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First News

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HELPING THE UK GROW

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74% of people say they spot more than ten pieces of plastic or litter on a walk

59% of people say they have seen more litter in their area over the last year

by editor in chief Nicky Cox

THIS 50-metre sand drawing of a seal surrounded by plastic was created this week for the launch of the Million Mile Beach Clean.

The giant image on Cayton Bay in Yorkshire highlights how plastic pollution badly affects marine wildlife.

The Surfers Against Sewage charity that is behind the Million Mile Beach Clean wants to get 100,000 people to clean up their local beach, river, street or green space. The result will be one million miles cleared by the end of the year, protecting oceans, beaches and wildlife – and giving us all something to smile about as we come out of lockdown.

The Million Mile Beach Clean is part of the Million Mile Clean, encouraging people to get out locally, on streets, country lanes, in parks and along local waterways to tackle plastic pollution and litter.

The campaign will run throughout 2021, but the first week of action will take place between 15 and 23 May. Surfers Against Sewage is calling for Clean Leaders across the UK to join the biggest ever beach clean and register now to lead a clean.

In a survey by Surfers Against Sewage, almost six out of ten (59%) British people said they have seen more waste in their area over the last 12 months. This could be because of an increase in single-use plastic items during the pandemic, and many people using disposable facemasks. Nearly three-quarters (74%) of people said they spotted more than ten pieces of plastic or litter on a normal walk.

Hugo Tagholm from Surfers Against Sewage says: "The ocean is under threat and we are running out of time to save it. We want to inspire an army of ocean activists to join the cause and put an end to plastic pollution in the UK."

To get involved, go to beachcleans.org.uk.

in Schools
Primary Class

A NEW COMPETITION IS PUTTING SCHOOL CHILDREN ON THE STARTING GRID! P28

2. QUICK NEWS

SAUCE SHORTAGE



America is facing a ketchup shortage! It's thought people ordering more takeaways and deliveries during the coronavirus pandemic has created a big demand for the sauce. Heinz, one of the biggest producers of sauce, is struggling to ketchup with demand.

TOP HOSPITAL TECH



Five hospitals in the UK have bought new equipment that can convert used plastic masks and gowns into reusable plastic blocks. The technology, developed by the Thermal Compaction Group, squishes and melts down polypropylene, one of the core materials in masks and gloves. The plastic blocks can then be used to make bins, school chairs and other items. The Thermal Compaction Group says it reduces waste by 85%. Another 11 hospitals will be getting the technology soon.

DEATHS ARE DOWN

For the third week in a row, the number of deaths has been below the normal number in England and Wales over the past five years. Government data shows that, in the week ending 26 March 2021, there were 10,045 deaths. That was also 266 fewer deaths than the previous week. The number of deaths involving COVID-19 also fell.

QUICK NEWS

TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS

MISSING THE MOVIES



People are missing cinema in the UK, a new survey has found. Some 59% said the cinema has been their most missed out-of-home entertainment activity during lockdown. The survey also found that 40% are planning to return to the cinema within the first few weeks of reopening on 17 May. There are lots of movies to look forward to, including *Peter Rabbit 2*, *Cruella* and Bond's *No Time To Die*.

ALPACAS NAMED

When ZSL London Zoo asked the public to help name its new alpacas, thousands of people voted – and the results are now in! The fluffy trio are now known as Alpacaccino, Cookie and Cuenca. Zoos across the UK have opened their doors to the public for the first time in months this week, with lots of new arrivals to see.



FUN FOOTWEAR

Adidas has released a new pair of trainers that can be customised with LEGO bricks! The new running shoes feature transparent plastic slots on either side, where the wearer can add different coloured LEGO bricks. The Adidas Ultraboost DNA x LEGO Plates also feature the LEGO logo and a bright yellow lining.

IT'S GOT SOUL

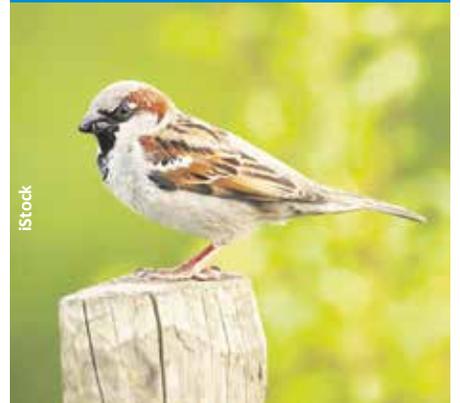
Disney Pixar's *Soul* won two big awards at this year's BAFTAs. The musical movie scooped the gongs for Best Animation and Best Original Score (music). The ceremony was hosted by Dermot O'Leary and Edith Bowman at London's Royal Albert Hall, while the winners and nominees all appeared via video link.

LIFE-CHANGING LIBRARIES



Children's Laureate Cressida Cowell MBE has written to the prime minister, Boris Johnson, calling on the Government to invest in primary school libraries. Cressida said: "Millions of children, particularly those from the poorest communities worst hit by the pandemic, are missing out on opportunities to discover the life-changing magic of reading." She wants the Government to give a yearly investment of £100m to help protect library spaces. Authors Michael Rosen, Quentin Blake and Jacqueline Wilson have all shown their support.

BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH



Sixteen of Britain's top 20 garden birds have fallen in number since last year. The RSPB's 2021 Big Garden Birdwatch found that the house sparrow is still the most commonly spotted bird in our gardens, with the blue tit in second place and starling in third. The greenfinch and chaffinch recorded their lowest numbers ever. More than a million people took part in this year's survey.

GAMING LESSONS



More than half of children think gaming should be included in the school curriculum. A new survey, by gaming accessories firm HyperX, found that 55% of young people believe gaming can help them with a future career. The survey also found that children would like to see extracurricular e-sports competitions hosted by their school or college. Would you like to take gaming lessons?

RICH REALITY

Kim Kardashian West is officially a billionaire, business magazine *Forbes* said last week. The American reality star is now worth \$1bn (£723m). Her fortune has come from her cosmetics and clothing companies, as well as TV work.

FAREWELL PRINCE PHILIP



Getty

THE funeral of the Duke of Edinburgh will take place on Saturday 17 April.

The Queen's husband, HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, sadly died last week aged 99. The royal family will attend a ceremonial funeral at St George's Chapel in the grounds of Windsor Castle.

The Duke has been by the Queen's side for more than 70 years and has left a lasting legacy.

One of the things he will be remembered for most is the Duke of Edinburgh Award (often shortened to the DofE), a scheme he set up for young people back in 1956. The award scheme is

designed for 14 to 24-year-olds and encourages them to learn new skills, face different challenges and enjoy the great outdoors. There are three awards to collect: Bronze, Silver and Gold. Those who complete the Gold award are invited to a special ceremony at Buckingham Palace.

More than 140 countries now run the Duke of Edinburgh Award, with millions of young people taking part. The Duchess of Cambridge and explorer Steve Backshall are among those who have completed the scheme.



iStock

PETS AS PASSWORDS

MILLIONS of British people use their pet's name as a password for online accounts.

A new study by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) found that 15% of the public use pets' names, while 14% use a family member's name. A further 6% use their favourite sports team, while another 6% use the password 'password'.

The NCSC has warned that using passwords such as these make accounts easier for cyber criminals to hack into. The centre is encouraging people to change their passwords to three random, unconnected words instead, such as 'RedPantsTree'.

This makes them far less easy to guess, and much more original.

VOTE IN OUR POLL



Have you ever used your pet's name as a password?

VOTE AT FIRST.NEWS/POLLS

LONGER SCHOOL DAYS?



iStock

SCHOOL staff are strongly against longer school days, a new poll by the National Education Union (NEU) has found.

More than 10,000 teachers, leaders and support staff from across the UK have shared their views on education during the coronavirus pandemic.

Only 2% voted in favour of extending the school day or term lengths to help students catch up on work. Many felt the Government needed to tackle other issues first, such as child poverty and the digital divide (unequal access to computers and broadband in homes). Almost all of those who

took part (94%) say poverty affects learning.

The NEU survey also highlighted many concerns about young people's mental health. A total of 78% said that mental health issues among children and young people had increased in the past year. A further 62% believe the Government is treating the poor mental health of young people as a low priority. Teachers are calling for better support services.

COOL!



iStock

THE Government is investing another £18 million in cycle training for children and families.

The extra funding will help children learn how to cycle safely and feel confident on the roads. The money will also support whole families with special cycle training sessions.

It's hoped the scheme will encourage families to cycle more and cut emissions from cars.

4. NEWS IN PICTURES

BRISTOL, UK



THIS mural of Black Lives Matter activist Jen Reid has been created by street artist Mr Cenz to promote anti-racism.

ORURO, BOLIVIA



PLASTIC rubbish can be seen on Lake Uru Uru. As well as a major drought back in 2016, which saw water levels go down hugely, Lake Uru Uru has been devastated by recent plastic pollution and mining waste.

DUNHUANG, CHINA



A TRAFFIC light for camels is seen at the Mingsha Mountain and Crescent Spring scenic spot. When the traffic light for camels turns green, the creatures can be taken across the road.

LONDON, UK



THE Honourable Artillery Company fires a gun salute at the Tower of London. The salute marked the death of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh. Across the country and the globe, saluting gun batteries fired 41 rounds, one round at the start of each minute, for 40 minutes. Gun salutes are fired, both on land and at sea, as a sign of respect.

TRIESTE, ITALY



THE skull of a dinosaur is displayed in the Zoic laboratory, where the skeleton of another dinosaur, a huge triceratops nicknamed Big John, is being reconstructed. The triceratops remains were found on a ranch in Montana, USA.



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5. BIG NEWS

CLEAN AIR CAMPAIGNERS



NEARLY a third of English schools and colleges are located in an area with high air pollution, but two campaigners, Jess and Jannat, are looking to change that.

Jess and Jannat, both aged eight, have been called “clean air heroes” by Asthma UK and the British Lung Foundation, after working to tackle air pollution in their home city of Manchester.

After they learnt that air pollution could cause an asthma attack, they teamed up with Asthma UK to study the air pollution outside their school.

They found high levels of NO₂, which can stunt the growth of children’s lungs and cause asthma attacks.

The pair have set up a petition, calling on Manchester mayor Andy Burnham to “protect little lungs” and block road use around schools during the school run.

Jannat said: “Campaigning is all about fighting to change something you care about.”

“We heard about a young girl in London who died because air pollution made her asthma so bad, and we want to make sure that never happens again.”

If you want to help, you can go to www.blf.org.uk/take-action/clean-air.

Jannat and Jess suggest you try to:

- “Spread the word. Share your knowledge and concerns about the dangers of air pollution with your friends, family, neighbours and teachers.”
- “Talk to your school. Ask what action they are taking to tackle air pollution around the school. Are they taking measures to reduce traffic and prevent vehicles from idling outside? Are they encouraging and making it safe for children to walk, scoot or cycle? Will they help you contact the council to get a school street?”

EDITOR’S COMMENT



IT’S been so good to have a bit more freedom this week.

Shops and restaurants being open has felt that life is beginning to be a bit more normal.

But, along with this, there have been pictures showing loads of rubbish being left around by people – including those new things in many people’s lives – face masks! One woman in Canada has collected a pile of 600 face masks after picking them up on walks. So, have fun but let’s all keep Britain tidy!

