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LOCAL HERO



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COWELL'S STORY? P25



FirstNews

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THE UK'S ONLY
NEWSPAPER
FOR CHILDREN

WHEN WILL YOU GO BACK TO SCHOOL?



POLL OF THE
WEEK

Do you prefer home
learning to being at school?
Tell us what you think
at first.news/polls

**"I cannot thank
you enough"**
– schools boss
Gavin Williamson



IT'S been five weeks since schools closed their doors to help stop the spread of the coronavirus.

by editor in chief Nicky Cox

Since then, most children and teenagers have been carrying on their learning at home in lockdown. And now talk has turned to when school might get back to normal, but there doesn't seem to be an immediate answer.

"I can't give you a date," says schools boss Gavin Williamson, the Government's Education Secretary. "Of course, I want nothing more than to get schools back to normal, make sure that children are sat around learning and experiencing the joy of being at school."

But he said the Government needed

to be confident any changes made did not risk a second peak of infections. More than 80,000 teachers have signed a petition asking for schools to be opened only when it is safe.

"We will consider how best to reopen schools, nurseries and colleges when the time is right," said Mr Williamson.

The situation is likely to be the same for the whole of the UK. Scotland's Education Secretary, John Swinney, said that schools there will be closed until "at least" the summer.

There has even been talk of schools opening over summer so that pupils can catch up, but Mr Williamson says there

are currently no plans to do so.

Some of Britain's leading state schools joined together on Monday to open the Oak National Academy. It's led by 40 teachers who have put together 180 video lessons and resources each week for any teacher in the country to use.

First News is also making its school resources available for free at schools.firstnews.co.uk.

Mr Williamson said he, too, was doing as much as he could to support children learning from home; laptops have been ordered to help disadvantaged young people who sit key exams next year

and don't have a computer at home.

He had a special message directly for children: "I wanted to say to you how sorry I am that you have had your education disrupted in this way.

"I know how hard it must be and I would like to thank you for making the adjustments you have had to make. I know you will be missing your friends, your teachers and your lessons. I want you to know that you are an important part of this fight too and I cannot thank you enough for all that you are doing."

Meanwhile, First News readers have been telling us how they feel about being off school – see pages 22-23.

LOCAL HERO

**LOCAL
HEROES**

IF you love the great outdoors and can't get out during the lockdown, what do you do? How about travelling the length of the Shetland coastline, all 1,679 miles of it, from your wheelchair at home?

That's exactly what 14-year-old Brynn Hauxwell from Shetland is doing with the help of his mum, Kim, and 11-year-old sister, Faith. He has a number of health issues, which means he is having to shield by staying at home.

Brynn was unable to complete the challenge he had set himself for this year "with everything that is going on in the world right now", so came up with the idea to push himself 1,679 miles (equivalent to the entire Shetland coastline) using an Invictus wheelchair trainer ("exercise rollers for wheelchairs!") in his garden. His mum and sister will be with him every step of the way, walking on the spot beside him and making sure he has enough food and drink to keep him going.

And this isn't the first time Brynn has taken on a wheelchair challenge. Last October he completed a gruelling 20k wheelchair challenge using a mountain trike loaned



by the charity Active Shetland, which helps children with disabilities to get out and discover Shetland. It enabled Brynn to buy his own wheelchair and he says it helped him rediscover a sense of freedom and the joy of being in the fresh air. Brynn says his life has changed so much from the opportunity to get outdoors, that he and his family are now official Ordnance Survey GetOutside Champions.

Now Brynn is giving back. He volunteers for Ability Shetland, and his coastline challenge aims to raise money for the charity through his JustGiving page (tinyurl.com/shetlandbrynn). He hopes to inspire other people to look at new ways of keeping active, and he is a true local hero!

Remember that the best way to protect yourself and other people is by staying home, and washing your hands regularly and thoroughly for at least 20 seconds.

For the latest, most accurate health advice, see:

tinyurl.com/whocv2019

www.gov.uk/health-and-social-care

POOREST AT BIGGER COVID-19 RISK

COVID-19 has highlighted existing issues between the rich and the poor in our society and the world.

There is no question that those who live in poor areas, many of whom are from ethnic minorities, have been unequally affected by COVID-19. An investigation into why this is will be led by the NHS and Public Health England.

The Runnymede Trust, an independent 'think tank', had already warned that the poorest in society will be impacted worst by COVID-19, as they face health, social, and economic imbalances.

Dr Zubaida Haque, from the trust, said that ethnic minorities are "more likely to be in low-paid jobs or key workers: delivery staff, healthcare assistants, hospital cleaners, social care workers, as well as in the NHS".

In America, issues of social inequality are arguably even worse. Clyde W Yancy, writing for the JAMA Network, said that poor areas are characterised by "high housing density [crowded together] and poor access to healthy foods". He says the ability to work from home, to social distance and be able to access green space are a luxury and a privilege that not all can afford. As a result, Yancy believes the imbalance is not surprising; rather, it "should have been expected".



Some 44% of NHS doctors and 24% of nurses are from an ethnic minority

SLIM PICKINGS



THOUSANDS of Brits have signed up to help pick the UK's fruit and vegetables. However, some food could still go to waste, as there may not be enough workers to pick it all.

Typically, thousands of seasonal workers come over from Europe to help farmers pick the fruit and veg that is ready for harvest. The coronavirus outbreak means that this year, these workers are stuck at home.

To solve the issue, the Government worked with recruitment charity Concordia to find workers in Britain who could do the job – and while thousands have signed up, Concordia say it still doesn't have enough.

Some farmers have ended up spending lots of money to fly in workers to help pick their crops and teach the new British workers how to do the job.



MORE good news from the older generation as another centenarian (over 100 years old) leaves hospital.

Last week we featured Keith Watson, who had survived COVID-19 at the age of 101 but he's been beaten to the title of oldest survivor in the UK by 106-year-old Connie Titchen.

Connie, a great-grandmother, suffered from the illness for three weeks before leaving the hospital to a round of applause from staff.

She is possibly the oldest survivor in the world and said: "I feel very lucky to have survived this virus. I can't wait to see my family."

JUST LION AROUND



Lions enjoying the warm road

LIONS in the Kruger National Park in South Africa are taking over tourist areas.

A pride that is not usually seen by tourists has moved out of their normal range in the empty park.

The lack of visitors due to border and flight restrictions has given the animals the chance to explore further afield and even have a lie down on the warm, traffic-free roads.

WOW!

For the first time ever, US oil prices took a dive into negative value. Crude oil, which is turned into fuel like petrol to power cars, went from \$18 a barrel to -\$38! This was because the oil producers ran out of space to store it and had to pay people to take excess barrels. By the next day, the price of oil went back above zero.



STAR LESSONS

SPANISH lessons from footballer Sergio Agüero, history from Danny Dyer and music from Mabel are all part of a new learning service from the BBC.

With schools expected to be closed until at least June and children going back to learning from the kitchen table after the Easter break, the BBC has recruited a whole host of starry names to liven up its Bitesize Daily schedule.

Although the celebrities add a little sparkle, the lessons have a serious educational purpose, adding to the package of online lessons already being provided by schools. The programme has been developed by education



WHEN 99-year-old Captain Tom Moore decided to try to raise £1,000 for the NHS by walking round his garden, the ex-soldier could never have imagined that his modest target would actually reach £26 million, and counting.

Captain Tom – as he is now known to millions of people – thought he'd raise some money to thank the doctors and nurses who are working so hard in the NHS by walking 100 lengths of his garden. It's no small challenge for someone of his age, especially using a wheeled walker.

Setting off on 10 April, he planned to finish by his 100th birthday on 30 April, but managed to complete the challenge 14 days early! People were so inspired by his kind gesture and determination that money began to flood in to the fund that had been set up, quickly reaching millions of pounds. Celebrities and stars chipped in, not least Piers

Morgan, the Good Morning Britain presenter, who donated £10,000.

Since then, Tom has been praised by Health Secretary Matt Hancock, and the prime minister has said he is looking at a way to honour him.

Captain Tom probably never thought that he would have a chart hit at his age either. Along with the singer Michael Ball and the NHS Voices of Care Choir, he has released a version of You'll Never Walk Alone, which has topped the UK charts.

His slogan for fundraising is 'tomorrow will be a good day' and for Captain Tom there have been a lot of unexpectedly good days over the past couple of weeks.

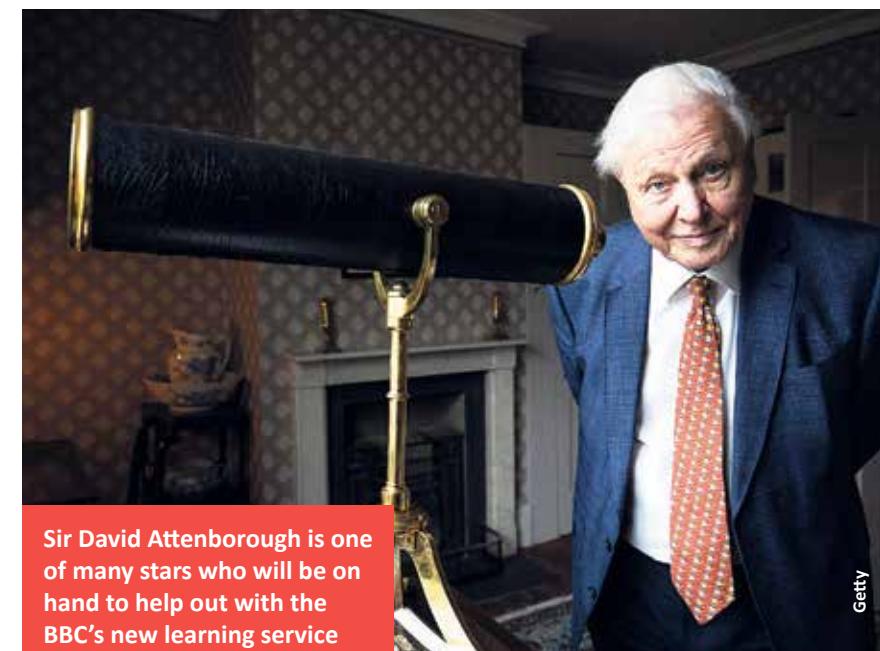
KEYBOARD CATS



FOR some of the world's most senior space scientists and engineers, working from home has been a kitty bit tricky!

The team that has the delicate job of managing NASA's Curiosity Mars rover on the surface of the Red Planet has discovered some additional challenges as a result of lockdown. The \$2.5 billion vehicle is being controlled from laptops and monitors in kitchens and home offices while family life goes on around the home-working colleagues.

Co-ordinating the equipment and the team is incredibly complicated, but when planning to work remotely the scientists didn't expect they'd have to be especially careful that the robotic arm isn't accidentally triggered by a passing paw! It's not easy to co-ordinate remotely drilling on a planet nearly 149 million miles away with a cat on your keyboard!



Sir David Attenborough is one of many stars who will be on hand to help out with the BBC's new learning service

1. WHAT ABOUT BREXIT?

The UK Government has said it will not extend European Union trade talks into 2021. Currently, Britain and the EU have until the end of the year to agree to a deal before we leave the EU. Some have suggested that due to coronavirus taking the focus away from Brexit talks, we should give ourselves more time to agree terms or risk leaving with no deal. However, others say we must leave on 31 December. Some believe that if we do not leave by then, Britain will have to pay a lot of money to help EU countries in the wake of coronavirus.

2. STAMPS ARE COOL!

Stamp collecting is growing in popularity among the millennial generation. Collector Suzanne Rae said: "It's relaxing and unplugged. It's also very Instagram-able. Twitter and Instagram enable young collectors to find people like them and see that it's not only a geeky old man's pursuit."

3. BUNGLED BANKNOTES

A bunch of botched banknotes will go under the hammer at Dix Noonan Webb auction house. The collection includes ghostly £20 notes that are missing the Queen's head.



4. PRINCESS TO CARER



Princess Sofia of Sweden has taken a three-day training course to help care workers fighting COVID-19 at Sophiahemmet Hospital. She said: "[Helping] in this difficult time is extremely rewarding. I can now support and relieve the care staff with various tasks, including care of patients and cleaning."

5. SCHOOLS CUT MEAT

In a major environmental move, UK schools, universities and hospitals will reduce their meat dishes by 20%. This has not been prompted by the UK Government, but by catering companies who are taking action themselves. As well as cutting greenhouse gases linked to livestock, they aim to boost people's health by cutting down meat consumption.

20 THINGS TO KNOW AND TELL

QUICK NEWS TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS

6. LONGER FOR LAUREATE

Children's Laureate Cressida Cowell, writer of *How To Train Your Dragon*, has had her term extended until 2022. Read our collaborative story started by Cressida on page 25 and find out how you could write the next part.

7. #HIKETOTHEMOON

UK Scouts are hiking to the moon! Okay, not really, but they'll be walking the same distance to raise money for Children In Need and Comic Relief. Each person taking part will get sponsored to walk one mile. Astronaut Tim Peake is taking part and says "a mile... for me is 200 times up and down these stairs".



