THE UK'S CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER
WITH MORE THAN 2.6 MILLION* READERS!

LOCKDOWN EDITION: OUR THINGS TO DO GUIDE!

HELPING THE UK GROW

FirstNews

Issue 763 £2.25 29 January – 4 February 2021

NEWS | SPORTS | ENTERTAINMENT | INTERVIEWS | PUZZLES | COMPETITIONS

HOW TO KEEP SMILING IN LOCKDOWN



MAKE STUFF

LEARN SOMETHING NEW

NEW! FIRST NEWS EDUCATION TV

VIRTUAL VISITS

GET ARTY

HEALTH ADVICE

WE CAN DO THIS!

We're all experts at lockdown now, but our guide should help you through this one if you need some inspiration!

*First News readership is 2,626,625. Source: Opinion Matters 2020. *First News* is the widest-read of all children's publications audited in the UK. *First News* supports children's charities, see p18.

LOCKDOWN LIFE

...can be hard! So, we've put together tons of top tips for fun activities to keep you entertained, positive and motivated. Carefully pull this chart from the rest of your paper and see how many you can tick off! Please be aware of age restrictions on social media.

- [ ] **Read *FirstNews*!**

- [ ] **Bake a cake**



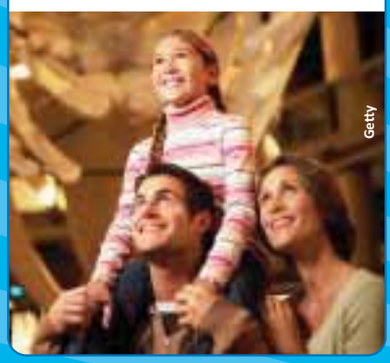
- [ ] **Discover a new walk**

- [ ] **Complete a jigsaw**

Virtual tours:

With so many places closed, there are loads of virtual tours you can take to get your 'day out' fix. Here are ten cool virtual tours you can take:

- [ ] The Louvre museum in Paris: louvre.fr/en/visites-en-ligne
- [ ] Walk around the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History: naturalhistory2.si.edu/vt3/NMNH
- [ ] Explore the British Museum: britishmuseum.withgoogle.com
- [ ] Visit a NASA centre: nasa.gov/glennvirtualtours
- [ ] See the Natural History Museum: nhm.ac.uk/visit/virtual-museum
- [ ] Go round the Tower of London: youvisit.com/tour/meadk
- [ ] Look around Buckingham Palace: royal.uk/virtual-tours-buckingham-palace
- [ ] See the Houses of Parliament: www.parliament.uk/visiting/virtualtour



- [ ] **Movie nights**

Grab the popcorn and watch a film with friends, even when you're apart! There are ways to watch together with most of the major streaming sites:

- netflixparty.com
- amazon.co.uk/adlp/watchparty
- disneyplus.com



- [ ] **Virtual art and science**

Explore with Google Arts and Culture to see loads of 360° videos. Explore paintings, sculpture and architecture in virtual reality: artsandculture.google.com/project/360-videos

- [ ] **Learn something new!**

Why not learn something new every day by clicking on the 'Random article' link on Wikipedia's main page? You never know what you'll find!

- [ ] **Write a report for us**

We always love to hear what you're up to. Head to page 28 of your paper to find out how to send us a report and appear in *First News*!

- [ ] **Make a puppet**

Let UK art gallery institution Tate show you how to make a unicorn puppet: tate.org.uk/kids/make/sculpture/make-unicorn-puppet

- [ ] **Make pebble art**



- [ ] **Learn some words in a new language**

- [ ] **Draw a friend**

Draw a friend or relative with this great tutorial: tate.org.uk/kids/make/paint-draw/draw-friend

- [ ] **Help the UK grow**

Whether it's in the garden or in a pot, grow your own plants or veggies as a symbol of hope. Send us your pics: www.helpingtheukgrow.co.uk

- [ ] **Learn sign language**

Commanding Hands has a great video where kids show you 50 simple British Sign Language signs: tinyurl.com/commandinghandssign

- [ ] **Build a den**



- [ ] **Learn how to whistle**

- [ ] **Go animal spotting**

See what animals around the world are up to with these live feeds:

- montereybayaquarium.org/animals/live-cams
- explore.org/livecams/currently-live
- kids.sandiegozoo.org/videos



- [ ] **Discover new music**

- [ ] **Dress up for the day**

- [ ] **Make a sculpture**



- [ ] **Make someone smile with a random act of kindness!**

- [ ] **Make a short film**

- [ ] **Write a letter to an older person**

- [ ] **Learn a magic trick**

There are loads of magic tricks to learn at kidzone.ws/magic



- [ ] **Check out a podcast**

There's a great list of podcasts you can explore at **commonsensemedia.org/blog/the-best-podcasts-for-kids**

- [ ] **Your Chinese name**

Find out what your name is in Chinese then write it: chinese.gratis/names

- [ ] **Make up a dance**



LOCKDOWN TIPS *from FirstNews*

● Issue 763 ● 29 January – 4 February 2021

Help wildlife

There are lots of ways to help and encourage wildlife in your garden. Here are a couple of our favourites.

- Build a hedgehog house: wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-build-hedgehog-home
- Make a bird feeder: wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-feed-birds-your-garden

Make cool drinks!

Get creative and jazz up your drinks! Learn how to make whipped milk at: milklife.com/articles/recipe/whipped-milk-three-ways
Hot chocolate bombs are amazing too: iambaker.net/hot-chocolate-bombs

Plan a treasure hunt at home


Getty

Make pom-poms

Follow this guide to make some pom-poms, then use them to put on a performance: thecrafttrain.com/diy-cardboard-pom-pom-maker


iStock

Switch hands

Try writing or brushing your teeth with your non-dominant hand. It's really hard!

Create an obstacle course at home

Use things at home to make an obstacle course. You could crawl under chairs, hop from cushion to cushion and add challenges like hula-hooping or throwing a ball into a bucket!

Relax by colouring


Getty

Make a list of things you are grateful for

Take photos

Take one photo a day that sums up something about lockdown, to build up a Lockdown Life photo album.


Getty

Make a time capsule

Fill a sealed container with cool things. Bury it then make a note on the calendar when you want to dig it up and remember what life was like.

Try a new food

Draw yourself as a superhero


Getty

Get lost in a new book

Make a scrapbook

All you need is a notebook. Decorate it how you like then fill it with anything from pics and photos to stories and poems. You could even cut out some of your favourite bits from *First News*.


Getty

Learn a card game

cardgames.io is a great place to learn the rules for a whole load of classic card games. You can play against the computer, or just learn the rules and play at home with your family and a deck of cards.

Write a postcard and send it to a friend

Make a fitness chart

Draw a box for each day of the month. Fill each day with a different exercise, such as doing a bunch of push-ups, star jumps, sit-ups or jogging on the spot.


Getty

Create a wish list

What do you want to do when lockdowns are a thing of the past? Write a wish list of everything you hope to do when life eventually gets back to normal.

Learn new words

Most online dictionaries like Lexico and Collins have a word of the day. Keep checking to expand your vocabulary and see if you can use the words in conversation.

Identify birds

There are so many different types of birds. Look and listen to spot birds near you and hear them sing. The RSPB has a great guide to bird song to help you identify them: rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/bird-songs/what-bird-is-that

Research your family tree

There are lots of ways to investigate your family history these days. This site has lots of games and tips for finding out more about your family tree: thegenealogykids.com

Try some yoga

Yoga can be a good way to keep fit and practise calm breathing to help your body and mind. Give it a go at yogawithadriene.com/free-yoga-resources-for-schools

Cook something new


Getty

Mini golf at home

Create a mini golf course to play at home. You can buy packs to help you at plonkgolf.co.uk/shop, but if you've got a bunch of craft materials, you can just as easily make your own.

Host a games night for your family

Get writing!

Write a story or poem. It could be about you and your experiences or something totally fantastical. You can even work on it with a friend online.

STAYING HEALTHY AT HOME



Exercise doesn't just mean running about!

HOW can you keep your mind and body healthy during lockdown? Emma Sparrow from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) gave us these tips for you all.

"It can be pretty worrying when you're not able to do what you usually do – going to school, seeing friends and families, or going out. Very few children have become seriously ill with COVID-19, the virus, coronavirus or SARS-CoV-2 – so many different names! A few children have become quite ill, but it is really rare and the NHS is always there to look after them and their families.

Some people, and particularly children, have had the virus without having any symptoms at all. Staying at home more, washing our hands, wearing a mask if possible and always trying to keep our distance from others, helps to stop passing on the virus and helps us stay healthy and protect those that might get really ill. We want to say a big thank you to you for all your help – you really are saving lives.



Fresh air is good for you, even when it's cold!

So how do we stay healthy, happy and well? We have a few top tips that have been helping children and young people we work with, that you might like to try too.



One is having a plan each day – perhaps having a video call, learning a new skill such as sign language, or doing some online volunteering. There are more ideas in our stay at home activity pack, see **tinyurl.com/RCPCHlockdown**.

Eating, exercising and sleeping at regular times of the day helps our bodies to work properly. You might have noticed that when your routine changes, you can become tired, hungry or even a bit grumpy. Try to get up at the same time as you did when going to school, and to eat and exercise at the same time as you used to. You really will feel better for it.

And, talking of exercise… how do you do that when you're at home? Hopefully, you've been able to go out in the fresh air or do fun exercises at home. You could share exercise or dance routines with friends online and find out what they are enjoying. Try to exercise for about an hour, although you don't have to do it all in one go. Some people find that exercising in the morning helps them feel full of energy for the day ahead, and exercise can also help you sleep better.



If you have an illness which means you usually see doctors or nurses regularly, the way you see them might have changed during the pandemic. They still really care about you and what you are up to. Some of them worked with us to create a diary where you can write or draw your feelings and your questions to share with them at your next appointment, also at **tinyurl.com/RCPCHlockdown**.



Emma Sparrow

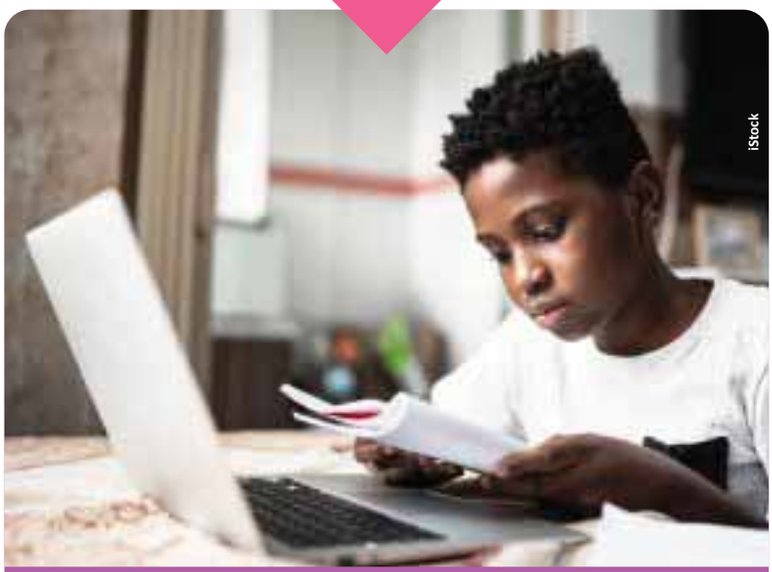
You can see more tips by following RCPCH &Us on social media, or even joining to volunteer by emailing **and_us@rcpch.ac.uk**. [For 13+ only. Be aware of age restrictions on social media sites.]

Making sure you get enough sleep is crucial to good health (for the whole family!)



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NO BACK TO SCHOOL JUST YET!


iStock

THIS week, the Government suggested that schools in England weren't likely to be fully reopened until at least early March.

When asked whether schools would reopen, a spokesperson for Prime Minister Boris Johnson said that the Government would be looking again at the lockdown rules on 15 February, and that there would be no news on schools until then.

The Government also says that schools will get at least two weeks' notice before reopening, so it seems it will be March at the earliest before those of you home-learning could be back to school in England.

In Wales, First Minister Mark Drakeford has said it's "probably unlikely" that schools will reopen fully this term.

In Northern Ireland, schools are set to be closed until the half-term break in February, although First Minister Arlene Foster has said that this could change.