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GOOD WEEK FOR



THE ENVIRONMENT

FRENCH MPs have voted to ban flights within France if the journey can be travelled by a direct train in less than two and a half hours. A French consumer group found a plane flight emits 77 times more CO₂ per passenger than a train.

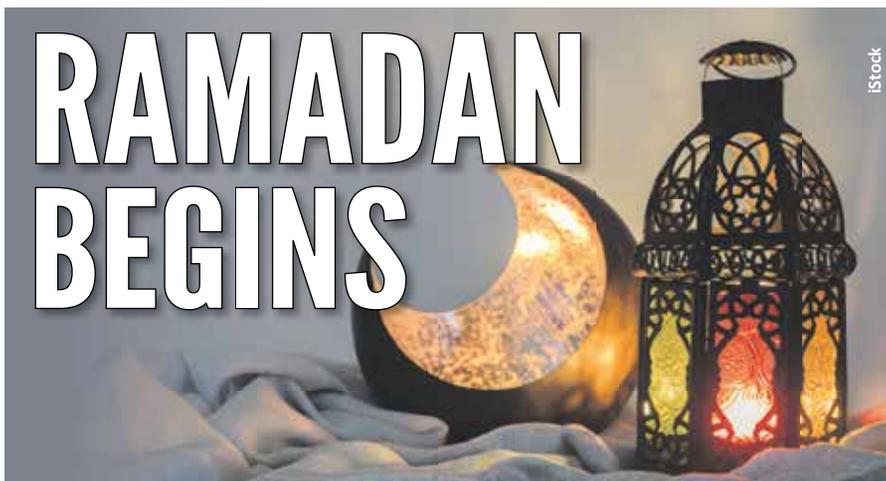
BAD WEEK FOR



PM DAVID CAMERON

FORMER prime minister David Cameron was in hot water this week, after it was discovered that he used his ties to Government to promote a financial company he was working for. Boris Johnson has announced he will launch an independent investigation into Mr Cameron’s work with the company.

RAMADAN BEGINS



THIS week Ramadan, the Islamic holy month, began.

Each year, Ramadan is celebrated by Muslims to commemorate when God revealed the Quran, Islam’s sacred text, to the Prophet Muhammad. Muslims celebrate the start of Ramadan by greeting each other with “Ramadan Mubarak”, which means “a blessed and generous month to you.”

Ramadan takes place in the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. The Islamic calendar follows the phases of the moon, so the exact date changes each year. In the UK, Ramadan began on Tuesday 13 April. Until the next new moon, Muslims will ‘fast’ during the day, which is when you don’t eat or drink.

That doesn’t mean Muslims can’t get their COVID-19 vaccines. Dr Salman Waqar, from the British Islamic Medical Association (BIMA), has explained that Muslim scholars across the world have said vaccinations don’t break the fast.

TRIAL TIMEOUT



A TRIAL that’s studying whether the Oxford AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine is safe to be had by children has been paused.

The decision to pause the trial came as the UK’s Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) announced an investigation into whether the jab could cause a ‘blood clot’, which is a health problem where blood stops being able to travel around the body freely.

The World Health Organization and the European Medicines Agency have also been looking into a possible link between vaccines and blood clots.

As of last week, over 20,000,000 Oxford AstraZeneca vaccines have been given. Of those, 79 people had blood clots after their first jab – sadly, 19 of those people died.

A spokesperson from Oxford University said that there are “no safety concerns” in the clinical trial with children and teenagers, but that researchers are going to wait until the MHRA finishes its investigation before giving out more vaccines.

UK

● Teens on energy board

A UK energy company has created a Good Future Board, made up of six 12 to 17-year-olds. Clean power company Good Energy received almost a thousand applications from young people wanting to join the board and have a say in how the company is run. Juliet Davenport, the company's founder, said: "We could not have hoped for a more passionate, insightful and brilliant new board. The opportunities for us to learn from them are endless." Meet the new board at goodenergy.co.uk/goodfuture.



Getty

UK

● Plastic bags to go

Supermarket chain Morrisons has said it will get rid of plastic bags over the next year. The company said the move will remove 100 million plastic bags, which equates to 3,200 tonnes less plastic each year. Morrisons says it will make the switch to reusable paper bags costing 30p that will be as strong as its reusable plastic 'bags for life'.



Morrisons/Twitter

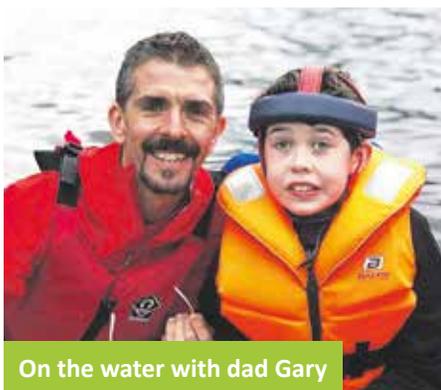
CUMBRIA



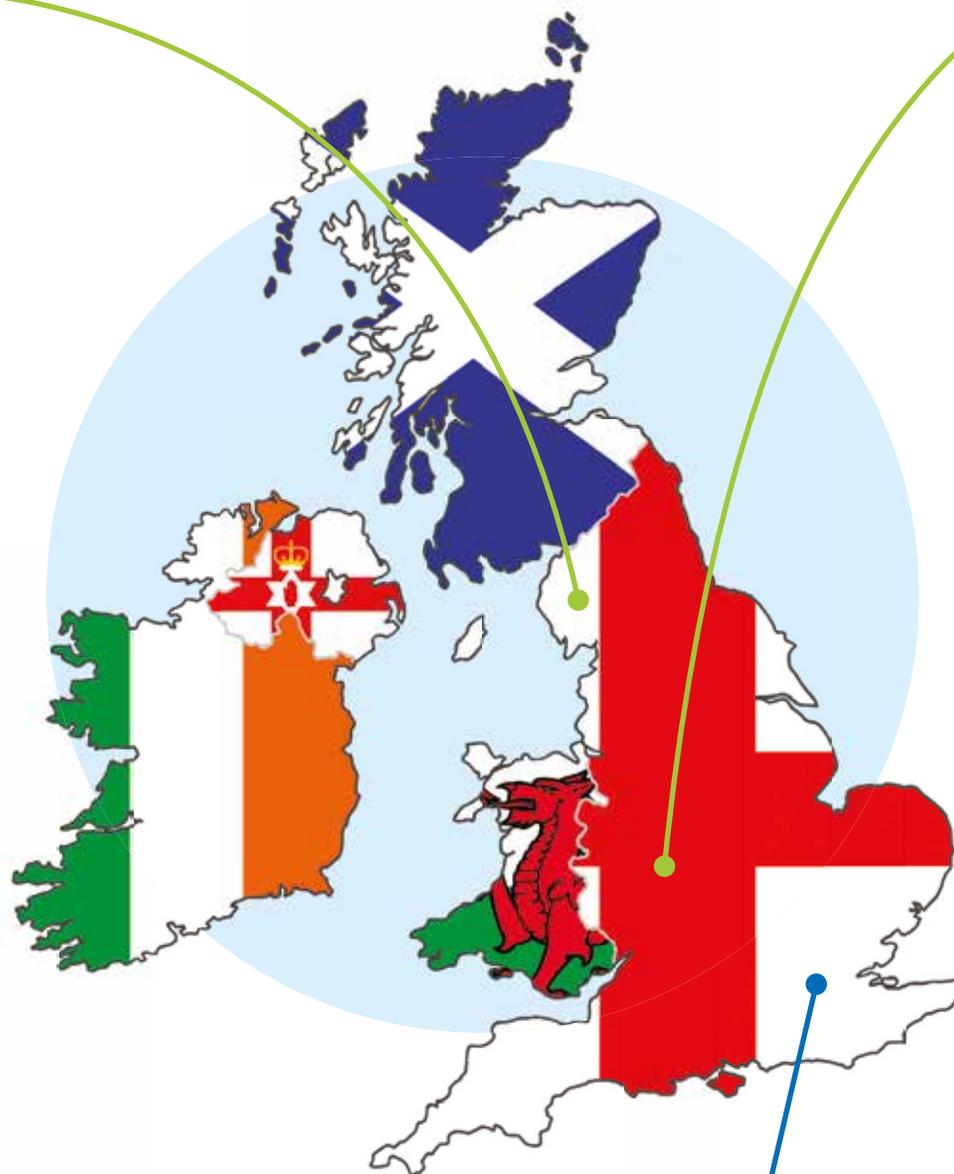
Oliver with mum Sarah

● Charity saved!

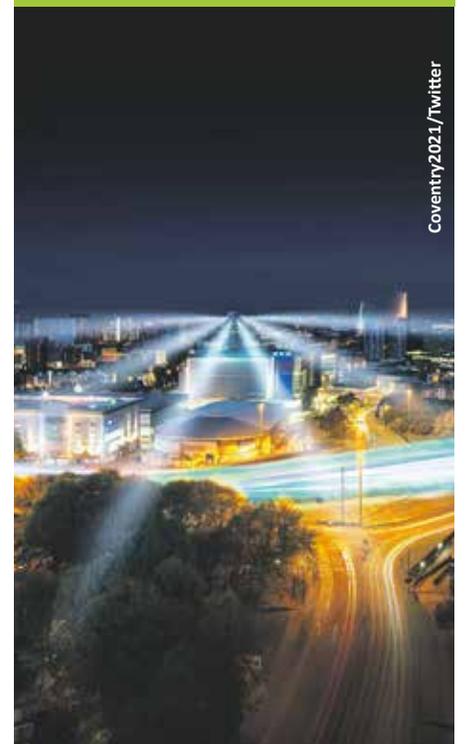
Back in January, we told you about Oliver Voysey, who was fighting with his family to save the Lake District's Calvert Trust, a charity at risk of closure. The 12-year-old helped to raise an astounding £220,000 and the Calvert Trust, which helps disabled people to enjoy the outdoors, says it will reopen in June! The charity has raised £730,000 overall to make up for money it has lost during the pandemic. Great job, Oliver!



On the water with dad Gary



WARWICKSHIRE



Coventry2021/Twitter

● Coventry culture fund

Coventry has been given a £3.5m funding boost by the Government to help plan its City of Culture events. The city was selected as UK City of Culture 2021 but the pandemic has made things very complicated. Coventry Moves, a top-secret event that was supposed to open the city's cultural programme, has been moved from 15 May to 5 June. The extra money will be spent on things like more toilets, sanitiser stations and extra staff to ensure social distancing.

WALES

● Call for fair funding

Children's hospices in Wales have called for more Government funding, as they are far behind other UK countries. Hospices, which look after very sick people, are a huge support for both the people who are sick and for the family members who care for them. Government funding covers less than 10% of hospice costs in Wales. This is much lower than England (21%), Northern Ireland (25%) and Scotland (50%).



Getty

GREATER LONDON

● XR protesters arrested

Seven women have been arrested after breaking windows of a Barclays bank to protest against the company's funding of fossil fuels. Extinction Rebellion (XR) protesters stuck stickers to the windows that read: "In case of climate emergency, break glass." Barclays said: "XR are entitled to their view on capitalism and climate change, but we would ask that they stop short of behaviour which involves criminal damage to our facilities and puts people's safety at risk."



XRRebellionUK/Twitter

Protesters wore patches that read: "Better broken windows than broken promises"

7. BIG NEWS

ANCIENT CITY DISCOVERED



A 3,000-year-old city in Luxor, Egypt, has been found by a team of archaeologists.