8. CUTE KITTENS



Two endangered clouded leopards have been born at Zoo Miami. The cute kittens have been checked and vaccinated and are doing well.

9. A SIGNATURE DELAY

President Donald Trump has come under fire for adding his name to cheques that give Americans \$1,200 (£960) each to help during lockdown. It's the first time a president's name will be added to such a handout, but some say adding the signature will delay the cheques getting to people who need the money. Treasury officials claim there will be no delay.

10. MENTAL HEALTH HUB

Mental health charity YoungMinds has created online resources to support young people and their parents during the coronavirus pandemic. Emma Thomas, head of YoungMinds, said: "We are here to help [you] through this... and remind you that you are not alone." Visit youngminds.org.uk for more information.

11. FOOTBALLING HEROES



Bristol Rovers players have been delivering essentials to over-70s fans. The club wrote to 760 of its elderly fans offering help.

Captain Ollie Clarke said: "I don't think they expect the players to turn up, but we're sat at home doing nothing, so we may as well come and help."

12. CAR COMPOSITIONS

Hans Zimmer, who composed the music for *The Lion King*, is making sounds for cars. The BMW i4 electric model will launch next year with sounds that will make the lives of pedestrians "less chaotic and more beautiful".

13. HEALTHY DIET

A study published in the Alzheimer's & Dementia journal suggests that a Mediterranean diet can reduce the risk of brain-damaging diseases. The diet includes lots of vegetables, whole grains, fish and olive oil, and less red meat and alcohol.

14. WIZARD IDEA

Harry Potter-branded buses are being used to take NHS staff to work in Hertfordshire. The buses normally take fans on film studio tours, but as they're not happening for now, they're being used to safely transport key workers. The NHS said it was a "wizard idea".



15. KISS IT GOODBYE

French people have been told to stop kissing because of COVID-19. Kissing on the cheek is a common way to greet someone in France but, like the handshake that is popular in the UK, it is deemed too risky, as it could be an easy way to spread the virus.

16. KIM JONG UN-WELL?

There was lots of confusion around the health of the North Korean leader, Kim Jong-un this week, after US news agency CNN claimed he was in "grave danger". They said that the US government was "monitoring intelligence" that suggested Kim Jong-un had undergone heart surgery and was not recovering very well. South Korea and China's authorities then said that they did not think this was true, and that they did not know where the story had come from.



17. KETCHUP RANKING

The Good Housekeeping Institute has taste-tested 21 different ketchups, and Sainsbury's 65p bottle came out on top. Family favourite Heinz came 17th.

18. FLAMINGO FRIENDS

Flamingos are friendly and loyal birds, research has shown. Exeter University studied four flamingo flocks for four years. They found that, despite being in giant flocks of up to two million, flamingos form small friendship groups, teaming up to help with feeding and nesting.

19. DUCKLING RESCUE

A duckling who fell down a drain had to be rescued by the RSPCA and local fire service. An RSPCA inspector said: "The duckling seemed fit and well. I took it to a wildlife expert who will care for it until it's old enough to be released back into the wild."

20. SIPHONO-WHAT?!

This bit of string floating in water could actually be the longest animal ever recorded! It's called a siphonophore, a long stringy, stingy creature related to jellyfish. Biologists from the Western Australian Museum spotted it and, although not officially measured, it is believed to be around 150ft long, which would make it three times as long as a humpback whale!



5. NEWS IN PICTURES

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UK

QUENTIN Blake, famous for his illustrations for Roald Dahl's stories, has teamed up with the House of Illustration to produce a series of rainbow e-cards to help keep people in touch with loved ones. The ten cards in the series can be downloaded for free at www.houseofillustration.org.uk.

TREDEGAR, WALES



A METAL sculpture of Aneurin Bevan, who helped to create the National Health Service, overlooks the town clock. The clock's face was lit up in blue to show support for the NHS in the fight against COVID-19.



@banksy/Instagram

UK

BANKSY, the anonymous street artist, has published a new piece of work showing rats causing mayhem in a bathroom during the coronavirus lockdown. "My wife hates it when I work from home," he wrote on Instagram.

WINCHESTER, UK



Jason Brown

TWO Humboldt penguin chicks hatched at Marwell Zoo over the Easter weekend, so new mum Lucy and one of her chicks took to the water for a swim. The tiny youngsters mark the first successful penguin breeding at the zoo since 2015, with more eggs expected to hatch later in the month.

SAHARA DESERT,
MAURITANIA



© Adrian Guerin, Australia, Winner, Open, Travel, 2020 Sony World Photography Awards

ADRIAN Guerin's Riding a Saharan Freight Train was one of the winners in the 2020 Sony World Photography Awards. He balanced on top of rocks of iron ore on a moving train to capture this amazing picture. The train is one of the longest in the world, at around 2.5km (1.55 miles) in length, and travels more than 700km (435 miles) on its journey across the desert.



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NORTH YORKSHIRE

Piles of pen pals

A couple of issues ago, we told you about Harley Glen. He moved from Edinburgh to Harrogate just before lockdown and couldn't make new friends because of social distancing. His mum asked online for pen pals to get in touch and Harley has received 120 handwritten letters since then. The letters are from all over the world, but one closer to home is particularly special for Harley. It's a letter from Millie, who goes to Western Primary, the school he will be attending when schools reopen. Millie said it was nice to make contact with a future school friend. "Thank you everybody for sending me the letters!" a happy Harley said.



MANCHESTER

Rocky weather

A BBC weatherman has brought smiles to people's faces after footage of him drumming along to the BBC News theme went viral. BBC North West weatherman Owain Wyn Evans finished his weather report, then rushed inside to play along with the music. The rocking report has been viewed over 5m times.



NEWS IN NUMBERS

£13 million was taken by fraudster Alistair Greig. The conman was jailed for 14 years after some investors lost their life savings while he was secretly spending their money on his lavish lifestyle.

3 police dogs passed their training on the same day. Buddy, Vik and Arys are now members of the Durham Constabulary's Dog Support Unit. On his first day, Buddy got his first bad guy, sniffing out the thief's hiding place under a fallen tree.

EDINBURGH

Dash for cash

A healthy way to raise funds for the NHS has so far totalled more than £3.5m in donations. Olivia Strong created Run For Heroes, where one person runs 5km, donates £5, then nominates five more people to do the same. Olivia said: "The initial target was £5,000 and within four days we reached that, which looking back now is crazy. Reaching £1m was a good moment... I had a little cry!"



BRAMPTON

Child-friendly visors

A designer has been working round the clock to make visors for care homes. Jon Stynes also joined forces with graphic designer Tim Ellis to create child-friendly visors. Jon said: "Some of the younger children are scared of the nurses in all their PPE [personal protective equipment], so hopefully this will help."



UK

Digging in

The Government has allowed construction on HS2, the UK's new high-speed railway, to begin during lockdown. Some have criticised the timing of such an expensive project, but HS2 minister Andrew Stephenson said it will provide "thousands of construction workers and businesses across the country with certainty at a time when they need it".



LONDON

Nature nurtures cats

Mitcham Homing Centre in London has been playing nature sounds to relax their stressed-out cats and kittens. Senior cat care assistant Jane Francis said: "I downloaded ambient sounds, such as birdsong, rain, trickling streams, and the cats loved them." She added that the sounds are ones "which the cats will experience naturally when they eventually find their new forever homes".



NORFOLK



Loo roll art

A gallery owner who challenged people to make art out of toilet rolls has been overwhelmed by the number of entries on social media. Sarah Whittley, who runs Pinkfoot Gallery in Norfolk, is asking people to paint or decorate a loo roll and upload it to social media with the hashtag #pinkfootlootrollchallenge. She said: "I think every single one is incredible – I didn't expect the standard to be that high and inventive."



£91, 256.38

has been raised by Joe Wicks for NHS Charities Together. He has been doing weekday PE lessons on his YouTube channel for the last month. On Fridays, he does his exercise in fancy dress!

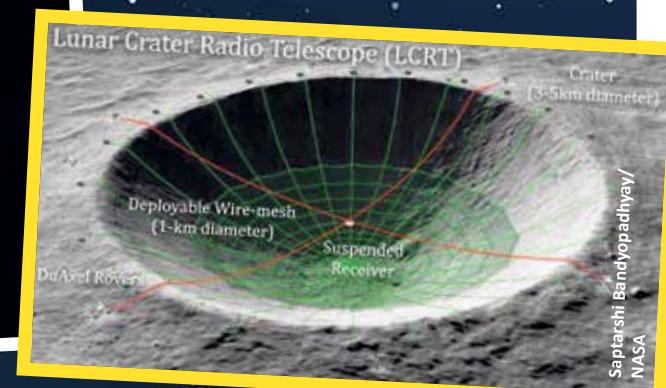
100m

is the length of a massive artwork designed to thank NHS staff. Jamie Wardley, from art collective Sand In Your Eye, was behind the giant thank you gesture, which was painted in a field in Mytholmroyd in West Yorkshire.



MAN-MADE MOON SCOPE

istock



NASA has published plans for a massive telescope on the moon that would be able to see objects formed at the birth of the universe.

The Lunar Crater Radio Telescope (LCRT) is still in its early stages of development, but we can't help but get excited by the sound of this futuristic, far-fetched idea.

Thought up by NASA roboticist Saptarshi Bandyopadhyay, the telescope would be built by wall-climbing DuAxel robots inside a 3.5km-wide crater on the dark side of the moon. The robots would climb the walls of the crater and attach a wire mesh that would form the basis of the telescope.

By building the telescope on the dark side of the moon, the moon acts as a physical

shield that isolates the lunar surface from radio interference and noises from Earth-based sources, satellites, and the sun's radio noise.

Bandyopadhyay hopes we will be able to observe the far reaches of the universe and be able to study its very early days in a way that has not been possible before.

NASA has given Bandyopadhyay \$125,000 (£100,000) to see how possible building the LCRT is, and to search for the moon craters they could possibly use for the telescope.

EDITOR'S COMMENT

ARE you settling into working at home? Or missing school more than ever and you can't wait to get back?

We've been speaking to some Year 6s about what life is like learning at home. Let us know your thoughts, too, at newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk putting Home School in the subject box. And, take part in our poll on the front page. Stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives. Keep smiling!

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GOOD WEEK FOR...

NETFLIX

ONE company that seems to be doing well out of the lockdown is Netflix, which is now worth more than energy company ExxonMobil. Less than a decade ago, ExxonMobil was the most valuable company in the world.



BAD WEEK FOR...

THIS TORTOISE OWNER

AN Italian woman has been fined €400 for breaking quarantine to take her tortoise for a walk! The woman said her pet needed just as much exercise as a dog. Police didn't agree, and fined her anyway.

TREE TREATMENT

SCIENTISTS say that a substance newly found in willow trees could help some patients to beat cancer.

Willow trees already provide us with salicin, the key ingredient in aspirin, one of the most commonly used painkillers in the world.

Now, researchers think they've found another chemical in willow trees that has even more impressive properties than salicin, which is used to reduce pain, fever and inflammation (swelling).

Called miyabeacin, the new substance is found in the stems and leaves of the tree, and has the ability to kill various cancer cells, including those resistant to other drugs.

Scientists were particularly excited by its effect on neuroblastoma, a hard-to-treat childhood cancer.

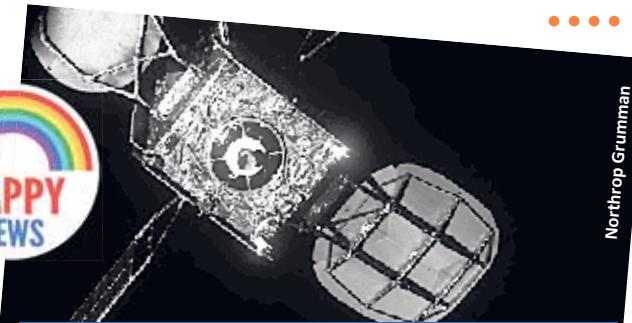
Dr Jane Ward, co-leader of the new study by Rothamsted Research, says that because aspirin had been so successful, people hadn't bothered learning about other parts of willow trees.

WOW!



FOR the first time, a satellite has been serviced while orbiting the Earth. The communications satellite moved into a position where it wouldn't work, but it was fixed and put back into place by a special servicing vehicle made by American company Northrop Grumman.

In times like these, we feel that the world needs to be reminded that it's not all doom and gloom out there! That's why we're promoting Happy News! If you like this story, and want some more positivity in your life, head to first.news/happynews now!



