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

BEIRUT: SIX MONTHS AFTER THE BLAST P12

SUPER SMALL CHAMELEON P10

KARIM IN THE KITCHEN P15

First News

Issue 765 £2.25 12 – 18 February 2021

HELPING THE UK GROW

NEWS | SPORTS | ENTERTAINMENT | INTERVIEWS | PUZZLES | COMPETITIONS

TREASURE ISLAND

MORE buried treasure is being found in Britain than ever before.

by editor in chief Nicky Cox

The latest Government figures reveal that 1,311 treasure finds were reported in 2019, the highest number ever.

When the next numbers come out (due November 2021), they could be even higher because people have been exploring new hobbies during lockdown, while the hunt for buried treasure has reached record heights. It's an activity that provides outdoor exercise while being easy to keep socially distanced.

Nearly 90% of archaeological artifacts in the UK are found by treasure hunters with metal detectors. Michael Lewis, deputy head of portable antiquities and treasure at the British Museum in London, calls it "land fishing," with people combing beaches and the countryside for hidden riches.

Actor Carey Mulligan is starring in the Netflix movie *The Dig* about Sutton Hoo, one of the biggest ever UK Viking treasure finds. She says she has become a big fan of metal detecting.

She said: "I have genuinely tried to dig for treasure. I bought a metal detector. I've sort of trawled around the field outside my house trying to find something. I came up with nothing, but it was very fun."

She added lockdown restrictions had left her with few hobby options, so she thought she might "give it a whirl! What else is there to do!?"

But what is treasure exactly?

A "find" is called treasure if it has cultural or historical importance.

And is it finders keepers?

Not always in treasure hunting, sadly. UK law says that you must report treasure within 14 days of finding it. A local "finds officer" will be in touch and write a report so that museums can decide if they want to buy what you've found. If they do, the finder can get a share of the reward if they had permission to be on the land. Whoever owns the land may get paid, too. But, if your find doesn't count as treasure, or no museum wants it, then it will be returned to you.

YOU MISS SCHOOL

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

A thousand of you took part in our poll, and 46% said you preferred school, while 54% said you preferred being at home.

Now, it seems you've changed your mind. Many of you are home schooling because of the pandemic and have been telling *First News* what you are thinking now.

This time, three-quarters of you said you prefer learning at school.

One reader said: "I think school is way better as you are in a learning environment with professional teachers and your friends. I find it so hard to get engaged at home – it's sooo boring! Nothing beats break time and I miss talking to [my friends] so much."

Another said: "Home learning does have its benefits, but it comes with drawbacks too, such as a loss in my social life and damage to my mental health as I never leave the house any more because of lockdown."

Hang on in there – hopefully you'll be back at school before too long.

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 page 21

THE NEW *FirstNews* DIGITAL EDITION IS HERE

UPDATE YOUR APP BY 14 FEBRUARY

The First News digital team have been hard at work over the last few months creating a new and improved digital edition of the newspaper.

The NEW First News app will need to be installed by the 14 February to ensure you can continue to access the newspaper each week. The existing app will not be available after this date.

Previous issues of First News will still be available in the new app – **PLUS** the brand new search and bookmark features make it even easier to find the content you were looking for!

You will need to re-install a new version of the app on all devices. Here is a quick refresher on how to access the First News Digital Edition.

How to start reading First News:

1. Search for the First News app on your device's App Store
2. Install onto your device
3. Open the app. Tap on an edition and enter your WebID to log in

FN

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Download on the App Store

QUICK NEWS

TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS

WALLY WEEKEND

This year's Where's Wally? fun run is going virtual! The Where's Wally? Weekender, taking place from 20 March, is inviting people of all ages to run, walk or jog in their local area dressed in their best Wally costume. The event will help to raise money for the National Literacy Trust. Find out how you can take part at **literacytrust.org.uk/WheresWally**.

TAYLOR IN TROUBLE

Taylor Swift is being sued by a theme park in America over the name of her latest album. The singer released *Evermore* at the end of last year, which is the same name as a park in Utah. The venue's owners say the trademark for the name belongs to them and that it's causing confusion for people.

LOST AND FOUND

A man who lost his wallet in Antarctica in the 1960s has been reunited with it 53 years later! Paul Grisham from California worked in Antarctica as a weather scientist for the US Navy. He managed to lose the wallet with a host of his personal items in it before he left the cold continent. A group of strangers later found the wallet and set about returning it to its rightful owner. Now, at the grand old age of 91, Paul has got it back!

FOOTBALLER FINED

A footballer has been fined for getting his hair cut during lockdown. Newcastle United player Joelinton has been ordered to pay £200 after he posted a picture of himself breaking lockdown rules by visiting his barber.

DOCTOR READY TO DELIVER

Dr Alex George has been named the Government's new youth mental health ambassador. The reality TV star and real-life doctor said: "Never has mental health been more important than now. From schools to universities, the NHS and the wider public, MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS." In his new role, Dr Alex will look at what support is being offered to young people and advise the Government on how it can help further.

SAY IT WITH SPAGHETTI

Heinz is launching special 'Marry Me' Alphabetti spaghetti to celebrate Valentine's Day! The cans will only feature the pasta letters M, A, R, Y and E. The idea has been inspired by the real-life story of a man's marriage proposal using spaghetti.

WRITING COMP

This year's Voices creative writing competition for children in care and young care leavers is now open. The theme of this year's competition is What Makes Life Good. Entries can be in any written form, including poems, short stories, raps or newspaper articles. You can find out more at **coramvoice.org.uk/voices**.

