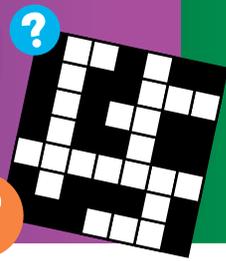


NEWS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT INTERVIEWS PUZZLES COMPETITIONS AND MORE



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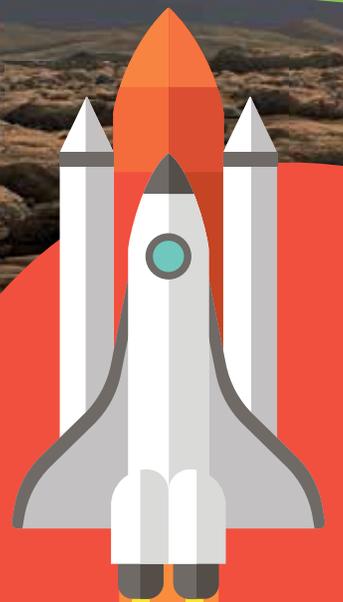
Issue 735 £2.25 17 - 23 July 2020

THE UK'S ONLY
NEWSPAPER
FOR CHILDREN

A SUMMER OF SCIENCE!



MISSIONS TO MARS &
BACKYARD BUTTERFLIES
P10 & P16



ZOO APPEAL

Sir David Attenborough is backing an appeal by London and Whipsnade zoos for donations following lockdown. During closure they have lost vital income, which they will not get back. The charity that runs both zoos, the Zoological Society of London, does lots of valuable scientific work, which is now in jeopardy. In a short video, Sir David said that the organisation is facing its toughest challenge in 200 years. Many of the zoo's 20,000 animals are endangered and now the society itself is in danger of extinction.



NEW ARCHBISHOP



The new Archbishop of York has been confirmed – via a Zoom call, due to COVID-19 restrictions. The socially-distanced ceremony was streamed live on YouTube and included music from the York Minster choir. After the online service, Stephen Cottrell, the now 98th Archbishop of York, made a short pilgrimage through town to York Minster, where he knocked on the inside of the West Door three times, as required by tradition, then opened the door to the world.

JOB LOSSES



Chancellor Rishi Sunak's plans to save jobs came too late for two of the country's biggest high street chains. John Lewis and Boots both announced job losses totalling 5,300 across the two companies. Other companies are likely to make similar cuts, which could result in widespread unemployment.

QUICK NEWS

TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS

WILDLIFE CRIME

The United Nations World Wildlife Crime Report 2020 has revealed some encouraging news about the illegal sale of animal goods. Demand for ivory (from elephant tusks) and rhino horn is in decline, thanks in part to a ban on selling ivory in China since 2017 and a crackdown on poaching. Sadly, the trading of other animals, particularly European eels, tigers and pangolins, has increased. The pangolin, trafficked for its scales, is still the world's most trafficked animal.



A pangolin

CRANE COLLAPSE



A woman has died after a 20-metre crane collapsed onto two houses in east London. The London ambulance service said four other people were injured, and two of them are being treated in hospital. The owners of the crane, which had only been put up the day before, said they were "deeply saddened" and their "thoughts are with those affected and their families at this difficult time". An investigation has begun into what happened.

TREE TORCHED

A 500-year-old tree has been reduced to a burnt stump. Firefighters fought to save the tree in Herefordshire but their water and foam weren't enough. The Whiteleaved Oak, which was said by some to have special powers, was visited by people from around the world. The cause is unknown, but a campfire could be to blame.

MUTT MATHS

Working out a dog's age is simple, isn't it? Traditionally it has just been a matter of multiplying your dog's age by seven. Now research carried out on Labradors has shown that calculation is wrong because dogs mature at a different rate to humans. Up to the age of four, they develop rapidly but then slow down. The researchers say more work is needed on other breeds.



TOKYO 2021

Health experts in Japan have warned that the 2021 Olympic Games could pose a serious risk to the Japanese public from COVID-19. Japan hasn't been as badly affected by the pandemic as some countries, but this means fewer people will have virus antibodies and will have more chance of being infected by other people. Olympic chiefs are still confident that the Games will take place, but a survey showed that 77% of Japanese people don't believe the Games will be able to go ahead.



A ROYAL FAINTING

Prince Charles was startled on a visit to a supermarket when a man he was chatting to suddenly crumpled to the ground. The man was given medical aid and was found to have fainted, so maybe meeting royalty was a bit too much for him! He was soon back on his feet and well enough to finish his conversation with the prince.

"BAD BEAR!"

British actor Dame Helen Mirren had a brush with a large black bear in the garden of her home in the US. The bears, which are not known for attacking humans, search wherever they can for food. Dame Helen found the bear trying to steal bird food and went outside to give it a telling off. "Bad bear! Bad naughty bear! Very naughty bear!" she shouted. The shouting worked and, after giving her a hard stare, the bear lumbered off. Dame Helen says she read about the tactic in a wildlife book.



NEW BATWOMAN

The TV series *Batwoman* has cast a black actor in the title role for the first time. Javicia Leslie will make her debut in January 2021 as Ryan Wilder, a new character who is described as "likeable, messy, a little goofy and untamed".

ROBO-DOLPHINS



A company from New Zealand is working with Hollywood designers to build an animatronic dolphin, which could take the place of real ones in aquariums. The robo-dolphins look just like the real thing, can swim in tanks and even respond to questions!

DUDA DOES IT

Andrzej Duda has narrowly won Poland's presidential election. Mr Duda was heavily criticised for his anti-LGBT views during the campaign, but took 51.2% of the vote. One of the main election issues was around Poland's relationship with the EU, and Mr Duda said he would "continue to strengthen the Polish state".



THE SECRET STORY OF THE SPITFIRE

A NEW BBC documentary has uncovered how a 13-year-old girl used her maths knowledge to help Britain win an important battle during WW2.

Back in the 1930s, the UK had an Air Ministry, which was set up to manage the Royal Air Force during the war.

One of the Air Ministry's employees was Fred Hill, who was working on improving the design of the iconic Spitfire plane (pictured below).

Fred thought that the plane should have eight guns, instead of four – something considered radical at the time, as it was believed that the planes would then be too heavy to fly.

Rather than give up on the idea, Fred took his plans home and asked his teenage daughter Hazel for help, as she was a bit of a maths whizz.

Armed with a calculator and some diagrams, the two worked out whether Fred's plans would fly... and decided that they would!

More than 80 years later, we now think that Hazel's help on the Spitfire design ensured that they had enough power to take down enemy planes during the Battle of Britain.



ACROSS the UK, more lockdown restrictions are being lifted – although masks will be made compulsory in shops in England from Friday 24 July for everyone aged 11 and over.

The good news, though, is that it's time to dust off your swimming kit, as England's swimming pools are reopening. From Saturday 25 July, indoor pools, dance studios, gyms and sports facilities can open as the lockdown eases.

Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden also revealed that theatres, opera, dance and music concerts can resume, as long as they're outdoors.

While lots of us are excited to get back to swimming and playing sports indoors, many are worried that lifting restrictions will lead to a rise in cases. Lots of experts have been saying for months that people should be wearing masks, but there are others who disagree. However, many countries, including Scotland, have made face coverings or masks compulsory in shops, so Prime Minister Boris Johnson has been feeling the pressure to do the same in England.

Health Secretary Matt Hancock says that if cases do rise, we will see "more targeted local action and less national lockdown".

That means, like Leicester last week, certain parts of the country will be asked to stay home until the number of cases begins to fall again.

Opening in England from 25 July

- Indoor gyms, sports halls and leisure centres
- Outdoor performances (following social distancing guidelines)

Now open in Northern Ireland

- Indoor gyms

Now open in Scotland

- Shopping centres
- Hairdressers
- Museums, galleries, cinemas and libraries

Opening in Wales from 20 July

- Playgrounds
- Community centres

"WE'LL PAY FOR THE PANDEMIC"



A GROUP of ultra-wealthy individuals have called for rich people to be taxed more, to help the world recover from COVID-19.

When you earn a salary, you pay tax. This tax is a portion of your money that's spent on funding things like the NHS and the UK's state schools.

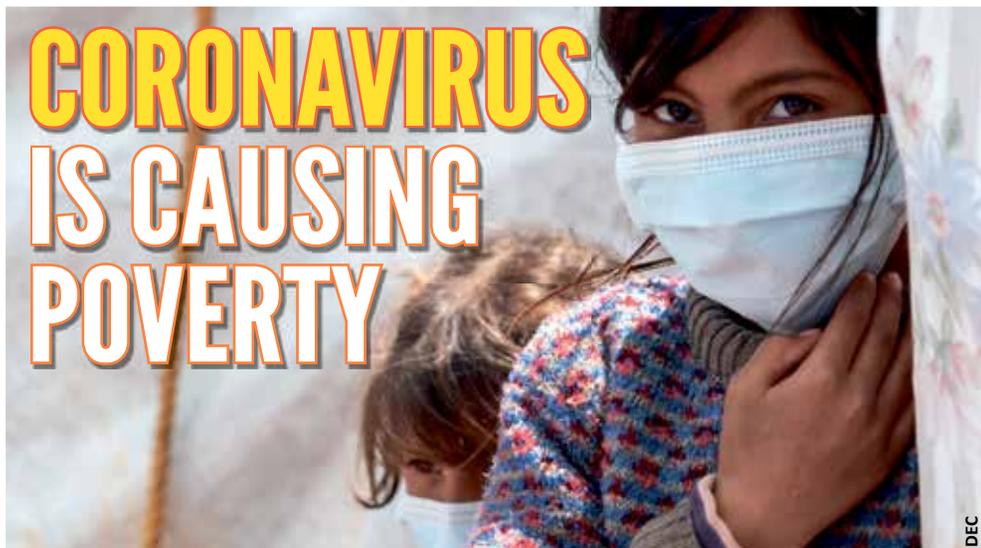
In an open letter, a group called Millionaires for Humanity have called on governments around the world to "raise taxes on people like us. Immediately. Substantially. Permanently."

They write that while they're "not the ones caring for the sick" they do have something that they can offer, and that's money, "and lots of it."

"Money that is desperately needed now and will continue to be needed in the years ahead, as our world recovers from this crisis."

In 2018, an Oxfam report said that 82% of the money generated went to just 1% of the people on the planet.

CORONAVIRUS IS CAUSING POVERTY



THE coronavirus is pushing children further into poverty in the world's most fragile places, the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) has said.

A new report from the DEC has found that the number of children living in household poverty could reach 86 million by the end of year, and another ten million may be pushed into acute malnutrition, which is a life-threatening condition caused by a lack of food.

The DEC is a group made up of lots of UK charities who work to help countries hit by disasters. The group has also warned that the pandemic could reverse the hard work done to help pregnant women and children in need.

The DEC is also worried that these vulnerable children are growing up with the pandemic and experiencing violence, poverty, lockdown and isolation, and that they will face mental health problems like depression when they're older.

Kevin Watkins, the chief executive of DEC member Save the Children, said: "It is now critical that governments, donors and the World Bank step up to put in place the safety nets needed to protect children whose futures are on the line."