Northrop Grumman

POO PRODUCE

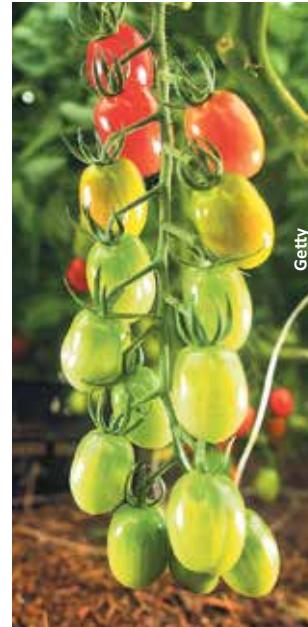
THE UK imports most of the tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers we see in our supermarkets, but that could soon change, thanks to new, sewage-heated greenhouses.

It may sound unpleasant to think of the heat from sewage being anywhere near the food that we eat, but it's really not that bad!

These new greenhouses would use heat taken from water after it's been treated at a sewage plant. A very small amount of heat and CO₂ would then be added by a natural gas power plant.

Compared to produce from a fully gas-heated greenhouse, the sewage-heated greenhouses will have a 75% smaller carbon footprint.

A director at Low Carbon Farming, which is building the greenhouses, says the UK could build 41 in the next five years. Today, just two are in development.



Getty

Stock

CANADA



● Nova Scotia shooting

This week, a gunman killed at least 16 people in the worst mass shooting in Canada's recent history. Canadian prime minister Justin Trudeau described the attack as "a terrible situation". After a police chase, the gunman was killed by officers. **News like this is rare but can feel scary. Talk to a trusted adult if you're worried, or call Childline on 0800 11 11.**

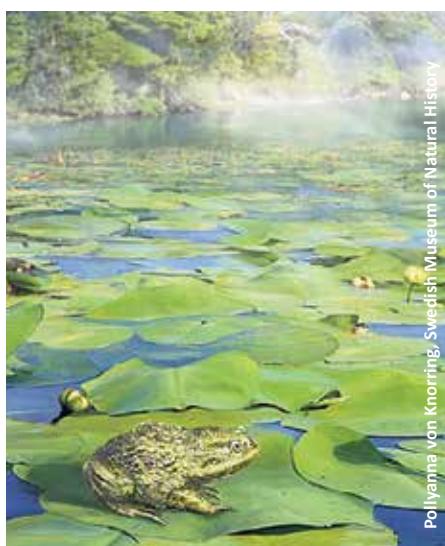


ANTARCTICA



● Ancient amphibians

Scientists from the Swedish Museum of Natural History have uncovered the oldest known remains of modern amphibians in Antarctica. The 40-million-year-old fossils are the remains of helmeted frogs, a species still found in South American rainforests. They say the discovery is further proof that Antarctica was once home to a massive rainforest, similar to the ones in South America today.



RUSSIA



● Satellite-seeking missiles

The US has claimed that Russia is testing missiles designed to shoot down satellites. The US Space Force, created by President Trump last year, says the missile was able to destroy satellites in low orbit – around 1,240 miles above land. Last month, the US accused Russia of pretending to inspect one of their own satellites, while actually spying on one owned by the US. The US, China and India have already developed and tested their own anti-satellite weaponry.



SOUTH KOREA



● Pandemic elections

South Korea's ruling Democratic Party has won a huge majority in the general election that was held last week. The election was one of the first in the world to be held since the start of the pandemic, and voters had to wear a mask, gloves and use hand sanitiser. Despite this, the country saw record voter turnout – largely thought to be a sign that South Koreans were pleased with how their government has handled the crisis. The Democratic Party's manifesto (the list of what they want to do if elected) had a big focus on climate change, promising to pass a Green New Deal law that would start the country's transformation into a low-carbon economy.



SAUDI ARABIA



Princess Basmah speaking in 2017

Middle Ea...

● Princess in prison

Saudi princess Basmah bint Saud bin Abdulaziz al-Saud says she is being held in prison without reason. The royal, who has not been seen since March last year, says that she is very ill. She demands that her cousin and ruler of Saudi Arabia, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, releases her and provides medical care. Before her arrest, Princess Basmah had worked to advance humanitarian and women's rights in the kingdom. Human Rights Watch said that the princess's arrest was another example of how the Crown Prince has stopped critics from speaking out against him.

NORFOLK ISLAND



● Rare owl discovery

For the first time in almost ten years, two Norfolk Island morepork owl chicks have been found by researchers. You can see morepork owls across New Zealand, but the Norfolk Island morepork owl is only found on the tiny Norfolk Island, which sits in the Pacific Ocean, nearly 1,000 miles east of Byron Bay in Australia. There are thought to be only 50 Norfolk Island morepork owls left in the world.



OUR WORLD

**NAME: KAZION
LIVES: WALES**

TO FIND OUT MORE, GO TO
WWW.COMICRELIEF.COM

KAZION once struggled to communicate. A lack of understanding around Asperger's and dealing with the loss of his grandfather meant that he became more isolated and depressed.

Fortunately, he met Jason, a project worker at Hafal. This Welsh charity uses money from Comic Relief to provide music therapy to young people dealing with mental health issues. Now, he regularly attends the project's musical activities, gaining confidence and living independently.



COMIC
RELIEF

Kazion (left) learns guitar with Jason Tatton, who runs Project Evolve

Comic Relief

COVID-19 DEATHS THE (NOT SO SCARY) FACTS BEHIND THE FIGURES

IT'S perfectly normal to be worried about COVID-19 and the growing number of deaths related to it.

Like all of us, you may be concerned about catching the virus, or about a loved one falling sick. And when you hear about the rising number of people with COVID-19 who die, it's understandable to feel anxious.

Every death is a tragedy, and very upsetting for the family and friends of the victim. But it's really important to remember that only a very small number of those infected with the virus pass away. Scientists think that about 1% of people who fall ill will die. The vast majority of those already have at least one other serious health condition, such as heart disease or dementia. Most are over 70 years old – in March, there were no COVID-19 deaths in the three youngest age groups (those aged up to 14) in England and Wales.

When more data is available, we may well learn that less than 1% of people with COVID-19 have died. That's because we still don't know how much of the population has become infected. There simply haven't been enough tests carried out yet to know the true scale of the virus.

● What do the death figures tell us?

Every day, the Government tells us how many people who tested positive for COVID-19 have died in a hospital in the UK.

As the figures for those who have died in care homes or their own homes isn't included in the daily total, the Government has admitted the data doesn't reveal the true total number of deaths. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is releasing separate figures for those who died out of hospital.

In England and Wales, men have died of the virus at twice the rate of women. In other countries, including China and Italy, more men have died from COVID-19 than women too. Scientists are not yet sure why this is the case.

● What don't the death figures tell us?

The figures don't show how often the virus is actually responsible for a death. For some people, COVID-19 is the major cause of death. The ONS says it was the third most frequent cause of death in the country in March, after dementia and heart disease. But, of the deaths involving COVID-19 that occurred in March 2020, there was at least one pre-existing condition in 91% of the cases.

For some people, COVID-19 contributes to their death, rather than being the main cause. For some, it could be that they had the virus but actually died of something else entirely, but this will still show up in the figures.

The ONS points out it is still too early to understand the full impact the new coronavirus is having on deaths.



A microscope image of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19

RECYCLING ENZYME



An enzyme has been found to break down plastic bottles

SCIENTISTS have invented a bug that can break down plastic bottles for recycling.

After examining 100,000 micro-organisms, researchers found an enzyme in a heap of composting leaves. An enzyme is a substance that can help chemical reactions to happen. In this case, after mutating the enzyme in the lab, scientists improved its ability to break down the plastic used to make bottles.

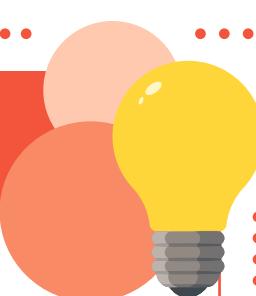
A tonne of plastic waste was broken down in ten hours, and the degraded material was used to make new plastic bottles. Currently, most recycled plastic is only strong enough to use in clothing and carpets, rather than sturdy items such as bottles.

The French company behind the research, Carbios, has teamed up with international companies, including Pepsi and L'Oréal, to speed up the development of the new enzyme.

The discovery could help deal with the enormous plastic pollution problem facing the world right now. Every year, about eight million tonnes of plastic waste ends up in our oceans.

TATA
CONSULTANCY
SERVICES

INNOVATIONS



THE biggest trial of drugs to treat COVID-19 has been launched in the UK.

Known as the RECOVERY trial, it involves more than 5,000 patients in 165 hospitals across the country. The results of the trial will be known in June. The project leader, Professor Peter Horby of Oxford University, said it was "by far the largest trial in the world". Similar ones in the USA have a few hundred patients.

A number of medicines are being tested to see if they can help COVID-19 patients recover. These include drugs currently used to treat HIV, the infectious disease that affects the human immune system. Also being tested is a drug used to treat rheumatoid arthritis. But Professor Horby says that discovering an all-out cure is unlikely.



SCIENCE
MUSEUM
GROUP

This report is from our friends at the Science Museum

WILLIAM and Caroline Herschel were born in Hanover, now part of Germany, in 1738 and 1750.

Best known for their work in astronomy, the brother-and-sister team's work led to the discovery of well over a thousand nebulae (clouds of gas where stars form).

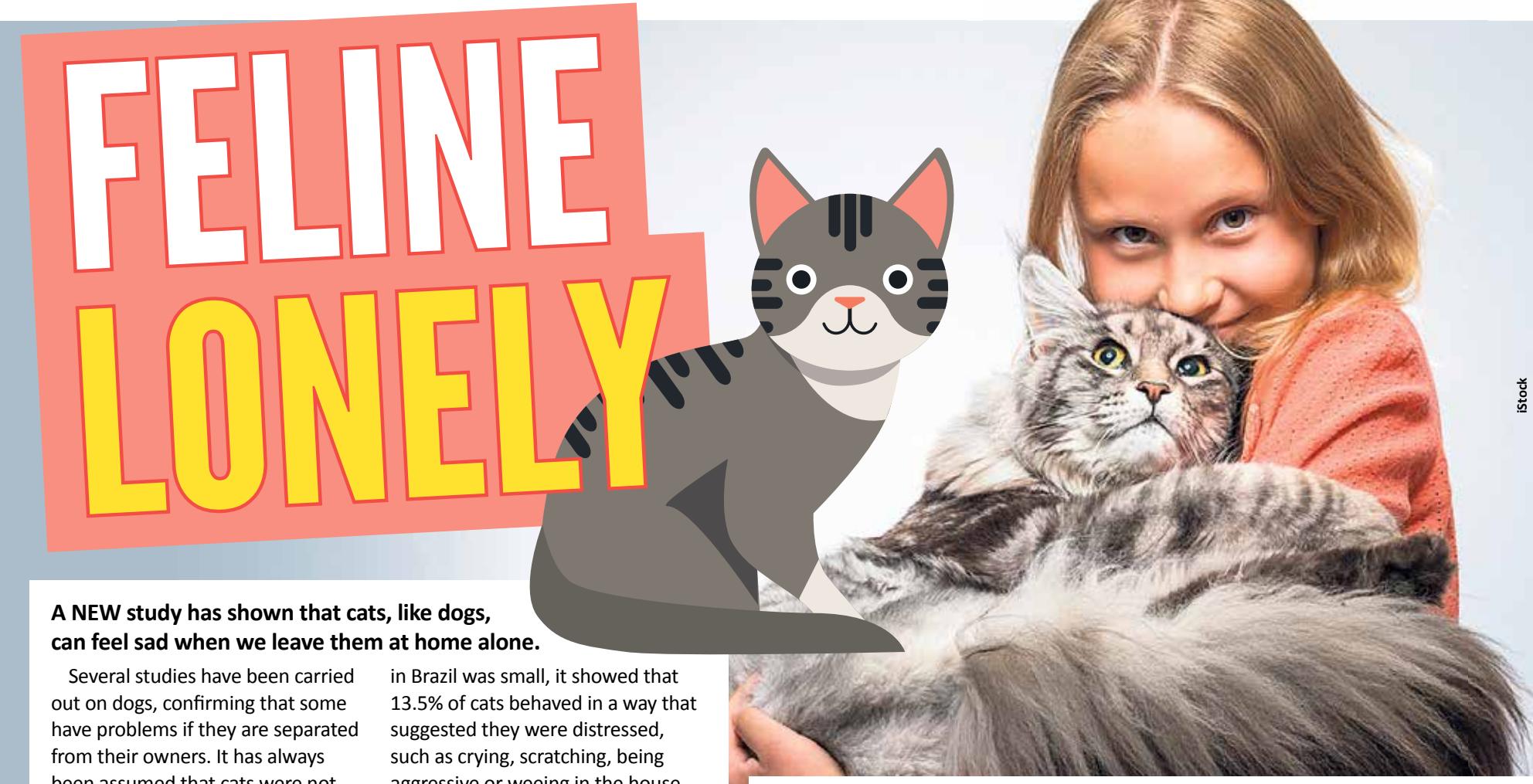
William became famous as discoverer of the planet Uranus and was appointed royal astronomer by King George III. Caroline became the first professional female astronomer in Britain when she received a salary as his assistant, discovering three nebulae and eight comets. William even built Caroline her own telescope.