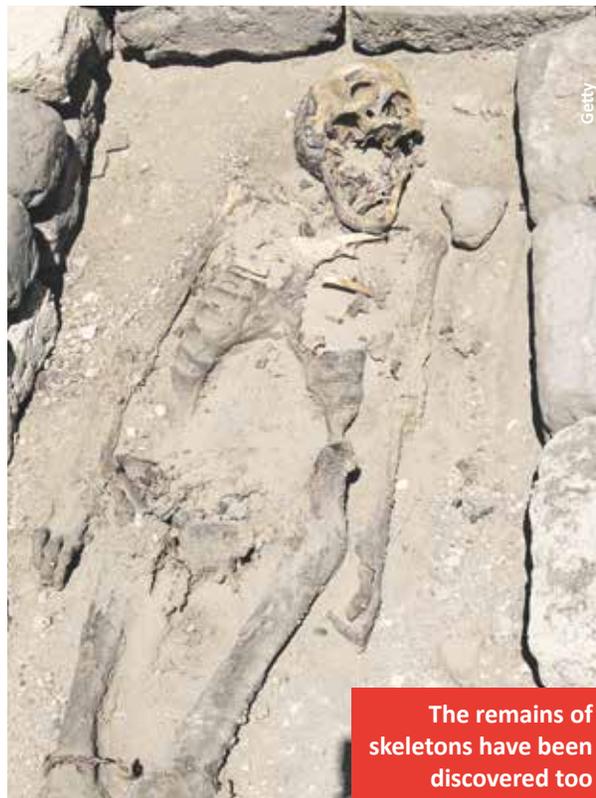
The “lost golden city” of Aten has been buried under sand for thousands of years and is believed to be the largest ancient city ever found in Egypt. Aten dates back to the rule of Amenhotep III, who died around 1352 BC.

The team said they had unearthed “the site of a large city in a good condition of preservation, with almost complete walls, and with rooms filled with tools of daily life”.

Among the finds were jewellery, coloured pots, the remains of a bakery and a fish covered in gold! Excitingly, there could be even more. The team is continuing to dig and say they expect “to uncover untouched tombs filled with treasures”.



Just some of the artifacts among the ruins of Aten



The remains of skeletons have been discovered too



BIDEN PROPOSES GUN LAWS

PRESIDENT Joe Biden has announced plans for new rules designed to tackle gun violence in the United States.

One of the rules – or executive orders – aims to cut the number of ‘ghost guns’, which are weapons that can be made at home using parts and kits that can be bought online. These homemade guns can’t be traced and are being used more often in crimes.

Mr Biden said in his address: “Gun violence in this country is an epidemic, and it’s an international embarrassment.” The speech came soon after six people were shot dead in South Carolina by former NFL player Phillip Adams.

However, Mr Biden may find it hard to bring in new gun control laws. He needs to get enough votes in Congress, where laws to restrict gun ownership are rarely popular.

While gun control groups praised the president’s plans, the National Rifle Association called the measures “extreme” and said it was “ready to fight”.

DELAY COP26, SAYS GRETA

GRETA Thunberg has told the BBC she isn’t planning to attend the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference.

Also known as COP26, the conference is due to take place in Glasgow this November. Greta believes the coronavirus pandemic will affect the number of people who go and thinks it should be postponed.

She said: “This needs to happen in the right way. Of course, the best thing to do would be to get everyone vaccinated as soon as possible so that everyone could take part on the same terms.”

The idea of the annual COP summits is for world leaders to meet and discuss ways in which they can tackle the climate crisis. The UK Government says it has no plans to postpone COP26.



Greta spoke at the climate march during COP25 in Madrid

WOW!



THE sky has got darker, with light pollution in the UK falling over the past year.

Every year, countryside charity CPRE asks people to count the stars they can see in the Orion constellation. From the 8,000 results taken between 6 and 14 February 2021, 51% of people counted ten or less stars – indicating severe light pollution – compared with 61% in 2020.

The charity thinks the results are due to the UK being in lockdown, leading to fewer lights being on in urban areas.

8. WORLD NEWS

CANADA



● Seal hunt begins

Canada's seal hunt has returned for another year, despite falling demand and a public campaign to put an end to the annual cull. Each year, the Canadian government allows the hunt of 400,000 harp seals for their pelts, which are used by the fur and oil industries. Demand for seal products has fallen dramatically over the last few years, and the International Fund for Animal Welfare is calling on the Canadian government to ban the hunt once and for all, saying the "practice is beneath the dignity of such a progressive nation as Canada."

CANADA

● French test failure

A man from France has failed to become a citizen of the French-speaking Canadian province of Quebec, after failing the French speaking part of the citizenship test! Yohan Flaman, a long-distance truck driver from Limoges, was shocked by the result, saying: "It's not great to be French and to fail an exam like this." The test is famously tough and, in 2019, a French student was stopped from living in Quebec for failing, before the decision was overturned.

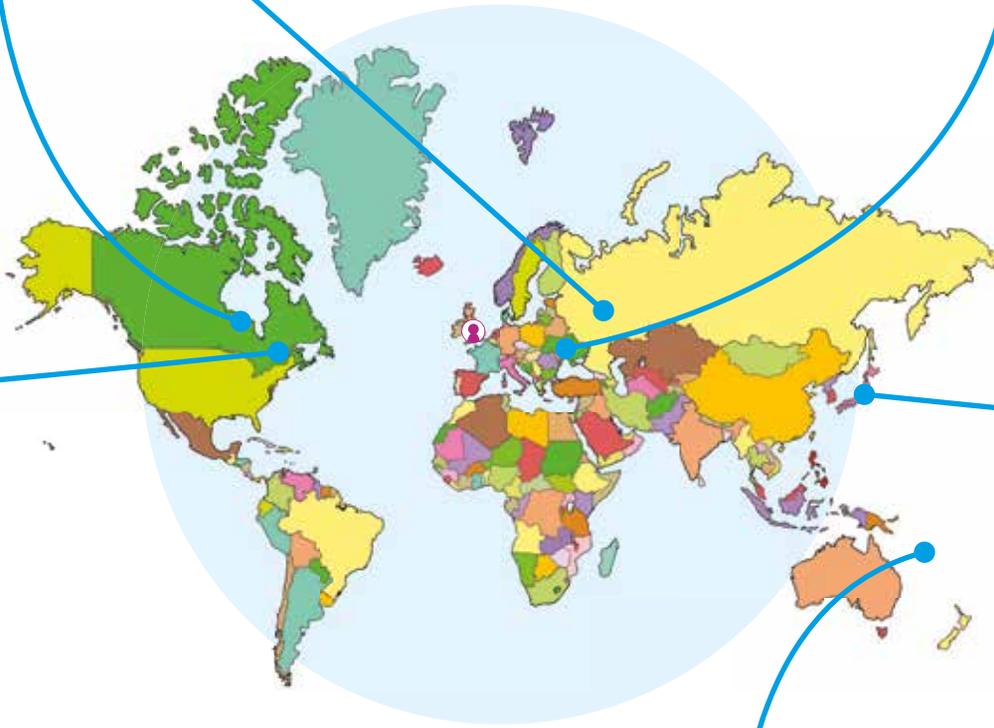


RUSSIA



● Putin stays put

Russian leader Vladimir Putin has signed a new law that will allow him to remain in power until 2036. Previously, the country's leader could only be president for two six-year terms in a row. Putin, who is 68, had already managed to remain in charge by becoming prime minister for a few years instead. This new law means that future politicians won't be able to do that, and it also resets the number of terms that Putin has run – allowing him to run for another two terms. The new law also blocks anyone from ever taking President Putin to court for breaking the law.



UKRAINE



● Border tensions

For several weeks, the US and Ukraine have reported a build-up of Russian troops at the border with Ukraine. Since 2014, when Russia forcefully took the Ukrainian region of Crimea, Ukraine has continued to fight pro-Russian rebel groups at its eastern border, and 27 Ukrainian soldiers have been killed in the fighting this year. Russia has said that it hasn't stationed any troops near Ukraine and that it isn't looking for a war, but that it would protect "Russian speakers" in the region. The US and the EU have said that they will support Ukraine.

JAPAN

● Radioactive release

Earlier this year, an earthquake in Japan damaged the country's already partially destroyed Fukushima nuclear plant, causing it to leak contaminated, radioactive water. Japan's prime minister, Yoshihide Suga, has announced that the country will have to dump the contaminated radioactive water into the sea. The PM has said the plan is "unavoidable", but that the water will be diluted and slowly released into the sea over more than 30 years so it won't be dangerous.



VANUATU

● Death of a 'god'

Two villages found on Tanna, an island in the South Pacific, are in mourning over the death of their god, Prince Philip. For decades, the tribes on the island have believed that the Duke of Edinburgh was the reborn descendant of a powerful spirit that lived on one of their mountains. The Prince was known to have been accepting of the group, sending several letters and photographs of himself to the tribesmen, and once met with several of them in person.



OUR WORLD

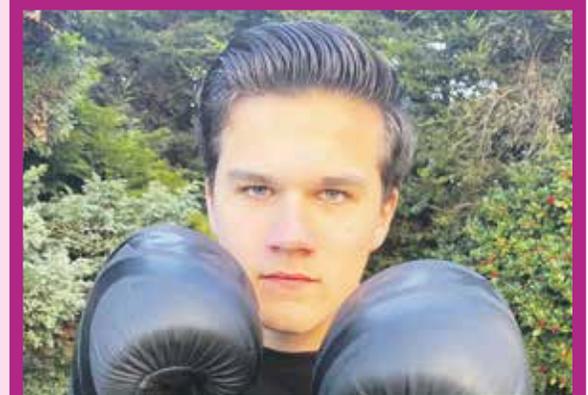
NAME: JAKE LIVES: UK

LIKE many teenagers, Jake struggled to express himself, which affected his confidence and self-esteem.

He was introduced to Empire Fighting Chance, an organisation with the support of funding from Comic Relief that offers boxing, mentoring and therapy for young people.

Jake said: "It's given me the freedom to just be myself.

I don't have to put a mask on and act like someone I'm not. The lessons I've learned will last me for the rest of my life."



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



DO NOT DISTURB

A NEW campaign is encouraging people to keep their distance from wild seals when out exploring this summer.

The Give Seals Space campaign, launched by the Seal Alliance and the Government, highlights the importance of keeping a safe distance from wild seals. Getting too close to the animals can cause them stress and injuries, which could even lead to their death.

A poster and leaflet campaign will give people clear advice on what to do if you spot a seal this summer. The poster includes tips like:

- Keep well away from seals (use a camera zoom or binoculars) so that they can't smell, hear or see you
- Keep dogs on a lead when in an area where seals might be present
- Never feed seals
- Take all litter home

The UK is home to grey seals and common seals, who are often spotted on coastlines or riverbanks. Just last month a common seal nicknamed Freddie was attacked by a dog on the bank of the River Thames in London, and had to be put to sleep because of his injuries.



The Give Seals Space campaign poster



Dave Jenkins

ANTEATER ARRIVES



Dudley Zoo

SAY hello to Lyra, a two-year-old giant anteater who made her first public appearance at Dudley Zoo and Castle this week.

