Die, four Battle Cards, Danger Tokens, a Danger Coin, one Thanostone and a Surprise Hero and Hero Card.



The Mega Pack will include three Starting Heroes with Hero Cards, Attack Die, 13 Battle Cards, Danger Tokens, Danger Coin, two Thanostones, and two Surprise Heroes and Hero Cards, as well as an exclusive Captain Marvel (2099 Disguise) and Foil Hero Card, for the ultimate showdown.

Five winners will each receive seven Battle Balls and a Mega Pack. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

Eugene 'Flash' Thompson is also known as...?

a) Hobgoblin b) Captain Marvel c) Agent Venom



Marvel Battleworld: Treachery At Twilight will be available to purchase this summer!

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY BALL

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see below. The closing date is 15 July 2021.

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

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS:

Spot the difference: ice cream is bigger, cloud removed, earring has been added to Luca, vest has changed to purple, hair is bigger.

Word ladder: herb, herd, held, hold, fold, food.

Word wheel: badminton.

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

A	N	Y	T	H	I	N	G	M
U	E	D	L	O	R			
S	W	A	N	E	D	I	T	O
T	R	A	M					
R	I	N	S	E	O	P	E	N
L	I	O	N	S				
L	I	O	N	S	D	E	T	E
A	B	O	A	R	D			
A	L	O						
A	S	P	L	I	N	T	E	R

WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?

TRAMPOLINE SPRINKLER FISHPOND.CO.UK £27.60

This trampoline water sprinkler will spray mist into your trampoline. All you need to do is attach the



hose to the outside of the trampoline safety net, connect the hose to your garden tap and, like magic, you have your own outdoor water park!

*All prices correct at time of printing

MONSTER GARDEN SPRINKLER PREZZYBOX.COM £49.95

This adorable lightweight monster is almost 2m tall and sprays water from his mouth – just what every garden needs this summer! Easy to inflate and connects to any standard garden hose. There's also an anchor kit included, to keep your monster from flying off. Just turn the water on for hours of fun.



WATER TOYS



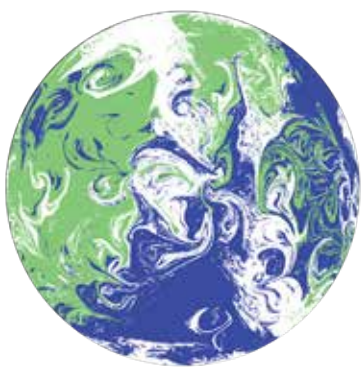
GIANT INFLATABLE RAINBOW ARCH SPRINKLER ELC.CO.UK £29.99

Keep cool this summer and have lots of magical watery fun in the garden with this inflatable rainbow arch sprinkler. Thanks to the all-over sprays, the water is sprayed evenly to form a cool water curtain for you to run through.

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NATIONAL GRID Advertisement feature



'VOICES FOR A GREEN FUTURE' COMPETITION

LISTEN UP, FUTURE LEADERS!

Now is your chance to have your voice heard on climate change and have your speech delivered at COP26. You could also win a £5,000 grant for your school and a range of other cool prizes.

National Grid is a company that is working hard to tackle climate change to make using clean and greener sources of energy easier for us all – and we want to hear from you! Entering the competition is simple. If you're aged 7 to 15 years old and in school years 3 to 10, all you have to do is write and submit no more than 200 words to answer this question:

IF YOU WERE IN CHARGE OF THE COUNTRY, WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO HELP LOOK AFTER THE PLANET?



For more information and to enter, visit
nationalgrid.com/voicesforagreenfuture

#VoicesForAGreenFuture

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THE LOST MINECRAFT VERSION

AFTER ten years of searching, a missing version of Minecraft has finally been found!

Back in 2010, when *Minecraft* hadn't been fully released, Mojang published an update to the game called 'Alpha version 1.1.1'. This version of the game introduced fishing rods and crouching, but unfortunately, it had a bug that completely crashed the game.

Three hours and 25 minutes after it was released, it was no longer available to download, and was replaced with 1.1.2, a version with the bug removed.

Fans of *Minecraft*, aiming to preserve every version of the game ever released, have been searching for Alpha version 1.1.1 for years. This week, they found it.

The group, who call themselves Omniarchive, saw an old tweet from someone called Luna, saying that there was a new *Minecraft* version out – on the day that 1.1.1 was released.

They sent the tweeter a message, asking if they wouldn't mind checking if they had the old version, explaining their mission. A little while later, Luna responded, saying that she'd check her old hard drive.

Unbelievably, *Minecraft* version 1.1.1 was still there, much to the joy of the Omniarchive group. "Moral of the story: Never Delete Anything," Luna said.