But did you know that as well as sharing a passion for astronomy, the stellar sibling duo were also aspiring musicians? Before pursuing careers in astronomy, William was an accomplished musician and Caroline joined him in many concerts. She became a concert singer with a fine soprano voice!



Caroline's telescope

FELINE LONELY



A NEW study has shown that cats, like dogs, can feel sad when we leave them at home alone.

Several studies have been carried out on dogs, confirming that some have problems if they are separated from their owners. It has always been assumed that cats were not bothered about being on their own, so very little research has been done to see whether it is true.

Although the study carried out in Brazil was small, it showed that 13.5% of cats behaved in a way that suggested they were distressed, such as crying, scratching, being aggressive or wee ing in the house.

The scientists who set up the research say the results show more work is needed so we have a better understanding of how cats behave.

iStock



THE SMELL OF LOVE

SCIENTISTS have discovered that male ring-tailed lemurs like to smell nice to attract females.

A study by Kazushige Touhara, professor and biochemist at the University of Tokyo, found that the males release a fruity-smelling perfume from glands on their wrists when they want to impress a female. They rub their tails against the gland, before waving their tail around so that females can smell their "perfume". The behaviour is known as "stink flirting".

Ring-tailed lemurs are known for using different smells to communicate with each other. They use scent for marking their territory and to show where each animal ranks in their social group. Scientists now plan to further investigate the smells that the lemurs use to attract females, and how successful it makes them when it comes to securing a mate.

The full report is published in the nature journal *Current Biology*.

RARE EAGLES ON THE MOVE

WHITE-TAILED eagles, the UK's largest bird of prey, have been spotted flying over the Yorkshire Moors for the first time in 240 years.

The large predators are also known as sea eagles and became extinct in the UK in the early 20th century, due to illegal poaching. Last year, a project set up by Forestry England and the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation released six young eagles on the Isle of Wight. It was the first part of a five-year plan to reintroduce 60 birds across the UK.

The organisers of the project are asking people around the country to help track these beautiful birds to see just how far they travel. If you spot one in your area, you can log your sighting at www.roydennis.org.



CATERPILLAR WATCH

THE Forestry Commission is urging people taking their daily exercise to look out for invasive oak processionary moth caterpillars.

The hairs from the caterpillars and their nests can cause sore throats, itchy eyes and other unpleasant symptoms.

They are mostly found in southeast England, but if you spot these caterpillars or their nests you should report it to treealert.forestreresearch.gov.uk.

TACKLING MYTHS AND MALARIA

FOR this year's World Malaria Day (Saturday 25 April), we've been finding out how young people in Sierra Leone are taking on the fight against malaria. This deadly disease killed 405,000 people in 2018, with 94% of those deaths occurring in Africa.

Malaria is a serious tropical disease that's spread by mosquitoes, with children under the age of five in Africa especially vulnerable.

World Malaria Day takes place in April every year to celebrate the incredible progress that's being made to tackle the disease. It also reminds people that we still have a long way to go until we beat malaria for good.

Right now, half the world is at risk from malaria. The disease is both preventable and treatable, but many children die from it every day.

This week we're sharing the stories of two young people who are fighting malaria in their communities.

MEET ALPHA AND FUDIA

Fudia and Alpha live in rural Sierra Leone, in West Africa. They walk from village to village to teach families and children about the symptoms of malaria and how they can protect themselves.

They are two of 50 young researchers who have been trained by Restless Development's Fighting Malaria, Improving Lives programme (funded by Comic Relief and GSK) to come up with new ways to raise awareness of the disease and encourage people to get the healthcare they need when they fall ill.

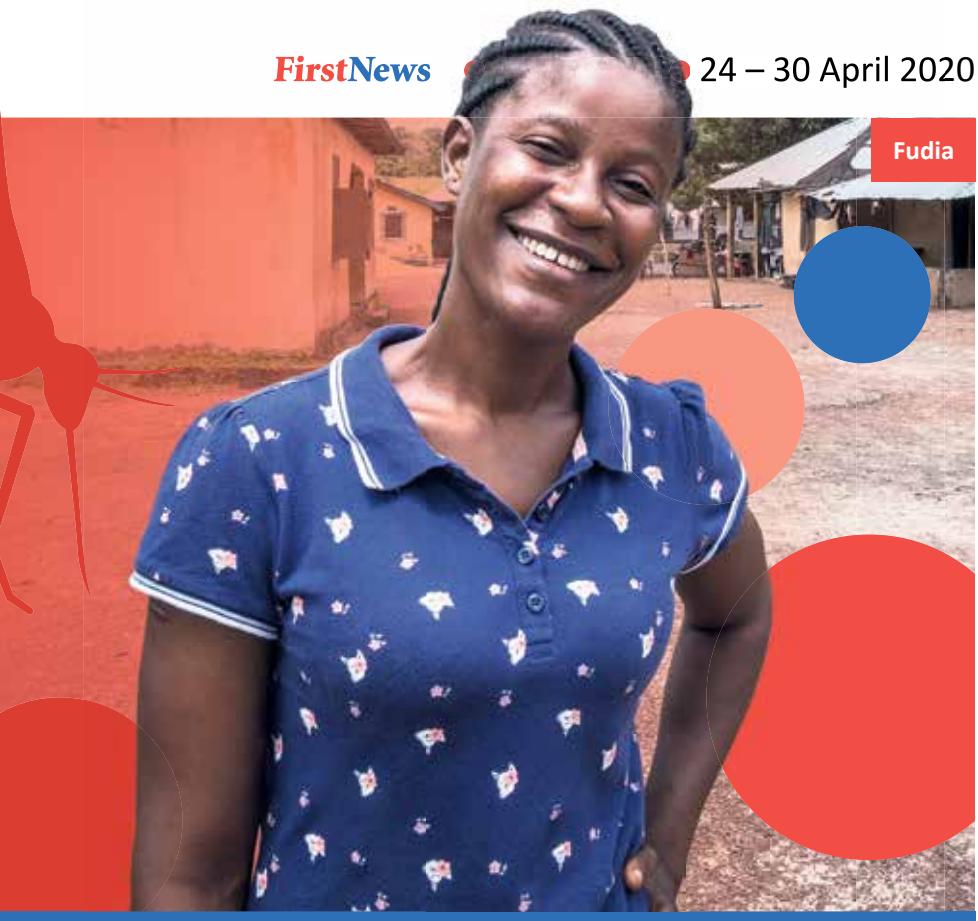
It's been a tough job, as they have discovered that people often have misunderstandings about malaria. They found out that myths still exist, and some people believe that mango is the cause of malaria.

DEDICATION TO EDUCATION

Fudia and Alpha have been working hard to educate people of all ages, including children. One of the things they've done is set up anti-malaria clubs in two schools so that children learn about malaria from a young age. They've found that the children are quick learners who go home and tell their parents what they have been taught – so mums and dads are learning about malaria too.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Malaria is caused by the bites of only female *Anopheles* mosquitoes (right), usually between dusk and dawn
- The disease is most common in warmer climates, where there is a lot of humidity (water in the air) and rain
- Common symptoms include a high fever and headache
- A blood test is done to diagnose malaria, and medication is used to treat it



Fudia



Alpha (left) talks to a villager about the symptoms of malaria

The researchers also go from house to house, knocking on doors to talk to people and bust myths about malaria. Thanks to the young researchers' dedication and hard work, they've seen some real progress in their communities. More people are going to hospital for treatment, keeping their homes clean and sleeping under bed nets at night, which helps to protect them from mosquito bites.

The information they collected has even been shared with the Ministry of Health, so that local leaders can use the findings to develop new ways to fight malaria.

"We go from village to village raising awareness," Fudia says. "We want to encourage people to keep their environment clean, and we collect data from people who had experience with malaria."

"I really enjoy what I do. I never had the courage to talk to people who are older than me, but because of this work I have confidence to talk to anyone I meet. I want this sickness to end for good in the country. I don't want it to kill people any more. That is our goal, to end this sickness."

IT TAKES TEAMWORK

Beating malaria is a challenge and needs teamwork. Comic Relief and GSK are working together with communities in some of the most affected areas in the world, equipping them with the vital knowledge they need to prevent and treat malaria. It also gives children the chance to reach their full potential and gives communities the opportunity to thrive.

**COMIC
RELIEF**

gsk

To find out more about the work that Comic Relief does, see www.comicrelief.com

KIDS RULE!

FIRST NEWS caught up with Winslow Fegley, Chloe Coleman, Ai-Chan Carrier and Kei, the young stars of the brand-new film, *Timmy Failure: Mistakes Were Made*.

■ How would you describe your characters in *Timmy Failure: Mistakes Were Made*?

Winslow: I play Timmy in the movie. Timmy is an 11-year-old kid who has a polar bear as an imaginary friend. The movie is all about Timmy's amazing adventures; his personal adventures and the adventures he has through the detective agency he owns.

Kei: I play Rollo. Rollo is one of those good kids who doesn't really want to get into trouble. He gets good grades, but Timmy keeps getting him into trouble and he really doesn't want that. I think Rollo keeps coming back to Timmy because they are complete opposites.

Chloe: I play Molly Moskins. Molly is not afraid to stand out. She's not afraid to be unique and she's not afraid to speak up for what she wants. She likes to make sure the people around her are happy, so she's there for Timmy whenever he wants anything. She's not afraid to be herself.

Ai-Chan: I play Corrina Corrina in the movie. In Timmy's imagination, Corrina is an evil Russian secret agent – but we don't really know if she's really evil or if she's just a sweet, innocent kid. She's a lot of fun to play.



Disney+

■ The film is based on a best-selling book series. Did the books help you figure out how to play your characters?

Winslow: I definitely got a lot of inspiration from the books. My dad helped me go through all of that stuff, which was great.

Kei: In the book, Rollo has a lot of regret about why he listens to Timmy. That's what I used when I thought about how to react to Timmy on set.

Chloe: When I read the books, I thought Molly's character stood out because of how she is. She's not afraid to get in the way and she likes to speak out for what she wants. That was inspiring for me.

Ai-Chan: The script didn't talk about Corrina Corrina too much, so I would ask the director and the writer. I kept reading the books to help me get her vibe. The books really helped.

■ There are a lot of fun messages in the movie. What do the kids teach the adults in the story?

Winslow: I think the kids teach the adults that it's okay to be different and that you shouldn't be afraid to be yourself. The movie teaches everyone that you don't have to fake it with people; that people will like you for who you are if you're honest and open. For some reason, fitting in seems to be really hard for some people nowadays, but it's good for everyone to know that it's not difficult to fit in if you are the real you. Don't fake it.

Kei: The film also teaches people to be more accepting. It teaches you to help people through their mistakes instead of judging them. Normal is for normal people. I think it's much more fun to stand out and be who you are.

■ What was your favourite scene to film?

Winslow: All of the scenes at the school were a lot of fun to film because we were all together. Another really fun scene for me was when Timmy sits at the school's fence with Craig Robinson [who plays a guidance counsellor called Mr Jenkins]. That's a pivotal point in the movie, but Craig was so much fun on set. We would sing together or I would beatbox. It felt like we were just chilling at the fence as friends. It was really cool.

Chloe: I enjoyed shooting the treehouse scene. It set up Molly and Timmy's awkward relationship.



No matter how awkward it is between them, it's precious the way that Molly likes him. I like that scene because you get to see the cat and you get to see exactly how awkward it is for Timmy to be at Molly Moskins' house.

Ai-Chan: My favourite is a scene that involves lots of light switches. I turn around and I smile – and I do something with my eyebrows. That was really fun to shoot because I did it about 20 times. Sometimes I'd do my eyebrows way too much and the director would tell me to ease off a little.

■ Timmy has a polar bear pal in the story. Was there a real polar bear on the movie set?

Kei: When we were shooting scenes with the polar bear, there wasn't a bear on set. Instead, it was a guy in a giant, 2.7m suit. It was great to have him on set because then you knew where to look.

Chloe: He had fans inside the suit because it was so hot!

Winslow: Yeah, they put two fans inside his helmet to cool him down.

Ai-Chan: He did a really great job of acting like a polar bear on set. He mastered the mannerisms and everything, so it made it a lot easier for me to work against. When I saw the suit, I would picture an actual polar bear in my mind. I'd try to think of it in that way.



Disney+

PICS OF THE WEEK

BLUE Peter have released some cute pictures of the Blue Peter dog, Henry, to celebrate his one-year anniversary on the show.

In this week's show, Lindsey (pictured) says: "We're celebrating the anniversary of my favourite member of the Blue Peter team. He's cute, he's cheeky and he's always up for a belly rub!"

Henry, a beagle/basset hound cross, has been on loads of adventures since joining the show – he even has his own social media account!

Tune in to *Blue Peter* on BBC iPlayer.