Lyra recently moved to the zoo from Yorkshire Wildlife Park to pair up with Bubbles, a three-year-old giant anteater. The pair have been getting to know each other from the safety of their own dens and will be properly introduced when they are used to each other. Dudley Zoo and Castle is open now, but you must pre-book your tickets online before visiting.



Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund

SAY WHAT?

SCIENTISTS think they've worked out what gorillas are trying to say when they bang their chests to communicate!

A study published in the journal *Scientific Reports* suggests that gorillas beat their chests as a way of identifying themselves and in order to communicate their size.

Scientists from the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund observed 25 male silverback gorillas in Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda, between January 2014 and July 2016. They listened to audio recordings of the males beating their chests and

found that the larger males made chest beats with lower frequencies than smaller males.

One theory is that the chest beats are a way for gorillas to identify themselves in the dense forest where they live. Thick vegetation may make it harder for gorillas to see each other, so by beating their chests the males are demonstrating their size to other gorillas, which could be a warning to stay away.

MYTHICAL SNAKE



Dr Li Ding

A NEW species of venomous snake has been named after a character from a famous Chinese myth.

The *Bungarus suzhenae* or Suzhen's krait is named after Bai Su Zhen – a powerful snake goddess from the traditional Chinese myth *Legend of White Snake*.

The new species, a black and white banded krait, was discovered by scientists who collected samples between 2016 and 2019 in Yingjiang County, Yunnan Province, China. The new species has been found in southwestern China and northern Myanmar. Scientists are keen to find out as much as they can about the highly venomous species, which will help protect people who live near the snake's habitat.

First News has teamed up with **sky kids** show **FYI** and the **young audiences CONTENT FUND** to make a series of videos for you to watch at home or at school, called *I Don't Get It*. The plan is to explain stuff that can be complicated or difficult to understand. This week, we've been looking into why millions of kids around the world have to work instead of go to school.

CHILD LABOUR



Eight-year-old Junaed works smashing up bricks in Dhaka, Bangladesh

ALTHOUGH you may not always think you're lucky to be able to go to school, even your worst days at school are still better than having to work incredibly long hours in a dangerous job, right?

What do you think of when we use the phrase 'child labour'? Doing the washing up? Taking the recycling out? For 152 million kids around the world, child labour means work that is often really physical and dangerous, with very long hours and possibly even no pay.



Children at work making cigarettes. Lots of children work in fields picking tobacco as well

And we're not talking old teenagers here – nearly half (48%) of the world's child labourers are aged between 5 and 11. Another 28% are aged 12 to 14.

The majority (70.9%) work in agriculture, usually on small, family-owned farms. The work is often dangerous, as small children could be working with large animals, heavy loads

or sharp tools, and are at an increased risk of being bitten by insects or snakes.

Other children have to work in mines, building sites or factories, and are often exposed to toxic substances.

There are many reasons why children are forced to work, but poverty is a key factor. If a farmer can't afford to hire workers, their children will end up doing the work instead. Or if a family gets into debt (owing someone money), they could be forced to make their children work instead of sending them to school.

If children don't go to school, whether that's because they can't afford to or because they have to go to work, it means they can be locked into a cycle of poverty that they can't get out of, as they don't have the education to get a good job. Making education free everywhere would be a big help.

Although some child labourers do go to school, they're often too tired to learn, or don't have time to study at home.

“We will not end child labour until every child is in school, and we will not succeed in ensuring every child is in school until we eradicate [get rid of] child labour”

– activist and campaigner **Kailash Satyarthi**

WHY DO SO MANY YOUNG KIDS HAVE TO WORK?

Asfiya is aged just four, and works selling flip-flops. Not all child labour is dangerous, but it does mean that Asfiya is less likely to be able to go to school

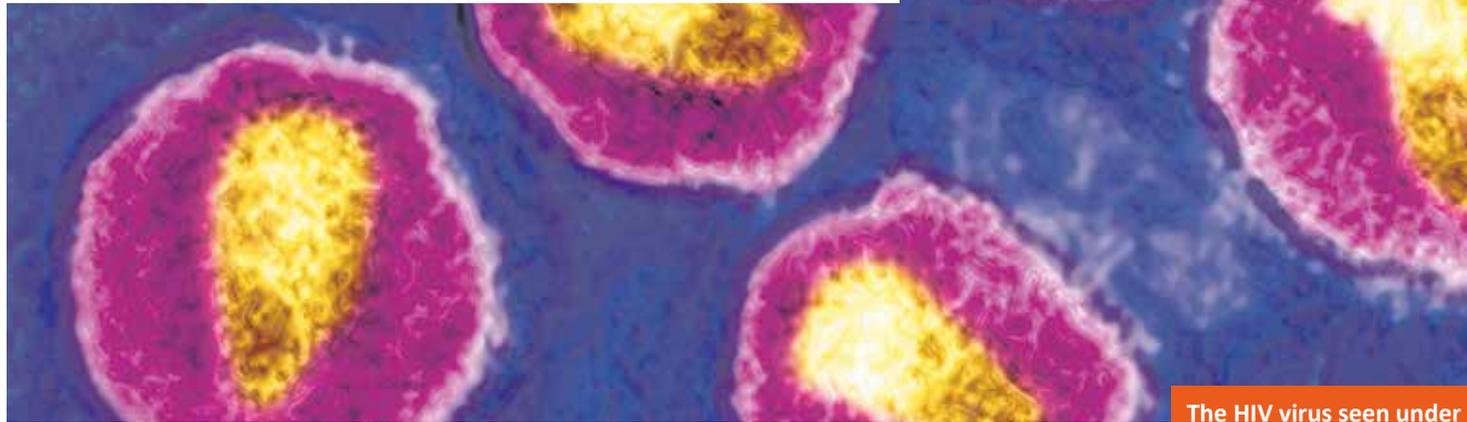
CHILD LABOUR IN NUMBERS

- Since the International Labour Organization (ILO) started monitoring child labour in 2000, there are **94 million** fewer kids in work
- **73 million** kids are doing work that is classed as hazardous (dangerous)
- **2025** is the UN's target for ending child labour, but current trends show that 121m kids could still be working then
- Between **2012** and **2016**, child labour actually increased in sub-Saharan Africa, when it was falling everywhere else
- There are **23m** more boys than girls in child labour, but it's thought that girls often do work that is more hidden, such as working in homes rather than businesses
- **69%** of child labourers are working unpaid for their own families, usually on small farms
- Many developed countries only became rich by using child labour. The UK's National Archives says: "Child labour was vital to Britain's economic success in the 19th century. In **1821**, approximately **49%** of the workforce was under **20**," and that children as young as five were put to work

Kids – to learn more, you can watch the *I Don't Get It* video on child labour at [first.news/IDGI](https://www.first.news/IDGI)

Teachers/parents – you can watch the film alongside our tie-in award-winning educational resources at [first.news/EducationTV](https://www.first.news/EducationTV)

HOPE RISES FOR HIV VACCINE



The HIV virus seen under an electron microscope

SCIENTISTS are hopeful that they may have finally found a vaccine for HIV.

An early trial from the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) and the Scripps Research Institute in the USA has shown enormous promise. Experts have been quick to point out it's still very early days in the research, but the results so far have been excellent.

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is an infectious disease that attacks the body's immune system. Although there is no cure, there are very effective treatments, so a person who is infected with the virus can live a long and healthy life. But if HIV goes untreated, it eventually leads to a deadly condition called AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome).

Just like COVID-19, HIV is a zoonosis. That means it's a virus that jumped from animals to humans. Although the first confirmed cases in people date back to the mid-20th century, the virus didn't become a pandemic until the early 1980s. AIDS has killed more than 30 million people worldwide.

Scientists have been desperately trying to find a vaccine for decades. In the early days of the pandemic, there was confidence that it wouldn't take long to make a breakthrough. In 1984, the American secretary of health, Margaret Heckler, predicted that a vaccine would be available in two years.

But one of the big problems is that HIV mutates very quickly, so by the time a vaccine is made to protect against one strain, another strain has formed that the vaccine is helpless against.

The new jab created by the IAVI and Scripps helps the body form a certain type of "broadly neutralizing antibody" – a strong protein that fights diseases. It attacks a large number of HIV variants, blocking the infection from taking hold.

Research was carried out on 48 healthy, HIV-negative adults. Half the participants received two doses of the vaccine and the other half a placebo (a substance that has no medical effect).

The vaccine showed no safety problems, and 97% of participants who were vaccinated developed the antibodies required to fight HIV.

This was an early stage of a Phase 1 clinical trial, so there are still many more tests that need to be carried out to be absolutely sure the vaccine works.

FACT FILE

- HIV originated in a type of chimpanzee in Central Africa
- Scientists think it crossed over to humans when people hunted chimps, and came into contact with their blood
- This jump may have taken place as long ago as the 1800s, but the virus didn't spread globally until the late 1970s
- It doesn't spread easily. It's transmitted mostly through certain bodily fluids (including blood but not saliva or sweat). It isn't as infectious as viruses like COVID-19 or chickenpox, which are airborne
- In 2019, there were an estimated 105,200 people in the UK living with HIV. One in 16 don't know they have it

H₂O OLD! WATER IS ANCIENT



MOST of the molecules in a glass of water were formed more than 4.5 billion years ago in the same cloud from which our sun and the planets formed.

That's the conclusion of a new study by Dutch astronomer Ewine van Dishoeck and her team at Leiden University in the Netherlands.

They looked at data gathered by the Herschel space observatory about water in interstellar clouds. Herschel was a giant telescope operated by the European Space Agency from 2009 to 2013.

The researchers calculated that most new solar systems start off with enough water to fill several thousand oceans.

The study also describes the journey of water throughout the process of new stars forming. Most of the water is formed as ice on tiny dust particles in chilly interstellar clouds. When a cloud collapses into new stars and planets, this water is preserved and forms dust particles the size of pebbles. These little objects then form the building blocks for new planets.

Scientists hope to soon be able to study more water in the universe, particularly following the launch of the powerful James Webb Space Telescope at the end of this year.

DID YOU KNOW?

HERE'S a fact to blow your mind: there are more ways to arrange

a deck of cards than there are atoms on Earth! Even though there are only 52 cards in a pack, no-one has ever held the exact same arrangement of those cards after shuffling them. Even if you could rearrange a deck of cards every second of the universe's existence, the universe would end before you could get one billionth of the way to finding a repeat arrangement of cards. Sounds ace to us!



SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

This report is from the Science Museum in London

CARBON dioxide is a gas that we need for life on Earth, but too much of it in the atmosphere is a serious problem.

Scientists are exploring ways to take carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and store it, either underground – by pumping it into deep rocks to stop it from escaping – or in wearable products like sunglasses!

Some scientists have been inspired by how trees capture CO₂ and have built a mechanical tree with special leaves that absorb carbon dioxide. You can discover more in the Science Museum's new free exhibition, Our Future Planet (right), which opens on 19 May. You can book a free ticket to visit on the Science Museum website.



REALLY WILD BRITAIN



All images: iStock

IF you go down to the woods today, what do you think you'll see? A fox? A deer? A rabbit? How about a wallaby?! Wallabies are just one of the surprising species that can be found living in the wild right here in the UK. Check out these cool and unusual creatures you may just bump into!

ROSE-RINGED PARAKEETS



People in the south of the UK may be getting used to the sight of this species.