GARAGE-MADE GAMES



NINTENDO'S Game Maker Garage has only been out for a couple of weeks, but people have already made some awesome games!

The game, which is out on Switch, is a series of clever tutorials that help you learn how to make games. While it has quite a few limitations, users are still managing to create some incredible things with Game Maker Garage, including some stunning recreations of classic games! If you've got Game Maker Garage, you can input the codes on the left and below to the Free Programming page to try out these cool creations we've seen.



PC POWER-UP

MICROSOFT Windows is getting an update that includes some Xbox tech. Microsoft says that Windows 11 will make games look better and load faster, by using the same technology found in Xbox Series S|X. Xbox Game Pass will be built into the system, giving access to hundreds of games, and you'll also be able to use Android apps! The update is due later this year.



MARIO and friends take to the green in this new golf game from Nintendo. First News games reviewer Josh tells us whether the game is a hole in one or a bogey.

The game of golf has changed! *Mario Golf: Super Rush* introduces all sorts of funky new features, including a fast-paced speed mode, special moves and online play. I think that the controls were a bit complex. They took me a while to get to grips with, but once you're used to them, there is a real sense of control. I think it adds a level of skill to the game. I had the most fun when I played with friends or with other people online. When you play against real people, it adds a lot of tension!



CHARITY CHOCOLATES

by Bella

I CREATED Doodles Chocolates to raise funds to help animals in need during the pandemic.

I came up with the idea on a walk with my dad and our dog Elsa, after I had made some chocolate treats as a gift for Christmas.

The idea was to make ten more boxes and give them to family and friends, but we decided to make more and raise money for charity. There was no doubt that it would have to be an animal charity, as I believe that without our help, animals are helpless to look after themselves.

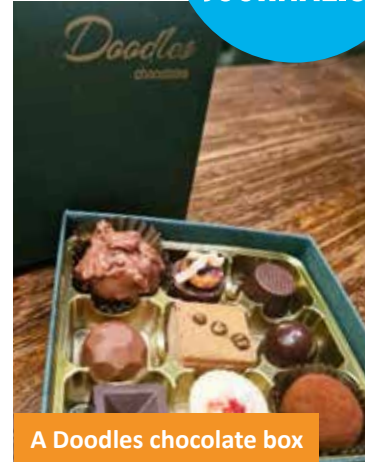
So we chose the RSPCA, as it was a charity that ticked all the boxes of animal welfare and they were also an organisation I had previously raised money for. We set our sights on raising £500 to help animals in need.

After that walk it was just chocolates, chocolates, chocolates! The fun had begun! Over the next couple of months we did a lot of melting, mixing and munching in order to put together various flavour combinations so that we could make the nine different chocolates that would fill our final boxes.

We then spent hours searching for affordable but professional-looking packaging and came up with a logo. I also contacted the team of chefs at my dad's restaurant Brook House, to help with making lots more chocolates.



Bella with Elsa



A Doodles chocolate box

I came up with the name Doodles as our family call our cocker spaniel dog Elsa Doodle, and it seemed fitting to name the chocolates after the dog who inspired the idea to raise money for the RSPCA.

By selling the boxes to family and friends, we managed to raise a whopping £900 for the animal charity.

The final part of the project was making a video to send out to family and friends with a request for a donation for the RSPCA. The response was fantastic!

My only regret was that we didn't make more, as lots of people wanted multiple boxes.

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

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

Write in to let us know what you've been up to lately! Have you been getting creative? Been for a great day out? How has the coronavirus affected your school, friends and family? Why not share your experiences with First News readers?

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

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

HISTORY FUN

by Agatha and Peggy

WE had a great time at Kentwell Hall's home-ed history day.

It was a chance to meet other home-educated children, like us, as well as learn something new.

The grounds of the hall were full of different activities and games from different periods in time. In each era, there were actors doing things from that time in history, such as pot making in the Tudor era, and playing croquet in the 1920s.

Our favourite times in history were the Neolithic age, where we got to see them making tools and string from items they found in the forest, and the World Wars. We spoke to a worker from the Red Cross and learned about what they did during the war, and still do to this day.

We really enjoyed the day and would recommend it to anyone who is curious about the past and likes to get hands-on.



Agatha and Peggy



Giving croquet a go

ISOLATION WALK

by Mike Savin

WE recently returned to Britain from another country, and had to spend ten days in self-isolation.

While some people might simply sit at home and do nothing, we decided to exercise by walking up and down our small back garden.

To make it more interesting, we even made a small "staircase" out of leftover bricks. Our parents sponsored us with a penny for walking one loop around the garden, and two pence for running it.

I also set a goal for myself: to part-walk, part-run a marathon. So I had to walk just over 4km every day even in extremely rainy weather – which we had plenty of.