THIS WEEK

1 MCFLY have recorded a new version of *It's All About You*, dedicated to the NHS. Tom, Danny, Dougie and Harry recorded the song from their homes and even got their family members to take part. McFly said: "We wanted to say thanks to the NHS in the only way we know how, through music. So we have recorded this while on lockdown, something to keep you entertained at home and that you can sing along to while raising money. All the royalties from this video will go to NHS Charities Together, so please watch and rewatch and share it far and wide. We also urge you to donate to NHS Charities Together."

2 Celebrity DJ Fatboy Slim is throwing a huge party to thank NHS workers for their hard work and dedication during the coronavirus pandemic. He'll host the show at the Brighton Centre on 28 October.

3 Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson has announced that his new film, *Jungle Cruise*, will now be released on 30 July 2021. The film was due out this summer but has been delayed because of the coronavirus. Dwayne said: "It gives the world time to bounce back to living confidently, productively and joyously once again."



■ Who would be your dream guest on *Braydon Meets* and why?

I'd like to meet James Corden. I think he would be a really good one and he'd make us laugh. And maybe Simon Cowell. I reckon he'd be good fun, with some good things to talk about.

■ How do you manage to fit in school work as well as the show?

We have to make time to keep on top of school work. My teacher shares the work with my dad and we catch up while we are travelling, or at evenings and weekends. I miss quite a lot of school days, so have to work extra hard to keep up. You will usually find us doing maths on the train to London, or in the car on the motorway!

■ Can you tell us a secret about the show?

When we met Boris Johnson, he actually gave us a scoop [about the HS2 rail line]. I didn't realise it at the time, but it made headlines in the newspapers the next day. It wasn't even supposed to be part of my questions; we were just talking and we ended up landing an exclusive!

FIVE
MINUTES
WITH...

BRAYDON
BENT



THIS young presenter interviews the stars and juggles school! He told us what it's like being a young roving reporter.

■ Tell us a bit about your show, *Braydon Meets*.

I get to talk to the people that you see in the news and on TV every day, about what is important to them and what is going on in their lives. I've been lucky enough to meet Tim Peake at the European Space Agency to talk about life in space, learn some tricky dance moves with Oti Mabuse, talk with Danny Rose and Georgia Stanway about serious issues like bullying and racism, and even went to Downing Street for a quick chat with the PM! It's been great, with even more episodes coming soon.

■ When did you realise you wanted to be a presenter?

It feels like I've always wanted to do that for as long as I can remember. Before all this started, my mum and dad have videos of me from when I was little, pretending to make my own radio and TV shows! I won a competition to become BAFTA's young presenter and it really took off from there.

■ Which presenters do you look up to?

I love Ant and Dec because they make it seem so natural, and they make it look really easy. It feels like they are just talking to you and me, and there is no camera. That is the skill, to make it feel as if you are talking to people as you would in a normal conversation.

Catch Braydon in *Braydon Meets* daily on Sky One and FYI on Sky News and Sky Kids

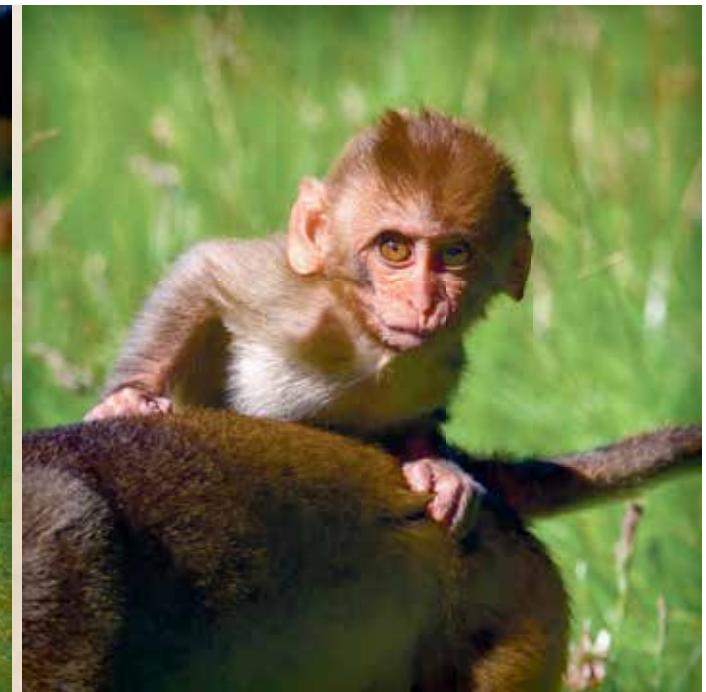




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SAFARI**





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the world-famous safari park from
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**Narrated by Kate Humble and packed
full of educational content**

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**Follow along on the Longleat app
longleat.co.uk/visitor-info/the-longleat-app**



THE GREAT FIREWALL OF CHINA



MANY websites based in the West, such as Facebook, YouTube and Google, cannot be accessed from China due to blocking technology nicknamed the Great Firewall of China. This week, a report said that Chinese gamers could soon also be blocked from playing with the rest of the world.

Earlier this week, Animal Crossing was completely banned in China. While the game was never officially released there, Chinese gamers could still get the game online if they wanted.

However, after protesters created signs within the game calling for Hong Kong's freedom from China, and these signs were shared on social media, Chinese authorities totally banned Animal Crossing from being sold.

Shortly after this decision was made, a report in Taiwan News suggested that a more sweeping ban was coming to mainland China. According to the report, online gaming is an "authority vacuum", where people in China can freely socialise without being monitored.

To combat this, gamers will be forced to use their real name when playing online, they won't be allowed to play with those outside of China and they will be forbidden from role-playing (pretending to be a different character online).

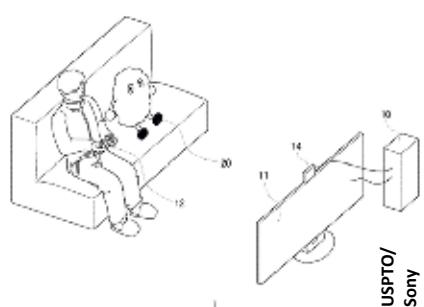
Along with these new rules, games featuring illnesses or zombies could also be banned. It's thought this is to stop gamers from thinking about the coronavirus outbreak, which originated in Wuhan, China.

ROBOT REALITY?

IT looks like Sony has some pretty wild ideas up its sleeve. It's been revealed that the company filed a patent to protect their idea of a gaming robot buddy.

A patent is a legal document or licence that says you own the rights to your idea, so others can't copy it. Sony's patent is for a little robot sidekick that can sit next to you on the couch and sense your feelings.

The idea is that gaming is more fun to do together than on your own, even if together means playing alongside a robot that cheers you on. The patent suggests that the robot could use things like your heart rate or how you speak to work out how you're feeling and react to your feedback.



This is the sketch that was filed with Sony's patent. Don't take it too seriously!



Could this be what Sony's robot will look like? No, probably not

Sony put forward the idea that the robot could even watch movies with you or actually play certain games alongside you. It also proposes that health and wellbeing could be a focus with the robot. For instance, it could give you a gentle nudge when it might be time to take a break from gaming and get some sleep.

It's important to remember that some patents never get made. So don't expect a robot bundled with the PS5! However, it does show that Sony is really exploring some interesting ideas for the future.

MINECRAFT UPGRADED

A NEW update is available for Minecraft, which completely transforms the way the game looks!

The update introduces ray-tracing to the game, which is where light is accurately simulated to look as it does in real life.

While it's still early days for the technology in videogames, ray-tracing has been used in big-budget CGI movies for years.

Unfortunately, ray-tracing requires a seriously powerful computer to run smoothly – something most of us don't have. For now, we'll just have to enjoy it from afar!



WIN! A PAIR OF MICRO SKATES



MICRO Skate, the world's biggest inline skate brand, is celebrating its UK launch by giving three lucky readers a chance to win a pair of skates to practise their skating skills at home.

Urban skaters and skating champions, such as Faustina Busto, are already going wild for these super cool skates. Influencer Jack Tierney is already a massive fan and uses Micro Skates in his viral videos.

Now you can join in the fun, learning how to skate or improving your skills with the very best skates out there. Whether you're a complete beginner or a pro skater, there's something for everyone!

Perfect awesome tricks to show friends or learn how to slalom, fishtail and do epic turns with these professional-grade skates endorsed by the experts.

Three lucky winners will win a pair of Micro Skates. The exact model will depend on the age and skill level of the winner. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

Which influencer star loves his Micro Skates?

- a) Bob Tierney b) Jack Tierney c) Tom Tierney



Size range available:
6-11 UK/23-36 European
The Micro Skate Kids Range is available to buy on Amazon

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY SKATE

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 19. The closing date is 2 May 2020.

BOREDOM BUSTERS!

BRAIN TEASERS

1. WHAT IS FULL OF HOLES BUT CAN STILL HOLD WATER?

2. WHAT CAN YOU HOLD WITHOUT EVER TOUCHING ANYTHING?

3. WHAT TYPE OF CHEESE IS MADE BACKWARDS?

4. WHAT GOES UP AND DOWN BUT NEVER MOVES?



ANSWERS TO THE BRAIN TEASERS IN ISSUE 721:

1) Short 2) Your name 3) A barber 4) Silence

ANSWERS TO THIS WEEK'S BRAIN TEASERS IN FIRST NEWS SOON!

THE FIRST NEWS PHOTO CHALLENGE

WE want you to recreate this famous photo, which made headlines years ago, using anything you can find in your house!

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY: Final adjustments were made to the Hubble Space Telescope mirror ahead of launch, 25 April 1990



Send your photos to newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk with the subject Isolation Station, and we'll feature our favourites on the new FN Isolation Station, which you can find at first.news/happy

IT'S official! We're set for another few weeks at home, which probably means a few more days of boredom. Don't worry though, because we've packed the next few pages with some fantastic ways for you to spend your time. Why not check out the First News website for more?

HEROES IN THE BATTLE AGAINST BOREDOM

A BUNCH of brilliant people and places are doing their bit to entertain us! Here are a few of our favourites.

- The lovely lot at DK Books have launched a Stay Home Hub, an exciting new resource offering ideas and inspiration for adults and children for free! Whatever your situation is, the Stay Home Hub is full of informative and inspirational resources for people of all ages. Find it at www.dk.com/uk/information/stay-home-hub.
- The folks at Asmodee have made printable versions of their fantastic card and board games, which you can download for free. Ten games are available, including the massively successful matching game Dobble, classic trading game Catan, and the imagination-based story game Dixit. You can find them all at print-and-play.asmodee.fun.
- Want to get closer to nature, but don't have a balcony or garden? The RSPB has a solution! No matter where you are in the UK, if you spend long enough looking out your window, you'll see a bird. Encourage them over by hanging a bird feeder outside your window. You can use suet as 'glue' to stick seed to an old paper towel roll, fill an orange peel with seed, or simply leave your kitchen scraps on the windowsill – just make sure those scraps are safe and healthy for birds. You can find more tips at rspb.org.uk.



FIRST NEWS' POSITIVITY PLACE



IF you're feeling a little low about the news, and the lockdown is getting you down, why not head to the First News Isolation Station? It's our own little corner of positivity on the internet! Featuring messages of support to key workers, along with things to do, happy news stories and more, we hope it's enough to cheer you up on a bad day.

If the site inspires you, and you want to submit your own bit of positivity to the First News Isolation Station, email us at newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk with the subject Isolation Station.

WIN! A MARVEL PUZZLE

CAN you complete our sudoku puzzle and fill in the numbers one to nine?

Send in your answers and five winners will each win a Clementoni MARVEL Impossible 1,000-piece puzzle! The head-scratching puzzle is of the highest quality and has fantastic imagery featuring all of your favourite Marvel characters.



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

WORD WHEEL

SEE how many words of three or more letters you can make, using the middle letter in each one. And can you find the word that uses all the letters?

The wheel contains the following letters:

- Row 1: F (center), R, A
- Row 2: R, A, G
- Row 3: E, C, N
- Row 4: G, N, C
- Row 5: E, C, N
- Row 6: R, A, G
- Row 7: F (center), R, A

Surrounding the wheel are seven question marks in colored circles (pink, green, blue, red, orange, yellow, purple).

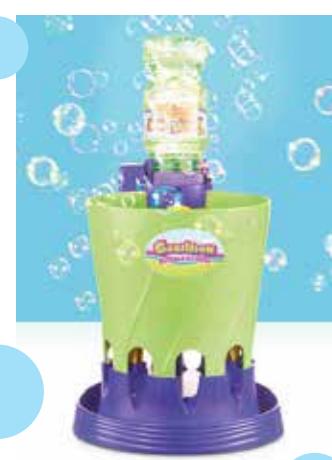
WIN! AN AMAZON VOUCHER

TO be in with a chance of winning one of two £50 Amazon vouchers, visit first.news/survey2020 and complete our readership survey!

The survey is for all First News readers under the age of 16. To enter this competition, you'll need a parent or guardian to confirm they are happy for you to have your say.