Also known as the ring-necked parakeet, the species comes from Asia and Africa but has since settled in and around Surrey, moving further north each year. Experts believe there are now

around 50,000 living wild in the UK. No-one is sure how the first birds arrived, but rumours included escapees from a zoo, birds released from a film set, or even pets released by '60s rock star Jimi Hendrix! A 2019 study said that a series of deliberate releases was more likely.

DOLPHINS



We usually think of dolphins as living in warm, tropical waters, but if you're lucky you can spot them in our seas too.

Bottlenose dolphins are often spotted off the coasts of Wales and Scotland, but in recent years conservationists have noted a pod of up to 30 animals living off the coast of Yorkshire all year round.

RED-NECKED WALLABIES



There have been reported sightings of wallabies all over the UK, but there are two confirmed populations in Britain.

A colony of wallabies live on the Isle of Man, and there is a smaller group on

the island in the middle of Loch Lomond in Scotland. Kent also seems to be a hot spot for sightings. Experts believe that the wild wallabies were originally pets or zoo animals that escaped.

SCORPIONS



Around 13,000 yellow-tailed scorpions can be found living in southeast England!

It's believed they made their way to the UK on ships in the 19th century,

settling in and around ports. There's a famous colony living in Sheerness on the Isle of Sheppey in Kent.

While they aren't poisonous, they can give a nasty bite if threatened!

WILD BOAR



Wild boar have been seen in just about every part of the UK, with a large population confirmed in the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire.

Wild boar once roamed across the UK, but were wiped out around 700

years ago. Illegal re-introductions and escapes from zoos have boosted the wild population in recent years. They are mostly nocturnal and their numbers are still quite low, so you would be very lucky to spot one.

13. SPECIAL REPORT



SHARKS

There are at least 32 species of shark that can be found in UK waters, and this number is likely to increase as the sea temperature rises.

Some species live here all year round and some only visit during the summer months, like the basking shark, which is the second largest fish in the world.

They are often spotted off the coast of Cornwall when they visit between May and October. Despite their size (and their large mouths) they feed entirely on plankton and are no threat to humans. They are a protected species and it is illegal to touch or harass one in UK waters.



CHINESE WATER DEER

At least 10% (but possibly even 40%) of the world's Chinese water deer now live in the UK!

This small species is mainly found in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and

Norfolk. They first escaped from a zoo in 1929 and have settled and bred. Their numbers have been boosted thanks to releases by wildlife organisations and a few wildlife park escapees.



OTTERS

Playful otters can be found in almost every county in the UK.

They like clean rivers, wetlands and coastal areas, although they are quite shy and hard to spot. Otters are often

out at night and are semi-aquatic, so spend as much time in the water as they do on land.

One of the best coasts to see otters is on the Isle of Mull in Scotland.



LIZARDS

We have three native species of lizard in the UK – the common lizard, the sand lizard and the slow worm.

Slow worms are a legless lizard and are often mistaken for snakes. All of the lizards are harmless and spotting them in your garden is great news as it means there are lots of bugs and insects around. The slow worm is a protected species, so if you do see one, leave it alone. Non-native species of lizard can sometimes be spotted, which may have escaped from homes, pet shops or zoos.



SNAKES

There are three species of snake found in the UK, but only the adder is venomous.

Adders are recognisable by their diamond-patterned skin, and their bites

are very painful but very rarely deadly (the last UK death was in 1975).

They're usually seen in woodland and heathland between March and October, when they like to bask in sunny spots.



SEALS

Two species of seal live in the UK all year round: the grey seal and the common (or harbour) seal.

Norfolk and Cornwall are both good for seal-spotting, but it is important to

keep a safe distance, as seals can get upset and stressed easily. A campaign has just been launched to show people how to interact with seals safely this summer. See page 9 for more details.



COATIS

A study in 2010 found a small group of coaties living in Cumbria, which was confirmed by Cumbria Wildlife Trust.

These raccoon-like animals originate from South America and likely escaped

from a zoo or private collection. Since 2010 there have been no confirmed or reported sightings of the animals and the group may have died out naturally – or learnt to avoid being spotted!

14. ENTERTAINMENT



GET READY TO RIDE!

RESTRICTIONS across the UK are starting to lift, and this week theme parks opened for the first time this year. Hurrah! Here's our round-up of some of the coolest new rides and experiences you can enjoy at theme parks and attractions this summer!

● CHESSINGTON WORLD OF ADVENTURES, SURREY

It's all about terrifying drops and giant crocodiles at Chessington World of Adventures this year. The Croc Drop ride carries you 25.6m in the air before you plummet into the jaws of the giant croc Sobek. The park is also reopening its giant pirate ship, which was closed in 2020 for a refurbishment. Make sure you have your sea legs ready when you ride the Blue Barnacle! Both rides are open now. www.chessington.com



● ALTON TOWERS RESORT, STAFFORDSHIRE

After a long delay, the World of David Walliams at Alton Towers Resort will finally open on 17 May. As well as Gangsta Granny: The Ride, an entire area of the resort has been themed around David Walliams books and characters. The ride itself is an indoor, interactive carriage ride that takes you on an adventure as you help to steal the crown jewels. David Walliams has recorded some exclusive voice-overs for the ride as well! www.altontowers.com



Gangsta Granny: The Ride



Flight of the Sky Lion

● LEGOLAND RESORT, BERKSHIRE

A magical new land will open at LEGOLAND Resort on 29 May. LEGO MYTHICA: World of Mythical Creatures has been designed by kids for kids, and is the biggest expansion to LEGOLAND since it opened. Standing at the centre of the new land will be Flight of the Sky Lion, the first flying theatre ride in the country. There are also two new drop rides called Fire & Ice Freefall, plus Hydra's Challenge, a new water attraction. www.legoland.co.uk



Storm Chaser

● PAULTONS PARK, HAMPSHIRE

Paultons Park will transport you back to 1950s America in its new themed area called Tornado Springs. It features eight new rides and attractions, including Storm Chaser, the only free-spinning rollercoaster of its type in the UK. There's also a gyro swing called Cyclonator, a tractor ride, two drop towers and a water ride. Tornado Springs is open now. www.paultonspark.co.uk

● WARWICK CASTLE, WARWICKSHIRE

Zog has landed at Warwick Castle to take visitors on a magical new 3D trail this summer. Join Zog to learn all the skills you need to become a fully-fledged dragon. The trail is called Zog and the Quest for the Golden Star, and is open now until 5 September, included with your entry ticket. www.warwick-castle.com



● ALNWICK CASTLE, NORTHUMBERLAND

Harry Potter fans won't want to miss a visit to Alnwick Castle, one of the locations that was used as Hogwarts in the Harry Potter films. This summer you can take part in your very own broomstick-flying workshops, as well as lots of other fun activities. www.alnwickcastle.com



Due to COVID-19 restrictions, all theme parks are open for pre-booked visits only, so make sure you book in advance. Some rides are subject to height restrictions, and masks have to be worn by anyone aged 11 and over.



FIVE MINUTES WITH...

MIA FIZZ

THE teen vlogger and social media star chats to us about her first book, *Mia's Life: Fan Takeover*.

● **Why did you want to start the *Mia's Life* book series?**

I think the Miacorns [Mia's fans] would love to see more of what my life is like behind the scenes, and the book series definitely has that. I also wanted to give my fans another way to connect with me other than my videos.

● **The book sees you searching for a present for your sister. What's the best gift you've ever given or received?**

The best gift I've ever received was my 15th birthday present from my mum: she booked me in to go skydiving in Dubai! It was an unforgettable experience, and it definitely took me on a rollercoaster of emotions. I can't wait for my next airplane jump!

● **You're very open and honest in your videos. Why do you think that's important?**

My fans are my best friends, so of course I'm going to be honest with them! With any friendship, honesty is key. I want my accounts to be a safe and honest place all of the Miacorns feel like they can go to chat, ask for advice, or just have some fun.

● **What videos do you like filming the most?**

I love the silly challenge videos because it's such a laugh, but I also enjoy my more serious sit-down videos, because I feel like I really get to connect with my fans. I can't choose one favourite though, because

I like them all for different reasons.

● **What's your favourite thing about being a vlogger?**

I love the connection I get to have with people all over the world, and how my platform also brings together other people. I've seen so many comments on Instagram saying how they met their best friend because they were both fans of my content, it's surreal!

● **You and your family have moved to Costa Rica, so how is that and what do you miss most about Britain?**

It's a completely different lifestyle here, everyone is so chill. If I had to say something I miss, it would probably be the modern conveniences we take

for granted: next-day delivery, malls with all the shops you could want. But I think not having easy access to these things is part of what makes Costa Rica, Costa Rica!



Mia's Life: Fan Takeover is out now

PICS OF THE WEEK

WHEN robots start rebelling against humans in a bid to take over the world, it falls upon an unlikely family to save the day!

In Netflix's newest family animation, the Mitchell family are on one last family road trip before daughter Katie heads off to college, when they stumble into a robot uprising. Using all the skills they have, the Mitchells must put aside their differences and work together to save the human race!

The Mitchells vs The Machines arrives on Netflix on 30 April.



THIS WEEK

1 Disney+ has premiered the first trailer for Marvel spin-off series *Loki*. It will follow an alternative version of Loki who was created because of the Avengers' time-travel escapades. In this alternative universe, Loki joins forces with a new organisation called the Time Variance Authority (TVA) in a bid to save the world from a huge disaster. *Loki* will premiere on Disney+ on 11 June.



2 A short animation starring Charlie Brown and Snoopy has been released to celebrate Earth Day. *Choose to Reuse* is the latest animated short in the *Care With Peanuts* series, and all of the videos can be found on the official Snoopy YouTube channel.

3 Taylor Swift has released her re-recorded second album, *Fearless (Taylor's Version)*. The album, which was first released back in 2008, features six previously unreleased songs. After a disagreement over the sale of the original recordings, Taylor has decided to re-record all of her albums again from the very beginning.