Sometimes I did more than 2km with an umbrella. Having the goal really helped me to keep going.

Despite the weather, I kept to the schedule and finished the full marathon distance in the ten days, earning £14 for charity.

I hope this inspires other returning travellers to do the same.



Mike walking for charity

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LOVE PLAYING GAMES?
WHY NOT MAKE THEM?

Video games are a big deal. Huge, even. In fact, there are over 2.8 billion gamers in the world! Games have come a long way since the 2D graphics of the past, with amazing tech like virtual reality (VR) and next-gen consoles taking games to whole new levels.

If you've ever dreamed of creating the next *Minecraft*, *Pokémon* or *Fortnite*, here's how to make your dream a reality.

WHAT KIND OF JOBS
ARE THERE?

If you love imagining creative ideas and stories, you could make a fantastic Video Game Designer. You'll come up with ideas about how the world and characters look and behave.

If you love solving problems and puzzles, you have the makings of a brilliant Video Game Developer. You'll use code to bring the designer's ideas to life!

HOW TO GET STARTED

To become a developer or designer and get noticed by big video game makers like Nintendo, Blizzard, Electronic Arts or Ubisoft, it's important you have the right skills and experience. A great place to start is on a Fire Tech course.

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SYDNEY HEADS TO TOKYO!



Sydney McLaughlin (right) and Dalilah Muhammad in the 400m hurdles

SYDNEY McLaughlin has set a remarkable new women's 400m hurdles world record in the final of the US Olympic athletics trials in Oregon.

The American athlete beat Olympic and world champion, and previous world record holder, Dalilah Muhammad to finish in 51.90 seconds – a full 0.26 seconds faster than Muhammad's record.

McLaughlin's win was all the more impressive because the race took place during a scorching heatwave. The daytime temperatures reached 44°C in Oregon, so the 400m hurdles event was moved to the evening. Even then, the thermometer was reading 36.6°C.

The result means McLaughlin and Muhammad are all set to resume the rivalry in the gold medal race at the Tokyo Olympics on 4 August. The third Team USA Olympic place for the 400m hurdles was taken by Anna Cockrell, who secured a lifetime best result of 53.70 seconds.

Elsewhere, Keely Hodgkinson took a shock win in the 800m at the British Olympic Trials. The 19-year-old sealed

her Olympic spot by beating favourites Jemma Reekie and Laura Muir. All three will compete in Tokyo. Hodgkinson (right) is having a great year, having broken the world under-20 record in January.

Adam Gemili, who finished fourth at the Rio Olympics in 2016, will have another chance to go for gold after winning the 200m trial in 20.63 seconds.

Other Brits to confirm their places in Team GB at Tokyo include high jumper Morgan Lake, who won her sixth national title in a row, and long jumpers Jazmin Sawyers and Abigail Irozuru.



Getty

87

not out was Tammy Beaumont's tally as England beat India by eight wickets in their first One Day

International (ODI) of the series. Beaumont has now scored a half-century in four ODIs in a row. Nat Sciver hit 74 not out as England finished on 202-2 from 34.5 overs.



Getty

14

goals were scored in just two Euro 2020 matches on the same day. Spain beat Croatia 5-3 after

extra time, while world champions France drew 3-3 with Switzerland before crashing out on penalties. Álvaro Morata (below) scored Spain's fourth and his second of the tournament.



Getty

4

is Stefanos Tsitsipas' world ranking, but he lost to world number 57 Frances Tiafoe of the USA in

the first round at Wimbledon. Greek ace Tsitsipas (below) tumbled out in straight sets, 6-4, 6-4, 6-3. It's the third time in four tries that he has been knocked out in the first round.



Getty

MAX POWERS AHEAD

MAX Verstappen has won the Styrian Grand Prix, widening his lead over reigning champion Lewis Hamilton in the Formula 1 driver standings.

The Red Bull driver finished ahead of Mercedes pair Hamilton and Valtteri Bottas at the Red Bull Ring in Spielberg, Austria. It was Verstappen's third win in the last four races. It was also Red Bull's fourth victory in a row, with Verstappen's team-mate Sergio Pérez winning the Azerbaijan Grand Prix in early June.

The result in Austria means Verstappen leads the standings on 156 points, ahead of Hamilton on 138.

A frustrated Hamilton said his team "need

an upgrade of some sort", and suggested Mercedes won't win this year if they do not develop and improve his car quickly. The Brit hasn't won for four races, his longest run without a victory since early 2018.

Red Bull are leading the constructor standings on 252 points, with Mercedes in second on 212.

Hamilton will be looking to bounce back this weekend at the Austrian Grand Prix, which is also being held at the Red Bull Ring.



Getty



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