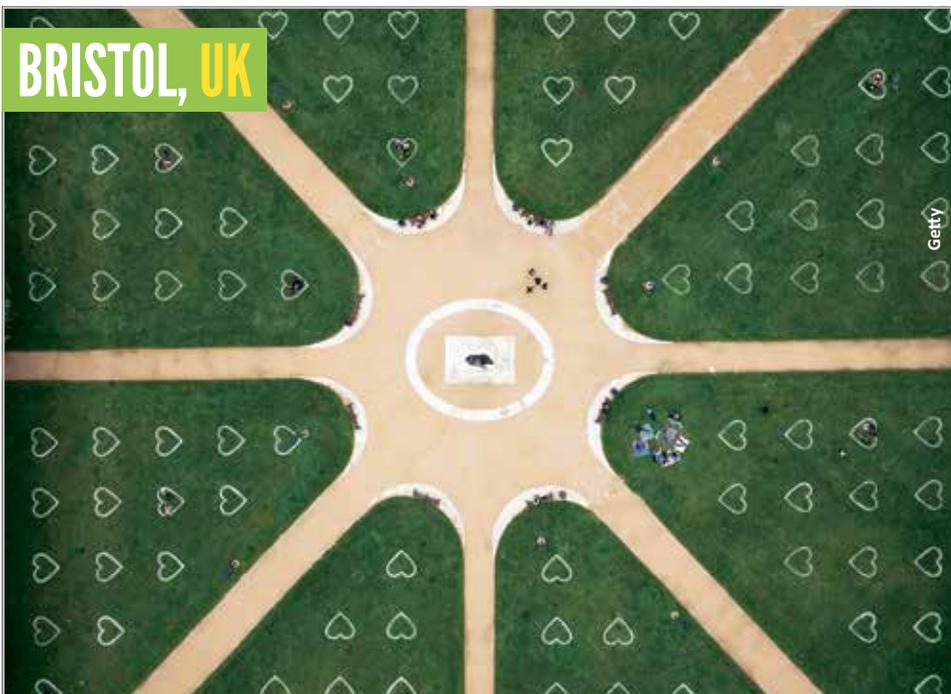
4. NEWS IN PICTURES

NEW YORK, USA

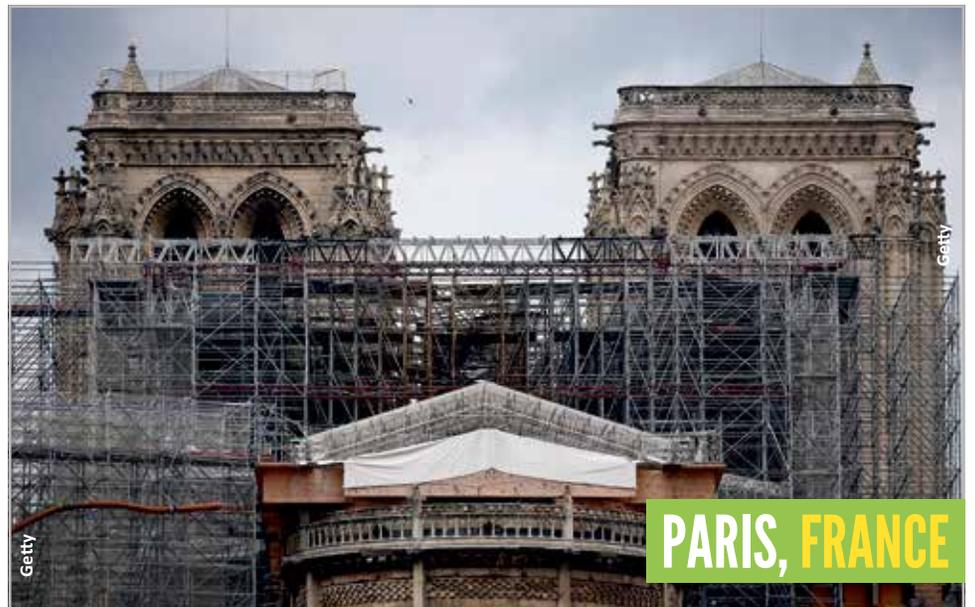


TWO lightning bolts frame One World Trade Center as they hit the Hudson River in front of the skyline of lower Manhattan during a thunderstorm.

BRISTOL, UK



A VIEW of Queen Square, where hearts have been sprayed onto the grass in an effort to encourage social distancing. England has continued its phased easing of lockdown restrictions by reopening restaurants, pubs and hairdressing salons, while the two-metre social distancing rule has been changed to “one metre plus”.



PARIS, FRANCE

NOTRE-DAME cathedral is seen during the dismantling of scaffolding. Fifteen months after the fire that ravaged the famous monument, French President Emmanuel Macron has announced that the spire of the cathedral will be reconstructed as an exact replica, rather than following a more modern design.



SUSSEX, UK

SPITFIRES of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight take part in a fly-past during the funeral of singer Dame Vera Lynn. During World War 2 she travelled to the front lines, entertaining British troops and boosting morale. She is best known for the songs *We'll Meet Again* and *The White Cliffs of Dover*.

MUNICH, GERMANY



THE Allianz Arena football stadium is lit up in rainbow colours for Christopher Street Day. The day is an annual European LGBT celebration and demonstration that is held in cities across Europe in support of the rights of LGBT people, and to oppose discrimination and exclusion.



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WILD BISON BACK IN BRITAIN



WILD bison are returning to the wild in the UK after 6,000 years.

A £1 million project to reintroduce the once-native species is being led by Kent Wildlife Trust and the Wildwood Trust. Four bison will be introduced to Blean Woods near Canterbury by spring 2022. Bison can really help local wildlife: they fell trees by rubbing up against them, create patches of dry earth by 'dust bathing', which is good for lizards, burrowing wasps and rare weeds, and strip bark to create deadwood that benefits fungi and insects like stag beetles. Wild bison used to roam free in the UK until they were hunted into extinction.

FACTORY FEARS

A FACTORY in Leicester that supplies clothing company Boohoo has been accused of paying workers less than half the minimum wage and not protecting their staff from COVID-19.

An undercover investigation by *The Sunday Times* newspaper claimed that workers at the factory were being paid as little as £3.50 an hour, making clothes for Boohoo in cramped warehouse conditions with no social distancing measures in place. The minimum wage for someone over 25 is £8.72. It's also claimed that employees were refused sick pay if they took time off with symptoms of coronavirus, and were asked to work even when unwell.

Home Secretary Priti Patel has asked the National Crime Agency to launch an investigation into Leicester's clothing factories.

Boohoo has started an urgent investigation into its supply chain and has said it is "shocked and appalled" by the allegations.

ASOS and Next have dropped Boohoo's clothing from their stores and websites.

UNI PLANS SCRAPPED

EDUCATION secretary Gavin Williamson has ditched a target set in 1999 to get 50% of young people into university.

Mr Williamson has said the Government wants to carry out a major overhaul of colleges and apprenticeships, rather than focus on sending half of the nation's pupils to university. This autumn he will set out plans for a "world-class, German-style, further education system."

Do you want to go to university when you leave school? Go to [first.news/polls](https://www.firstnews.com/polls) to have your say.

EDITOR'S COMMENT



ALTHOUGH the lockdown is gradually easing, things still aren't back to normal.

But even if this summer isn't quite the same as previous years, there are still lots of things to be excited about. Whether you're happy about swimming pools reopening (p3), looking forward to following the Mars launches (p10) or getting outside to count butterflies (p16), we'll be here every Friday over summer to keep you informed and to keep your spirits up!

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GOOD WEEK FOR...



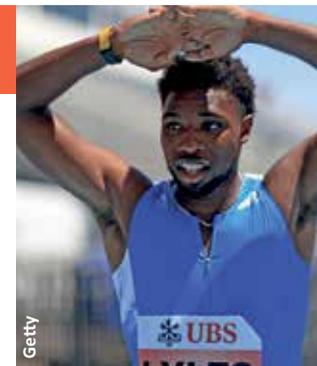
OUR LUNGS

NEW research by health charity ASH and UCL has revealed that more than a million people have quit smoking since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

BAD WEEK FOR...

US RUNNER NOAH LYLES

THE US runner briefly thought he had beaten Usain Bolt's 200-metre record, only to discover that, because he started in the wrong lane, he had actually run only 185 metres. D'oh!



ARE YOU READING MORE?



HAVE you been diving into a book during lockdown? A new report has revealed that 35% of young people have been reading more during the pandemic.

The study of kids aged 8-18 by the National Literacy Trust and children's publisher Puffin not only showed that young people are reading more and enjoying books more during lockdown, but that reading is actually good for your mental health. More than half the children who took part in the survey revealed that reading made them feel better during the pandemic, while a third said it helped them when they felt sad about not being able to see their family or friends.

Half of the children surveyed also said that reading inspired them to dream about their future.

SHROPSHIRE

● A million and a half historical finds

A medieval seal has become the 1.5 millionth archaeological object to have been officially discovered by the public in Britain. The Pope's seal is 700 years old and was found by a metal detectorist just before lockdown. The landmark find is part of The British Museum's Portable Antiquities Scheme, which was set up in 1997 so that archaeological objects found by the public could be recorded. Experts say that finds by the public have transformed what we know about life in the British Isles. The British Museum also said that even the smallest items can give clues about our history, so encourages anyone who finds something to come forward.



@findsorguk/Twitter

HEREFORDSHIRE

● Farm on lockdown

A farm near Malvern has gone into lockdown after 73 members of staff there tested positive for COVID-19. All 200 employees of AS Green & Co must stay on site. During vegetable harvesting season, workers often live in mobile homes at the farm, so they are being treated as a big 'bubble' that can stay together. Food and essential items are being sent to the workers while they self-isolate.



Getty

SALISBURY

● Otter outing

An unusual creature has been spotted out for a stroll down Salisbury High Street. The otter was caught on CCTV as it headed along the empty High Street at around midnight. Salisbury City Council said the footage showed how skilled its CCTV operators were at noticing anything out of the ordinary.



@SalisburyCC/Twitter

UK

● £10m donation

Children in Need has announced that it is pledging £10m to fight racial inequality in the UK – matching Stormzy's donation from earlier this year. It will donate the money over ten years and work with Radio 1Xtra to develop young black talent in the media. It will also be used to help young business owners. Stormzy made his donation after the death of George Floyd.

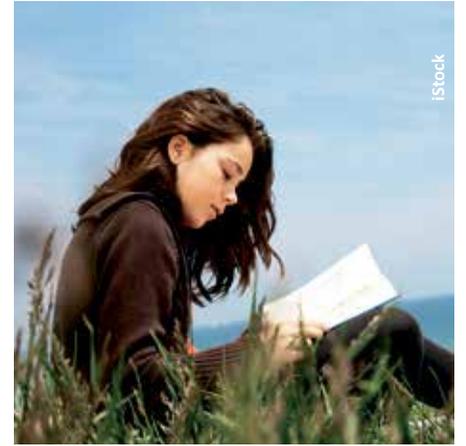


Getty

NORTHUMBERLAND

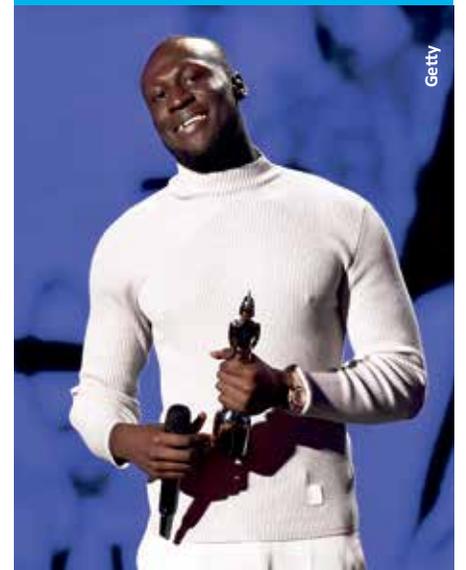
● Phone box library

A 12-year-old girl has transformed an old telephone box into a book swap to bring some positivity to the village of Matfen. Hannah Cutler wanted to keep her neighbours entertained during lockdown, but since lots of libraries are still closed she decorated the phone box and filled it with books.



iStock

CROYDON



Getty

● Stormzy's DIY skills

A 15-year-old boy had a surprise when he got home from school to find Stormzy decorating his bedroom. The rapper was showing off his painting skills as part of a scheme run by The Good Guys, a company that decorates the bedrooms of deserving young people for free. Ishaq was chosen because of the positive behaviour he's shown at school.

KENT

● Giant lorry park

The Government is facing criticism after plans were revealed for a 27-acre lorry park to be built in Ashford to prepare for Brexit. The site is said to be for 10,000 lorries to be checked by customs officers before the lorries board ferries at Dover. Government minister Michael Gove says it isn't simply a massive concrete lorry park, but will help traffic flow smoothly through the area. Local MPs are concerned about the increased noise and pollution it could bring to the region, and have also said that they weren't told about the plans.

SCHOOL MADE IN MINECRAFT!