SHARE YOUR CREATIVITY AND GOOD VIBES WITH

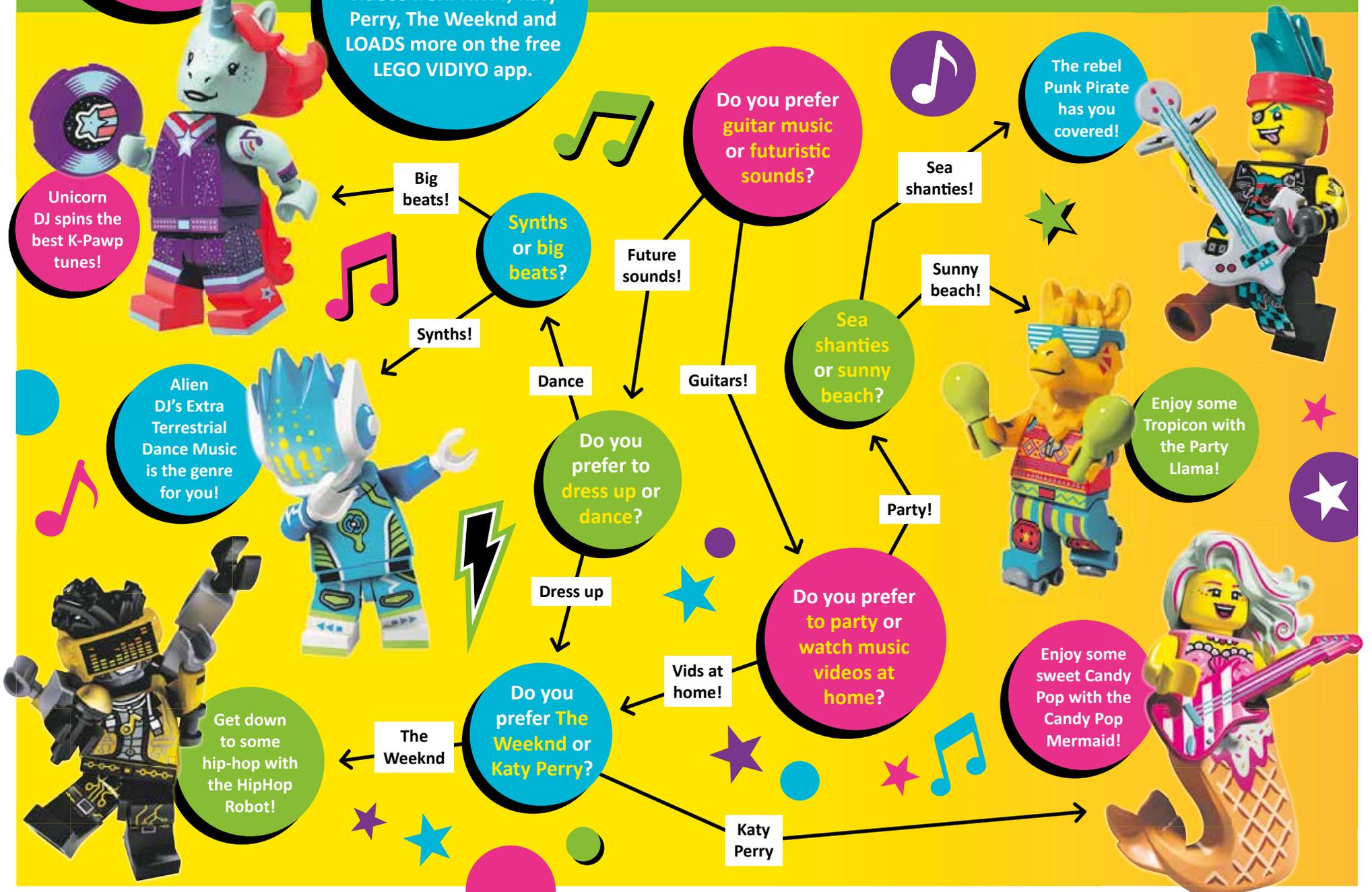
VIDIYO™



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

Create your own awesome versions of your favourite music videos from HRVY, Katy Perry, The Weeknd and LOADS more on the free LEGO VIDIYO app.

WHICH LEGO BANDMATE AND MUSIC GENRE IS THE ONE FOR YOU?



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

Now you know which LEGO Bandmate you are, download the free LEGO VIDIYO app to make music videos with your character. Search for the app in the usual place you go to, or scan this QR code to get creative!



SHARE YOUR #VIDIYOVIBES!

THE BIG PICTURE



Getty

THE world-famous statue Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro may soon be only the second most famous statue of Jesus in Brazil.

Construction of a new statue – Christ the Protector – began in 2019 in Encantado, but the arms and head have just been added.

It's 43m (141ft) tall from the foot of the pedestal it stands on, whereas Rio's statue is 38m (125ft) tall including the pedestal.

It's hoped that the new statue will help to boost tourism in the region once it is completed later this year. However, Brazil has suffered a huge number of deaths during the pandemic, so many tourists are likely to be wary of going there for a while.

But the statue will definitely give visitors a spectacular view over the surrounding area, as a lift will take them up to a high viewing platform near the statue's chest.

WIN! SPIROGRAPH DESIGN SET

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



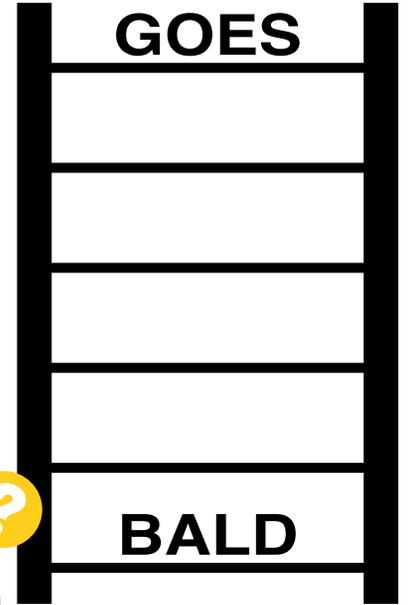
Send in your answers and five lucky readers will receive the original Spirograph design set. The Original Super Spirograph is back and better than ever! The classic interchangeable Spiro-Tracks let you create your own unique pattern shapes, taking your designs to a whole new level. This jumbo set comes in a durable storage case with a work surface and features a real metal die-cast #50 Spirograph wheel to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the introduction of the original Spirograph.

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			6		9			
6	9			2			1	5

WORD LADDER

GOES

SEE if you can get from the top of the ladder to the bottom by changing one letter at a time to make a new word.



WIN! A SLIME SET



CAN you complete our crossword puzzle using the clues below?

Send in your answers and three lucky winners will win a pack of slime. Canal Toys' Anti-Bacterial Slime 4 Pack lets you sanitise your hands and have fun. Stretch and play, the portable pots keep the unique non-toxic slime fresh for multi-use. In four fun colours, it's alcohol free and kills 99% of bacteria.

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ACROSS

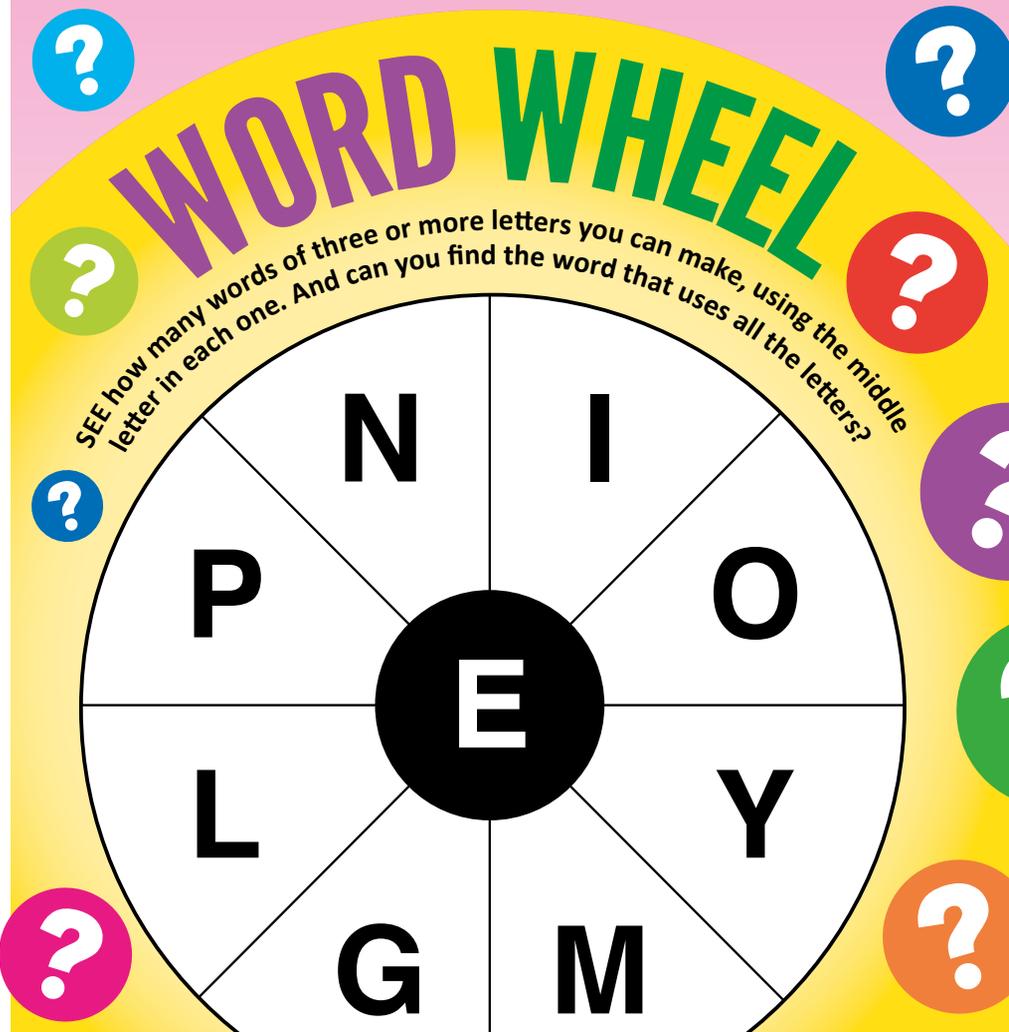
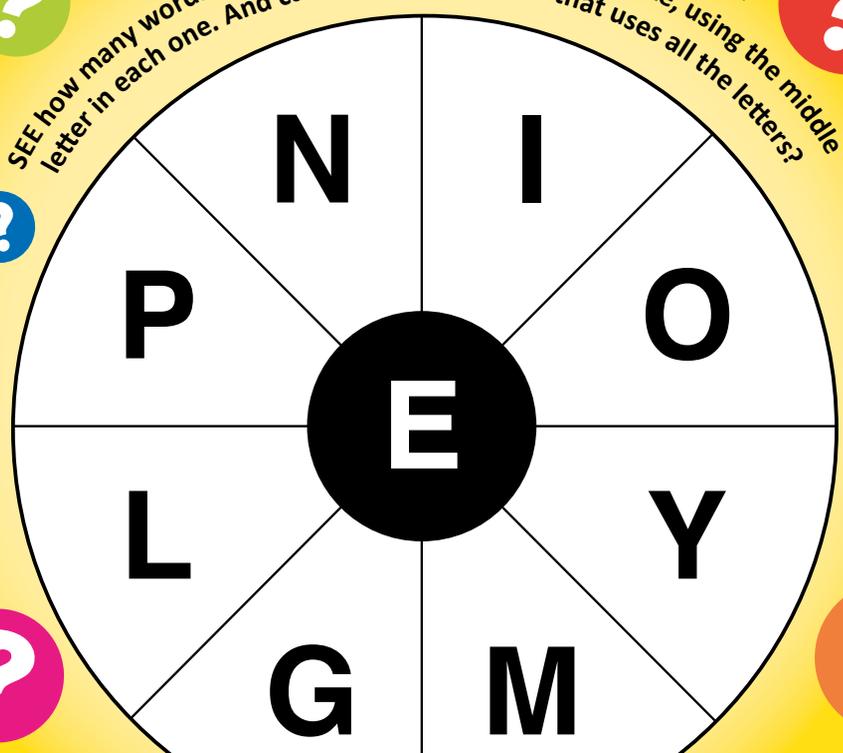
- 1 Large shop (11)
- 6 A thought or plan (4)
- 8 Walk awkwardly (4)
- 9 Type of gymnast (7)
- 10 Follow on as a result (5)
- 11 Able to move quickly and easily (5)
- 13 A violent storm (7)
- 15 Matured (4)
- 16 Ballet skirt (4)
- 17 Show (11)

DOWN

- 1 A country in Europe (11)
- 2 A request made in an urgent manner (4)
- 3 The engine in a car (5)
- 4 Use needles to make clothes out of wool (4)
- 5 Item used to find the dimensions of an object (4,7)
- 7 Blamed or held responsible for (7)
- 8 Biggest (7)
- 12 Opposite of shuts (5)
- 13 A group of players forming one side in a game (4)
- 14 A large brass wind instrument (4)

WORD WHEEL

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





THE BIG WORDSEARCH



CAN you find these well-known attractions in our **BIG** landmark-themed wordsearch? Do you know where each landmark can be found? Which construction features over 31 million bricks, which four US presidents are carved in stone and what do the spikes on the Statue of Liberty's crown represent? Remember, the words can be horizontal, vertical or diagonal.