Scotland's schools will also stay closed until at least the February half-term break.

Nearly a year after the pandemic began, do you prefer home learning or being at school?



FirstViews

Back in April 2020, around five weeks after the pandemic began, we asked you what you liked best – home learning or being at school?

1,000 of you took part in our poll. 46% said you preferred school, and 54% said you preferred being at home.

We'd like to know if you still feel the same. Tell us in our new poll – details at the bottom of the page.

The comments on this page were made by readers near the start of the pandemic. But how do you feel now?

tobyandedd · I'm currently in Year 6, have about three tests a week and struggle with anxiety. Tests and homework make me stressed, but at home I feel happy and comfortable.

edmonds123 · I like school better because you have more of an idea of what you are doing and you get to see everyone in person! I also like that you have friends at school that you can talk to in person. I still enjoy working from home because u can get a snack every time you are hungry!

scar_xx · I like home learning as I feel more comfortable and I enjoy sitting in my room by myself reading and doing work on my own.

starblaze3 · I find learning at school much easier because the teachers are there for you to ask for help and it is easier to interact with your friends. This is much better than doing work at home, because you don't have that many distractions. I miss school.

hattieliz · I prefer school because the lessons are more fun and at home you're just doing work on the computer with no-one actually talking things through except my parents.

ninjahorse · I prefer home learning because my class is horribly loud and noisy, and I never get ANYTHING done, and nor does anyone else. But I do miss seeing and playing with my friends.

ace19 · I love working at home! It is way more relaxed and there is less chance of bullying and peer pressure!

mdob · I personally think that school is better because [at home] it is harder to make and contact friends and we don't have proper support in our learning.

airbus · I like school because we have friends there, and the teachers are more experienced (no offence, parents).

sassor · I prefer home learning because I'm doing less work.

oceangirl · I prefer school because I get to see my friends in person and I feel much more 'in the zone' than at home, probably because I am at home and I don't do work at home, other than my homework.

inkdrop · I only prefer staying at home because I can get up 45 minutes later than I usually need to. I can still contact my friends through social media and do lessons online so I guess I'm quite lucky.

Have your say in the *FirstNews* weekly poll at first.news/polls

QUICK NEWS

TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS

BIG BIRTHDAY

Astronaut Buzz Aldrin celebrated his 91st birthday last week with a whopping 91 candles! The second man to walk on the moon was treated to a huge birthday cake to mark his big day. That's a lot of candles to blow out! Happy birthday, Buzz!



UPSET MUSICIANS



Ed Sheeran and Sir Elton John are among more than 100 musicians who have signed an open letter to the Government about concerns with the UK's Brexit deal. The stars are unhappy with the deal, which they say will make it almost impossible for them to tour in Europe. They say there is now too much paperwork needed to travel. There are calls for an agreement to be made with the European Union about artists going on tour.

PROTECTED SMELLS

France has passed a new law to protect the rural noises and smells of the countryside. That includes those made by animals and farming equipment. It comes after several big court cases brought by residents who complained. The law means people who want to live in the countryside will now have to accept that it comes with some noisy, smelly animals!

CAT CARER RETIRES

At 87 years old, Joyce Harris is winding down her work at the cat sanctuary she started 35 years ago. She set up the Loughborough Cat Sanctuary in her back garden and has cared for thousands of cats. She hopes that someone else will take charge of the sanctuary. Joyce, who was awarded a British Empire Medal for her amazing work, said: "It would be wonderful to know that somebody was taking in all these cats. It's been a wonderful 35 years and I'd do it again."



WONKA MOVIE

A new movie all about the early life of Willy Wonka is to be made by Warner Bros. Tom Holland (below) and Timothée Chalamet have been tipped to play the mysterious mogul. Little else is known at this stage. *Wonka* is set for release in 2023.



EMPATHY BOOST

A list of the 50 best empathy-boosting books for kids has been released by EmpathyLab. Empathy is when you can understand and share the feelings of others. You can check out the books and guides at **empathylab.uk/2021-read-for-empathy-collections**.

PRICEY PARKING

One of Britain's most expensive parking spaces has gone up for sale. The 6m (20ft) space is in Knightsbridge, London, and will set you back a whopping £350,000! That's more than the price of a house in many places. It's so expensive because of its luxury location – it's just round the corner from Harrods department store.

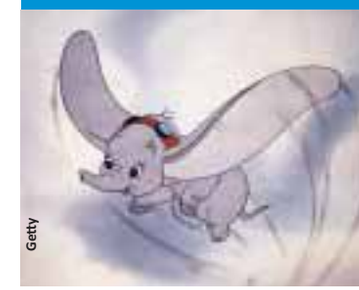
THE WALK RESCHEDULED

Last year we told you about *The Walk*, which will see a giant puppet travel through Europe. The journey of the puppet, called Little Amal, aims to highlight the plight of millions of refugee children who are separated from their families. Unfortunately, *The Walk* has had to be rescheduled because of the pandemic. It will now start its journey from the Turkish-Syrian Border on 27 July 2021 and finish in Manchester, UK, on 3 November 2021.



CHANGING TIMES

Disney+ has decided to block children under seven from watching some of its classic movies. The streaming service has put a block on original animated films including *Peter Pan*, *Dumbo* and *The Aristocats*, over worries that they highlight "harmful stereotypes". The movies will not show up on children's Disney+ accounts, and will feature warnings on adult accounts.



RUNNING RECORD



London is hoping to host the world's biggest marathon this year, with 100,000 people taking part. Organisers say they are still hopeful the famous race will go ahead on 3 October. If so, a whopping 50,000 runners are expected to take to the streets of the capital, while another 50,000 will be able to take part virtually.

GROUNDHOG DAY

On 2 February, it's Groundhog Day in America. The unusual day sees everyone turn their attention to a groundhog named Punxsutawney Phil. It's believed that if Phil comes out of his burrow and sees his own shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter weather. If he doesn't see his shadow, there will be an early spring.



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We hope you enjoy your free digital download of *First News*! Why not consider getting a copy sent by post to your home every week? It's a great break away from electronic devices and a good opportunity to share what you are reading with the rest of the family.

And, of course, you can do all the puzzles in the paper!



While stuck at home in lockdown, this is a great opportunity to benefit from free delivery to your home. The newspaper supply chain has been given key-worker status and we remain committed to delivering print copies of *First News* into homes across the UK every week.



Here's what our fans have to say!

> *To everyone at* First News, *thank you so much! I love it. I tell all my friends about it and they love it too. You do a fantastic job and it makes me understand the news much better. Every week I can't wait for it to come through the door.* — **Sienna, age 10**

> *I read* First News, *it is great! I keep randomly telling my family and friends facts and they say: 'Where did you learn that?' and I say:* 'First News'! — ***Popjam* user**

> *My kids race to the door when* First News *is delivered on Friday. Thank you for delivering something to pull them away from screens. We get some good conversations and the whole family have taken to the puzzles.* — **Jo, parent and teacher**

> *I love* First News. *It promotes brilliant conversation with my children at home, as well as encouraging them to read. Thank you!* — **Tracey, parent**

To order, visit www.firstnews.co.uk or call 0330 333 0186

SCHOOL'S OUT



Getty

Syrian children stand in their school's rubble-covered courtyard after it was hit during the night by heavy fire

SCHOOL'S out for children in Syria, as COVID and war stop young people from attending lessons.

A new report by UNICEF has found that more than half of children in Syria are not able to go school, after nearly ten years of war in the country. More than 2.4 million young people are currently missing out on an education.

The research shows that one in three schools in Syria have been destroyed or damaged by the fighting there. Children who can still attend often have to learn in overcrowded classrooms, without proper access to water or heating and electricity. It is thought the problem has become even worse since the spread of COVID-19.

UNICEF is calling on those fighting to avoid attacking schools, facilities and staff, so that everyone can still get an education. It said there were 52 confirmed attacks against education buildings in the past year, bringing the total to 700 confirmed attacks against schools and staff during the war.

FOSSIL HUNTER HONOURED

A 13-YEAR-old schoolgirl has campaigned successfully for a statue to be built of famous fossil hunter Mary Anning.

Evie Swire learned all about Mary three years ago and decided to start fundraising for a monument to her.

The hard work has clearly paid off, as the campaign, Mary Anning Rocks, has now reached £80,000!

Once the £100,000 target has been reached and Mary's statue can be made, it will be displayed in her home town of Lyme Regis in Dorset.

Mary Anning is famed for being a palaeontologist and fossil collector. Among other things, she is credited with discovering the skeletons of two extinct marine reptiles – the ichthyosaur and the plesiosaur.



maryanningrocks

The statue will also feature Mary's beloved dog, Tray

WOW!

THE Cookie Monster sure does rock – and here's the evidence to prove it!

This amazing rock formation, which looks like the Cookie Monster from US TV show *Sesame Street*, was discovered in Brazil by geologist Mike Bowers. He says he's already been offered $10,000 (£7,318) for his pieces of blue quartz rock.



Mike Bowers/ Kennedy News and Media

SPOTTING FROM SPACE

ELEPHANTS are being counted all the way from space!

Scientists are using satellite images to count elephants in their natural habitats.

The images are taken from a satellite orbiting 600km (372 miles) above Earth. A computer algorithm (a problem-solving pattern) is then used to pick out the elephants from their surroundings and count them all.

The new technology is much speedier than anything used before and could improve how we monitor endangered elephant populations. It might also help tackle the problem of animal poaching, too.



Maxar Technologies

LOUISIANA, USA



DUE to the COVID-19 pandemic, traditional Mardi Gras carnivals have been cancelled, so people are decorating their homes and businesses to resemble Mardi Gras floats instead.

FLORIDA, USA



A SPACEX Falcon 9 rocket lifts off from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, carrying 143 satellites, a new record for a single rocket. The payload included ten of SpaceX's own Starlink satellites. The Falcon 9 later landed on a ship at sea, to be re-used for future launches. See our space travel report on p11.

WASHINGTON, DC, USA



JOE Biden is sworn in as the 46th president of the United States, as his wife Dr Jill Biden holds the *Bible*. The Capitol was the scene of a deadly riot two weeks ago, but the inauguration was heavily guarded and passed peacefully.

NORTHAMPTON, UK



CHILDREN built snowmen as parts of the country saw snow and icy conditions over the weekend, as Arctic air caused temperatures to drop.

PERTH, AUSTRALIA



PERTH Zoo's Asian elephant Tricia enjoys her birthday cake. At 64 years old, Tricia is one of the oldest animals at the zoo.



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BILLIONAIRES GET EVEN RICHER DURING THE PANDEMIC



In September, the richest man on Earth, Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, could have paid each of Amazon's 876,000 employees a $105,000 (£76,000) bonus and still been as wealthy as he was at the start of the pandemic

OXFAM has said that the world's richest ten men have seen their combined wealth increase by $540 billion (£400 billion) during the pandemic – enough to pay for a vaccine for every person on the planet, and reverse the rise in poverty over the last year.

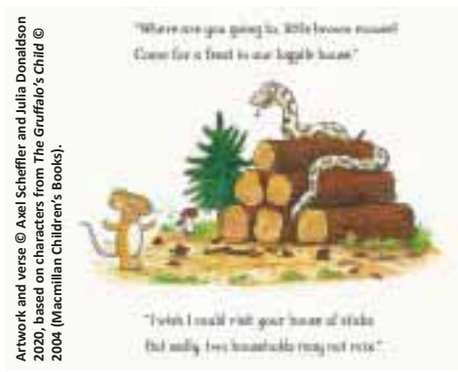
It can be quite difficult to know just how much one billion is. Here's one way to look at it: if you were to count to one million, one number every second, it would take 11 days, 13 hours, 46 minutes, and 40 seconds. Counting to one billion would take you 31 years, 251 days, 7 hours, 46 minutes and 40 seconds of counting, non-stop.

The *Inequality Virus* report was released by Oxfam on the first day of the World Economic Forum's Davos Agenda. It sets out how inequality has increased, and that it shows no sign of slowing.

It says that, unless the world's governments tackle rising inequality, half a billion more people could be living in poverty (on less than $5.50 (£4.00) a day) by 2030.

Danny Sriskandarajah, Oxfam GB Chief Executive, said: "The virus hit an already unequal world and, without urgent action to make our economies work for everyone, things are set to get much, much worse."