Getty

This is the *Minecraft* version of the Co-op Academy Manchester

A HEAD teacher from Manchester has shown new students what his school looks like – by recreating it in *Minecraft*!

Many schools have had to cancel open days and transition days for new students due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But that didn't stop Steve Brice, principal of the Co-op Academy Manchester, from making sure his new Year 6 pupils would feel welcome.

At first, Mr Brice thought about making a video of the school grounds, but decided it would be better to let children explore the site for themselves.

So, along with his two daughters, he recreated every room in the school using several thousand *Minecraft* blocks. It took the Brice family three weeks to create!

It's all there: the classrooms, a theatre, dining hall, sports hall, outdoor space and even a climbing wall. Visitors to the school's website can now familiarise themselves with the Co-op Academy before term starts in September.

Co-op Academy Manchester

FROZEN OUT OF SCHOOL

ALMOST ten million children around the world might never return to school after the COVID-19 lockdown.

That's what a report by Save The Children says. Cuts to education budgets and an increase in poverty caused by the coronavirus pandemic could force at least 9.7 million children out of school forever by the end of this year. The charity also warns that millions more kids will fall behind in their learning.

Girls are set to suffer worse effects than boys. In some parts of the world, many girls face being forced into early marriage, as parents cannot afford to continue supporting their daughters.

Save The Children says this tragic situation could be prevented if governments worldwide invest urgently in education.

In the UK, schools are set to re-open in September. But more than a billion children are currently out of school due to the pandemic and there's growing concern that education won't be a priority once countries start to open up. Save The Children estimates that \$77 billion (£60 billion) will be cut from education budgets in some of the poorest countries in the world over the next 18 months.

WORLD POPULATION SET TO SHRINK

THE world's population will start shrinking midway through this century.

That's the surprising conclusion of a new study published in medical journal *The Lancet*.

The global population is around 7.8 billion. The study found that the world's population is set to peak in 2064 at around 9.7 billion, and then fall to 8.8 billion by 2100. Some 23 countries will see their populations shrink by more than half, including Japan, Thailand, Italy, and Spain. Big declines in working-age populations are also predicted in India and China.

The report says the UK's population is expected to rise from around 67 million in 2017 to more like 71 million in 2100. But the figures for Spain and Italy are dramatic: researchers reckon the Italian population will fall from a peak of 61 million in 2014 to around 30.5 million in 2100. In Spain, it's expected to drop from 46 million in 2017 to around 23 million in 2100.

Experts predict big changes in the ages of populations,

too. The study reckons there will be 2.37 billion individuals aged over 65 globally in 2100, compared with 1.7 billion aged under 20. That means the number of people of working age will fall significantly.

So why will the number of people in the world, which has been steadily increasing, start to shrink? The scientists behind the report think that fertility rates (the number of children people have) in 183 of 195 countries will not be high enough to maintain current populations. They say countries will therefore have to rely on immigration to make sure there are enough workers to do all the jobs that need doing, and ensure their countries' economies can grow.

Dr Christopher Murray, who led the research, said: "This study provides governments of all countries an opportunity to start rethinking their policies on migration, workforces and economic development."

A busy road in Tokyo. The Japanese population is set to fall by more than 50%

iStock



HUNGER ON THE RISE

AN annual study by the United Nations (UN) has found more people are going hungry.

This year's edition of the *State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World* report estimates that almost 690 million people went hungry in 2019. That's an increase of ten million from 2018, and nearly 60 million in the past five years.

Most of those going hungry are based in Asia (381 million people), but numbers are growing fastest in Africa, where there are currently 250 million individuals not getting enough food.

The UN is also concerned that the COVID-19 pandemic could put 130 million more people into long-term hunger by the end of this year.

USA



Leaving WHO

US President Donald Trump has confirmed that he plans on taking the US out of the World Health Organization (WHO), if he is re-elected this November. The president claims the WHO failed to manage the new coronavirus when it first emerged in China. Joe Biden, the Democrat candidate who will take on Donald Trump in November's presidential election, said that, if elected: "On my first day as president, I will rejoin the WHO and restore our leadership on the world stage."



GUATEMALA



Volcano danger

Activity from the Pacaya volcano has increased in July, with some spectacular explosions reaching up to 100 metres into the air. There has been no impact on the local population so far, but scientists say there's a large amount of magma (molten rock) rising up inside the crater, which they fear could become dangerous. A 300-metre lava flow has also been seen on the northeast side. As an active volcano, Pacaya is constantly monitored.



GERMANY



Pongy pits!

Berlin transport operator BVG is appealing to commuters to stop using deodorant, to encourage other passengers to wear their masks correctly! Mouth and nose coverings are mandatory on public transport and in shops in Germany, but many leave their nose uncovered. BVG hopes the smell of body odour will force people to change their ways and cover their noses. Euw!



TURKEY



Mosque decision

Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdoğan says that the famous Hagia Sophia museum in the capital, Istanbul, will be turned back into a mosque. The decision brought criticism from religious and political leaders around the world. The building was established as a Christian church 1,500 years ago, converted to a mosque in 1453, then to a museum in 1934, and has long been seen internationally as a bridge between the two religions. Mr Erdoğan says it is Turkey's right to change the museum back to a mosque.



CHINA



Library cull

Students returning to school after the COVID-19 closures will find the library shelves a little less full. It's been reported that teachers have taken the opportunity to remove hundreds of thousands of books of a 'sensitive' nature. It follows an instruction from the Ministry of Education last year that defined illegal books as those that do not reflect the core values of China's government. Critics say that China is trying to take control of more areas of people's lives.



AUSTRALIA



Locked down again

A second wave of COVID-19 has hit the state of Victoria. The border with New South Wales has been closed and the city of Melbourne is back on lockdown. It's been a shock for the city's five million residents, who will be unable to leave home for six weeks. The new rules that stop people going out, except for essentials, will be enforced by police.



OUR WORLD



NAME: NARJIS
LIVES: NEW ZEALAND

TO FIND OUT MORE, GO TO
WWW.UNHCR.ORG/PROTECTREFUGEES



LIFE under lockdown has been hard for many people, but the experience can be even more isolating when you aren't living in your own country.

That's where Narjis has been able to help. This university student, former refugee and now radio show host has been broadcasting news and advice on COVID-19 over the airwaves to those who might have missed the latest information.

Narjis, now 20, arrived in New Zealand from her home country of Iraq when she was only four years old. When not studying, she finds the time to present *Voice of Aroha*, a fortnightly show produced by a group of former refugees in Wellington.

She and her co-presenters began discussing the

coronavirus pandemic when they realised that official advice was not easy to find in languages such as Arabic, Farsi, Amharic and Spanish – languages spoken by many refugees. Some of them are not used to navigating the internet, so find it hard to dig up information on their own.

"We wanted to keep our listeners informed," says Narjis. "It was an overwhelming situation we all had to deal with, and most of the discomfort came from the uncertainty of [not knowing] what was going to happen next and how it would affect us."



© UNHCR

SNAPPED!

REMOTE camera traps in the Mbe Mountains in Nigeria have captured the first-ever images of a group of rare gorillas and their young.

The family of Cross River gorillas includes young infants of different ages, proving that the species is successfully breeding.

The Cross River gorilla is a very rare sub-species that isn't often seen in the wild. Experts believe there are as few as 300 left, found in one area of remote forest along the Nigeria/Cameroon border. They are the most endangered gorillas in the world and these are the first recorded in Nigeria since 2012.

Conservation efforts by Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Nigeria over the past decade have been supported by local communities and villages, who have helped to protect the forest and keep the gorillas safe from poachers.

Local village chiefs have celebrated the news. "I am very happy to see these wonderful pictures of Cross River gorillas with many babies in our forest," said one chief, Otu Gabriel Ocha. "This shows that our conservation efforts in partnership with WCS are yielding fruits. I hope that we can continue these efforts so that we can pass the heritage to future generations."



SLIPPERY STOWAWAY



AN exotic frog has been found 5,000 miles from home, hiding in a bunch of bananas in a supermarket.

The frog was discovered by a surprised member of staff at the Llanelli Asda store.

Staff called RSPCA Cymru, who transported the tiny amphibian to Silent World, a specialist marine

life centre in Haverfordwest.

Experts think he is a banana tree frog from Colombia, and are amazed he survived such a long journey without water. The plucky fellow has now been named Asda!

CHANGING THEIR TUNE



RESEARCHERS studying white-throated sparrows in Canada have discovered that the birds are singing a new song.

Birds are often identified by their distinctive calls, but the white-throated sparrows have updated one of their songs over the last 20 years. Instead of using three notes, they have been singing a two-note song instead. Scientists say that they have never seen such a fast change of song. Small changes often occur, but usually over a much longer time.

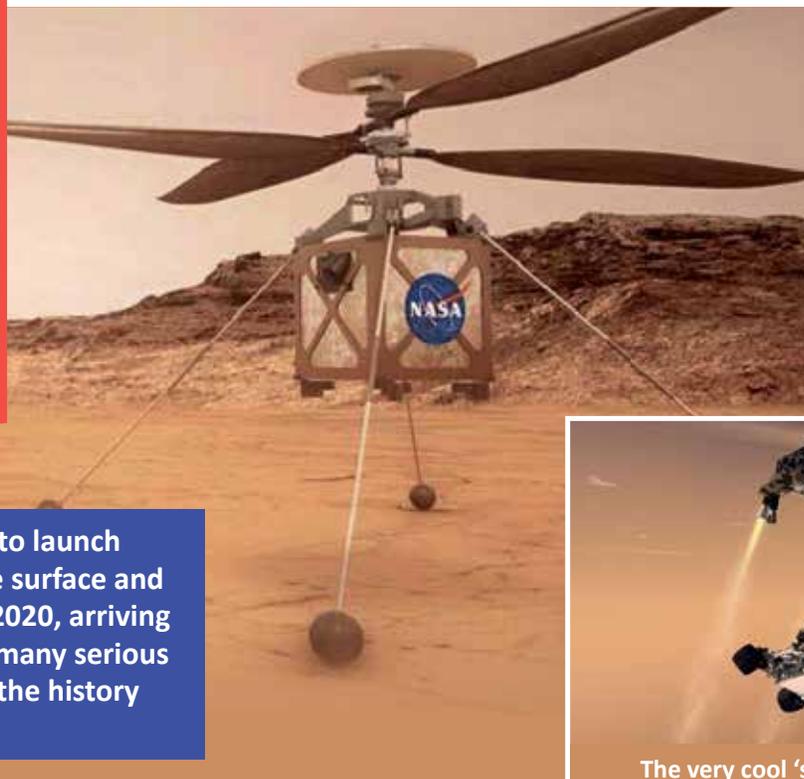
The full report was published in the journal *Current Biology*.

WOW!

TWO European forest reindeer calves have made their debut at the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland's Highland Wildlife Park.

The duo arrived in May but the zoo has been closed until now. They have been named Regnar and Solen, which mean rain and sun in Swedish.

THE MARS CURSE!



Ingenuity will become the first helicopter to ever fly on another planet, if the Perseverance rover lands successfully and releases its little buddy. NASA has a cool helicopter coding challenge at tinyurl.com/marschopper

NASA

THROUGHOUT July and August, three countries are due to launch probes to Mars, including two rovers that will land on the surface and roam around the Red Planet gathering data. But even in 2020, arriving safely at Mars isn't guaranteed and involves overcoming many serious challenges. Here's a quick rundown of the new missions, the history and the (cue spooky music) Mars curse...

If you look at the list of past missions to Mars, there are lots that are stamped with a big red FAIL. There's a hugely entertaining variety to those failures, with some missions failing to leave Earth, some that only reached Earth orbit, and others that flew straight past the target or even smashed right into it, as well as one that's orbiting the sun instead of Mars!

The three nations hoping to do better than that this summer are the US, China and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The US has had much more experience and success at reaching Mars, but this is China's first solo attempt, after a joint launch with Russia ended in disaster when it got stuck in Earth orbit, then eventually burnt up as it fell to Earth. The UAE has never even launched a probe to the moon, so is diving in at the deep end with its Mars mission, which has the rather apt name of Hope and may have launched by the time you read this. The UAE has also made the very bold claim that it will have a human settlement on

the Red Planet by 2117.