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21. GAME ZONE

E3 RETURNS!



THE gaming industry's biggest event will return this summer... entirely online!

For years, E3 has been known as the place where all the biggest gaming announcements and the most exciting reveals would be made.

Over the last few years, however, things haven't been too great for the event. PlayStation no longer takes part in it, and in 2019 the organisers accidentally leaked the personal details of thousands of attendees.

This year is set to be different though – Nintendo and Microsoft are both backing the event, which will now be known as the Electronic Entertainment Experience.

Doug Bowser, president of Nintendo of America, said: "It's going to be great to get the videogame industry back together with our fans this June." We're hyped!



TECHNOLOGY company Intel is developing a system called Bleep, artificially intelligent software that detects hate speech and abuse in online voice chat.

The Bleep AI would detect racist, sexist and other offensive language being used by players in-game, and temporarily mute voice chat when words or phrases related to those topics were used.

The software was revealed during the Game Developer's Conference in March, but this week it began to receive criticism over how the software works.

While there hasn't been a demo of Bleep in action, screenshots of the software show that it uses sliders to allow users to pick and choose how much toxic and offensive language is filtered out. For example, a player could choose to allow "some" LGBTQ+ hate in their game.

Some people have suggested that by allowing "some" abusive language, the software gives the impression that any amount is okay. What do you think? Do you think that Bleep is a good idea?

PLENTY OF PAC-MEN PACKED IN!

LAST week, Nintendo revealed and launched Pac-Man 99, a battle royale version of the '80s arcade classic, exclusively for Nintendo Switch Online subscribers.

Much like Tetris 99, the game pits you against 98 other Pac-Man players. The person to survive the longest wins the game!

Unlike the classic Pac-Man experience, to win at Pac-Man 99 you have to round up ghosts, get lots of them to chase you then eat them all at once. Every time you eat some ghosts, you attack another player, sending more ghosts and obstacles their way. The more ghosts you eat, the greater the attack on another player! Will you be giving Pac-Man 99 a go?



WIN! A NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BUNDLE

THE incredible National Geographic Kits from Bandai UK will encourage your desire to learn, and inspire you to become scientists.

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

Young scientists can explore the incredible textures and behaviours of slime, putty and play sand creatively with all the elements in this kit.

Learn all about our amazing Earth with the National Geographic Explorer Earth Science Kit. In this kit, you'll find everything you need to conduct experiments that will teach you about rocks and minerals, volcanoes and tornadoes. Or inside the Glow-in-the-Dark Mega Science Kit you'll find a crystal growing set that produces a glow-in-the-dark crystal specimen you can proudly display. Plus a collection of slime, putty and experiments that all glow when the lights are out!

We have five bundles up for grabs. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

The hot substance that comes from a volcano is...

- a) Mercury b) Lava c) Sodium chloride



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WIN A SIGNED BOOK AND SECRET AGENT KIT!

Three winners will receive a copy of *Britain's Biggest Star... Is Dad?*, signed by Ivor Baddiel, and their very own secret agent kit!

To enter, draw a spy gadget you would take on a secret mission and email your entry to biggeststar@scholastic.co.uk by 30th April 2021!

A hilarious whodunnit about two kids trying to save the UK's top TV talent show from sabotage!



Illustrations © James Lantieri, 2021

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY EARTH

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 19. The closing date is 29 April 2021.

YOU NAILED IT!

BIG LIZARD SHOCKS SHOPPERS

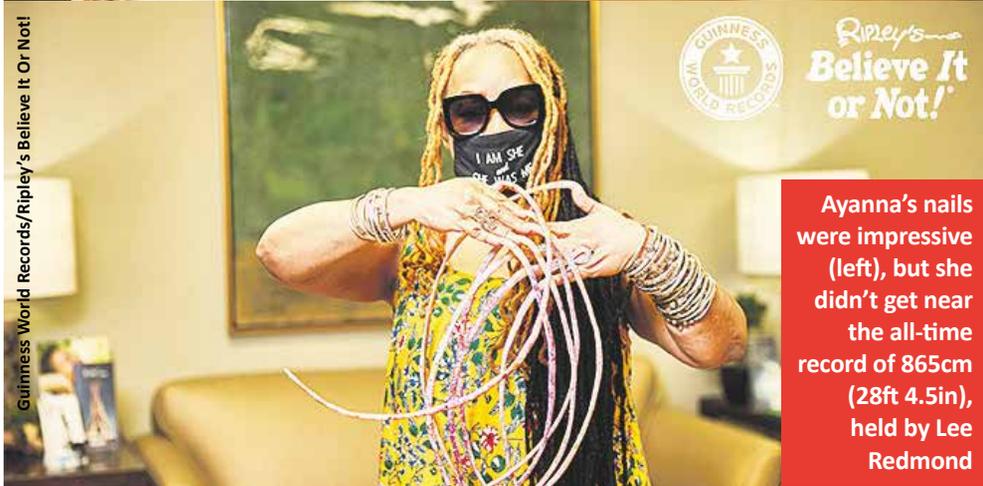


A WOMAN with the world's longest fingernails has had them cut for the first time in nearly 30 years!

Ayanna Williams from Texas, USA, got confirmation that she'd broken her own world record before parting with her epic talons. She had them measured just before they were cut and found they were a staggering 733.55cm long (24ft 0.7in) in total. She first set the record for the longest fingernails on a pair of hands in 2017, with a length of 576.4cm (18ft 10.9in).

The Texan had been growing her nails since the 1990s and particularly enjoyed painting them with pretty colours and designs – even though it took her a very long time! The nails were so strong, dermatologist Dr Allison Readinger had to use an electric power tool to carefully cut them all off!

The impressive nails will go on display at the Ripley's Believe It Or Not! museum in Orlando, Florida.



Ayanna's nails were impressive (left), but she didn't get near the all-time record of 865cm (28ft 4.5in), held by Lee Redmond



SHOPPERS were left in shock in Thailand, when a giant lizard started climbing the supermarket shelves.

The huge Asian water monitor lizard was caught on camera at a 7-Eleven store in Nakhon Pathom. He was clearly feeling thirsty, as he headed for the milk aisle. After climbing the shelves, he decided to chill out next to the ice machine.

Staff at the store rang the police, who hurried to the scene with a team of reptile handlers.

It's thought the lizard had found its way from a local canal.

Footage of the bonkers incident quickly went viral.

MOUSE 2 MOUSE



A TEXAS man has become the first person to run all the way from Disneyland in California to Walt Disney World in Florida.

Don Muchow, a 59-year-old ultrarunner (someone who runs very long distances), set himself the challenge of running 4,443km (2,761 miles) between the American theme parks to raise awareness of type 1 diabetes, a condition he suffers from.

Don ran through eight states on his adventure, ending his run at Disney's Magic Kingdom theme park.

The runner said he was inspired to

do the 'Mouse2Mouse' challenge by his friend who is a huge Disney fan.

Unfortunately the mission wasn't without its hiccups though, as the coronavirus pandemic forced Don to stop and start several times during the past year.

Thankfully, he finally made it this month, and was rewarded with lots of Disney goodies – including these cool balloons!



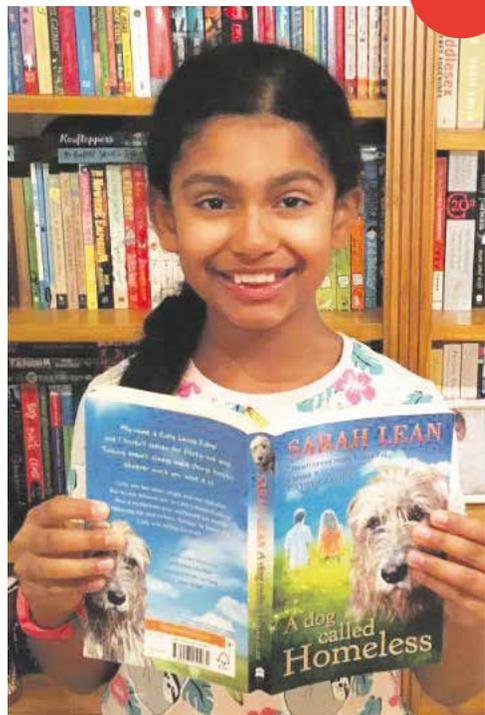
Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer



YOUR READS!

A DOG CALLED HOMELESS SARAH LEAN

reviewed
by Mia Abbas-
Wright, aged
nine



Cally knew for a fact that she had suddenly seen her dead mother alive and smiling again, although no-one believes her and thinks that she's hallucinating.

This frustrates Cally, who decides she won't speak until people do believe her.

Strangely, a grey homeless wolfhound starts following her; does it know she was telling the truth?

When life starts to drastically change, Cally finds an unusual trusty friend in the form of her new neighbour, who believes her. Will her family understand and will Cally ever speak again?

I would rate this book 3 out of 5 since, even though the author was really descriptive, the sudden ending was somewhat predictable and therefore an anti-climax, which was unfortunate.

National Literacy Trust's Virtual School Library



FIGHT climate change with Andy Prentice and Eddie Reynolds!

Andy and Eddie are our Virtual School Library authors of the week.

Visit the Virtual School Library from the National Literacy Trust and the Oak National Academy to read *Climate Crisis for Beginners* for free!



Andy and Eddie have recommended these books for you all:

- *Earthsea* by Ursula K Le Guin
- *There Is No Planet B* by Mike Berners-Lee
- *Change Sings: A Children's Anthem* by Amanda Gorman

Step inside the library to watch an exclusive video of Andy Prentice and Eddie Reynolds, and read a Q&A!



FOR MORE TIPS AND ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE YOUR READING, WRITING, SPEAKING AND LISTENING AT HOME, VISIT WORDSFORLIFE.ORG.UK

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HELPING THE EARTH



EARTH DAY
22 APRIL

THE presence of humans on the planet has caused an awful lot of damage; we've already seen the effects of climate change, while hundreds of species are under threat of extinction. That's why the theme of this year's Earth Day is Restore Our Earth. It's not just because we care about the natural world, it's because we all live here and we need a healthy Earth to support all its people, their jobs, health and happiness.

A GLOBAL EVENT

Earth Day has been an annual global event since 1970. Each year, millions of people around the world campaign for better protection of the environment.

On Earth Day 2016 the Paris Agreement climate treaty was signed by 174 nations and the EU. It aims to keep the rise in global average temperature below 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels.