STAY AT HOME WITH THE GRUFFALO



Artwork and verse © Axel Scheffler and Julia Donaldson 2020, based on characters from *The Gruffalo's Child* © 2004 (Macmillan Children's Books).

JULIA Donaldson and Axel Scheffler have released a series of special illustrations about the coronavirus pandemic.

The pair first made coronavirus-related pictures and rhymes involving the creatures from their books during the first lockdown in spring.

Julia Donaldson said: "It cheered up my own lockdown when Axel suggested that we produce another series of COVID-related pictures and verses, and I hope the results will cheer other home-bound people a little bit too."

EDITOR'S COMMENT



WE know that many people are struggling with the coronavirus rules.

Not going to school, or being able to see your friends, or take part in your favourite activities is difficult.

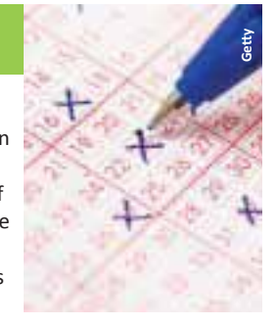
Now the COVID-19 vaccine is here, there is an end in sight. In the meantime, we've come up with lots of ideas to help keep you busy during this lockdown. You never know, you might discover a new hobby or a new skill that will be with you for the rest of your life!

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GOOD WEEK FOR...



Getty

THIS LUCKY LADY

DENG Pravatoudom has won $60 million Canadian dollars (£34m) in the lottery, using numbers her husband dreamed of 20 years ago. Deng, who lost her job due to the pandemic, had been playing the same numbers for the past two decades ever since they came to her husband.



BAD WEEK FOR...

ESSEX POLICE

AFTER receiving witness reports of an illegal rave, police cars sped to the Essex Freemasons' Saxon Hall in Southend. When they arrived, they quickly realised that a rave was not in fact taking place – it was just a queue for pensioners to receive their coronavirus jab!



RETAIL SALES FALL

AFTER a slight boost in December, retail sales across the UK have fallen at the fastest level since records began.

Lockdown has unsurprisingly had a large effect on sales in shops, and some stores have been forced to close for good.

This week, it was announced that online fashion retailer Boohoo would be buying the Debenhams brand and website for £55 million. The company's 118 stores will close for good, and it's thought to be unlikely that any of the 12,000 people who work for Debenhams will keep their jobs.

Last year, it was revealed that workers at Boohoo's factory in Leicester were being paid £3.50 per hour then – far less than the minimum wage.

UK

Museums and galleries at risk

Art Fund, the charity that raises funds to buy artworks for the nation, says that many museums and art galleries are "fighting for survival". It has given another £750,000 to help 23 UK museums, on top of the £1.5m already handed out, but Art Fund has had requests for £16m of help. The charity's director, Jenny Waldman, said: "The latest lockdown is a body blow and is leaving our museums and galleries fighting for survival. Smaller museums in particular, so vital to their communities, simply do not have the reserves to see them through this winter."



Getty

Art Fund research found that six in ten museums and galleries were worried about their survival

NORTH YORKSHIRE



DixNoonanWebb/Twitter

Coin sells for record price

A gold coin featuring Oliver Cromwell has sold at auction for a staggering £471,200. The coin dates back to 1656 and there are only 12 in existence. It had an estimate of £100,000-£150,000 but smashed that when it went under the hammer. The sale sets a world record for a Cromwellian coin. Oliver Cromwell was an English general who helped lead a revolt against King Charles I during the English Civil War. The king was beheaded and Cromwell ruled the British Isles until his death.

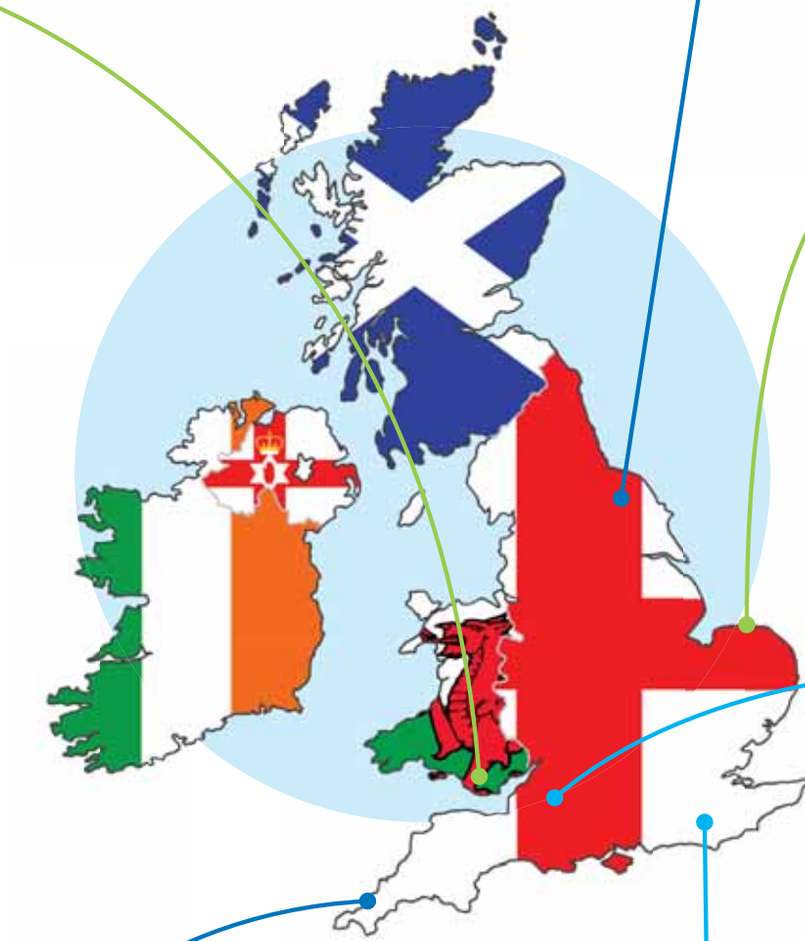
SOUTH WALES



NatResWales/Facebook

Fruitful learning

A project by Natural Resources Wales aims to use fruit trees as a learning resource for schools. The Fruitful Orchards Project gives free fruit trees to schools in South Central Wales, with the goal of educating through nature. Last month, before schools were closed due to lockdown, Fairfield Primary School in Penarth was one of the first to take part, planting apple trees in their school grounds. Teacher Elaine Herbert said: "The development of our orchard is going to offer us maths and literacy opportunities, health and well-being as well as the science and environmental aspects of it. It's an all-round educational resource."



NORFOLK



Getty

Black pups spotted

Rangers monitoring England's largest grey seal colony have spotted ten rare black seal pups. Grey seals are born white then shed their fur after a few weeks to reveal a grey coat. However, around one in 400 reveal a black coat. Blakeney National Nature Reserve is expecting to see a record 4,000 grey seal pups this winter season.

WILTSHIRE

Big walks for brother

A six-year-old boy is walking a total of 45 miles (72km) to raise money for charity. Julia's House and Naomi House & Jacksplace are hospices that look after very ill children, including Harry Byrne's brother, Reuben, who has brain damage. Harry is walking three 15-mile (24-km) loops and has already raised more than £4,000 to be split between the charities.

CORNWALL

Bunker for sale

An old bunker built in the 1960s is up for sale in St Agnes. The odd property was used as a Royal Observer Corps monitoring post during the Cold War, when there were fears of Russian nuclear attacks. Volunteers used it to monitor aircraft and keep an eye out for potential nuclear threats. The bunker, which is accessed by a ladder and is 4.2m (14ft) underground, is on sale for £25,000. It has a toilet and a monitoring room with a couple of rusty beds, but it's certainly seen better days!



The Auction House

SUSSEX

Bikes for charities

Charities are set to benefit from Southern rail company's bike recycling programme. Dozens of bikes are abandoned at their train stations each month. Bikes will be donated to Sussex Community Development Association, which teaches bike repair skills to the unemployed. Stonepillow in Chichester will also receive bikes, which it sells to raise money to help the homeless. Angie Doll from Southern said: "It's fantastic to promote healthy, green transport and to support charities who provide life-changing support for the most vulnerable people in our communities."



Getty

BOY FIGHTS TO SAVE CHARITY



Oliver enjoying the outdoors with dad Gary and mum Sarah



A 12-YEAR-OLD boy has raised more than £64,000 (at the time of writing) to help save the Lake District's Calvert Trust, a charity that helps disabled people to enjoy the outdoors.

Oliver Voysey suffered a brain injury when he was just two days old, leaving him with lots of difficulties and in need of specialist care. He hasn't let that stop him though! With the help of the Calvert Trust, Oliver has enjoyed activities like horse riding, abseiling and rock climbing.

But Calvert Trust is at threat of closure. The charity has lost more than £1m during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Oliver, who is 13 tomorrow (30 January), has been setting himself themed challenges to raise awareness. He has completed a 13-minute walk and stood independently for 13 seconds, something that is very hard for Oliver to do.

Sarah Voysey, Oliver's mum, said: "Oliver's biggest birthday wish is for the Lake District Calvert Trust to survive. Forget cards or presents, he just wants to return to his favourite place in the world."

Sarah has set up a Go Fund Me page called Oliver's Calvert Army to raise money and hopefully save the charity that has changed Oliver's life.

SWAP PLANES FOR TRAINS



Getty

A GERMAN report has suggested bringing back a European network of train lines to help make the EU carbon neutral by 2050.

In the 1960s, there was a train service called Trans Europe Express that, at its peak, had 31 routes and could connect people directly to cities across Europe.

The popularity of short-haul flights (a flight less than three hours) has seen fewer people using trains to cross countries.

In fact, railways only take 8% of all the passenger transport in Europe. The report points out that a flight from Paris to Berlin creates at least six times the CO_2 emissions of a train journey.

It adds that European flights for distances less than 1,000km (621 miles) create about 28 million tonnes of CO_2 each year.

In an effort to reduce carbon emissions and tackle climate change, the report says that "in theory, almost all of these journeys could be shifted to rail".

MAN'S BEST FRIEND



DHA

A LOYAL dog waited for five days outside a hospital to be reunited with her owner.

Cemal Senturk was taken to hospital in Turkey. His devoted dog, Boncuk, chased the ambulance to the hospital and spent the day waiting outside.

Even after Cemal's daughter took Boncuk home, the pup would run back to the hospital and wait patiently.

Muhammet Akdeniz, a hospital security guard, said: "She comes every day around 9am and waits until nightfall. She doesn't go in."

After five days, Cemal was discharged from hospital and the pair are now back at home together. Aaw!

FOSTER NEEDS INCREASE



Picture posed by models/Getty

CHILDREN'S charity Barnardo's is appealing for carers after the number of English kids needing foster care has risen 57% during the coronavirus pandemic.

Foster care is when an adult or adults look after a child whose parents are unable to look after them for various reasons. Barnardo's reported that between April and December last year, there were 13,030 referrals to the charity's fostering services in England. During the same period in 2019, there were 8,302 referrals.

Barnardo's Chief Executive Javed Khan said: "Vulnerable families have been hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic, with many reaching crisis point. This means more children than ever need a safe and loving foster family to care for them. We urgently need more potential foster carers to come forward."

The charity is on the lookout for people over 21, with a spare room and the time and commitment to support a child, to get in touch and consider fostering a child.

MEXICO



Winning see-saws

Three bright pink see-saws, which were installed on the border between Mexico and the US, have won Britain's Design Museum's Design of the Year competition. The "Teeter-Totter Wall" made headlines across the world, despite only being up for less than an hour. Created by architects in California and the Colectivo Chopeke art collective from Juárez, the pink see-saws were built so that kids from El Paso in the USA and Juárez in Mexico could play across the border fence that was built by former President Donald Trump's government.

ETHIOPIA

Tigray in trouble

Oxfam has warned that millions could be in need of help in the northern region of Tigray. With people facing conflict, the coronavirus pandemic, and a lack of food worsened by climate change, the Ethiopian government and the UN say that 4.5 million people need aid. To provide it, Oxfam says it urgently needs $10.2 million (£7.4m). Gezahegn Kebede Gebrehana, Oxfam's Country Director in Ethiopia, said: "The three lethal Cs: conflict, coronavirus and climate change, have pushed millions to the brink."