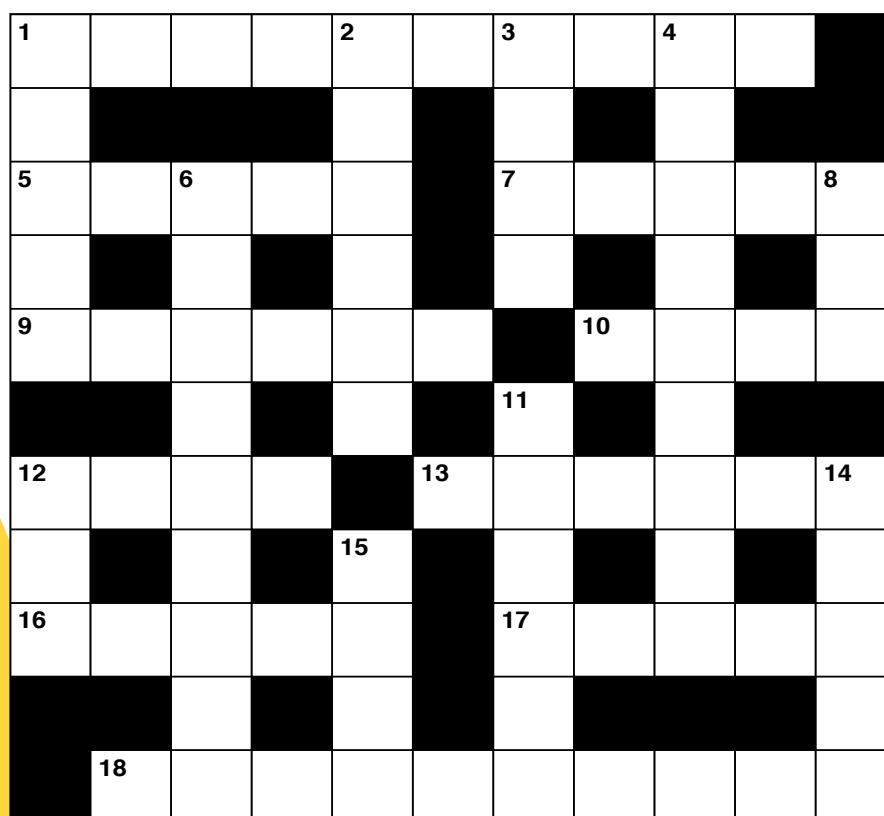


WIN! GAZILLION BUBBLES



CAN you complete our crossword by using the clues below?

Send in your answers and two lucky winners will win a Gazillion Bubbles Tornado machine. Instantly create a bubble storm with the Gazillion Bubbles Tornado! With no pump and no wait time, you'll be creating a gazillion bubbles in a flash. This ultimate bubble machine blows 4,500 bubbles per minute at the push of a button.



ACROSS

1 Item used to view distant objects (10)

5 The sum of various numbers (5)

7 Rubbish (5)

9 Sculpture (6)

10 A Swedish pop group (4)

12 Ran away at speed (4)

13 Ferocious (6)

16 Large and powerful animal (abbr) (5)

17 Relay (anagram) (5)

18 Not able to be done (10)

DOWN

1 Quick food snacks (5)

2 Eg, white or pink (6)

3 Area of grass (4)

4 Small red fruit (9)

6 Shape with four sides (9)

8 A long period of time (3)

11 Gives in (6)

12 Not close (3)

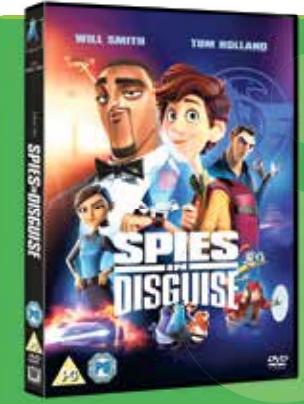
14 Mysterious or creepy (5)

15 Children's toy (2-2)

WIN! SPIES IN DISGUISE

CAN you spot the five changes we've made to this picture from *Spies In Disguise*? Send in your answers and four lucky winners will win a copy of *Spies in Disguise*. In this high-flying animated comedy, super spy Lance Sterling and scientist Walter Beckett are almost exact opposites. Lance is smooth, confident and charming. Walter is none of the above. But this unlikely duo must team up for the ultimate mission to save the world when a "biodynamic concealment" experiment transforms Lance into a brave, fierce, majestic... pigeon!

Add *Spies In Disguise* to your digital collection now or own it on Blu-ray and DVD on 27 April



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WORDSEARCH

WHAT ON EARTH?

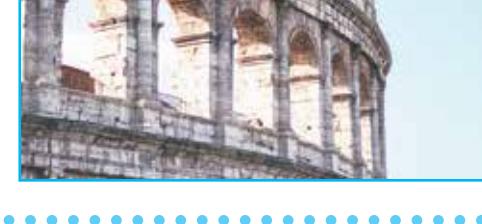
CAN you find the words below in our fruit-themed wordsearch?
Remember that the words can be horizontal, vertical or diagonal.



- Pear
- Cherry
- Peach
- Plum
- ?

- Banana
- Grapes
- Apricot
- Grapefruit
- ?

- Orange
- Apple
- Kumquat
- Mango
- ?



COMPETITIONS: You can enter First News competitions in one of two ways. 1. Go to firstnews.co.uk/competitions and follow the instructions. 2. Write to us at 'competition name' (eg, Holiday), First News, 7 Playhouse Court, 62 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 0AT. **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 open to those aged 17-and-under and residents of the UK & Republic of Ireland, except employees of First News, First Group Enterprises Ltd, Trinity Mirror 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 addresses 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: helmet is a different colour, shoe is blue, plate is missing, bat is longer, fence bar has been removed.

Word ladder: bird, bard, bark, back, buck, duck.

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

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

COLOUR FOR THE MIND WITH STABILO



DURING this unusual time, why not take the opportunity to learn a new skill and get creative with STABILO?

It's important to take time out each day to relax your brain and explore its creative side, and STABILO has lots of **free online activities** to help you do just that. Colouring is a form of mindfulness – it allows you to focus your mind, and the repetitive action from colouring helps calm your brain. You may already love colouring, which is great because STABILO has some designs ready to be downloaded and

beautifully coloured at www.stabilo.co.uk



There are lots of activities available for you to get creative.

Add some colour to your page with STABILO's Pen 68 premium range, which includes over 46 colours and has been designed to encourage your creativity and deliver the best results.

Perfect for colouring books, this high-quality felt-tip pen will be your new best friend when it comes to colouring.



The STABILO website has something for everyone. As well as colouring pages, it has unique lettering templates if you fancy working on your hand lettering skills. The brand-new STABILO Pen 68 brush with its flexible brush tip is a new addition to the Pen 68 family. Simply vary the pressure on the tip to determine how thick or thin the line becomes. Available in 19 brilliant colours, it is ideal for creative techniques like colour progressions or watercolour effects.



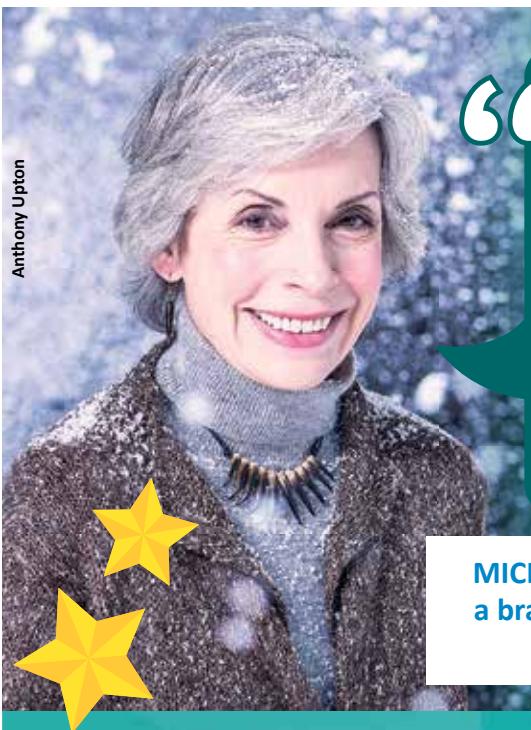
Designed for little hands, but enjoyed by all ages, meet the **Woody 3 in 1**. It's a colouring pencil, crayon and watercolour all in one and is perfect for drawing and painting. These chunky pencils work on many surfaces, including paper, cardboard, dark paper and even glass. Don't panic – it easily washes off windows with a little water and a cloth! If you've been busy making rainbow drawings for your windows, why not recycle that paper and draw a rainbow with these amazing pencils directly onto your window? Perfect for adding a bit of cheer to someone's day. With 18 rich colours, you can go wild with your imagination!



Maybe you prefer going off-piste and creating your own unique masterpieces, in which case STABILO's power and power max fibre-tip pens are ideal! The ink is washable and they will last without a cap on for up to eight weeks without drying up. Power up and put your artistic skills to the test – it will help relieve stress and help you relax your mind, as well as being fun!

STABILO's website also has some fantastic tutorials that show the tricks of the trade when it comes to drawing some amazing scenes. From beginner to intermediate, there is something for everyone, whatever your mood. www.stabilo.co.uk

 **STABILO®**



“THE CHARACTERS WOULDN’T LEAVE ME ALONE”

MICHELLE Paver, the author of the best-selling *Wolf Brother* books, is back with a brand-new book in the series, *Viper’s Daughter*. Michelle talked to First News about the new book and plans for a TV series!



- First off, we’re very excited to return to the *Wolf Brother* series! For those who haven’t heard of the books, could you tell us a bit about them?

They’re adventures about a boy, a girl and a wolf, battling to survive in the Stone Age. Torak is the best tracker in the forest, Renn’s an amazing shot with a bow and arrow, and Wolf is a wolf – parts of the story are told from his point of view. *Viper’s Daughter* is a stand-alone story: you don’t need to read the other books to enjoy it. It’s set in a perilous land of giant ice caves, volcanoes and mammoths...

- What brought you back to the series?

I’d never planned to return, but the characters wouldn’t leave me alone – and seeing the northern lights in Norway gave me an idea. I soon realised it wasn’t for just one book, but three!

Did you know that wolf cubs can burp?



- You’ve spent a lot of time with wolves and got to know them quite well. Do you have any facts about them that might surprise us?

One day after I’d bottle-fed a wolf cub, I put my hand under his tummy to lift him up and he burped! I never knew wolf cubs burped.

- You’ve travelled the world to research the series, so what was that like?

To make the stories real, I’ve slept on reindeer

skins, eaten raw seal liver and had near-misses with polar bears. It’s been exciting, dangerous, unexpected and fun.

- Do you have any highlights or crazy stories you can tell us about?

Swimming with wild killer whales was a crazy highlight! It was winter, in a Norwegian fjord, and as I was snorkelling, a huge killer whale swam underneath me, incredibly fast.

- How much from your travels make it into your books?

Only the most fascinating bits, and only a few lines. I don’t want to slow down the story.

- Did you go on a research trip for *Viper’s Daughter*? What was that like?

In Alaska I crawled into an ice cave under a glacier. I also tried a Native American cure for toothache by licking a slug. It worked! [DO NOT try this. Slugs and snails carry lots of parasites that can be incredibly dangerous.] In Siberia, I went to Wrangel Island, last home of the woolly mammoth, and found a tusk sticking out of a riverbed. That was amazing.

- The books are now a TV series!

I’ve just done a deal with some brilliant producers who totally understand the books, and are determined to create a legendary series. I can’t wait to see how the series turns out!

- Things are pretty strange in the world today. Do you have any advice that might help those struggling to adapt?

It helps reduce anxiety to limit the

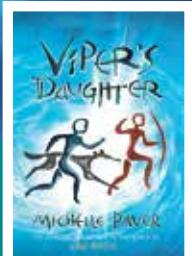


amount of news you take in: try switching off your mobile and/or computer for a while every day and read a book instead.

- Many First News readers are taking this opportunity to try writing for themselves. Do you have any tips for aspiring writers?

Keep a notebook with you and jot down feelings and ideas as they come. Write about what you’re keen on. And never be afraid to change stuff: you’re the boss!

An ice cave in Alaska



VIPER’S DAUGHTER
by Michelle Paver is out now in hardback, published by Zephyr

CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY FIRST NEWS



Quality in children must stop. FULL STOP.



The national charity for sick children.



One in five children in the UK lives in poverty.



One in four people in the world is blind.