The UAE's main reason for its new space programme is to change the country's economy away from oil. As the world swings towards green energy, any country relying on oil to make money will be in big trouble, so the UAE wants to invest more in science and engineering.



UAE Space Agency

The UAE's Hope probe

THREE IN ONE

China's Tianwen-1 mission is really ambitious and, if it succeeds, will be the first Mars mission to use an orbiter, lander and rover at the same time. Between them they will be taking lots of high-resolution images, as well as studying the Martian weather, gravity and magnetic field, plus seeing what the soil and rocks are made of and if there's any evidence of water.

The UAE's Hope probe won't be carrying a lander or rover, but it is due to give us the first ever complete map of the atmosphere and weather on Mars.

THE MARS CURSE

By the end of August, nearly 50 probes in total will have been launched to Mars, but more than half of the past missions have ended in failure, including the first nine launches in a row by Russia. The low chance of success has even led some to talk about a Mars curse – or even a Galactic Ghoull that gobbles up spaceships!

But although a curse sounds quite exciting, the more boring truth is that reaching Mars is just really hard. One thing is the sheer distance involved – even when it's at its closest point to Earth, Mars is still 33.9 million miles (54.6 million kilometres) away. Compare that to our moon, which is 140 times closer, at



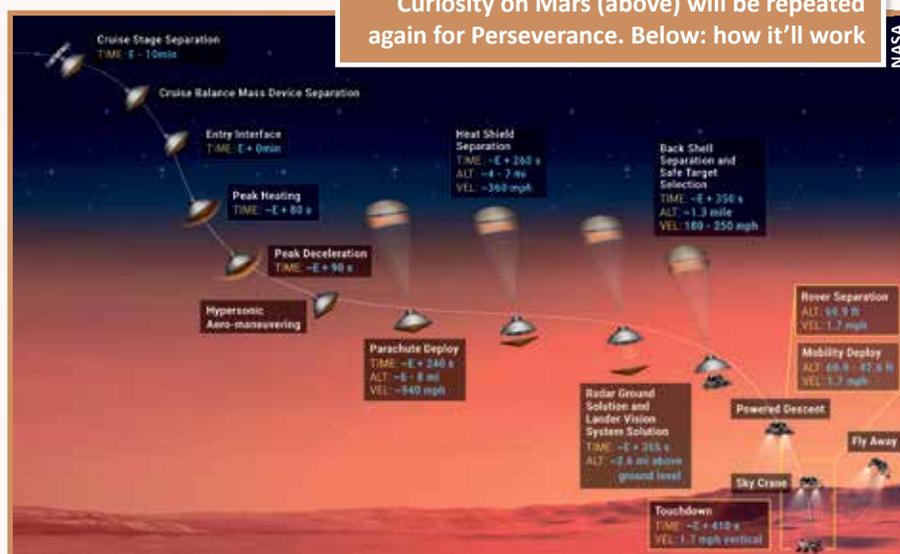
NASA

The Galactic Ghoull tucks into a spaceship



NASA/JPL-Caltech

The very cool 'sky crane' idea that landed Curiosity on Mars (above) will be repeated again for Perseverance. Below: how it'll work



NASA

around 238,855 miles (384,400 km) away.

The next thing is that even though the gravity of Mars is only about 38% of Earth's, the atmosphere is so thin that it makes slowing down very difficult, as there's no air resistance and parachutes on their own don't really work.

A silly human error was responsible for at least one Mars failure, when NASA's Mars Climate Orbiter disintegrated as it approached too close to the planet's surface. One team of software engineers working on the probe had used old imperial units (miles, pounds and ounces, etc) rather than the modern metric units that everyone else was using. It was one small error for a few people, but one giant bill of £255m for NASA. Ouch.

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

Since NASA has the most experience at this Mars business, hopes are high that its Perseverance rover will have a really good chance of success when it launches this summer. As well as testing for signs of ancient microbial life, Perseverance will collect samples for future return to Earth, as well as releasing the first ever helicopter to fly on another planet!

The Perseverance rover and 'sky crane' that will land it on the surface (above right) have already been shown to work, as they're based on tech from recent missions that were very successful.

WORKING 9.40 TO 5.40

Did you know that Mars spins round a bit slower than our planet? This means that a day on Mars is around 40 minutes longer than a day on Earth, so scientists working on some Mars missions will stick to 'Mars time'. This means that they shift their office hours by 40 minutes every day, so that for a while they'll be working in the middle of the night. Many of the rover missions to Mars are only active during the Martian day, as they get their power from solar panels before 'sleeping' at night.



WILL ENGLAND RUN OUT OF WATER?

PARTS of England could run out of water in the next 20 years if action isn't taken now, according to a committee of MPs.

The Public Accounts Committee, which is made up of MPs from different parties, has warned that a combination of increased demand for water, leaky pipes and the effects of climate change are putting the water system under enormous strain.

Since 1989, the water supply in England and Wales has been provided by private companies. There are around 20 firms responsible for the water supply in England and Wales.

The MPs' report says that "there is a serious risk that some parts of [England] will run out of water within the next 20 years". They lay the blame at the door of the Government for a "lack of leadership", and the water companies for "failing to act".

The committee has called on the Government to set up a league table of water companies to show how many leaks there are. More than three billion litres of water in the UK are lost every day to leaks from pipes and other parts of the supply system. The report says that companies have made no progress on reducing leaks for the past 20 years.

In addition to the problem of leaks, climate

change is leading to warmer temperatures and drier conditions. This has led to increased demand for water, resulting in lower reservoir levels.

The COVID-19 lockdown, which caused most of us to spend much more time at home, has also led to increased water demand.

Companies are known to take water from chalk streams, which are rivers that flow through chalk hills. The Public Accounts Committee's report says that these streams have suffered as a result of water companies releasing sewage into them. The WWF says that many chalk streams are being drained dry and the problem is being made worse by climate change.

MPs also said the Government must urgently increase public awareness of the need to save water by buying efficient appliances like washing machines and only using the water we really need.

Politicians say "urgent action" is required to make sure England doesn't suffer serious water shortages by 2040

Washing machines have become more water-efficient



ROCK DUST COULD ABSORB HARMFUL CO₂



SCATTERING rock dust on fields could absorb billions of tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere and help to tackle climate change.

That's what a new study by scientists at the University of Sheffield has found.

The process is called enhanced rock weathering (ERW), and involves spreading tiny rock particles on farmland. Rocks left over from mining or building projects are recycled into the dust. When certain minerals in the dust dissolve in water, CO₂ is sucked out of the atmosphere to form something called bicarbonate ions. These ions are eventually washed into the oceans, where they end up as limestone on the seabed. This safely stores the carbon forever.

The study says that Earth's three biggest CO₂ emitters – China, the US and India – could be the biggest CO₂ absorbers. Between them, if they use the ERW technique they could clear a billion tonnes of CO₂ from the air.

Cutting greenhouse gas emissions remains the most important thing we can do to tackle climate change. But scientists think we also need to remove some of the CO₂ already in the air in order to stop the global temperature rising by more than 2°C.

Other ways of absorbing CO₂ from the air include planting trees on a large scale, and adding charcoal to soil.

CLEANING UP COVID-19



ULTRAVIOLET light is being used to clean surfaces on the London Underground.

Transport authorities in the capital are testing a new way of cleaning handrails on escalators, using a machine that gives off ultraviolet (UV) light rays.

The device, which gets its power from being connected to the moving handrail, uses a UV light bulb to break down surface contamination and clean the handrail.

Scientists think UV radiation damages the genetic material of viruses like COVID-19 on surfaces. This reduces their ability to replicate, which kills them and therefore lowers the risk of people catching the infection.

A study in 2018 found that UV light could kill airborne flu viruses.

SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

This report is from the Science Museum in London

IRISH chemist Kathleen Lonsdale was known for creating many new techniques using X-ray crystallography.



It's a type of science that helps reveal the structure of the human body at molecular level. Her influence changed medicine and her methods are still used today. She was the first woman to be elected a fellow of the Royal Society.

The curious display of urinary and gallstones pictured here was collected and studied by Lonsdale and her team in the 1960s. Stones can appear in many human body parts, including the kidneys, bladder, gall bladder and pancreas. Although not life-threatening, they can be extremely painful!

You can see this display in Medicine: The Wellcome Galleries at the Science Museum when it reopens on 19 August. Find out more at www.sciencemuseum.org.uk.

SO MUCH CHOICE

When you think about all of the content being created by influencers, artists and creators, and even by you and your friends on social media platforms, the choice of available content is incredible. That's why more and more of us are spending more and more time gobbling up entertainment.

YOUR CHOICES ARE IMPORTANT



But what about where you get it from? Most of us are watching the entertainment we love by choosing legal, safe places to watch: whether that's at the cinema; on TV channels and on-demand services; YouTube; digital services like Apple TV; or subscription options like Netflix or Disney+. But we all know that some people get their entertainment from places that aren't legal and that often aren't safe either.



ILLEGAL AND UNSAFE

Let's put to one side the fact that, for example, watching unauthorised versions of films online that haven't even been released at the cinema yet is illegal. How much do you know about some of the 'too good to be true' services that have films and shows long before any of the legal sources do? Usually when something looks too good to be true, it is, and that's definitely the case when it comes to some of the sites and services you will have heard some of your friends talking about – you know, those places that have everything before anyone else.

In reality, anyone getting hold of pirated content in any form is going to have a much worse experience watching it. The quality is often terrible, maybe it's not even the film or TV show you expected, and the creative people that made the thing you've not paid for can't invest in future projects or nurture future talent if their own work isn't supported.



ARE YOU TAKING RISKS ONLINE?



WITH many of us having access to mobile phones, tablets and laptops, there have never been more ways to watch films and TV shows, listen to music or play videogames wherever you are, and whatever else you might be up to. However, it's important to make sure you do it legally and safely.



But when it comes to watching pirated content online, rather than on a pirated DVD for example,

there are other things to consider and they can affect anyone:

- Nearly one in every four people who have accessed illegal content online have been a victim of hacking (that's more than 1.3 million people)
- Nearly one-third of people accessing illegal content online have been infected with a virus, malware or ransomware (a staggering 3.4 million people, and that figure has doubled in the last few months alone)
- More than 900,000 people accessing illegal content online have been a victim of fraud and 1.5 million have lost personal information
- People who pay to access illegal content are even more likely to become a victim, with nearly one in every three of these people claiming to have experienced fraud