USA

President Biden's first week

After his inauguration last Wednesday, President Joe Biden kicked off his first week in office by using the power of the presidency to complete several of the tasks on his to-do list. They included making it illegal not to wear a mask on public transport, rejoining the Paris climate agreement and stopping the construction of the Keystone XL oil pipeline, which would have carried 830,000 barrels of oil between Canada and the US state of Nebraska. President Biden also proposed an increase of the country's minimum wage to $15 (£10.97) an hour, up from $7.25 (£5.30) an hour. He later telephoned fellow world leaders, including Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Canadian PM Justin Trudeau and French President Emmanuel Macron.





RUSSIA

Thousands arrested

Following the arrest of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny, huge protests have taken place across Russia. More than 3,500 people are believed to have been arrested. Lawmakers at the European Union have called for Russia to be sanctioned (punished) to show that Russia's arrest of Alexei Navalny and the arrest of protesters was "unacceptable". Russia accused Western countries like the US and the UK of starting the protests and "interfering".



AUSTRALIA



No more Google?

Australia is deciding whether to create a new law that would force Google and Facebook to pay news and media companies for content on their sites. In response, Google threatened to remove its search engine from Australia, and Facebook has said it will remove news from its feed for all Australian users. Prime Minister Scott Morrison said that "[Australia] doesn't respond to threats."



INDIA

Vaccine factory fire

One of the factories making the Oxford and AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine was hit by a huge fire last week. The Serum Institute of India is manufacturing one billion doses of the vaccine. Five people are thought to have died in the fire. It's thought that the vaccine-making facilities and vaccine storage weren't affected.



AUSTRALIA

Surfing duck

A pet duck called Duck has become a local celebrity, after being spotted surfing at Rainbow Bay on the Gold Coast. Duck will swim out with his owners, then ride a wave back to shore when he's tired of having fun in the sea. He's even been known to steal surfboards – once riding with champion surfer Stephanie Gilmore.

First News has teamed up with Sky Kids show FYI and the BFI 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, Tilly looks at the future of human life in space…

SPACE TRAVEL

IT'S been more than 50 years since the world watched Neil Armstrong become the first man on the moon, in July 1969.

It was an unbelievable achievement with some pretty basic technology. He was the first out of just 12 humans to have ever walked on the moon – all American astronauts, and all men.

Nobody's been back since 1972, but, finally, American space agency NASA is planning to return in the next few years.

WHAT IS ITS FUTURE?


Tilly

IS IT HARD TO SURVIVE ON THE MOON?

The brilliant thing about the moon is that its gravity is only one sixth of what it is on Earth, so you can take giant leaps – easily breaking world high jump records! Plus it comes with the best view back to Earth.

But I couldn't possibly survive for real dressed like I am below, as there's no atmosphere on the moon. So astronauts need their own, very special spacesuit with their own supply of air.

The American Artemis project is aiming to return by 2024, including – at long last – the first woman on the moon. By the late 2020s, the US hopes to have a permanently manned base.

It will cost a fortune, though, so why do it? I spoke to space scientist Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock to help us answer that question.

MAGGIE: *Part of it is the spirit of adventure, part how to learn new things, like how to live away from Earth. Or the challenge, for instance, of designing a base on the moon.*



By the early 2030s, NASA has said it also wants to send astronauts to Mars, one of Earth's closest neighbours. It's known as the Red Planet and, at its nearest, is around 34 million miles away. So a round trip could take over a year.

TILLY: *Maggie, the moon base could be a help here, couldn't it?*

MAGGIE: *Yes, that's right, Tilly. If you've ever seen a rocket launch, you can see that taking off from the surface of the Earth requires a huge amount of fuel. Also, sending people to Mars means a lot of supplies for the journey there and back. But, as you mentioned, the moon has just one-sixth of the Earth's gravity, so launching from a moon base would require a lot less fuel. And, with water having been detected on the moon, it may be possible to make the fuel up there on the moon's surface.*

We've already got a good idea of what the surface of Mars is like. This is because we've landed lots of probes and rovers to explore the dusty surface and send back amazing pictures.

TILLY: *So, what would it be like living here on Mars?*

MAGGIE: *The biggest challenge is the atmosphere – it's mainly carbon dioxide, which means we can't breathe it. So that means wearing a spacesuit whenever we're outside. Then there's the temperature. Mars is further away from the sun than the Earth is, so it's colder. On average, the Martian surface gets a little warmer, but a lot colder than Antarctica.*

TILLY: *And there's no quick rescue if things go wrong, is there?*

MAGGIE: *You're right, Tilly. From the Martian surface, the Earth just looks like a bright star in the night sky. A call for help message would take between 5 and 20 minutes to get to the Earth, depending on the relative position of the two planets. And, even if a rescue mission were launched straight away, it would take around six months for it to get to Mars.*

WILL WE EVER BE ABLE TO GO ON HOLIDAY TO SPACE?

There are not going to be hotels popping up on Mars, or even the moon, any time soon. But companies like Virgin Galactic and SpaceX are close to offering fun flights to the edge of space – at a price.

In 2021 Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic plans to take six passengers nearly 80 miles up, where they'll experience weightlessness and amazing views for several minutes. The flight is expected to cost – wait for it – well over £100,000!

Elon Musk's company SpaceX has ambitious plans to take passengers on longer trips, into full orbit around the Earth in the next year or so – and even to orbit the moon.

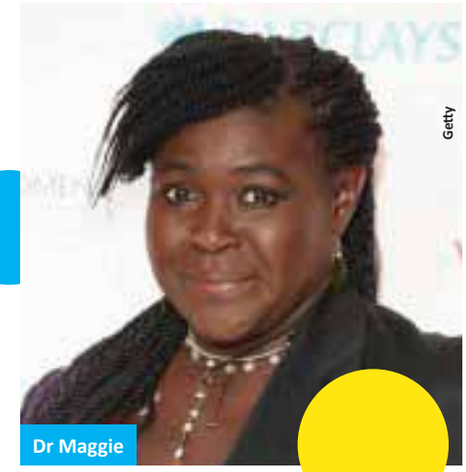
WILL PEOPLE EVER LIVE ON OTHER PLANETS INSTEAD OF EARTH?

TILLY: *In science fiction films, humans live all around the universe. Could that ever become a reality?*

MAGGIE: *I'd really love to think that this may be possible in the future. In our galaxy, the Milky Way, there are around 300 billion stars, and we're now finding planets going around many of these stars. As humans, it's hard to imagine a more perfect place to live than Earth. But the space age is very young, so imagine where we might be in 50 or even 100 years' time.*

TILLY: *Wow! Thanks.*

So, science fiction could well become science fact one day. Watch this space…


Getty
Dr Maggie


Life on the moon?

Kids – you can watch the I Don't Get It video on the future of space travel at first.news/IDGI

Teachers/parents – you can watch this film alongside our tie-in award-winning educational resources at first.news/EducationTV

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BE ALERT!

DOG theft in the UK is rare but on the rise, so owners are being warned to stay alert while walking their pets.

Since the pandemic began, the demand for dogs and puppies has increased dramatically. Dogs and puppies are now worth more money than ever, and criminals are taking advantage of this.

The number of dogs reported stolen in the UK has risen by 250% in the last year, as shown by figures from DogLost, a not-for-profit organisation that helps to reunite lost pets and their owners.

While it's important to still enjoy walking your dog, and remember that thefts are not common, owners are being urged to follow some simple tips to help keep their pet safe. While walking, keep your dog in sight and make sure they will come back to you when called. If your dog won't come back, keep it on a lead. Avoid leaving them tied up unattended, such as outside a shop. Although it's very rare, pets can be stolen from gardens too, so make sure you have a secure gate and try not to leave your pet outside alone.

Enjoy your walks, but remember if you see anyone acting suspiciously around your pet, report it to your local council.


iStock

WAVING HELLO

A SPECIES of frog living near noisy waterfalls in South America has been filmed "waving" to try to attract a mate.

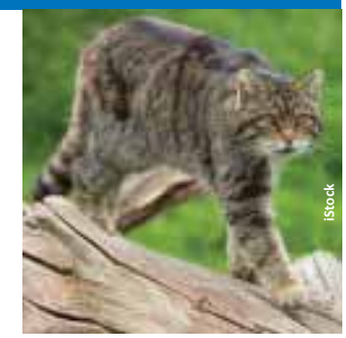
Glass frogs have been caught on film waving their front feet and bobbing their heads up and down in a bid to attract attention. The species usually attracts mates by calling, but living close to noisy waterfalls means that sometimes their mating calls are drowned out by the noise of the water. They are one of the few species in the world that has evolved to do this.

Conservation ecologist Rebecca Brunner at the University of California, Berkeley spotted the frogs communicating. "Before our publication, there was no official record of this species' call," she said, "and basic information like that is really important for conservation."

The full report is published in the scientific journal *Behaviour.*

WILDCAT BOOST

A SIX-YEAR plan to help save Scottish wildcats from extinction is well underway, with a new captive breeding centre due to open this year.


iStock

The centre, in a secluded part of the Cairngorms National Park, will help raise wildcat kittens, which will then be released into the wild.

Only around 400 wildcats are believed to be left in Scotland. They were wiped out in England and Wales during Victorian times.

The race is on to save these cats, who have lived in British woodlands for thousands of years.

BITESIZE NEWS

THIS weekend is the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch and everyone is invited to take part.

All you have to do is spend an hour in your garden, on your balcony or nearest green space and make a note of the birds you see during that time. Monitoring the wildlife in our local areas is important because it helps create a picture of the species found in the UK. The information will show how well a species is doing and where they are living. Sign up and download your free information pack and bird spotting guide at www.rspb.org.uk.


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HM Government

NHS



CORONAVIRUS

DON'T HELP THE VIRUS SPREAD

If you have to leave home then you must stay two metres apart from people you do not live with.

Remember to keep washing your hands regularly.

If you're aged 11 and above then you must wear a face mask in public indoor settings such as shops.

Find out more at gov.uk/coronavirus

STAY HOME ▸ PROTECT THE NHS ▸ SAVE LIVES

THE LOST GALAXY


ESA/Hubble & NASA, J. Lee and the PHANGS-HST Team

THIS stunning snap of the galaxy NGC 4535 was taken by the Hubble Space Telescope.

It was one of several images released in January as part of the PHANGS survey, which has studied star formation in "nearby" spiral galaxies since April 2019. The one pictured above is actually 50 million light years from Earth in the constellation Virgo.

On smaller telescopes, it appears to have a ghostly, hazy appearance, which is why an amateur astronomer nicknamed it the "Lost Galaxy" in the 1950s.

"The bright blue-ish colours, seen nestled among NGC 4535's long, spiral arms, indicate the presence of a greater number of younger and hotter stars," space agency NASA says. "In contrast, the yellower tones of this galaxy's bulge suggest that this central area is home to stars that are older and cooler."

The Hubble Space Telescope is a huge observatory based in space. It launched in 1990 and has made several important discoveries, including spotting locations more than 13.4 billion light years from Earth.

PARALYSED MOUSE WALKS AGAIN

SCIENTISTS in Germany have enabled mice paralysed with spinal cord injuries to walk again.

In humans, these injuries are often a result of serious sports or road accidents. They cause paralysis because some of the nerve fibres that carry information between muscles and the brain don't grow back. When muscle function in a part of the body is permanently damaged like this, movement becomes impossible.

Researchers at Ruhr University Bochum injected the paralysed mouse's brain with genetic information that created a special protein. This stimulated the mouse's damaged nerve cells to re-grow. Mice that received the treatment started walking again after just two to three weeks. It's hoped this treatment could one day be used to help paralysed humans.


iStock

CAN YOU CATCH A BAD MOOD FROM A FRIEND?


iStock

THERE'S an old saying that "misery loves company". Now it seems that might literally be true, because a bad mood can be contagious.

A study by the universities of Oxford and Birmingham found that teenagers can catch moods from their friends. Unfortunately, negative moods spread more easily than positive ones.

Researchers studied two groups of musicians aged 15-19 who went on concert tours in the summer of 2018.

Each of the 79 teenagers was asked to write a daily diary in which they kept a record of their moods and who they interacted with.

After studying the entries, scientists found that a person's mood became similar to that of the people they had been around. While a teen appeared to "catch" a low mood from a friend, the friend felt uplifted in the process.