This year's Earth Day is shaping up to be significant too. On 20 January 2021, the day Joe Biden became US president, he said that the USA would rejoin the Paris Agreement, after Donald Trump took the country out in 2020. President Biden announced that the US would host a Leaders' Climate Summit this Earth Day, to discuss climate action with 40 world leaders, including UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

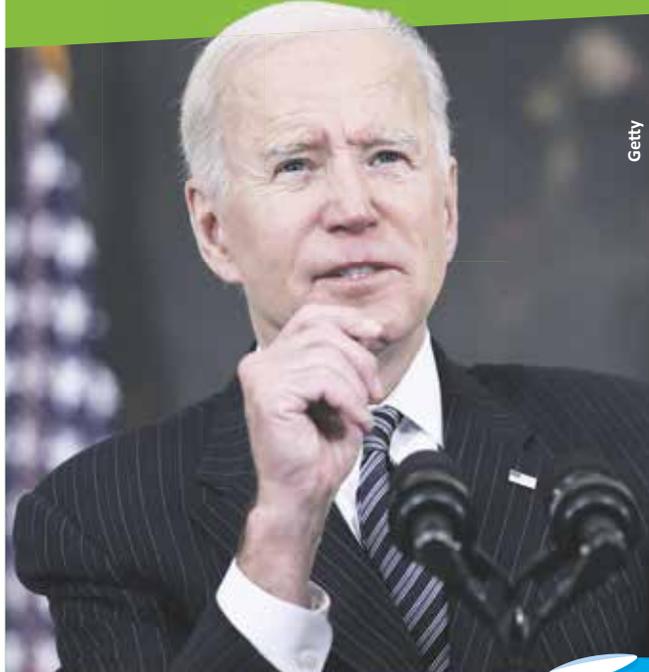
PEOPLE-POWERED PROJECTS

Ahead of the Leaders' Climate Summit, on 20 April hundreds of youth climate activists will host their own global youth climate summit. The event will feature panels, speeches, discussions and special messages from youth climate activists, including Greta Thunberg and Alexandria Villaseñor.

Then on 22 April, Earth Day itself, hundreds of online events will be held by conservation groups. You can find details on the Earth Day website.

Around the world, groups will also come together (safely and socially-distanced, of course) to pick up litter in their local area on Earth Day, as part of the Great Global Cleanup.

It's not too late to restore our Earth, but we all need to work together!



Getty

US President Joe Biden has invited 40 world leaders to a virtual climate summit for Earth Day this year

To learn more about Earth Day 2021, and to find a full list of the events taking place, head to www.earthday.org

To find a Great Global Cleanup event near you, or to register your own, head to cleanup.earthday.org

HOW CAN I HELP?

The best way to make a difference is to take action! Whether it's doing something big or small, doing anything is better than doing nothing at all.

You can join in with Earth Day by heading to the links on this page, or you can make a difference and help restore nature near you by giving one of these ideas (right) a go!



LET THE LAWN GROW

By leaving parts of your garden (if you have one) untouched and wild, it becomes a lot more appealing to wildlife! It doesn't have to be much – just a small patch of uncut grass can make a difference.

CREATE A HOME

You could build a bug hotel to provide shelter to insects. There are loads of tutorials online that you can follow to find out how. Alternatively, just piling up some sticks in a quiet area outdoors can be enough to provide a home for the UK's small mammals.



STICK A SIGN UP!

Show your support for Earth Day by placing a planet-positive protest sign in your window over the Earth Day weekend – and beyond!

DONATE, DON'T DESTROY

When disposing of an old toy or electronic device, it's tempting to simply throw it away. But there are loads of schemes to help you dispose of your old stuff sustainably, and most toys, books, games and clothes can be given to a charity shop or donation drive. Ask a grown-up to help you find out how!



25. SHOPS

WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?

FLUFFY SAND A5 NOTEBOOK SMIGGLE £10.00



Have a bit of extra fun while scribbling down your chores or birthday list with this lined A5 notebook that comes with a secret compartment of fluffy sand! Can you find where it's hidden?

*All prices correct at time of printing

A6 NOTEBOOKS – SET OF 3 BETWEEN.CO.UK £5.50

Made from 100% recycled kraft card and waste paper, this set of three notebooks from Milly Green would make a wonderful addition to anyone's stationery collection. Filled with plain white pages, the notebooks come in three different rainforest themed designs, along with eco-conscious statements such as: "Be the change you wish to see in the world."



NOTEBOOKS



RAINBOW SCENTED NOTEBOOK AMAZON.CO.UK £10.99

Jot down your notes and thoughts and doodle as much as you like within this gorgeous scented rainbow notebook. The inside pages and trim have a sweet berry scent and the secure gold band will keep all those thoughts and doodles safe. It's the perfect size to pop in your bag to take with you wherever you go.

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WIN! A STABILO® COLOURING BUNDLE

GET ready for summer with this amazing bundle of STABILO goodies!

Twelve lucky winners will be able to get their hands on this fantastic bundle of amazing fibre-tip pens and aquacolor pencils, perfect for colouring all summer long.

Whether you're at the beach, in the car or at home, this bundle will allow you to bring your artwork to life! From drawing your favourite animals and places, to monsters, dragons and mermaids, get creative this summer with this incredible STABILO colouring bundle.

Each colouring bundle will include: STABILO power fibre tip wallet of 24, STABILO aquacolor wallet of 18 and STABILO Cappi fibre-tip pen wallet of 18.

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

- Who painted the Mona Lisa?
a) Michelangelo b) Vincent van Gogh
c) Leonardo da Vinci



ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY COLOUR

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 19. The closing date is 29 April 2021.

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POSITIVE LOCKDOWN LEARNING

SCHOOL NEWS

by Frankie Laycock, Amesbury School

I WAS in Year 4 during the first lockdown, which meant I had to do all my learning with my parents.

I have a brother and sister, so my parents had to juggle our learning as well as their jobs.

But by the last lockdown, I had moved into Year 5 and we were provided with a laptop from school and we are doing all our lessons online.

As I am dyslexic, this has been much easier, as I have been able to do all my learning and lessons independently and at my own speed (and I get to wear my PJs on the bottom half!).

At school it was more challenging for me, but now I am at home I have the support of the teacher, as well as asking my mum if I need to... and I get great snacks!

On a Friday morning I have two hours for sports. So during this 'free time', I have been watching *Frozen Planet*, *Blue Planet* and *Our Planet*.

I have also learnt how to do sign language and met a friend for walks.

Stay safe and stay happy!



Frankie learning at home

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

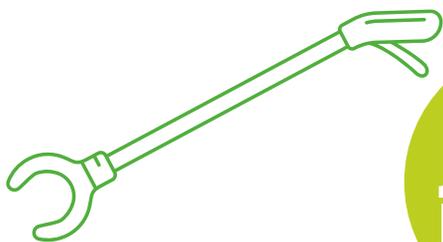


Write in to let us know what you've been up to lately! Have you been getting creative? Been for a great day out? How has the coronavirus affected your school, friends and family? Why not share your experiences with First News readers?

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

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

EASTER LITTER PICK



by Chester Heeley

I LOVE playing at Abbey Fields. It's a great park with a banana swing, climbing frame and zip wire!

My brother and I take food to feed the ducks and giant fish in the pond, and there are some great trees to climb as well.

We go to the park most weeks, especially during lockdown. I always have so much fun and it has helped me to stop feeling sad that I can't see my friends and family much.

So, I was really upset when I looked around and saw all the litter. Helping to clear the park and picking litter up with my brother is actually fun. People stop to talk to us and say thank you!

We are lucky to have such a great park. Please keep it that way and put your rubbish in the bins!



Just some of the litter Chester collected



Chester and his brother

SNAPPED



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



Here's Alex with his sister and grandparents, who all enjoy completing the crossword and puzzles as well as reading the paper



Sarah likes to read her copy of *First News* in bed on a Saturday morning



Etta's mum told us: "Etta loves reading *First News* and keeping up to date with all that's going on in the world. The weekly crossword is a family favourite too!"

SUBSCRIBE FOR SCHOOL – FIND OUT MORE AT SCHOOLS.FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK

CALL: (020) 3195 7256 EMAIL: SCHOOLS@FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK



Manchester United's Edinson Cavani dives to head in his side's second goal in their 3-1 victory at Tottenham in the Premier League



New York Rangers and New York Islanders players get physical during their NHL clash. The Islanders won 3-2, and remain second in the East Division standings



Eri Okayama of Japan hits out from a bunker on the 16th hole during the final round of the Fujifilm Studio Alice Ladies Open in Miki, Japan



Dutch rider Arvid de Kleijn of Rally Cycling (left) and Kristoffer Halvorsen of Norway and Uno-X Pro battle during stage one of the Tour of Turkey



Britain's Polly Swann (left) and Helen Glover compete at the European Rowing Championships in Italy. They took gold in the women's pair

28. SPORT

SPORT IN NUMBERS

10 under par was Hideki Matsuyama's winning score at the Masters. He is the first Japanese male golfer to win a major title. The 29-year-old won by one stroke at Augusta National, ahead of the USA's Will Zalatoris on nine under.



67 -3 was the final score as England thrashed Italy in the Women's Six Nations. The result means England have qualified for the final on 24 April. Abby Dow (below) scored two of England's nine tries, while Emily Scarratt converted eight times.



31 -year-old Rachael Blackmore has become the first female jockey to win the Grand National. She won this year's famous race on eight-year-old Irish horse Minella Times. After her triumph, Blackmore said: "I don't feel male or female right now. I don't even feel human!"



Reigning F1 champion Lewis Hamilton

THIS year's F1 in Schools competition is open for entries from primary schools, giving you and your classmates the chance to design a motor racing car.

F1 in Schools
Primary Class

The F1 in Schools Primary Class competition, which encourages science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) learning, is supported by all the Formula 1 teams, such as Ferrari and Mercedes, and tyre manufacturers Pirelli.

You and your teacher can download pre-designed miniature Formula 1 car designs and cut them out to use as the bodyshells of your own cars. With the addition of axles and wheels, you now have a race car!



Red Bull engineers at work on the pit wall during a Formula 1 race

Then, your class can take the next step of forming a team, designing your own bodyshells and using a starter kit to build a car and race it on the F1 in Schools race track. Regional and national finals give students a chance to share their experience, showcasing their work with presentations to judges and creating a pit garage display about their team.

This popular programme aims to inspire young students to enjoy STEM learning. F1 in Schools Primary Class aims to provide valuable academic and life skills, too. With some primary school children learning from home at the moment, it offers a great opportunity for teachers to share resources that children can use to create an F1 car at home, with cross-curricular lesson plans to support this fun activity. When all students return to the classroom, they'll be ready to create their F1 teams and go racing.



You can build your own car using the starter kit

Andrew Denford, the founder of F1 in Schools, said: "It's a natural progression for us to introduce the F1 in Schools programme into primary learning. Our success of inspiring youngsters to enjoy STEM learning and to develop STEM career paths by getting involved with F1 in Schools in secondary schools has demonstrated how beneficial the programme can be. By extending this into primary schools, we can develop interest in STEM subjects at an early age."



F1 in Schools participants take their cars for a spin

"F1 in Schools Primary Class is the first step on the F1 in Schools Learning Grid to competing in the global F1 in Schools STEM Challenge. We'll be encouraging mentoring of primary pupils by older students so that they can share their experiences first-hand, as well as using the skills and knowledge that they've gained from competing to help younger students. It's an ideal transition year or summer school project."

You and your teachers can find out more by visiting www.F1inSchools.co.uk/primary. Teachers can register interest and download competition information as well as example bodyshells at the site.