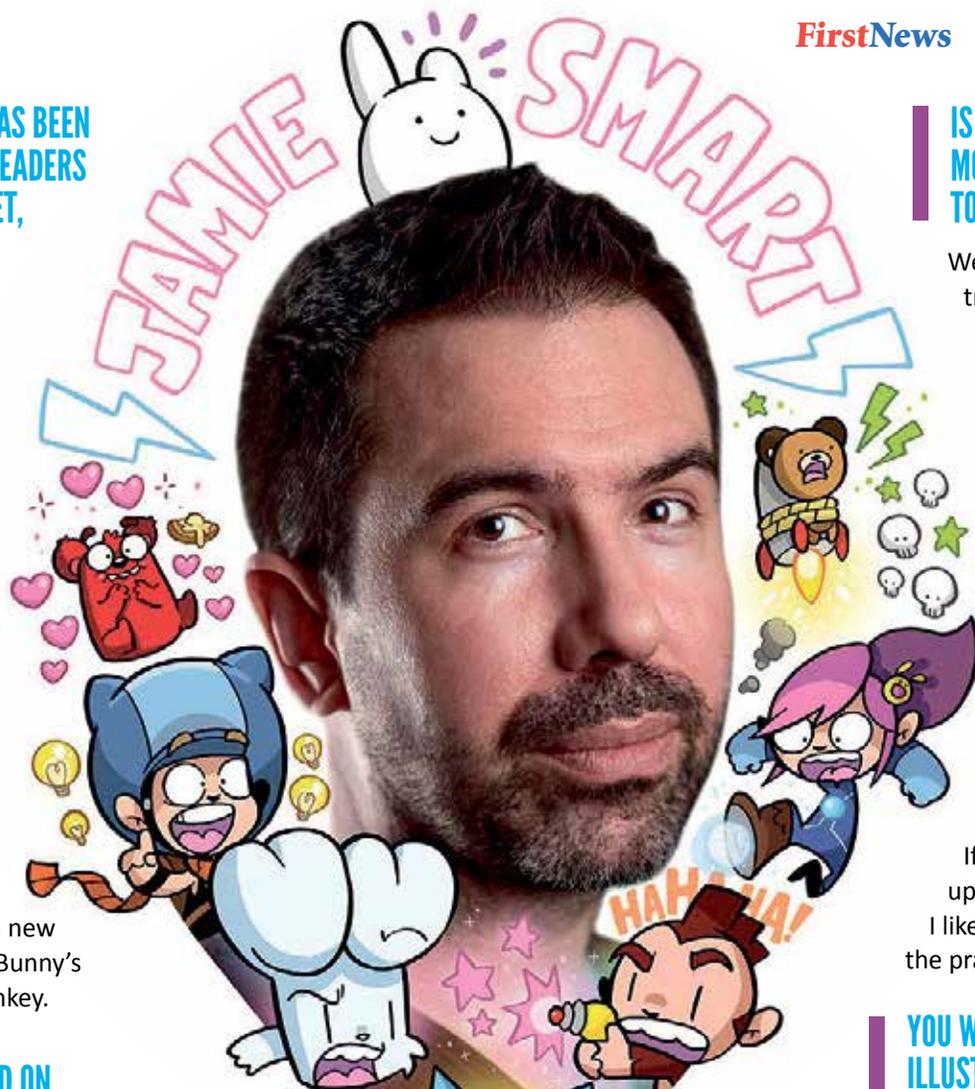
IS IT WORTH THE RISK?

So you can see that it really matters where you get your entertainment from. Most people pay or access free content completely legally, safe in the knowledge that they're not only doing the right thing but they're keeping themselves, their personal details and their property safe. It's a different story for those who, by acting illegally, are also running the risk of losing personal information – and that could include parents' bank details, important coursework and much more besides.

Fortunately, help is at hand if you're ever confused about where to find safe, legal content. Sites like FindAnyFilm.com and GetItRightFromAGenuineSite.org make finding the entertainment you want really easy and you know you're only ever going to be taken to legal sources. With so much legal content at your fingertips, is any other option really worth the risk?

YOUR BUNNY VS MONKEY COMIC STRIP HAS BEEN RELEASED AS A BOOK! FOR FIRST NEWS READERS WHO HAVEN'T MET BUNNY OR MONKEY YET, WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THEM?

Ooh well, *Bunny vs Monkey* is set in a woodland and Bunny just wants a nice quiet life with all his woodland friends. They're all very innocent little creatures, enjoying themselves, having picnics and things like that. Then monkey shows up and he's naughty and noisy and he just wants to cause trouble. He wants to take over the woods and turn it into a place called Monkeyopia where he can rule as a ruthless king. One of his best friends is called Skunky, who is a skunk and also happens to be a scientific genius. So Skunky creates all these mad inventions and huge robots that explode or fire out custard and other ridiculous things, to try to help monkey in his mission to take over the woods. The actual book itself is split into lots of little episodes and each episode is either a new story, new mad invention or a new way that Bunny's life is being ruined by this annoying loud monkey.



IS THERE ANYTHING REALLY NAUGHTY THAT MONKEY HAS DONE THAT YOU WOULD LOVE TO DO YOURSELF?

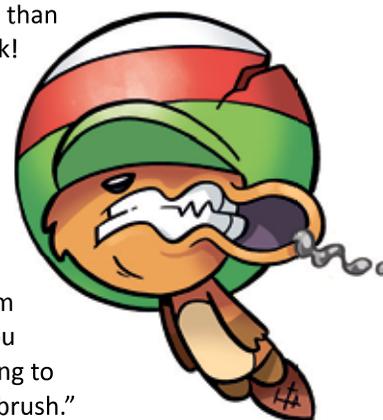
Well, there's a story where he and Skunky travel to the centre of the Earth in a mechanical worm. When they get there, it's all lava and they have to get out very quickly, so I think that would be fun. Most of the inventions in *Bunny vs Monkey* and most of Monkey's schemes tend to go horribly wrong, usually for Monkey, so I think it would be far safer just to keep away from them!

MONKEY WAS MEANT TO GO INTO SPACE, SO WOULD YOU LIKE TO VISIT SPACE AS WELL?

I'd love to do it. I worry about the food – don't you just get powdered food in space? If I could smuggle some chocolate or biscuits up there, then maybe. I like the idea more than the practicality, I think!

YOU WRITE AND ILLUSTRATE THE STORIES, SO HOW DOES THAT WORK?

Often a story will come from a single word or an idea. You might think: "Today I'm going to write a story about a toothbrush." It can start as simply as that, and then you have to think where the toothbrush is, who would have a toothbrush and what would happen to it. When you're making a comic, you have to be quite fast with your story; you need things to happen quite quickly. I find making comics one of the most enjoyable ways to tell a story because you are kind of in charge of everything. Every panel is a new angle on the story and a new way to move things along. It's the most fun as well because you're drawing it out. It's enjoyable to do!



IS MONKEY BASED ON ANYONE YOU KNOW?

Oh no, I couldn't do that! All my characters are based on little bits of me. If there is a very noisy character, that's the noisy side of me, and if there's a quiet character, it's the quiet side of me, but it's all exaggerated in these characters.

I've been drawing *Bunny vs Monkey* for about eight years now and I'm still not tired of it. I still find it exciting and I think part of the reason for that is that they are all parts of me. So I know how they are going to talk, or I know how they are going to react, so I find it easy in that sense to give them their voices.



MONKEY MAYHEM

ILLUSTRATOR and author Jamie Smart is the creator of the brilliantly funny *Bunny vs Monkey* comic series. Now a whole collection of *Bunny vs Monkey* comics have been put together into a handy book. Hurrah! Jamie told us more about the cute Bunny and the very mischievous Monkey...

IT'S QUITE AN UNUSUAL CONCEPT. WHERE DID THE IDEA COME FROM?

I want to pretend there's some big story behind it, but it was genuinely that I thought it would be funny if a bunny and a monkey were fighting. And then someone said to me that they need a reason to be fighting, so I started building this story around it. Monkey was fired into space by these scientists but unfortunately they got their measurements wrong and he didn't go into space, he just went over the hill and landed in the woods. He thinks that he has landed on another planet and that these woods are a planet he can conquer. So yeah, the basic idea was: wouldn't it be funny if cute animals ran around beating each other and blowing things up.



WERE YOU INSPIRED BY CLASSIC CARTOONS LIKE TOM AND JERRY, THAT HAVE A LOT OF SLAPSTICK FIGHTING?

Yeah, I loved all the old Warner Brothers cartoon characters like Tom and Jerry and Road Runner and Wile E Coyote. There is a lot of that running through it, because it is all very slapstick. A lot of the humour is in characters falling over, farting or being hit in the face with a frying pan, because that's the kind of thing I find funny!

FINALLY, WOULD YOU RATHER HAVE A PET BUNNY OR A PET MONKEY?

Definitely a Bunny because he just wants to be left alone to read his books under the trees. So yeah, that seems like a much more peaceful life!



Bunny vs Monkey is out now!



CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY FIRST NEWS



“SCOOBY SNACKS TASTE GOOD!”



JINKIES! There's an all-new animated Scooby Doo movie out this week, called *SCOOB!* First News' Aaron caught up with Jason Isaacs, the voice behind the film's fiendish villain, Dick Dastardly, and found out just what it is that makes Dick so darn Dastardly!

● **While we all know about Scooby Doo, your character Dick Dastardly comes from a different cartoon. Can you tell us about the character?**

The thing is, you don't want to tell people about characters – you want them to discover them! I suppose I can tell you that he's maybe the most venomous, pompous, arrogant, narcissistic [vain] fool you'll have seen for a long time! Maybe he's justified – he is a bit of a tech genius. This isn't the Dick Dastardly that I grew up with, however.

● **Dick Dastardly first appeared in Wacky Races, which was on TV decades ago. Were you a fan?**

I used to watch it, and he was one of a bunch of whining, wheezing buffoons! This Dick Dastardly has been reinvented for the movie, like Scoob and Mystery Inc. There's a bunch of cultural references and TikTok memes and stuff like that, which I had no idea were in the film. My kids told me as I was watching!

● **Why do you think it is that these characters have stuck around so long? Scooby-Doo first appeared 50 years ago!**

You know, I've often been asked that question around *Harry Potter* [Jason played Draco Malfoy's dad, Lucius Malfoy], and you know, if anybody really knew the answer they'd keep churning out things that were just as brilliant, so who knows? Something still works – we all know what it's like to love a dog and to be with a group of friends who are all incredibly different from each other. Really, every time a story is reinvented and still works, it's down to

the talent and creativity of the storytellers.

● **Did any of Dick Dastardly's traits rub off on you? Did you grow a moustache and start twiddling it?**

I haven't grown a moustache like Dick's. I'm not sure anyone could! Well, he thinks he's hilarious, he thinks he's a genius and he thinks he's under-appreciated. You'll have to ask my wife and kids how similar I am to that... it may be more than I'd like to admit!

● **You've played a lot of villains... do you have a preference for the bad guys?**

Well, I've played Superman. I've done a million characters! It may be that the villains often stay in people's memories. If you spend the day and everybody's incredibly nice and polite, and one person flicks you with the end of a towel or, you know, sticks a cake in your face, that's the one you're going to stay thinking about. I like well-written characters! The ones that are wafer-thin make you look rubbish as an actor. With Dick Dastardly, I actually think he's a big softy. He's cool and sadistic, but it comes from insecurity. I recognise him. I'm probably best known for playing Lucius Malfoy, who wants to be all powerful – and yet his need for approval and validation is so apparent to everybody, including Voldemort, that when he comes back he doesn't take him seriously for a second. I recognise that kind of racist bully too, and there are a number of them in positions of enormous power right now.

● **What was it like recording in the studio for this film?**

When a microphone is pointing at me, I like to go as far over the top as possible!



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It's amazing, you're there just trying to make one guy laugh – Tony [Cervone, the director]. The cast didn't meet each other for this film, so you're acting with him and he's got all the different performances in his head. He plays all the characters for you. Your job is really simple – make this guy giggle! Or snort, which is even better. If there's snot coming out of his nose, you know you've done something good! I'm often embarrassed to talk about careers because my job – when it's going well – is such good fun that I'm embarrassed to be paid for it! There are times it's drudgery as well, but there's a whole generation of young people right now thinking: "What am I going to do for a living?" Pick something you love doing. Then, if you get paid well or not, at least you'll have a good time!

● **Dick Dastardly has his own hound, Muttley. Do you have a pet of your own?**

I do, I have a dog called Missy. She's essentially a stuffed toy. She likes to go to the bed, to the couch, to the food bowl. I drag her around the block, she leaves paw marks in the pavement. From when she was born, people would come and go: "Aww, is she really old?" and I'd say: "No, that's a puppy!" She's a very, very soft dog. We had guinea pigs – they bullied her!

● **So, everyone eats Scooby Snacks – dogs and humans. What do you think they taste like?**

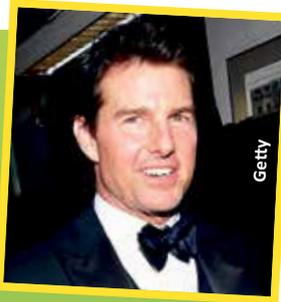
I always thought they were biscuit-like, but it turns out that the 21st century Scooby Snacks taste and look like gummies. I can tell you that they're good. They're extremely good. In fact, I think I'm just going to keep eating them for the rest of the day!