There was no evidence youngsters avoided contact with others who were feeling moody – so grumpy teens are no less popular than more positive ones.

Dr Per Block of Oxford said: "Our study shows conclusively that individuals are affected by how others around them are feeling. Mood is contagious." Dr Block went on to say he hopes the study will help us understand why people fall into low moods, and to provide emotional support to boost mental health.

COVID DRUG NOT EFFECTIVE

TWO weeks ago we reported on the news that two medicines had been approved for use on the sickest COVID-19 patients.

Now, new research has found that one of the drugs, tocilizumab, used to treat arthritis, is no better than standard care – and might even do more harm. The new study, published in *The BMJ*, says there were actually more deaths after 15 days in patients who received tocilizumab than in those who did not.

This has led to the drug's trial being stopped early and the NHS will likely stop giving the medicine to hospital patients with the coronavirus.

In other news, authorities in France, Austria and Germany have made it compulsory for people to wear protective filter face masks on public transport and in shops. Whereas most face coverings protect people around you, the higher quality FFP masks offer protection to the wearer too, because they filter air that comes in as well as air that goes out.

SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

This report is from the Science Museum in London

X-RAYS were the first technology that made it possible to see inside the body without having to open it up.

X-rays were discovered in 1895 by German physicist Wilhelm Röntgen, while he was experimenting with electricity. They are invisible and are often used by medics to create images of the body. Like visible light, which allows us to see objects around us, X-rays are reflected by some objects and absorbed by others.

Denser body parts, such as bones, absorb more X-rays, creating lighter areas on the image. Softer tissue allows X-rays to pass through, leaving dark shadows on the image.

You can find out more at **bit.ly/2LU2baB**.


Science Museum Group

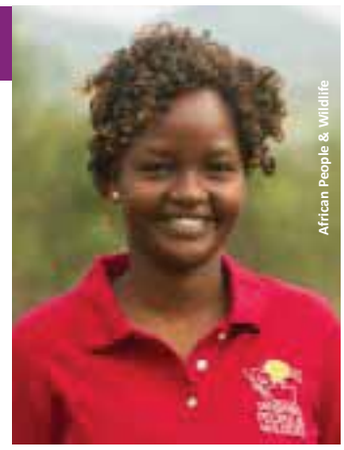
An X-ray of Röntgen's wife's left hand (with ring!)

MAASAI WOMEN FOR WILDLIFE



HISTORICALLY, Maasai women have had little say in how their community is run, but this is now starting to change. In part, this is because of the role they're starting to play in conservation and in earning money for their families.

MEET YAMAT



When Maasai conservationist Yamat Lengai was a child growing up in northern Tanzania, she feared lions. Today, she helps to tackle conflict between humans and wildlife and show the value of lions to her community. For example, she explains how lions attract money from tourists and help to keep a healthy balance of other smaller carnivores like baboons, as well as herbivores, including zebra and wildebeest.

She says: "When I was young, I hated lions because they came to our boma [an enclosure used to protect wildlife from predators] at night and attacked our livestock. Now, I love lions, and I've realised they were just looking for food. Even if they come across livestock, lions usually just kill one cow and eat it."

Yamat wants to see more African women in conservation, explaining: "Women have many good ideas about environmental protection and can bring their effort and knowledge to the field. Conservation is not only for men – it's for everyone."



Yamat's work has helped blaze a trail for other young women and girls in her community. She advises and gives direction to 50 local men, but at first no-one believed that she would succeed.

"I am the role model for everybody now," she laughs. "The men are all happy with what I'm doing and they all want their daughters to be like me."

THE POWER OF BEEKEEPING



By making money from beekeeping, other Maasai women in northern Tanzania are gaining financial independence and a voice in decision making at home and in the community.

WWF partner African People & Wildlife (APW) supports the Women's Beekeeping Initiative, which includes more than 1,500 women across 100+ groups. As well as bringing in much needed funds, the women help to preserve habitats for big cats and other wildlife. More than 1,350 environmentally friendly beehives are hung in trees along important wildlife corridors in Tanzania where big cats roam. According to APW, under Tanzanian law, trees holding beehives cannot be cut down – keeping precious wildlife habitat safe.

The money that the women earn through beekeeping means that they now have the opportunity to educate their children. Beekeeper Mama Helena Mbarnoti (above) uses some of her income to pay for her daughter's school fees and books. She explains: "Many men in the community don't see the value in sending their daughters to school, but the women understand the importance of this. If we have our own source of income, we can make sure that our daughters get an education."

"My husband asks for my opinion on things now, and I am respected more in the community. The same thing is happening with other women who are involved with beekeeping. Men in the village are starting to see that we have a purpose beyond our traditional household roles."



WWF's Land for Life appeal is supporting Maasai communities to develop solutions for people and wildlife to coexist and thrive, aiming to improve the livelihoods of more than 27,000 people. To find out more, and how the UK Government is doubling donations until 2 February 2021, visit www.wwf.org.uk/life.

LAND FOR LIFE
Making your money go further
UKaid

Wallace & Gromit's CRACKING IDEAS! COMPETITION

SINCE 1989, Wallace and his canine companion Gromit have been coming up with all kinds of imaginative ways to make life better. Now it's your turn to reinvent an everyday object to make it even better than before. Come up with a Cracking Idea that helps get boring jobs done quicker and better, so you can sit back in your favourite chair, just like Wallace! Then enter your Cracking Idea into our competition for the chance to win a fantastic selection of prizes.

WALLACE & GROMIT'S WINNING TIPS

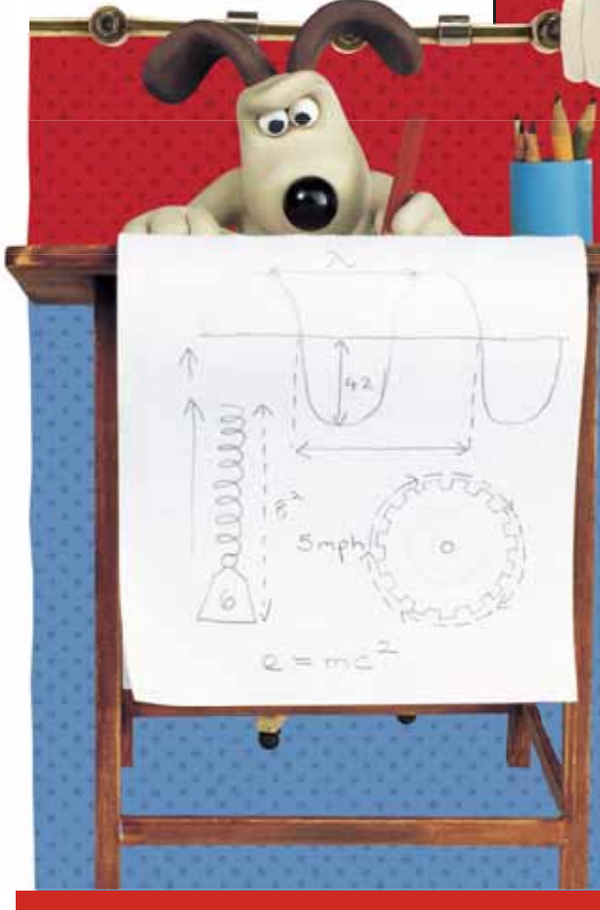
Remember if you're going to get value from your ideas, they'll need protecting.

First, your product needs protecting with a **Patent**, so nobody can claim they came up with it first. It could be a gadget or gizmo, mechanism or machine.

Don't forget to apply for a **Trade Mark** too, so your product name and logo stand out from all the rest.

You can register a **Design** so it looks different, maybe it's long and thin or short and square, or maybe it has a pattern with pink spots on or even blue bananas!

Finally, **Copyright** can protect the creativity behind your ideas. Copyright is an automatic right and protects original (or new) work. That could be music, an image or advert for your product.



1 WATCH

Go to **crackingideas.com** to learn more about the competition, or our YouTube channel IPO Education for our hints and tips playlist: **ow.ly/1dlr50DddFP**. Please be aware of age restrictions on social media.

2 RESEARCH

What in your everyday life could you improve for the future generation?

Think about your journey to school. How do y there? How do you eat your breakfast? What ob do you use and how could you make them bette

3 DESIGN

Now it's time to design your new and improved object – your Cracking Idea! Think about what it does, what it sounds like and what it's called.

So, grab some paper and get sketching!

4 ENTER

Get your Cracking Ideas down on the entry fo on the next page.

Don't forget to name it, create a logo, identify intellectual property and put your name agains

Be sure to get your entry to us by 21 May 2021 by emailing ideas@crackingideas.com or freepost Cracking Ideas, Freepost CF 4185, Newport, NP10



Wallace & Gromit's CRACKING IDEAS!

WIN!
A MODEL MAKING WORKSHOP FROM THE CREATORS OF WALLACE & GROMIT.
PLUS MORE PRIZES UP FOR GRABS!

Wallace and Gromit have been coming up with all kinds of imaginative ways to 'make life better' for years. Now it's your turn to reinvent an everyday object, making it better than before. Come up with a Cracking Idea that helps get boring jobs done quicker and better, draw it and explain how it works below. If you're aged between 4-11, be sure to enter the competition for a chance to win some really cool prizes too! For more information head to: www.crackingideas.com

NAME YOUR CRACKING IDEA/DRAW YOUR LOGO:

DRAW AND LABEL YOUR OBJECT:

DESIGN
PROTECTS THE LOOK AND DESIGN OF YOUR OBJECT, SUCH AS ITS APPEARANCE, SHAPE OR MATERIAL.

TRADE MARK™
PROTECTS YOUR OBJECT'S NAME OR LOGO.

DRAW IT IN ACTION OR DESCRIBE HOW IT WORKS:

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OFFERS PROTECTION FOR THE WAY YOUR OBJECT WORKS.

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SIMPLY BY DRAWING OR WRITING SOMETHING NEW, YOUR IDEA IS PROTECTED BY COPYRIGHT.

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DOWNLOAD SOME SUPPORTING RESOURCES LINKING TO THE CURRICULUM.
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INVENTED & DESIGNED BY: _____ AGE: _____

To enter, freepost to CRACKING IDEAS, CF 4185, NEWPORT, NP10 1BF.
Send your cracking idea to ideas@crackingideas.com

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FOR COMPETITION T&C'S PLEASE VISIT WWW.CRACKINGIDEAS.COM



"TOM GATES FANS WILL LOVE IT!"

LIZ Pichon is the creator of the brilliant *Tom Gates* book series. A brand-new TV series based on the books has just launched on Sky Kids and there's a new *Tom Gates* book coming out this month. We caught up with Liz to find out more…

● How do you feel about bringing Tom's world off the page and onto the TV? And is it difficult to put your characters into someone else's hands?

I can't wait to see the children's reactions! I hope they're going to love it and feel just as connected to the show as they do the books. I've been part of the process right from the start. Early on I pitched the idea of doing a magazine show with lots of different segments, because that's exactly the sort of show I used to watch when I was a kid. I could see how much children were enjoying the drawing, music and make-and-do elements from the books, so I was thrilled when TG Entertainment made it happen. They've put together a fantastic team of very talented people who have all worked flat-out to bring the show to life. There are bound to be some things that change as Tom's world gets bigger, like giving him an actual voice! Logan Matthews, who voices Tom, has done the best job ever! Everyone's worked so incredibly hard under tricky circumstances to keep the tone and humour the same as the books, which is something I'm very protective of.

● You appear in the show too. How do you feel about stepping out from behind the pen and onto the screen?

Ha! When I started to make the books, I suddenly found myself having to do events, school visits and some public speaking, which wasn't something I'd ever expected to do or enjoyed at the start. I've been out of my comfort zone a lot, which isn't a bad thing. This was another one of those situations where I took the opportunity and hurled myself into everything. I've learnt a lot and thanks to COVID we had to film my Draw It sections in my home studio. My husband Mark (who also wrote the songs on the show) was with me and operated all the shots, clapperboard, changed the lenses and sat in silence as I drew in real time while we both got hotter and hotter. Some days it was 38 degrees outside and even hotter inside. All I want is for the children to watch the Draw It sections and feel like they can take part and enjoy getting creative with me.