COMIC RELIEF



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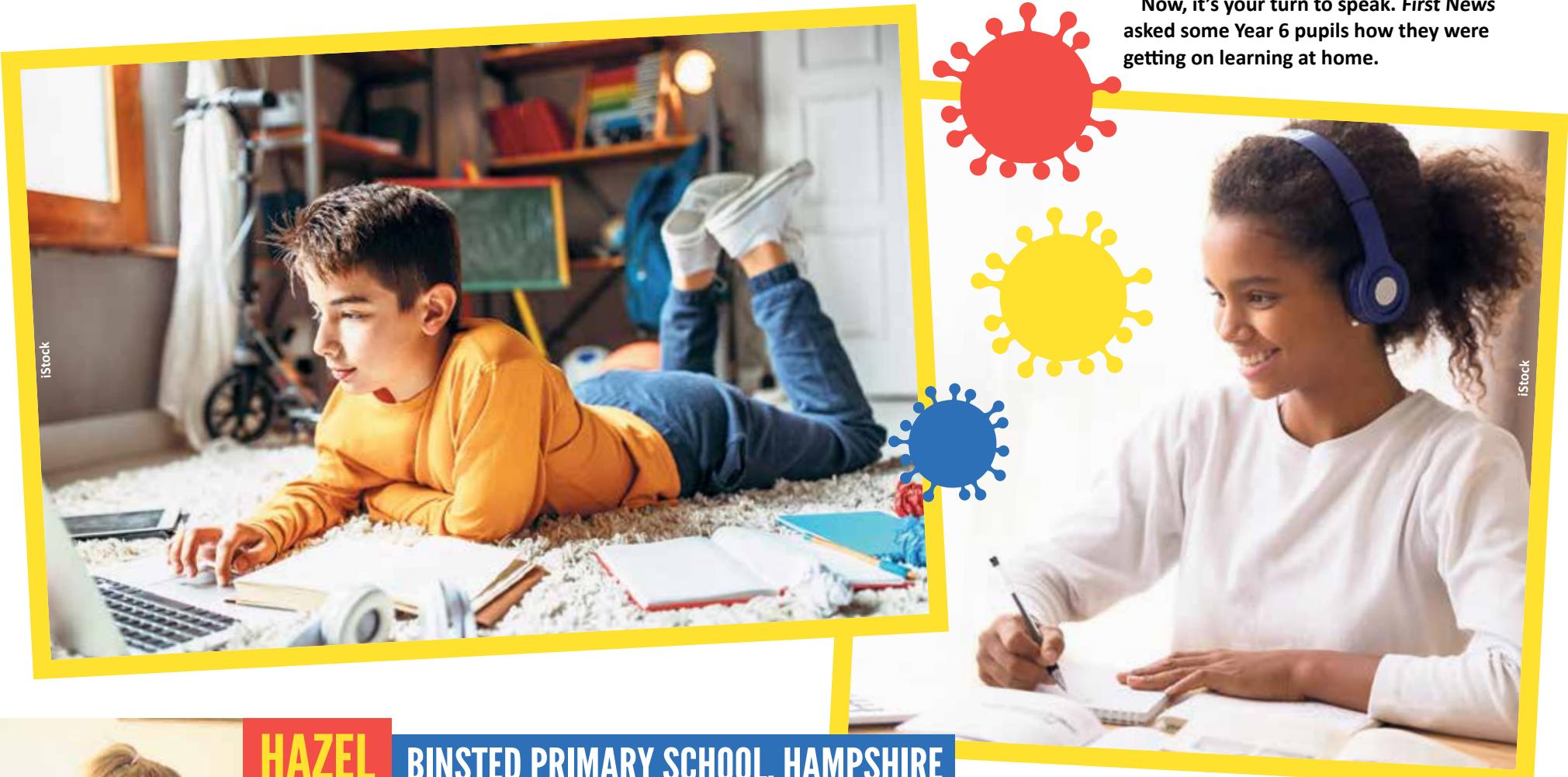
Achievement for All

HOME SCHOOL

HOW IS IT GOING FOR YOU?

A+

D-



HAZEL BINSTED PRIMARY SCHOOL, HAMPSHIRE



The Government stopped school and you don't know when you'll see your friends again. This situation is saddest for people at the last year of their school because they are all moving on. I'm really sad that school is closed because I've just moved schools at the end of Year 5. So I'm really sad because I have new friends and many of them are going to different secondary schools and I won't get to see them. And, I'm also really sad because my friend's moving in the summer holidays and we don't know if we're going to get to see her again!

Something we do at Binsted Primary is go

to a secret bit behind the back of the school, which we're not allowed to go to, but the Year 6s go there sometimes. What you do is get a whiteboard marker and write your name and the year, so you're actually on the school, like you're part of the school. There are names there from the year 2000! Because of the Government schools closure, everyone in my Year 6 class has already written their names there, and it's really sad.

If we got to go back to school before the summer we could say goodbye to our friends and say hi to all our teachers. I'd like to see the reception children again and have a

LOTS of adults have been talking about kids being home-schooled during the coronavirus outbreak.

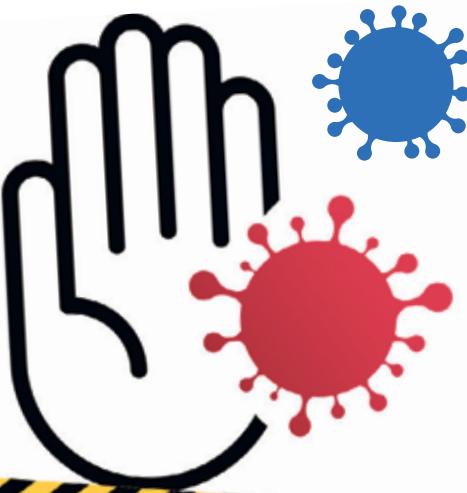
Parents and carers are trying to help, teachers are setting work for you to do at home, politicians are talking about when you might be able to go back. But no-one is asking you how you're doing. That's what First News is here for – to give kids a voice about the issues that affect them.

And, boy, are you affected right now! You can't go to school, some of you have missed exams, school trips, you can't see your friends, many of you can't see your grandparents and you can't do your normal activities – be that Scouts or Guides, dancing or swimming.

This week, Education Secretary Gavin Williamson said he couldn't thank you enough for what you're putting up with, and how important you were in the fight against coronavirus, helping to keep people safe (front page). He said he didn't know yet when schools would reopen and there is a possibility that you won't go back this school year.

Now, it's your turn to speak. First News asked some Year 6 pupils how they were getting on learning at home.

chance to say goodbye. I'd be concerned 'cause I know the virus is still around. It would be hard because I'd want to give the Year 6s a little hug to say hi and bye. But it would be really hard because we'd have to stay 2m apart, which would be sad. The saddest thing would be that the Year 6s don't understand it, so they'd come towards you, saying: "Oh, can I have a hug?" and you'd be like: "Just stay there," but they won't understand it. Going back in July would be really tricky, but it would be really nice! I'm not saying we hate home-schooling, but we'd rather be at school. It's so boring not being able to go out.



PROTECT YOURSELF FROM COVID-19 SCHOOLS CLOSED

CORONAVIRUS

CAUTION

COVID-19



TEDDY

THE CATHEDRAL SCHOOL, SOUTHWARK

I feel really sad as I might not see my friends again, and I will miss out on the fun activities planned for the end of term, like a visit to Chessington World of Adventures and our end-of-year party. I'm also worried that when I join my new school in Year 7, I will have forgotten things or learnt different lessons.

I would like to go back to school as I miss my friends and it's really hard to do lessons at home – too many distractions!

I think I might be concerned about social distancing for about an hour and then I would be fine; we wash our hands before school and after each break. Also I don't think any parents will send their children into school sick, or at least I hope they wouldn't.



JULIA

THE CATHEDRAL SCHOOL, SOUTHWARK

I am rather upset that so many trips and fun times have been cancelled and I cannot see my classmates.

However, I have quite enjoyed these times, because I can work the way I feel most comfortable and I can organise my own timetable. Also, I can converse more with friends and family far away because I schedule everything at suitable times.

I don't want schools to go back before the summer holidays. I would prefer the schools to remain closed until there is little or no strain on the NHS, perhaps even a vaccine or certainty of herd immunity, because many children travel on public transport and could catch the virus before passing it on to people more vulnerable.

However, I understand that not all children are in safe and comfortable circumstances, and may struggle to stay at home, without teaching support.



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DAHLIA

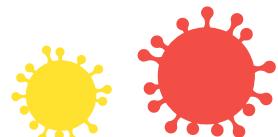
**ST MARY'S PRIMARY
SCHOOL, PORTSLADE**

I know that it is for the good of society because closing schools helps stop the spread of the coronavirus. It stops children from gathering together and spreading it to each other. They can still get the virus even if they do not seem to be sick, and some children DO get very ill if they get it. Even if they do not seem to be sick, they might still have it, and they could pass the virus on to other people. However, I will be quite sad to miss out on the last few days of

primary school and not be able to say goodbye to my teachers, as they have been very nice to me. Also I am missing out on proper lessons run by my usual teacher, and that means I am not learning as much. I would prefer to go back to school before the holidays because children need a proper education and might miss their school, their friends and their teachers quite a lot. However, I think that social distancing would be very difficult because it is really hard to stay 2m apart from people in your classroom. Even in the playground, how would people stay that far apart without bumping into each other?



MIA



**LYNDON GREEN JUNIOR,
BIRMINGHAM**

It is really scary. I don't know anyone who is going to my secondary school, so the thought of not seeing my teachers and friends again is really upsetting. I am also disappointed about missing topics I was looking forward to and the SATs tests I've been working hard for.

I love school, so I am really eager to go back. Although I'm enjoying lessons at home, my house can't ever be a school. Obviously, though, it is better to be safe than sorry. Social distancing in the classroom would be a big challenge!

WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?

SEEDS STARTER KIT NOTONTHEHIGHSTREET.COM

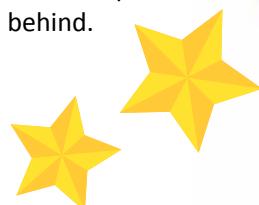
£12.00

This cool starter kit contains a great selection of seeds that the whole family can enjoy growing. Some of the varieties will grow quickly and others will take their time, meaning you'll be tending to them all year round. There's sweetcorn, giant sunflowers, enormous pumpkins and quick-growing cress, plus the equipment and advice needed to start growing the seeds.



TIGERBOM SEEDBOM BOOBALOU.CO.UK £3.95

Help to sustain bee, butterfly and insect populations with this flower bomb. The Tiger in the Garden Seedbom grows only orange and black flowers, creating tiger-like stripes. Simply soak in water and throw it onto an area that needs brightening up. Seedbombs biodegrade into the environment, leaving only the colourful plants behind.



GARDENING

MINI GREENHOUSE AND GROWING KIT

GARDENINGFORKIDS.CO.UK £13.50

Have great fun building this reusable mini greenhouse. The transparent design is ideal for watching your seedlings grow day by day. It's suitable for any light, sunny windowsill. As well as the greenhouse, the set contains a compost disc, plant labels, instructions and growing guide, and comes complete with three packets of seeds: cress, sunflower and coleus.



*All prices correct at time of printing

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We are extremely passionate about the environment and we are always looking at ways to reduce waste throughout the company and across all of our products. Our paper comes from sustainable sources. The new material we use to wrap mailed copies is made from potato starch, so it is now fully home compostable and completely biodegradable, and you can put it in with your food waste, in your green garden waste recycling bins, or on your own compost heap.



BEYOND THE BOX

Advertisement feature

BE A RECYCLING HERO: NO SUPERPOWERS NECESSARY

WORRIED about packaging? Want to know more about recycling? **Beyond the Box** is here to help...

HOW CAN YOU HELP?



WHY DO WE HAVE PACKAGING?

■ It protects goods – whether it's furniture being moved or keeping food fresh for longer, packaging prevents damage.

■ It describes the product – it gives space to tell us all about the product, like how to use it and what the ingredients are.

You don't need superpowers to help save the world! We can all fight for sustainability and make small changes that can have a big difference.

■ Recycle right – Make sure recyclables, like cardboard delivery boxes, paper toilet roll tubes, plastic drinks bottles and metal cans, don't go in the rubbish bin.

■ Shop savvy – Try to buy food and other goods that are packaged in sustainable materials, like cardboard.

■ Speak up – Your voice is your strongest power. Write to your local council or favourite brands. Let them know sustainable packaging matters to young people.

RECYCLE

For more recycling info and helpful tips, visit cardboard.org.uk

NOT ALL PACKAGING IS CREATED EQUAL

MATERIAL	RECYCLABLE?	REUSABLE?	RENEWABLE?	BIODEGRADABLE?
Cardboard	✓	✓	✓	✓
Plastic	Sometimes	Sometimes	✗	✗
Glass	✓	✓	✗	✗
Metal	Mostly	Sometimes	✗	✗

WRITE A STORY WITH CRESSIDA COWELL

WORDS
FOR LIFE



AMBER Lee Dodd is the author of three children's books. Her first, *We Are Giants*, was nominated for ten awards. Her second book, *Lightning Chase Me Home*, was chosen as a BookTrust book of the month. Her third book, *The Thirteenth Home of Noah Bradley*, about a boy trying to break a strange family curse, is out now. Amber told us what her favourite book is:

“ That's too hard a question and it changes all the time. My most prized book is a copy of *The Illustrated Mum* by Jacqueline Wilson that she signed for me when I was around 11 or 12. **”**



TO READ THE FULL INTERVIEW, VISIT WORDSFORLIFE.ORG.UK/AUTHOR-INTERVIEWS
FOR BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS, ACTIVITIES AND GAMES, GO TO WORDSFORLIFE.ORG.UK

YOUR READS!