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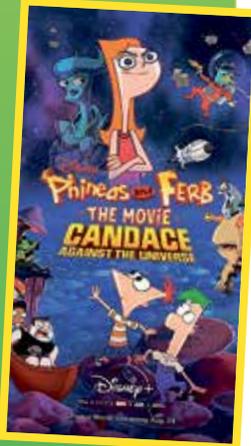
SCOOB! is available to rent on Premium Video On Demand (PVOD) in the UK now. It will be available to watch instantly for 48 hours from participating digital retailers.

THIS WEEK



1 Actor Tom Cruise has spoken to Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden about returning to film in the UK. He was in the middle of filming two more *Mission Impossible* films when lockdown started. It has been agreed that film actors and crew members can return to the UK without having to quarantine, as long as they stick to 'bubbles' within the production. This means they could go between the set and the place they are staying, but nowhere else. Film production in the UK is due to restart as soon as possible.

2 Disney has announced that Phineas and Ferb are getting their own film! In *Phineas and Ferb The Movie: Candace Against the Universe*, the stepbrothers must travel into outer space in order to rescue their sister, who has been abducted by aliens. It will stream exclusively on Disney+ from 28 August.



3 Andrew Lloyd Webber's new West End adaptation of *Cinderella*, starring Carrie Hope Fletcher, has been delayed until March 2021. The musical was due to open this autumn, but with no date for when theatres can open, the production has been postponed. Andrew Lloyd Webber said: "The show will absolutely go on, just a little later than I'd hoped."

PICS OF THE WEEK

CINEMAS are open again (hurrah) and one of the first films we'll be off to see is the brand-new animation *Dreambuilders*.

The film follows Minna, a young girl who discovers how to create and control dreams. Will she use her newfound power on her annoying stepsister? You'll have to watch it yourself to find out!

Dreambuilders is in cinemas now.



How do you feel about winning the Young Songwriter of the Year competition?

When it was announced on the Song Academy livestream that I'd won, I honestly could not believe it! My mum said that for the first time in my life I was actually speechless! It's a great honour and even if I hadn't have won it would still have been an amazing experience. It has given me the inspiration and confidence to work even harder at my music and songwriting.

What types of music do you like to listen to? And how do you get your inspiration?

For the last few years I've enjoyed listening to pop or dance music. I'll often hear something in a song I really like and then I'll run straight to my laptop to see if it will fit in one of the songs I am working on. It may be a drum rhythm or pattern, a sample or maybe a sick synth sound.

Is your winning song, No Place, available to the public, and are you working on any other songs?

I try to spend as much time as I can on my music and have three or four new songs in progress at the moment. Hopefully I'll have several new tracks



completed before I go back to school in September. *No Place* is available and can be found on Spotify, Apple Music, Deezer and many other streaming platforms. I hope to be releasing more tracks over the summer when they are complete, and if you want to keep up to date with my music you can follow me on my Instagram [@willmassie1!](https://www.instagram.com/willmassie1/)

FIVE MINUTES WITH...

WILLIAM MASSIE



THE teen from London has been named Song Academy's Young Songwriter of the Year (8-12), judged by a host of celebrities, award-winning songwriters and *First News!*

You can listen to William's winning song *No Place* and his other tunes at soundcloud.com/williamthomasmassie
Be aware of age restrictions on social media sites.

BE A SUMMER SCIENTIST TO NURTURE NATURE!



iStock

CHRIS Packham says that we can all help to give something back to nature this month, in return for nature providing comfort for many of us during the strains of the last few months. *Here's why he's encouraging everyone to take part in this year's Big Butterfly Count.*



Megan McCubbin

Chris Packham showing that his love for butterflies even stretches to his wardrobe!



Butterfly Conservation

WHAT'S THE COUNT ABOUT?

The charity Butterfly Conservation organises the annual count so that experts can get a better idea about which species are doing well, and how that might change as you travel across Britain. As well as being fun, it's also a chance for all of us to be a citizen scientist and carry out some genuinely useful research.

Butterfly Conservation says that butterflies have appeared earlier this year in the UK than at any time in the last 20 years, due to the gorgeous spring weather we had. Since many of us have been getting out and about and appreciating nature more than ever during this pandemic, lots of people have been taking an interest in butterflies that they may not have noticed much before now.

PAYING BACK

TV presenter and nature lover Chris Packham is one of those who is keen to get the public to join in with the count.

"While so many of us have had a bit more time to appreciate the nature on our doorsteps during the lockdown period, this is a real chance to do something positive and contribute to conserving nature," he says. "Butterflies and moths are key indicators of the health of our environment and anyone can help contribute to our understanding of these incredible creatures by taking part in the Big Butterfly Count. We're asking everyone who has been given a helping hand from nature this year to return the favour."

VAST VARIETY

There are over 250,000 species of butterflies and moths around the world. The UK has 57 resident butterfly species, as well as two regular visitors to our shores – the painted lady and clouded yellow. However, in the last 150 years, five butterfly species have become extinct in the UK, although the large blue was reintroduced in 1992. The large blue is the biggest and rarest UK species, and actually spends most of the year in the nests of red ants, where they feed on young ants.

When it comes to moths, there's a much wider variety, with more than 2,500 species in Britain. Unfortunately, 56 species have been lost from the UK since 1914.

Iain H Leach



A marbled white

17. SPECIAL REPORT

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?

If you think being a citizen scientist sounds hard, the good news is that it really isn't! All you need to do is spend just 15 minutes outside on a nice sunny day between 17 July and 9 August, and count how many butterflies (plus some moths that are out during the day) you see.

If you go to BigButterflyCount.org you can download free identification charts that show the differences between species, or you can get the free app for iOS or Android.

Then, when you've finished your count, you can submit your results via the app or the website. And that's it – congratulations, you're a scientist!

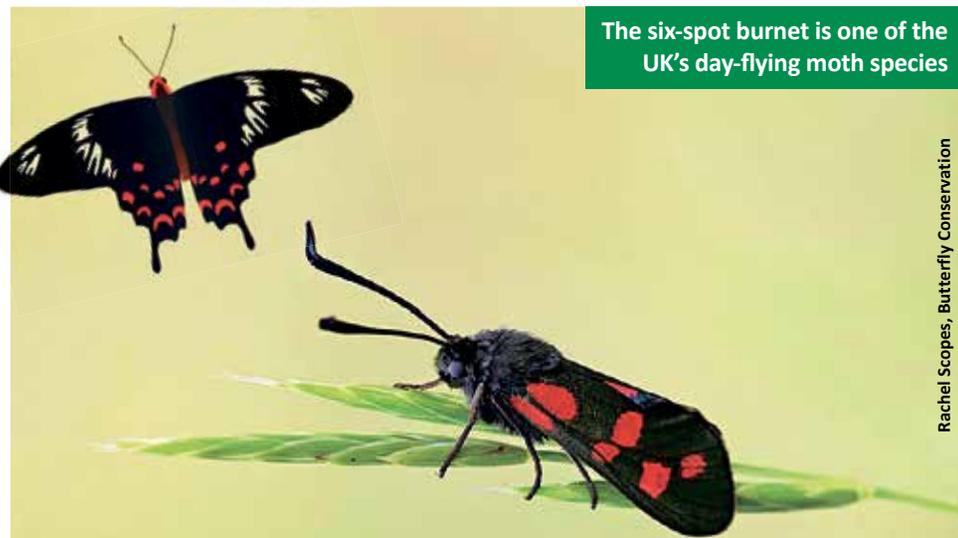
WHERE CAN I DO IT?

Anywhere you want! It can be your back garden, school grounds, a park, a country walk or anywhere else. Even if you live in a city and don't have many butterflies around, Butterfly Conservation still wants you to take part – even if you don't see a single butterfly in your 15 minutes, that's still incredibly important for them to know. Low counts can provide crucial geographical information about problems in the environment.

As well as being important pollinators, butterflies are also an important part of the food chain, and are prey for birds and bats. In the UK and Ireland, blue tits alone are estimated to eat 50 billion moth caterpillars every year!

So if butterfly numbers start to drop, it can cause lots of problems elsewhere. Experts say that butterflies react very quickly to changes in the environment, so they can be a vital indicator of problems in the natural world.

Butterfly Conservation says the count is a bit like taking nature's pulse, so please try to spare a quarter of an hour this summer to help protect our butterflies and to keep nature healthy.



The six-spot burnet is one of the UK's day-flying moth species

Go to BigButterflyCount.org to find out more and to download free identification charts for England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland. The free app is available for iOS and Android devices.

ADVERTISEMENT

From £4 a month

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO LOVES ORCAS?

ADOPTING AN ORCA HELPS PROTECT THEIR FUTURE...

Orcas are amazing but too many are dying. Poisoned by polluted seas. Accidentally caught in fishing nets. Some are even taken into captivity. **By adopting an orca with Whale and Dolphin Conservation you can help us give orcas the protection they need to survive.** Your support will help us protect them from activities such as industrial development, fish farming, logging and pollution. We'll send you your very own adoption pack, including, a personalised certificate with a picture of your adoption whale, a set of fun stickers and a colourful WDC badge. We'll keep you up-to-date on their daily lives through a great quarterly magazine, a monthly e-newsletter and you'll receive an email birthday and Christmas card.



YOU CAN ADOPT:

BEND

Bend was a surprise from the time she was born. No one had ever seen an orca quite like her. On the front edge of her dorsal fin was a deep cut and it grew lopsided taking on a comical look of the sorting hat from Harry Potter!

OR

FIFE

Fife is the younger brother of Corky. Tragically, he has never met his sister as she has been held in captivity by SeaWorld. He is quite a character, extremely handsome and easy to recognise by his tall dorsal fin.

WDC WHALE AND DOLPHIN CONSERVATION

TO FIND OUT MORE VISIT ADOPTAWHALE.COM

WDC IS A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE REGISTERED IN ENGLAND, NUMBER 27327421, REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1014705 (ENGLAND AND WALES) AND NO. SC040231 (SCOTLAND), TELEPHONE 01249 449500 PHOTOS © ROB LOTT, SHARI MANNING, OETAACEALAB



19. BOREDOM BUSTERS!

HOW TO ENTER: Send your finished puzzles by email to win@firstnews.co.uk. Don't forget to put **Puzzles 735** in the subject box. We're afraid that we can't accept postal entries for now. The closing date for puzzle entries is **Thursday 23 July 2020**.

WIN! THINK LIKE A DOG DVDs

CAN you spot the five changes we've made to this picture from *Think Like A Dog*? Send in your answers and five lucky winners will win a copy of the DVD. *Think Like A Dog* follows 12-year-old Oliver, a tech prodigy whose school science fair experiment goes awry, creating a telepathic connection between him and his furry friend, Henry. The bond brings Oliver and Henry even closer as they join forces to comically overcome complications at school, and help Oliver's parents rekindle their marriage along the way. *Think Like A Dog* is on digital download now and on DVD on 20 July.



WORDSEARCH

WHAT ON EARTH?

CAN you find the pizza toppings in our wordsearch? Remember that the words can be horizontal, vertical or diagonal.

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

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ham | <input type="checkbox"/> Mushrooms | <input type="checkbox"/> Olives |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peppers | <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken | <input type="checkbox"/> Onions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pineapple | <input type="checkbox"/> Cheese | <input type="checkbox"/> Sweetcorn |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bacon | <input type="checkbox"/> Pepperoni | <input type="checkbox"/> Anchovies |

THESE are all musical instruments. Can you guess what they are?



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' (e.g. 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, Reach plc and any associated companies and their families. Winners will be the first correct entries drawn after the closing dates. No purchase necessary. No responsibility can be accepted for entries that have been lost or damaged in transit. First News will not enter into any correspondence. All winners will be notified accordingly and their names and 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: Elephant has extra toe, alien has different mouth, monkey's head is larger, rhino horn is bigger, more vines in background.
Word ladder: took, cook, coot, cost, cast, cash.
Word wheel: emotional.
What on Earth?: glue gun, needle, sequins, pom poms, wool, scissors.