● How do you think fans of the *Tom Gates* books will feel about the show?

They're going to LOVE it. I get asked all the time when I do events (not this year obviously) is Tom going to be a TV show? And now I can say YES!

● What do you hope extra exposure on television will achieve for Tom and his characters?

The kids who know Tom and his world already will be excited to see the books come to life. And the kids who've never heard of him will want to know more. We wanted to keep different levels of humour in the show, so adults will enjoy it as well. I always try to do that in the books. I've just had fun adding different record albums to a charity shop scene in one of the shows that some parents will recognise!

● Were you pleased with the casting for your beloved characters?

I'm so pleased. Logan is just a joy and he even sings the new *Tom Gates* theme tune! It's been wonderful getting such a great cast, with Catherine Tate and Mark Bonnar, along with all the other talented people, and hearing what they've brought to the characters.

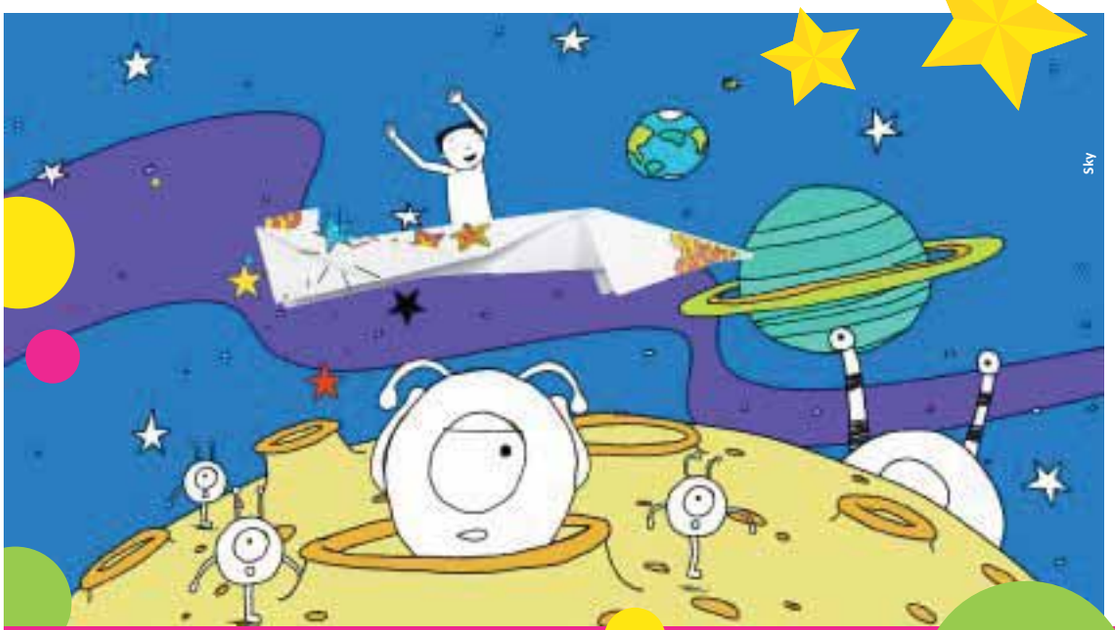


● There's also a new *Tom Gates* book coming out, so what can you tell us about that?

I can tell you it's ten different stories featuring Tom and all his friends and family in some tricky new situations. We've got the winners of the *Tom Gates* competition featured in the book; the drawings were all brilliant. There's some superpower speedy knitting, getting stuck in a lift, annoying insects, very annoying Marcus, and Tom forgetting a lot of things. Not to mention how to make your own stand-up bug. I mean, what more do you want? (Caramel Wafers…!)



Watch *The Brilliant World of Tom Gates* now on Sky Kids On Demand. The new book, *Tom Gates: Ten Tremendous Tales*, is out on 18 February.



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FirstNews EDUCATION TV

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young audiences CONTENT FUND

sky KIDS

first.news/EducationTV

First News Education TV is here to help make learning at home easier, because it doesn't look like most of you will be returning to school any time soon. Tell your teachers and parents about First News Education TV to make it part of your home-schooling day. All First News Education TV videos are informative but entertaining. They can be watched alone or teachers can use their *First News* logins for our award-winning classroom resources to extend the learning.

WHAT WILL YOU FIND OUT ON FIRST NEWS EDUCATION TV?

Alongside the *First News* newspaper, our online TV channel will help you explore and understand events that are happening around the globe. The programmes will make sure you are informed about issues that matter to you. And, intrigue you by uncovering important topics you may know nothing about.

On top of this, the episodes will support you to think through your ideas and opinions on global debates and consider how you would like life to change in the future for everyone.



***FYI: For Your Info* is the weekly news show presented by young people who investigate topical issues for you.**

There are reports from across the globe and news explainers to help you understand complex and tricky topics in the news. Plus, we have fascinating interviews with world leaders, campaigners, pop and film stars. Plus young people shine a light on their corner of the globe in "Our World".

This week's *FYI* features a special report from Lebanon, six months after a huge explosion rocked the capital. We find out how children have rebuilt their lives. And, as Children's Mental Health week approaches on 1 February, the team investigate the signs of poor mental health and how to avoid it.

Head over to first.news/EducationTV to take a look. Keep informed and make watching each episode of *FYI* part of your weekly home-learning timetable – and when you're back at school.



In the *Investigates* series, young people investigate some of the big issues across the world affecting young people.

- We meet children caught in the crossfire of gangs in Brazil
- We investigate mental health using the very thing that many people think is a big part of the problem – social media
- We investigate coronavirus through the ideas of children around the world
- We find out about animals on the brink of extinction



KIDVERSATION is about human rights. To be precise, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Nearly every country around the globe signed up to this important agreement back in 1992. In it, every government promised to protect children's rights and agreed it is their responsibility to do so.

This First News Education TV series meets children who are fighting for their child rights around the world.

You will meet Arvin, a refugee from Iran. He is seeking refuge in a safe country and the right to be given food, medicine and shelter.

Emily, from the UK, has cerebral palsy. She is fighting for access to better resources and support for children with disabilities.

In Ghana, we meet ten-year-old Prince, who has never been to school and wants his right to an education.

Go to first.news/EducationTV to watch their films, and those from other young people too.



The *I Don't Get It* series is a collection of videos explaining the background to regular topics in the news, including:

- space travel (p11)
- coronavirus
- AI
- racism
- climate crisis
- terrorism
- bullying
- knife crime
- children's rights
- refugees
- child labour
- LGBT
- mental health
- endangered animals

...and many more are coming!

Let us know what topics you'd like new *I Don't Get It* films to be about. Get in touch at newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk

SUDOKU!

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

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

WORD WHEEL

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



WORD LADDER

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

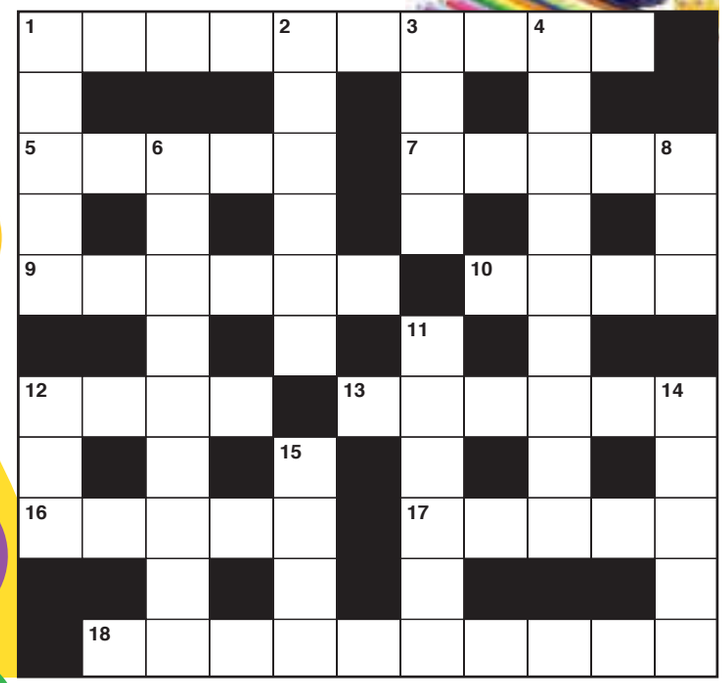
WIN! STIB PENCILS

CAN you complete our crossword puzzle by using the clues below? Send in your answers and three lucky winners will win a set of Stib colouring pencils.

Brighten up homeschooling and be inspired with Stib's Inspirational Colouring Pencils, each printed with a positive word to spark conversation. Hop on over to the website to join the Kids Kindness Force.

www.stibpencils.com





ACROSS

1 Area of a house for general everyday use (6,4)
5 Go over again (5)
7 Salary (5)
9 Bitter-tasting or sour (6)
10 Cosy (4)
12 ___ Ora: singer (4)
13 Thin type of paper (6)
16 Popular comic (5)
17 Alas; unfortunately (5)
18 Person who writes in a newspaper (10)

DOWN

1 Insect stage (5)
2 Table linen (6)
3 Arguments (4)
4 Arranged (9)
6 ___ Ronaldo: famous footballer (9)
8 Droop like a plant without water (3)
11 Party or festival in Spain (6)
12 Curved chest bone (3)
14 Hot country in Africa whose capital is Cairo (5)
15 Having very little money (4)

HOW TO ENTER: Send your finished puzzles by email to **win@firstnews.co.uk**. Don't forget to put **Puzzles 763** in the subject box. We're afraid we can't accept postal entries for now. The closing date for puzzle entries is **Thursday 4 February 2021**.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

JUST for fun this week! Can you spot the five changes we've made to this picture from CBBC's *YolanDa's Band Jam*?





WIN! BUILD YOUR OWN MARBLE RUN



GET ready for some awesome racing fun! We've teamed up with Build Your Own to offer 13 lucky winners the chance to win a super cool, STEM-inspired Build Your Own Marble Run.

This innovative cardboard Marble Run is assembled using slot-together techniques – no glue, no mess, no fuss. Everything you need is provided in the kit – just follow the detailed instructions.

Fun and educational, building the Marble Run takes around 3-4 hours and is the perfect activity for quality family time. Once built, the Marble Run has three different courses with run switches to randomise the marble direction.

Enjoy endless fun as the marbles twist, turn, drop down the steps, and then whizz round the vortex cone before racing to the finish! Which marble will win?

To be in with a chance of winning one of 13 eco-friendly, fun-filled Build Your Own Marble Runs, just answer this question:

What is the name for a group of snakes?
a) A pace b) A nest c) A mischief

We're also offering **15% off** all purchases from **www.buildyourownkits.com** until 12 Feb 2021, using code **FIRST15**

The Build Your Own range is suitable for ages 8 to 100!
www.buildyourownkits.com

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY MARBLE
firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see below. The closing date is 11 February 2021.

FIRST NEWS HOME iHUB

IDEAL FOR HOMESCHOOLING



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

*offer ends 31 January 2021

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

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS:
Spot the difference: "B" removed from background, Harry's head is bigger, pink macaroon is now blue, baguette is bigger, blue section missing from piñata's neck.
Word ladder: lazy, lady, lads, lags, logs, dogs.
Word wheel: condition.

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

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



MUSIC FOR MENTAL HEALTH

SINGER and former *The Voice* champion Ruti Olajugbagbe has teamed up with legendary singer Billy Ocean, music star YolanDa Brown and the Young Voices children's choir to release a brand-new single, *Lovely Day*. The song is raising money for children's mental health charity Place2Be and it is being released to coincide with Children's Mental Health Week (1-7 February). We caught up with Ruti to find out more.

● What was it like teaming up with the Young Voices choir and the other artists on the track?

It was a lot of fun! Young Voices has a very special place in my heart, so being able to work with them again despite COVID and also having the opportunity to work with YolanDa Brown and Billy Ocean has been a dream!

● Did you manage to record any of it together or did you have to work individually because of the pandemic?

I was lucky enough to get the chance to record with Billy at Metropolis Studios while restrictions were eased. It was an honour to watch Billy work in the studio and such a crazy day. Seeing such a legend working in that environment was very inspiring for me.

● It's such a fun and uplifting song. Do you think we all need a bit of positivity right now? What have you been doing to keep yourself happy and motivated during the pandemic?