THE LAST SPELL BREATHER

JULIE PIKE

reviewed by Hollie Swift, aged nine

This book is about a girl named Rayne, who is learning to breathe spells like her mum, Meleri – the last spell breather. Set in Penderin, a protected village, Rayne's friend Tom digs a tunnel into a forbidden, monster-plagued world.

Meleri goes missing and Rayne is determined to find her mum with an accidentally-broken spell book covered in biting grotesques. She meets peculiar magical creatures on her way, guided by a sneaky fox.

Determined to defeat the evil Mali and get back her stolen spark, Rayne must breathe the right spell to rescue her mum, save the village and restore the monsters back to humans. I would recommend this book for 9 to 14-year-olds because it includes friendships, fall-outs, imagination, discoveries, mysteries and magical fun.



WE WANT YOUR BOOK REVIEWS!



Looking for something to do? Send us a book review! Whether you've read a book recently that you desperately want to tell people about, or have read one that you think others should avoid – write us a review!

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.

THREE weeks ago, Cressida Cowell, the Waterstones Children's Laureate and the author and illustrator of the *How To Train Your Dragon* and *Wizards of Once* series, began a new story in First News. Then, she handed over to YOU to write what happens next. We'll be carrying on the story every week, written by our readers – 250 words at a time. Our story is already getting pretty long! To read the first three parts of the story started by the Children's Laureate, head to:

★ FIRST.NEWS/CRESSIDACOWELL

PART FOUR BY MARIELLA DYE WAIN, 11

Ferocity ran and ran. The sky was dark but glittered with stars, and the moon illuminated paths in the tangle of trees. Gugalugs clung to Ferocity's shoulder as they hurtled through the forest, purple smoke billowing from his ears.

'Ferocity!' he hissed. 'It's the dead of night. There are shadows here!' Gugalugs shivered, digging his claws deeper into Ferocity's jacket. 'We... can't go... back,' she panted. 'Got to... get away from... the Tappers.' The smoke from Gugalugs's ears turned a lighter purple. Ferocity was right: the Tapper would have escaped the smoke by now and could be following them. Eventually, she found a place to rest and lay down on the crumpled leaves, covering herself with her jacket.

'You be lookout,' Ferocity murmured sleepily. 'I'm having a nap.' Plumes of phosphorous blue and purple smoke whooshed from Gugalugs's ears: 'What if a shadow or a bog creature comes? What if the Tapper comes back?'

'Fine, I'll be lookout,' said Ferocity. Gugalugs squeaked and nestled into the leaves, yellow smoke drifting from his ears. Moments later, Ferocity was asleep too, curled up under her jacket, Gugalugs snuggling into her shirt. Had she stayed awake a little longer, she would have seen a dark shape emerge from the bushes.

Its pitch black, wispy fur curled in the air like mist. It had one ripped ear and its smoky tail dragged on the forest floor. Its yellow eyes gleamed and its razor claws made no sound as it crept stealthily towards them.

Cressida Cowell said:
"I loved the ripped ear and the smoky tail!"

PART FIVE: BY YOU!

Well done to everyone who sent in their suggestions of how the story should continue. We enjoyed reading them all, and love how talented our readers are! If your story wasn't chosen this time, be sure to have another go. We could choose you to continue the story in next week's issue!



You can submit the next part of the story by email at newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk, popping **Story** into the subject line, or at first.news/cressidacowell.

We'll be deciding on the next part of the story every Monday, so make sure you send us your story by then!

TROT STUFF!



IS this the most beautiful horse in the world? 98,000 Facebook followers certainly think so!

Meet Frederik the Great, the handsomest horse in all the land. The 19-year-old stallion first went viral in 2016, thanks to his pitch-black coat and stunning wavy mane. But his following has kept growing as people seek out the lighter things in life, so Frederik has had another surge in online popularity.

And who could be surprised at that? Just look at the black beauty. He could be doing shampoo adverts! He's even been offered film roles.

Fame hasn't changed Frederik, though. His owner, Stacy Nazario, says: "His personality went right along with his looks. He's just phenomenal. His temperament is sweet. He's a gentle giant."



THE BELPER

MOO

EVERY evening in Derbyshire, the town of Belper is filled with the sound of mooing. But it's not from the farmers' cows... it's from the locals themselves!

The odd idea came from the mind of Jasper Ward, who

thought the mass mooing would make lockdown "a little bit more bearable". Ward says the cattle cry has proved to be a big hit. "The crazy people of this town have taken to it like cows to grass. We're three weeks in and at 6:30pm there's a chorus of moos."

It's not the first time the town of Belper has gone weird. For several years, there has been a 7ft-tall statue of Mr Potato Head on display outside Belper Community Cottage.



HOW LONG ARE
A HORSE'S LEGS?
LONG ENOUGH TO
REACH THE GROUND!

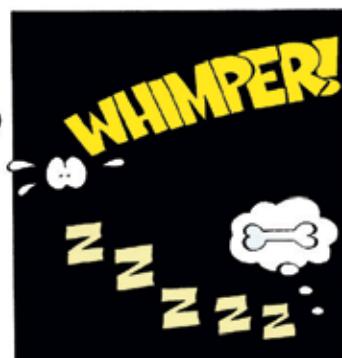
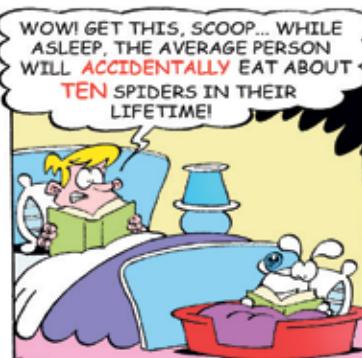


WHY DID THE
TOILET PAPER ROLL
DOWN THE HILL?
TO GET TO THE BOTTOM!

SHARE YOUR JOKES WITH US AT NEWSDESK@FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer



CORONA CAR

A CAR museum in India has unveiled a vehicle designed to look like the coronavirus.

The car was created over ten days by Kanyaboyina Sudhakar for the Sudha Cars Museum in Bahadurpura. It has just the one seat and isn't very speedy, but that's not really the point.

Sudhakar explained: "The spread of COVID-19 has to be contained. I have designed the car in the shape of the virus... so that awareness can be spread on social distancing by the public."



DON'T WIPE YOUR BUM WITH THIS!

TOILET roll might have taken on a new significance during lockdown panic-buying, but you don't want to wipe your bum with this. Seriously – you'll only end up making more of a mess!

A bakery in Finland has created these toilet roll cakes and, strange as it is to say, they look mighty tasty. The Ronttosrouva bakery's creation went viral and they even credit it with saving their business.

Owner Saana Lampinen said that the bakery was at risk of shutting down permanently in March because of cancelled orders related to the coronavirus. But after the loo paper cake went viral, orders picked up.

The cake, made of oat batter, passion fruit mousse and white fondant, has helped the bakery keep paying their employees and they've even hired two more people to meet the demand!



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

by Anika Magoon

SINCE lockdown started, I have been home-schooled, with my teachers sending lesson plans and homework.

I can't meet my friends any more but at least we have the Zoom app so we can speak with lots of our friends at the same time.

People can only go out to exercise, get food or medicines. Adults are working from home, unless they are key workers. This means we can have more family time. Parents and children can play and also discuss their feelings more often.

Fewer people are travelling, which is better for the environment. People are becoming kinder and talking more.

When I feel sad in the lockdown, I try to do things that cheer me up, like singing and playing. But I know that a lot of lonely old people live on my road and I wanted to do something to cheer them up as well. So, I decided to do a piano concert from my driveway and played a few of my favourite songs. My neighbours really appreciated it!

I have also been hearing about the NHS workers and that some doctors and nurses are staying away from their families because they are looking after COVID-19 patients and they don't want to pass the virus to their families.

I planned a fundraising run with my school friends to support NHS Charities Together. Due to social distancing, we couldn't do the run from a park, so we did it from our own houses. We could choose to run either 2km or 5km and I chose to run 5km, even though it meant 200 laps of my garden!

We completed the run on Easter Monday. Together, we have raised £6,952 so far and it keeps increasing, as people are still donating! I feel really happy that we could do something to support others.

These Easter holidays have been very different for me and my family. But I have learnt that when we are in a crisis, we should try to stay positive and do the best we can to help each other.



Anika getting ready to play

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

Write in to let us know what you've been up to on lockdown! How have you been learning at home? Have you been getting creative? Done a good deed for your neighbours or charity? 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.

LITTLE TROOPERS

by Kiki Tautz

APRIL is the official month of the military child. Little Troopers is a registered charity supporting all children with parents serving in the British Armed Forces, regular or reserve. Kiki is one of those children.



Kiki at Lapland

The morning after my dad goes away, I feel confused and sad. It stays in my tummy for a long time.

The house is quiet and although it is for a good cause, I wish he didn't have to go.

Steadily the days start to become easier and I have lots to tell my dad while he's away. I had support from the charity Little Troopers, who do amazing things for military children like me. They sent me to Lapland UK as part of their Christmas Smiles project. I got to tell Dad all about my magical adventures and it felt like he was with me.

I gradually start to notice my countdown jar is going down, which means one thing – Dad will soon be home.

When I eventually see him I feel over the moon. All those feelings in my tummy have blown away into thin air!

I feel proud to be a military child. I am resilient, strong and brave – just like my dad!



CREATING PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

by pupils from The Mill Hill Foundation

WE wanted to share with you some positive news about the work that our schools and pupils are doing to support our key workers and the elderly in our community.

The shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) for NHS staff has been highlighted as a key challenge for them as they battle against COVID-19.

So we are donating any PPE we have available at school to help protect the NHS workers. A hundred pairs of safety goggles that we used in DT and science at Belmont, Mill Hill Prep, have been donated to Moorfields Eye Hospital.

Mr Perrin, a teacher at Belmont, has also been working on making PPE face masks and visors for NHS staff, using 'Henry', our school's 3D printer.



Alex

Alex from 6JN and Duncan from 6RA have also been contributing at home by using their own 3D printers to make protective masks for a variety of NHS departments. Mental health community nurses, psychiatrists, GPs, an orthopaedic surgeon, special police and social workers have all benefited so far.

Through these challenging times, it is heart-warming to see how communities come together to support each other. We are very proud to be able to do our bit and help.

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SPORT IN NUMBERS

29

August is the new start date for this year's Tour de France cycle race. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to the event being postponed from its original schedule of 27 June – 19 July. Four-time champion Chris Froome (below), said the news offered some "light at the end of the tunnel".



5,000

tennis rackets will be donated to young people from poorer backgrounds by the Lawn Tennis Association. StreetGames, a UK charity that helps young people in the country's most disadvantaged areas, will distribute the rackets, along with food packages and information about tennis activities to try at home.



32

nights is how long darts' PDC Home Tour competition is running for. It started last week and involves darts professionals playing on their own boards in their homes, via a video link. Unfortunately, due to their rubbish Wi-Fi connections, Gary Anderson and Daryl Gurney (below) had to pull out before it even started.



SAUDIS WANT THE TOON



Heading for controversy?
Newcastle United's Nabil Bentaleb
in action earlier this year

HUMAN rights organisation Amnesty International has criticised the planned takeover of Newcastle United by a group that includes Saudi Arabia's government.

The country's Public Investment Fund is part of a consortium (group of organisations) looking to buy the Premier League club from current owner Mike Ashley for £300 million. The Saudi fund, whose chairman is the country's ruler, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, is set to own 80% of Newcastle, also known as the Toon.

But the plan is controversial, because of Saudi Arabia's poor record on human rights. Amnesty has accused the Middle Eastern kingdom of trying to use football to "distract from the country's abysmal human rights record".

Amnesty UK's head of campaigns, Felix Jakens, pointed to the "numerous peaceful activists jailed" under the Crown Prince's rule, as well as Saudi Arabia's involvement in the war in Yemen, where Saudi airstrikes have killed thousands of civilians.

In 2018, a report by American intelligence agency the CIA claimed that the Crown Prince himself ordered the murder of Jamal Khashoggi, a journalist who criticised the Saudi rulers.

But a lot of Newcastle fans are delighted that they might be about to see the back of current owner Ashley. They have been campaigning for him to sell the club for many years. Although some have been critical of the proposed takeover, others welcome it. Alex Hurst, chair of the Newcastle United Supporters Trust, said: "The involvement of Saudi Arabian wealth in the takeover is not a concern right now."



Newcastle United owner Mike Ashley

CLASSIC SPORTS PIC OF THE WEEK

American teenage sensation Coco Gauff throws her racket in the air and celebrates after beating Polona Hercog and reaching the last 16 of Wimbledon in 2019. Aged 15 at the time, Gauff was the youngest player to qualify for Wimbledon in the Open era