6	2	1	9	4	7	3	5	8	E	N	T	E	R	T	A	I	N	E	R
4	9	5	3	2	8	1	6	7	I	A	R	O	N	E	S				
7	3	8	5	6	1	9	2	4	F	I	L	M	U	O	N	U	S		
8	7	3	6	1	9	5	4	2	E	C	A	P	T	U	R	E			
1	6	2	4	3	5	7	8	9	L	O	L	L	Y	W	A	G	O	N	
5	4	9	8	7	2	6	1	3	T	O	C	R	I	A	T	I	A		
2	5	7	1	8	3	4	9	6	W	O	D	S	C	R	A	B			
3	1	6	2	9	4	8	7	5	E	L	E	S	C	R	A	B			
9	8	4	7	5	6	2	3	1	R	O	L	L	E	R	S	K	A	T	E

Some of you may be going **back to school** and things will seem a bit different

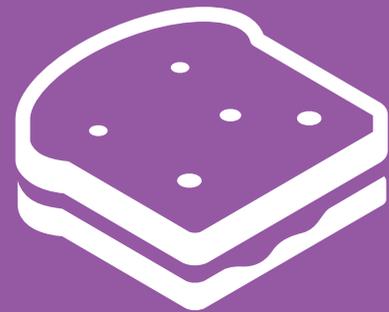
We have looked at how schools can open in a safe way.



reducing the
size of classes



keeping children
in small “bubble”
groups without
mixing with others



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



more
cleaning



reducing
the use of
shared items



schools using
outdoor space
as much as
they can



not travelling
to school on
public transport
if possible

All together >

www.gov.uk/coronavirus

THE BIG PICTURE



Jay Evans

THIS amazing image of the Milky Way was captured by Australian photographer Jay Evans, and has been shortlisted in the Skyscapes category of the Royal Observatory's Insight Investment Astronomy Photographer of the Year 2020.

Jay has called the picture *Something Old, Something New*, and although it looks like it was taken inside an abandoned church or temple, it's actually a relic from Australia's industrial past. The Lithgow Blast Furnace was built in New South Wales from 1906-07, to extract iron from iron ore and to produce steel.

You can find out more about the competition and see images from previous competitions at www.rmg.co.uk/astrophoto.



PENGUINS CAN FIRE THEIR POO!

A NEW study in Japan has revealed that penguins can shoot their poop a whopping 1.2m!

Physicist Hiroyuki Tajima of Kochi University and Fumiya Fujisawa of Katsurahama Aquarium studied Humboldt penguins. They discovered that to shoot their poo such long distances, the birds have to fire their droppings out of their bottoms at a speed of 4.5mph.

This special skill helps make sure that the penguins don't get poop on their nests or on themselves.

The scientists have warned zookeepers of this new discovery, in case they come under fire when approaching the birds from behind!

FRIENDSHIP IN A BOTTLE



TWO girls in America have become friends through a message in a bottle.

Eleven-year-old Sofia from New York was on holiday in Florida when she threw a message in a bottle into the sea, saying how fed up she was of coronavirus.

Another 11-year-old, Sarah Beth, was on holiday 700 miles away in North Carolina when she found the message. She contacted Sofia using the number on the letter, so the pair started exchanging messages and have now become friends.



ELEPHANTS HATE DISCOS!



SCIENTISTS have found a new way to stop elephants trampling on crops in Botswana – disco lights!

Researchers from conservation group Elephants Without Borders discovered that elephants are more scared of disco lights than of barking dogs.

Botswana has the world's largest elephant population. Around 130,000 live there, many close to rural communities. The elephants often pass through farmers' fields at night, trampling crops and causing damage to property, so farmers and conservationists have been trying to find new ways to protect farms. After discovering flashing torches quickly scared elephants off, scientists placed colourful solar-powered strobe lights along the edge of a field. The disco-style lights deterred the animals from walking across the field and reduced the amount of damage that the elephants caused to crops.

haha
haha

WHEN IS A DOOR NOT A DOOR?
WHEN IT'S AJAR!

WHY WERE THE TEACHER'S EYES
CROSSED?
BECAUSE SHE COULDN'T CONTROL
HER PUPILS!

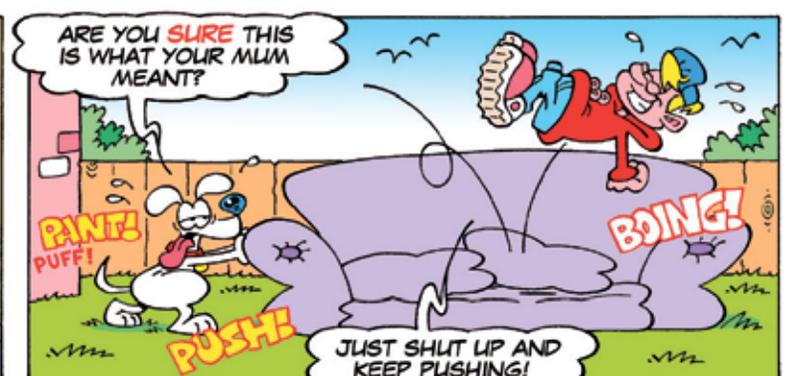
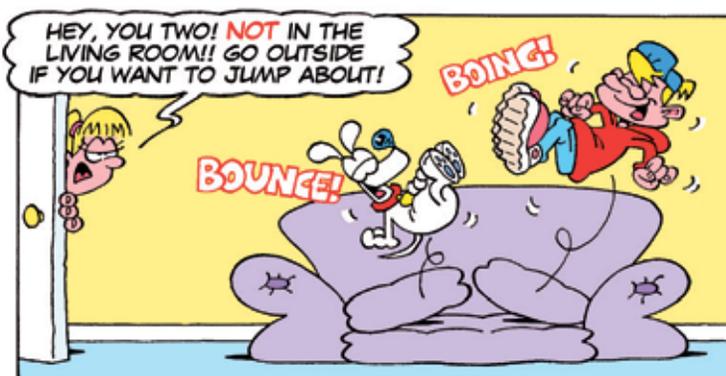
haha
haha

SUBMITTED BY OSCAR, AGE 9

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



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer



AN EPIC INVESTMENT?



SONY, the company behind the PS4 and the upcoming PS5, has announced a £198 million investment in Epic Games, which makes *Fortnite* (PEGI 12).

The £198m (\$250m) is pretty small compared to Epic Games' overall value, estimated to be a whopping \$16 billion (£13 billion), but it's still a lot of cash!

Sony's boss says that the investment isn't just for games, which makes a lot of sense, since the company produces films and music too.



BELOVED videogame critter Crash Bandicoot is starring in not one but two upcoming games!

The mad marsupial starred in three classic platformers between 1996 and 1999, before appearing in loads of spin-off games.

Then, in 2017, he crash-landed back on consoles in the *N Sane Trilogy*, which featured those first three games completely rebuilt from scratch.

Now, after all these years, a proper sequel to that original trilogy is on its way. It will feature a time-warping story that will star many of the familiar faces from the original games, and will feature levels playable as Crash's evil nemesis, Doctor Neo Cortex. hilariously named *Crash Bandicoot 4: It's About Time*, the game is set for release later this year.

Alongside this new Crash creation is an exciting new mobile game called *Crash Bandicoot: On The Run*, which, as you might have guessed from the name, is a *Temple Run*-style 'endless runner' that will feature Crash bounding about classic levels. It's set to be released for smartphones later this year.

FUSE THOSE TUNES!

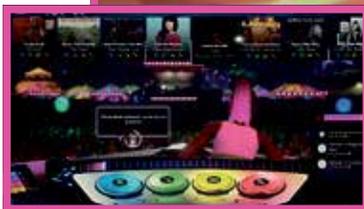
WE'VE had a peek at the gameplay for upcoming DJ simulator *Fuser* (PEGI 12), and we're getting pumped up!

The game gives you the power to run your own virtual festival and will feature over 100 songs, which can all be blended together in different ways.

You'll be able to take the lovely voice of Carly Rae Jepsen, add the beats from *Bad Guy* by Billie Eilish and top it off with the guitar and bass from *Old Town Road* by Lil Nas X! Up to four songs can be fused at once, so you've got a lot of options.

While keeping track of your mix, you'll also have to fulfil crowd requests and complete goals. Do a good job and you'll be rewarded with ways to customise your character, as well as the stage they're playing on!

The game is due out this autumn, for PS4, Xbox One, Switch and PC.



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WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?

CATS

FISH & CHIP SHOP CAT PLAYHOUSE FIREBOX.COM £19.99

Add a bit of fun to your house with this cat playhouse. Styled just like a classic seaside fish and chip shop, this flat-pack home for your cat is easy to put together and even comes with six 3D cardboard toys for your cat to play with.



CAT DJ SCRATCHING DECKS AMAZON.CO.UK £16.49

Everyone knows that cats love to scratch and play with a cardboard box, so this is the perfect combination. Looking like a miniature turntable, this clever scratching pad is a great way to stop your cat scratching the sofa while giving you plenty to laugh at as they spin the decks like a DJ!



*All prices correct at time of printing

CAT STARTER KIT IWANTONEOFTHOSE.COM £15.99

Make sure you get your new feline friend properly settled in with this cat starter kit. The stylish blue and red gift box contains a fish-print collar with a bell, a mouse toy, catnip fish toy and a bowl. Everything you need to get them purring with joy!



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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.

WIN! A PS4 AND GOODIES FROM POP

CREATE fun festival vibes at home this summer on POP.

Catch all the headliners including Power Rangers: Beast Morphers, Trolls: The Beat Goes On!, Big Top Academy and Talking Tom, all showing now!

To celebrate, we have a whole host of goodies to give away, plus a PS4 console for one lucky winner.

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

Which of these is not a character in Power Rangers: Beast Morphers?
a) Smash b) Cruise c) Crush

Join the crowds, watch POP on FREEVIEW 206 | YOUVIEW 206 | SKY 616 | VIRGIN 736 | FREESAT 603

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY POP

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 19. The closing date is 30 July 2020.



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WIN! FAMILY TICKETS TO SEA LIFE AQUARIUMS

SEA LIFE aquariums nationwide are celebrating their re-opening by giving away ten day tickets to ten lucky families!

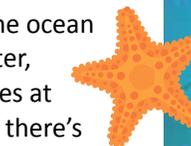
With an exciting array of amazing creatures at each site, you're sure to discover a new fascinating favourite. From clownfish and groupers to stingrays and blacktip reef sharks, you'll have the chance to get up close to the most weird and wonderful species that the ocean has to offer!

At SEA LIFE Weymouth you can see Europe's only colony of fairy penguins – the smallest breed in the world! You can see adorable seals at Scarborough and Hunstanton, terrific turtles at Great Yarmouth and Brighton, or visit the UK's very first sea otters, brand-new to SEA LIFE Birmingham.

You can come face-to-fin with sharks as they glide through the ocean tunnel at Loch Lomond and around the shipwreck at Manchester,

or experience bugs and creepy crawlies at Blackpool's Rainforest Ranger Table – there's something for everyone! To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

Which of these SEA LIFE favourites has three hearts?
a) Octopus b) Jellyfish c) Lobster



ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY SEALIFE

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 19. The closing date is 30 July 2020.

WRITE A STORY WITH CRESSIDA COWELL

A FEW months ago, Cressida Cowell, author and Waterstones Children's Laureate, started a new story in *First News*. Then she handed things over to YOU to write what happened next. Every week the story has continued, written by our readers, 250 words at a time. Read every part of the gripping tale at:

[FIRST.NEWS/CRESSIDACOWELL](https://www.firstnews.co.uk/cressidacowell)



SO FAR IN THE STORY...

Young spellcaster Ferocity and her smoke-producing pet boggart, Guggalugs, were taken from their home. After escaping, the pair met Trick, a mysterious boy, and travelled to Trick's home, Perum Hollow, to speak with his grandfather. On the journey, Ferocity found a strange copper piece, which Trick's grandad revealed to be one of four key-pieces that helped seal evil away. Trick and his grandfather each had another, leaving one to find. They set off to find it. On the way, they ran into Trick's mum, Ariella. Soon after, Trick's grandfather used his granddaughter Aida's magic to send a dark creature to a cave where Ferocity was sheltering. Unable to let her brother get hurt, Aida magicked herself to the cave, where she fought off the beast. Now reunited, the group realise that the grandfather is, in fact, a shapeshifter!