Absolutely! Especially going into a third lockdown. I really think that song brings people together. Listening to all the voices singing together on this track feels so joyous and hopeful. I've been trying to write some music but things can get a little overwhelming at times. To give myself and my mind a break, I've been trying some new fun activities, like roller skating, to get a break from work.

● The single is raising money for Place2Be and coincides with Children's World Mental Health Week, but what is it about Place2Be that is so important for you?

They are striving to make children's mental health support accessible to every child. They also provide training for teachers, which I think is so important. Growing up, teachers become very significant figures and often adults that you trust. If teachers have the tools to talk to students about mental health and support them through that, it may encourage more children to speak up about how they are feeling.

● Mental health is so important for everyone, so what do you do for your mental health?

When I feel overwhelmed I sometimes listen to my calming playlist. Basically just soft piano and jazz music that I like. Often I like to draw. I'm no fine artist but I like to work with colours and mainly create pattens and doodles. Most importantly, I really try my best to talk about how I'm feeling on days when I don't feel good. Either to my friends, my boyfriend or my family at home. I think it's just important to keep talking about our mental health, whether it's an off day or months of struggling. You have people in your life that do care about you and want to help you and support you with whatever you need in those times.



Young Voices



Young Voices

● You performed with Young Voices when you were young. What was that experience like?

It was such an awesome thing to be a part of, even if it is for just one night. I remember it so well and I was about eight at the time. Performing at the O_2 was something that I had never thought about and didn't really expect to do again. I was quite ill in the days running up to it, and almost didn't get to go! But thank goodness I did. You could say it was the moment I definitely knew I wanted to be on stage.

● Why would you recommend that people get involved with Young Voices?

It's an incredible way to introduce children to music and performance. They start to learn about singing in a chorus and harmonies, plus they get to sing alongside brilliant musicians and artists. The performance day is so exciting and the night is electric, even for the friends and family in the audience. Even if you only get to do it once (like me), it's a lasting memory.

***Lovely Day* by Billy Ocean and the Young Voices Choir (featuring YolanDa Brown & Ruti) is out now, with UK profits going to children's mental health charity Place2Be (www.place2be.org.uk)**



FIVE MINUTES WITH... EMMA DAVIES

THE young actor told us what it's like to play Tracy Beaker's daughter Jess in *My Mum Tracy Beaker*, the brand-new CBBC series starting this month.

What is Jess Beaker like as a character?
Jess is very good in school, she's very clever and she's very practically minded. She likes to solve problems and she likes people to be honest with her. She loves her mum more than anything in the world.

What is her relationship like with her mum?
Their relationship is almost more like best friends because it's just been the two of them since Jess can remember. They have such a close bond.

How did you win the role? And how did you feel when you got the part of Jess?
I was very shocked because I knew that there were so many amazing girls going for the part. As I kept on going through the stages, it was so exciting because it would be my first TV role. I had to learn a London accent and usually I'm broad Yorkshire. I had one day to learn it before sending in the 'self-tape', so I watched videos, I lived and breathed it for a day. I was repeating words and driving my family up the wall because I was watching one video over and over again. When I found out I'd got the part, it was so cool. When we got the news, my mum, my dad, my brother and even my dog were screaming, and I was screaming and dancing. The neighbours must have been confused!



Are you a fan of the Tracy Beaker series?
I've watched *The Story of Tracy Beaker* and I'm re-watching it now to refresh my mind. Seeing them all grown-up now and watching them then, they were all so tiny! I love how funny it is; I think the prank war between Justine and Tracy is just hilarious. There are a lot of times when they're pulling each other's hair and shouting "Bog off!" It was weird meeting them when they're grown-up because I had mental replays of them shouting "Bog off!".

What were the other actors like to work with?
They kind of knew that I was a little starstruck because I have watched them for quite a while. Meeting them and then acting with them was such a cool experience, it was just amazing. They were all so lovely behind the scenes and on camera, it was just awesome.

***My Mum Tracy Beaker* starts on CBBC and BBC iPlayer on 12 February**

PICS OF THE WEEK

WE'D all like a superhero in our lives, but we don't expect that superhero to be a squirrel!

In the brand-new Disney film *Flora & Ulysses*, ten-year-old Flora gets the shock of her life when she rescues a squirrel, only to find he has superhero powers! With Ulysses the superhero squirrel by her side, Flora's life becomes an adventure she only dreamed of.

***Flora & Ulysses* premieres on Disney+ on 19 February.**







THIS WEEK

1 Teenage singer and social media star JoJo Siwa has told fans that she is gay. The 17-year-old star, who started a craze for giant hair bows, shared her news on social media. She told fans that she was "super duper happy."



2 Glastonbury Festival has been cancelled for the second year in a row because of COVID-19. The news was announced on social media last week. People who had paid a deposit for a ticket will get priority access to tickets for the festival in 2022.



3 It looks like we'll have to wait until October to see the new *James Bond* film, *No Time To Die*, after film bosses delayed the release for a third time because of the global pandemic. It is now scheduled to hit cinemas around the world on 8 October.

FORTNITE'S $20M PRIZE FUND

EPIC Games has announced a whopping $20 million (£14m) in total prize money for this year's *Fortnite* (PEGI 12) Champion Series (FNCS) eSports tournaments.

The Champion Series can only be entered by teams of three and the qualifiers kick off this week. The semi-finals and finals will then take place in the first two weeks of March.

For the first time, the eSports tournament will be broadcast in French, German and Spanish too.

The cash isn't quite as much as the $30m that was given away at the 2019 *Fortnite* World Cup, but is still an eye-watering amount – and $3m more than the $17m that was given away in the 2020 FNCS tournament.

Next time you're told that you're spending too much time on *Fortnite*, you could try to explain that you're simply practising for a $20m tournament!



Epic Games

XBOX LIVE GOLD'S PRICE GOES UP... AND DOWN

OVER the weekend, Microsoft announced that its online subscription service, Xbox Live Gold, would be increasing in price – before reversing the decision.

Xbox Live Gold is needed by Xbox gamers to play online multiplayer with friends, and for the last year or so has cost around £29.99 for six months.

The price increase would have seen six months of Xbox Live Gold rise to £42.99, a steep rise in cost for gamers, who quickly criticised the decision.

Microsoft apologised, tweeting: "We always try to do our best for you and today we missed the mark." That was followed by an announcement that pricing for Xbox Live Gold would be staying the same, less than 24 hours after the rise was announced.

The company also said that Xbox gamers would no longer need an Xbox Live Gold membership to play free-to-play games on Xbox.



Getty



Mojang

YOU GO GLOW SQUIDS!

AHEAD of *Minecraft*'s big *Caves and Cliffs* update due this summer, developers Mojang have been treating us to a few sneak 'snapshots'.

Special snapshot updates, which allow non-Bedrock Edition PC players to test new features, are nothing new.

The latest snapshot, however, adds a pretty exciting new feature: the glow squid, pictured left, which was voted for by fans.

The glowing creatures can be seen from far away and, if you slay the helpless beasts, they will drop glow ink, which can be used on signs and item frames to jazz up your world.

TELL YOUR FRIENDS

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Follow-on price: 13 issues for £22.99

WIN!

5 SURPRISE TOY MINI BRANDS BUNDLES



GET ready for a new mini craze! 5 Surprise Toy Mini Brands are all the best toys made mini!

Unwrap and peel to reveal five mystery miniatures in every capsule. What five surprises will you unbox? There are more than 60 miniature toys and accessories to collect, including rare glow-in-the-dark and shimmery minis, plus super rare gold minis. Find minis of your favourite toys from Nickelodeon, ZURU, Rubik's, Crayola and more. Collect them all to create your own mini toy shop and store and display your collection in the 5 Surprise Mini Brands Collector's Case or stock them in the electronic Mini Mart.

Six lucky winners will each win two 5 Surprise Toy Mini Brands capsules, a 5 Surprise Toy Mini Brands Collector's Case and a 5 Surprise Mini Brands Mini Mart. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

What does the HP on the HP sauce bottle stand for?

a) Houses of Paris b) Houses of Patrons

c) Houses of Parliament



ZURU 5 Surprise Toys Mini Brands are available from The Entertainer, Smyths and Tesco nationwide

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY MINI

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 21. The closing date is 11 February 2020.

A GOLDEN OLDIE

MEET Rhino the rhinoceros iguana – he's now officially the oldest of his kind in the entire world!

Old man Rhino was born on 23 February 1980, which means he'll be celebrating his 41st birthday this year. Guinness World Records says that makes him the oldest known living iguana of his species.

Loveable Rhino lives at Australia Zoo and celebrated his new record with a munch on his favourite snack of hibiscus flowers. Yum!



Australia Zoo



Australia Zoo

DID YOU KNOW?

Australia Zoo is owned and run by the Irwin family. Steve Irwin, nicknamed the Crocodile Hunter, was a very famous zookeeper. He sadly died in 2006. Rhino is apparently his son, Robert Irwin's, lifelong best friend!

SNOW IN THE SAHARA



Karim Bouchetata

WHAT'S that you say, it's been snowing in the desert?!

That's right! The Sahara Desert has seen rare snowfall for only the fourth time in 42 years. The other three times were in 1979, 2017, and 2018.

The white stuff was spotted in the town of Ain Sefra in Algeria, where temperatures dropped to a very chilly -3°C this January.

Photographer Karim Bouchetata took this amazing shot of the snow melting on the sand, creating the cool pattern.

WHAT A KICK!

WHEN ten-year-old Aoife accidentally kicked her football into the sea, little did she know it would end up on a cross-country adventure!

Aoife Ni Niocaill lost her ball while playing at Woodstown beach in County Waterford, Ireland, and thought that she'd never see it again.

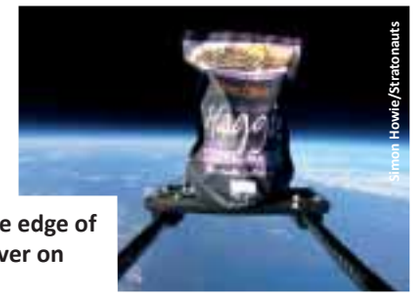
Almost a week later, Aline Denton was taking part in a beach clean-up in Llanrhystud, Wales, when she came across the washed-up item. The ball had managed to travel 200km (124 miles) across the Irish Sea!

Aline noticed that the ball had Aoife's name on it, so she put out an appeal on Facebook. After thousands of likes and shares, Aoife's dad saw the post and got in touch, so Aoife and her missing football will now be reunited.



Facebook/Aline Denton

SPACE HAGGIS



Simon Howie/Stratonauts

A HAGGIS travelled to the edge of space for the first time ever on this year's Burns Night.

The famous Scottish creation was launched 32.2km (20 miles) above the Earth – that's nearly four times the height of Everest!

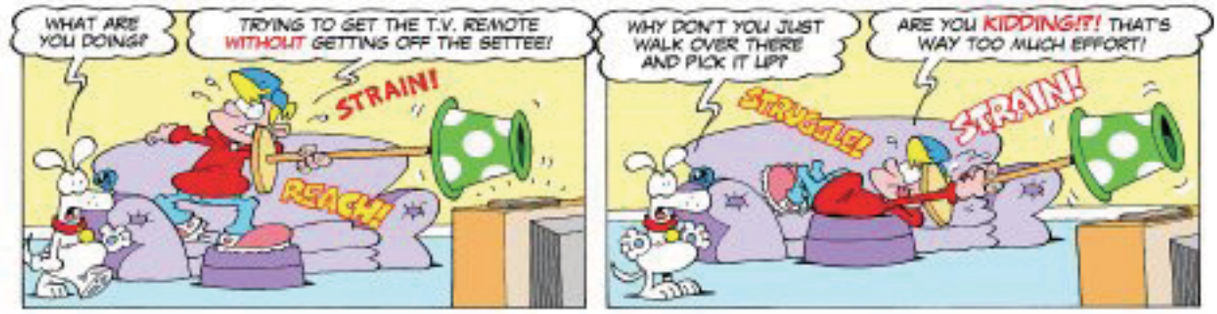
It was the idea of butcher Simon Howie and a space education and research company called Stratonauts.

The haggis, which was attached to a weather balloon and a camera, was up in the stratosphere for two hours and 37 minutes.

It's hoped the unusual launch will inspire more young people to get into science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) subjects.