PART 16: BY RYAN PEPPER

'How did you know about this shapeshifter, Guggalugs?' asked Ariella.

'Well...' began Guggalugs. 'Back at home, I read a book that Ferocity had about all kinds of creatures lurking in the wild...'

'I remember!' cried Ferocity. 'And it spoke of a creature called a shapeshifter. Apparently, they turn green before they're about to transform into something else. Sometimes they uncontrollably shapeshift into lots of things, showing some things that it has seen or experienced.'

'Wow, you've got a good memory, Guggalugs!' Trick laughed.

'I know...' said Guggalugs modestly. The smoke coming out of his ears turned an embarrassed pink.

'Anyway, that means Trick's grandpa must've found a shapeshifter to TRICK us! Get it?'

Everyone looked at Guggalugs as if to say: 'Really?'

'The fiend!' whispered Ferocity. Suddenly, the ceiling of the cave began to glow green.

The light disappeared for a moment and a green Prowler appeared, before dropping to the floor and transforming into Trick's grandfather.

'Don't keep me here!' it cried, before transforming again into the Prowler and letting out a deafening roar.

It transformed into a grandpa again.

'You'll never get away with this!' it yelled, looking as if it was struggling to get out of a room. It transformed into Ferocity. 'Drat!' it said to itself, annoyed by its own performance.

The copy of Ferocity transformed into a Prowler again, although this time, it looked ready to fight. The gang nodded at each other and charged towards the creature.

'AAAAAAAH!'

PART 17: BY YOU!

IF you took the time to send us your story, thank you!

We enjoyed reading them all, and love how talented you all are! If your story wasn't chosen this time, don't let that stop you having another crack at it. 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](https://www.firstnews.co.uk/cressidacowell).

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



WORDS FOR LIFE

LEARNING OUTDOORS

WHO says you have to read indoors? As the weather warms up and lockdown restrictions ease, Words For Life is celebrating the great outdoors!

Check out our book list to find your next read, enter our brilliant book giveaway for your chance to get your hands on some fantastic outdoor-themed titles, or have fun with a selection of activity sheets, an outdoor treasure hunt and a tasty recipe idea!

Words for Life

[wordsforlife.org.uk](https://www.wordsforlife.org.uk)

National Literacy Trust

TO FIND OUT MORE, VISIT [WORDSFORLIFE.ORG.UK/OUTDOORS](https://www.wordsforlife.org.uk/outdoors). FOR BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS, ACTIVITIES AND GAMES, GO TO [WORDSFORLIFE.ORG.UK](https://www.wordsforlife.org.uk)

YOUR READS!

NO BALLET SHOES IN SYRIA

CATHERINE BRUTON

reviewed by Jemima Ryan, aged nine

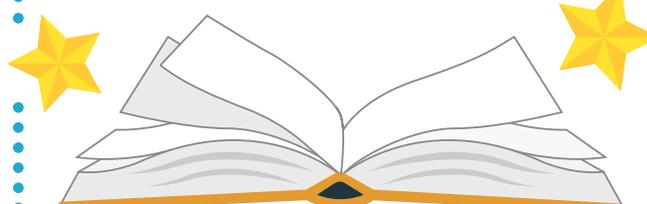
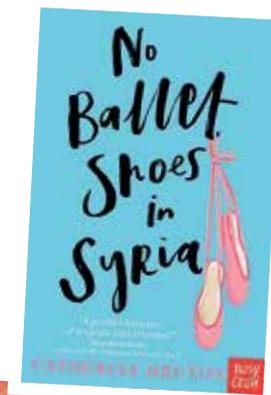
No Ballet Shoes in Syria is based on a refugee's life and her journey from Syria all the way to England.

The refugee, Aya, used to attend dance classes until the war started, but her family had to flee with many other refugees.

When Aya stumbles across an English ballet school, the kind teacher lets her join the classes. That's when Aya's life changes forever.

This story shows how refugees from many countries suffer at the hands of fighting and have to leave their homes behind in order to be safe.

This book is filled with friendship and excitement, and is probably best for ages eight and above.



CAMILLA NICHOL

CEO OF THE UK ANTARCTIC HERITAGE TRUST



THE UK's history of exploration means that there are several British bases in Antarctica, and Camilla here is in charge of looking after them.

● WHAT I DO

I am the CEO [chief executive officer] of the UKAHT. We are a charity, based in Cambridge, which looks after historic sites on the Antarctic Peninsula, such as Port Lockroy, a historic British base and home to the world's most southerly post office! This year we are celebrating the 200th anniversary of the first human sighting of Antarctica, with a programme called Antarctica In Sight.

● HOW I GOT MY JOB

I was a geologist and worked for years in museums, looking after collections of fossils, rocks and even meteorites. As I became more senior, I took on the responsibility of whole museums and historic sites. Five years ago, this job came up, which brought together many of my favourite things, and being in charge was the icing on the cake!

● WHAT I LOVE ABOUT MY JOB

Everyone I have met is fascinated by Antarctica, so being able to share these amazing stories is really enjoyable. I have an amazing team of people who all work hard to look after the historic



huts in Antarctica, run Port Lockroy, carry out a penguin study and create programmes of inspiring events. Sometimes I get to go to Antarctica, which is incredible!

● WHAT'S DIFFICULT ABOUT IT

Managing people in Antarctica can be challenging – they are a long way away in a very remote, dangerous place, so keeping them safe is our priority. To make plans for the Antarctic season, we have to plan a year in advance and hope that everything falls into place, but Antarctica often has other ideas, so you have to be very versatile and have lots of back-up plans.

● WHAT SKILLS I NEED

I might have to give a talk, attend a meeting at Buckingham Palace, talk

on the radio or a podcast, or work with my team to problem-solve. So being able to talk to people from all backgrounds on a range of matters is important. I also need to know about managing heritage and museum collections, and have a grip on running a shop and post office, so customer service is also important.

● USEFUL QUALIFICATIONS

There are no real qualifications that would get you straight into this job. I did a degree in geology, and I followed that with museum studies. But it is the experience and training in leadership, as well as technical skills and expertise in running an organisation and visitor attractions, which seemed to matter.

● WHERE YOU SHOULD START IF YOU WANT TO DO THE JOB TOO

If you're interested in Antarctica, then a science degree is a good way to go – British Antarctic Survey employs lots of scientists to do research in Antarctica. If you're interested in heritage, then working for an organisation like a museum, English Heritage or the National Trust is also a great way to go.

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- vocabulary puzzles
- polls
- writing news reports

Activities are updated every Monday morning in term time to correspond with the weekly news events. There is also a huge archive of activities giving children the opportunity to find stories that are of interest to them, whether they're into sport, science, the environment or Crazy but True. There are three levels to choose from, to suit everyone's age and reading ability.

Benefits for parents:

- instant feedback on all activities (no marking for parents!)
- regular email to report the child's progress and introduce the weekly discussion topic

£15 for access until the end of August*

*Please note, the activities are updated on a weekly basis in term time. During the summer holidays, children will have access to all the back catalogue of activities but no new ones will be published.

FOR FULL INFO AND TO ORDER, GO TO WWW.FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK/HOMEIHUB

MUSICAL INTERVAL

by Annie

I LOVE the musical *Hamilton*. I quote it all the time and randomly start singing songs from it. So, for two weeks, I decided not to quote or sing any songs from *Hamilton*.

It was really hard at first (especially because my sister kept on going on about it), but I actually started to notice the great outdoors more and enjoy being out on a daily walk or run with my family. I was originally aiming to raise £50 but, so far, have got closer to £65.

I may do another one to raise more money for the NHS.

We also ran a stall that raised £62 for Treetops Hospice Care, to help them look after the people who need their help. We did this by selling Easter-y things that we had made from recycled plastic.

Another thing I have done, with my younger sister, Elsie, is making

masks for those who need them.

Finally, we had a look through all of our old clothes and shoes to see which ones didn't fit. As we had been saving shoes since I was around five, we had lots that didn't fit!

We gave lots of pairs of shoes and some clothes to a family down the road, who will pass the bag on to charity.

It has been wonderful to feel like I was helping people. I can see that there are lots of others fundraising, too.

I hope that those who can't help are staying safe but still remembering to have fun – it won't be forever!



Annie

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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! Have you been getting creative? How have you been keeping fit? If you're back to school, how has that made you feel? 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.

KINDNESS WORKSHOPS

by Evie, Stivichall Primary School

I OFTEN talk about kindness at home with my mum, but then we spotted an opportunity to bring the idea into school with the help of the 52 Lives School of

Kindness fund.

I wanted to make kindness a part of everyday life at Stivichall Primary. By winning the grant, we received £250 to help our school deliver kindness.

One of our ideas is to have a postal service throughout the school delivering kindness cards from one pupil to another, recognising kindness and celebrating it!

In school, we will also have kindness points. Every month, whichever class has the most points will win the kindness trophy for a month. Another idea is to have a kindness wall with lots of different things made of paper symbolising kindness, and everyone will do at least one thing to contribute to the wall.

The wall will make children smile and feel happy when they walk past it, and that is the goal!

I hope the kindness funding will lead to happier and smilier people in school and that people will be kind just because it feels right!



Evie

SCHOOL NEWS

YOUR SAY

by Michaela

FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD Michaela was very moved by all the press and social media coverage after George Floyd was killed, so she created this artwork by finding inspiring quotes about racism to create a poster.

JUNIOR JOURNALIST



Michaela's poster

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SPORT IN NUMBERS

12

is the age of the boy arrested by West Midlands Police for sending horrific racist messages to

Crystal Palace footballer Wilfried Zaha. "People need to understand that whatever your age... you cannot hide behind social media," said Wilfried. The boy was later released while police investigations continued.



35

is the number of times Jack Charlton played football for England, including in the 1966 World Cup

final. Jack sadly died on 10 July, at the age of 85. He played his whole career at Leeds United, then as a manager he led the Republic of Ireland team to the World Cup twice and Euro 1988. His achievements made him a footballing legend.



620

is the number of top tennis players who will share a £10 million prize pot that the All

England Club is donating following the cancellation of the Wimbledon Championships this year. Cash will be awarded on a sliding scale, with 128 players who were expected to be in the main draw getting £25,000 each.



TESTING TIME

Ben Stokes reacts as the Windies head for victory

THE excitement of playing Test cricket once again turned to disappointment for England, as they lost the first Test against the West Indies in a tightly fought match at the Rose Bowl in Southampton.

Ben Stokes led out his team for the first time as captain, while bowler Stuart Broad was surprisingly left out. Broad had played in every England home Test match since 2012, but England instead went for Jofra Archer and Mark Wood. That decision didn't look good with hindsight, since neither performed particularly well.

The West Indies kept up a strong attack on England's first innings total of 204 and it was Ben Stokes himself who came to the rescue, taking three quick wickets at the end of the day. On day three the West Indies overtook England, finishing with 318 runs.

England appeared to be cruising to a decent total in their second innings. Play was slow but steady and at times unexciting. It was perhaps partly due to not having a live crowd, which can sometimes lift a game in the

quieter periods. But a new ball changed the direction of the game, and suddenly England had lost five wickets for only 30 runs. They finished the day on 284 for 8, leaving the West Indies 170 to win with only 98 overs left to play.

Tension rose towards the end of the game as the visitors inched toward the total. Wickets fell steadily, but missed catches by England and the solid play of the West Indian batsmen meant that the West Indies win was only a matter of time.

There was some stand-out play by the West Indies team, who deserved the win. The man of the match was Shannon Gabriel, who got nine wickets during the match.

Ben Stokes admitted that it had been a big learning curve, but did not regret his choices.

The second Test began yesterday (16 July) at Old Trafford.



CLEARED!

Manchester City are celebrating the overturning of a two-year ban from the Champions League, which could have lost them millions of pounds in prize money. A fine of 10 million euros was imposed instead, but the club will probably see it as a small price to pay. City were penalised for not being straight with UEFA about various financial deals, which were made public through leaked emails.