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer



FREE FESTIVAL!



FREE access to the fantastic Reading is Magic Festival has been extended until the end of lockdown.

Last year, Bath Children's Literature Festival teamed up with book festivals around the world to create the Reading is Magic Festival – 25 online events hosted by some of the world's best-selling children's book authors and illustrators.

There are videos and podcasts for all the events, featuring authors and illustrators like Cressida Cowell, Chris Riddell, Robin Stevens and Jason Reynolds, to name just a few!

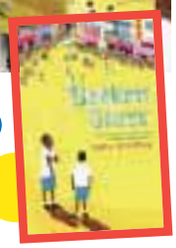
They cover topics including creativity, protecting the planet and the importance of seeing ourselves reflected in books, and the whole thing will be hosted by CBBC star Karim Zeroual!

To get involved, head to **www.readingismagicfestival.com/2020** and join as a member. During the sign-up process, input the code **FREEMAGICPRESS** and you'll receive FREE access until the end of lockdown!

YOUR READS!

BROKEN GLASS SALLY GRINDLEY





reviewed by **Mia Abbas-Wright, aged nine**

Suresh and Sandeep are two brothers who find themselves homeless on the bustling streets of India because of family misfortunes.

Soon after, they start to discover it's more difficult then they ever imagined. With the help of a couple of other street misfits, they gradually learn to survive and earn jobs as glass collectors.

Minutes turn to hours, hours turn to days, days turn into months, as the brothers grow and change along with the streets.

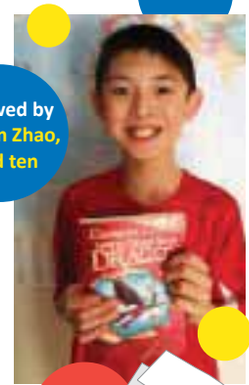
One day, Suresh finds his little brother Sandeep isn't coping as well as he said. When you're living the life of a street kid, there are many disadvantages.

Will the two resilient brothers find that glint of hope among all of the broken glass?

I would recommend this captivating book to anyone aged 9-13 years old who likes emotional novels.

I'd rate it five stars since it's fantastic!

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON CRESSIDA COWELL



reviewed by **William Zhao, aged ten**

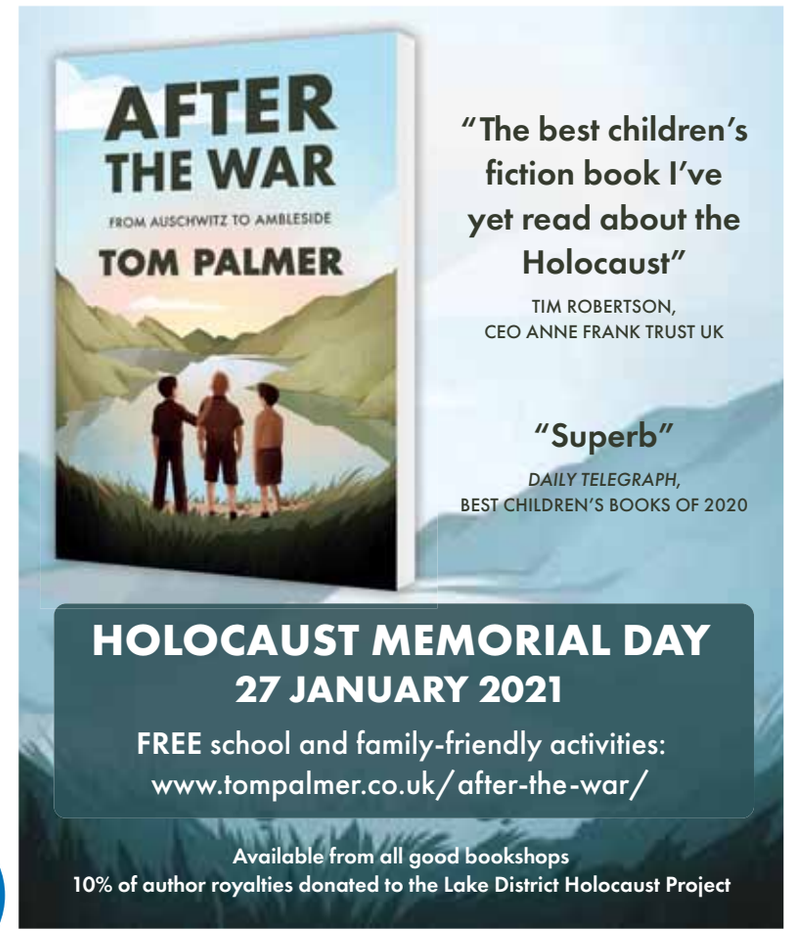
How To Train Your Dragon is a lovely, thrilling adventure about a small boy called Hiccup who is a son of a Viking chief called Stoick.

Hiccup isn't born to look like a hero, as he is very skinny. A gigantic dragon arrives and Hiccup talks to it for a long time, and his friends decide to defeat it. But another dragon arrives called Purple Death and is even larger than the first dragon.

This is a truly charming adventure by Cressida Cowell, designed for adventure lovers!

WE WANT YOUR BOOK REVIEWS!

We'll need around 100 words on a book you've been reading and a picture of yourself (with parents' permission!) sent to bookreviews@firstnews.co.uk.



National Literacy Trust's Virtual School Library



MEET *Mr Tiger, Betsy and the Blue Moon* with Sally Gardner!

Visit the Virtual School Library, from the National Literacy Trust and the Oak National Academy, to read *Mr Tiger, Betsy and the Blue Moon* for free and watch an exclusive video with the author.

Sally recommends these books:

- *A Bear Called Paddington* by Michael Bond, illustrated by Peggy Fortnum
- *Holes* by Louis Sachar
- *Eight Princesses and a Magic Mirror* by Natasha Farrant, illustrated by Lydia Corry

"Words for Life" Virtual School Library

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

THE BIG PICTURE



Getty

THIS mind-bending picture might play tricks on your eyes at first!

It was taken at an immersive exhibition at AHSPACE in Hefei, China.

LOCKDOWN COMIC

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

by Hal and Tess Aldrick

IN April last year, in the middle of Lockdown 1, my sister and I started creating a new monthly comic.

It's inspired by *The Beano*, which we love, and is called *The Harby*. It has a whole set of characters, who have adventures and get into trouble. Matt the Brat is the main character, and some of the others are: Carrotdog, Sly Susan, Pranky Hank and Slippery Sam.

First, we worked out all the characters and some of the storylines. Then we had to figure out how to make it. I do all the drawings by hand and my sister colours them all in.



Then we photograph each page and get it on to the computer, and put the text on using text boxes. When it's all ready, my mum proofreads it to check for mistakes, and then we print it out and make lots of copies. At the beginning, it took us about two months to create one issue, but now it takes about a month.

Each issue has pranks that readers can do at home, plus a quiz, a spot the difference and a wordsearch. One issue has a jokes page, and we're going to include a special pull-out short comic that some friends have done too. Issues 1 to 3 are already out, and issue 4 was meant to come out on 1 January, but we couldn't get it printed because of lockdown.

We've also made bookmarks – one for each character – that readers can collect.

Our local bookshop, The Owl bookshop, has been selling it for us, and also my sister sells it at her school. Lockdown has made it really difficult to keep selling it, unfortunately, but we will keep going!



Hal & Tess in The Owl bookshop

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.

SHOPS

WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?

RAINBOW STAINLESS STEEL STRAWS TEMPTATIONGIFTS.COM £3.99

Eco-friendly and very sturdy, these reusable stainless-steel straws are the perfect way to enjoy your favourite drink and help to eliminate the consumption of single-use plastics at the same time! These reusable straws are ideal for carrying in your bag. This set includes two straws and one cleaning bush.



COLOURFUEL COLOUR-CHANGING DRINKS BOTTLE CAMPUSGIFTS.CO.UK £11.99

This colour-changing water bottle is perfect for staying hydrated. Watch as the water splashes around the bottle with mesmerising effects on the outside, or fill it slowly and watch the white bottle turn blue as the water rises from the bottom. Once the bottle is blue, apply the heat of a handprint for cool effects.



*All prices correct at time of printing

THIRSTY?



BUILD-ON BRICK MUG AMAZON.CO.UK £13.90

Add a touch of fun to your drink with this great mug. Adding blocks to the sides allows you to create your own unique mug with every drink. Each mug contains one figure, one vehicle and a pack of random bricks for you to customise your mug with.

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SPORT IN PICTURES



Athletes compete in the men's 15km mass start at the biathlon World Cup meet in Antholz-Anterselva, Italy. Norway's Johannes Thingnes Bø won for the fourth time this season

Getty



Rory McIlroy practises before the Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship

Getty



Fulham keeper Marek Rodák makes a save during his side's 3-0 FA Cup loss to Burnley

Getty



Brittany Bowe of the USA on her way to winning the women's 1,000m race at the speed skating World Cup in Heerenveen, the Netherlands

Getty



Slovenia's Martin Čater competes in the first of two men's downhill races at the Alpine Ski World Cup in Kitzbühel, Austria. Beat Feuz of Switzerland went on to win both races

Getty

SPORT IN NUMBERS

18 months after taking charge, manager Frank Lampard has been sacked by Chelsea. The midfield legend left with the club ninth in the Premier League after just one win in five league games. Lampard led the Blues to fourth place and the FA Cup final last year. His last game in charge was a 3-1 FA Cup win over Luton.


Getty

6 wickets was the winning margin for England as they beat Sri Lanka on day four of the second Test. The result meant England won the series 2-0. England have now won six Tests in a row in Sri Lanka, and are unbeaten in ten matches in a row under captain Joe Root (below).


Getty

43-year-old Tom Brady will appear in a record tenth Super Bowl on 7 February. The quarterback's Tampa Bay Buccaneers will play current champions the Kansas City Chiefs. Brady is hoping for a seventh win – which would also be a record.


Getty

HOUGHTON MAKES HISTORY


Getty

Manchester City star Steph Houghton

MANCHESTER City's Steph Houghton has become the first player to make 150 Women's Super League (WSL) appearances.

The defender, who started her career as a forward, hit the milestone in a match last weekend against Brighton & Hove Albion. She scored two goals as City won 7-1 to move up to third in the league table. Houghton's second strike was a classy, curling free-kick – and she almost bagged a hat-trick.

The City and England captain said: "I'm massively proud. Remembering the first game in the WSL and looking to now, it's come such a long way – women's football has grown. To have played that many games – and be the first person to do so – is special. Hopefully, there'll be more to come."

Houghton has been a City player since 2014. Before that, she played for Arsenal, another of the most successful WSL clubs. She has represented her country at every level, winning 120 caps for England and scoring 11 goals in the process.

With Manchester City, she has won two FA Women's Cups, three Continental Cups and the WSL title. And at the age of 32, she probably has plenty of time to win more!

GO, GOGGIA, GO!


Getty

Sofia Goggia has been the stand-out star of this year's World Cup downhill events

ITALY'S Sofia Goggia has won four downhill ski races in a row, making her one of just five women to ever achieve this in the Alpine Ski World Cup.

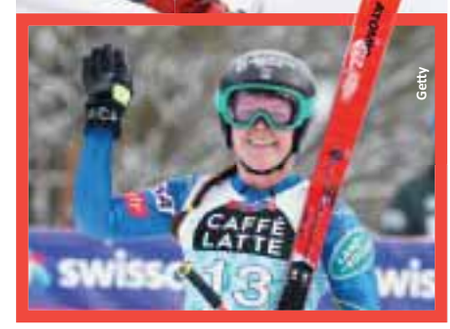
The skier won both races at the most recent meet in Crans-Montana, Switzerland, after wins in St Anton in January and Val-d'Isère just before Christmas.

Four wins out of five races have put Goggia at the top of the downhill rankings with 480 points, a full 195 ahead of the USA's Breezy Johnson (right), who has finished third in four of the five races so far this season.

As *First News* went to press, Goggia was in fifth place in the overall World Cup rankings, which adds up points from all the skiing disciplines. The overall leader is slalom specialist Petra Vlhová of Slovakia.

Goggia's stunning season so far has made her the first Italian woman to win three (and now four) downhill races in a row.

The next downhill meet is due to take place at Garmisch-Partenkirchen in Germany on 30 January.


Getty