COOKING SCHOOL

Gordon Ramsay is opening his own cooking school. The Gordon Ramsay Academy is set to open in Woking, Surrey, this autumn. The chef says anyone who finishes the course will get a job in one of his restaurants.

ECO-FRIENDLY EASTER EGGS

The Co-op is getting rid of plastic packaging on its Easter eggs this year. The supermarket chain said it will remove the use of plastic on all five of its own-brand Fairtrade chocolate eggs, to help protect the environment. It's believed the move will save over 14 tonnes of unnecessary waste.

TEENAGE STOWAWAY

A teenager managed to hang on to the landing gear of a plane for its entire flight from Kenya to the Netherlands, via London. The 16-year-old Kenyan boy was found on the jet at Maastricht Aachen Airport and had to be taken to hospital with hypothermia (a very low body temperature). Experts say he was very lucky to survive, as the temperature so high up can drop to lower than -30°C. An investigation to find out why the boy was there is now underway.

LICENCE TO SELL

A rare collection of James Bond books is up for sale for a staggering £475,000. The 007 books by Ian Fleming are all first editions, with ten of them even featuring handwritten messages from the author himself. The thrilling collection is made up of 14 books from different parts of the world. It is now being sold by Yorkshire bookseller Dr John Atkinson.

GAME OVER

A teenager who shouted abuse at Professor Chris Whitty has had his PlayStation taken away, says his mum. Footage of the 15-year-old calling the Government's Chief Medical Officer a "liar" over the COVID-19 pandemic has gone viral. The teen's mum said she's asked her son to apologise for his behaviour and has taken his gaming console away as punishment.

GET *FIRST NEWS* DELIVERED TO YOUR HOME EVERY WEEK!

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FirstNews is even better in print!

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

Getty

COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

VACCINES that protect us from COVID-19 are being rolled out globally, and in the UK almost one in five adults has received their first jab.

Like all viruses, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 has been found to mutate (change). When a virus mutates clearly, and begins to spread widely, it's called a 'variant'.

Trials are being carried out to find out whether the vaccines we've already developed will work on the various new variants, and this week, we heard the first results of these trials.

The Oxford-AstraZeneca jab has been found to give only "minimal protection" against mild disease caused by the variant first detected in South Africa. In the UK, 147 cases of this variant have been found.

The vaccine was still found to be effective against a variant first detected in Kent, however.

Scientists say that they're working on developing 'booster jabs' that will provide protection from variants, and that they should be ready by autumn.

As *First News* went to press, more than 12,294,000 people had received at least one dose of the vaccine in the UK.

The World Health Organization has said that around 130 countries, home to 2.5 billion people, are yet to give anyone a single dose.

We want to know whether you think that the UK should vaccinate everyone here first before sharing our jabs with the rest of the world – or if we should vaccinate only those most at risk, then help out other countries. Let us know at **first.news/polls**.

WHEN WILL I GET A VACCINE?

The vaccine is being given to those who are most at risk of the virus first, and children have the lowest risk from COVID-19. In the US, two companies are testing their coronavirus vaccine on children aged 12 and over – but World Health Organization representative Dr Rabindra Abeyasinghe said: "Maybe in a few months, we will have better evidence to confidently say that these vaccines are safe and effective for children."

Getty

TERROR THREAT LOWERED

THE UK's terror threat level has dropped from "severe" to "substantial".

Home Secretary Priti Patel, alongside representatives from Government, police and intelligence agencies, has lowered the national threat level from the second-highest to the middle level. The UK has five terror threat levels, ranging from "low" to "critical".

The threat level had been raised to "severe" in November last year following an attack on the Austrian capital, Vienna.

It's good news that the terror threat level has fallen, but it doesn't mean that the security services will stop looking for potential threats.

That doesn't mean you should worry though. It's incredibly unlikely that you, or anyone you know, will ever be hurt in a terrorist attack.

EMPTY BOWLS DURING THE SUPER BOWL

THE World Food Programme, the United Nations agency that helps feed people in need, has revealed that almost $17 billion (£12.15bn) is spent on food and drink during the Super Bowl.

That's enough to buy 1.3 billion chicken wings and almost 900 million pints of beer for the USA's biggest sporting event!

The startling sum of money is more than twice the amount spent by the World Food Programme each year.

The agency says the average Super Bowl fan spends about $75 (£55) for game day grub – the same cost as an "emergency box of food" that can feed a family of five for a month.

Enough chicken wings are eaten during the Super Bowl to circle the Earth three times

Getty

LONDON, UK

Getty

A TRIBUTE to Captain Sir Tom Moore at Piccadilly Circus shortly after it was announced that he had died. Sir Tom raised more than £33 million for NHS charities ahead of his 100th birthday last year. Thousands of people showed their respects and joined in with a national clap for Sir Tom and healthcare workers.

EXETER, UK

LP Edits

DEVON artist LP Edits has boosted morale at Exeter's Nightingale Hospital with this stunning tribute to the NHS. LP Edits said the artwork, which shows an NHS worker flexing their muscles, took him three and a half hours to create. The mural is inspired by a wartime poster and is located in a corridor close to where staff take their breaks every day.

BRISTOL, UK

Getty

ARTIST Luke Jerram with his glass sculpture of the Oxford-AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine. The sculpture, which is one million times larger than the actual vaccine nanoparticle, marks the ten millionth vaccination in the UK. Five limited editions of the artwork will be sold, with all profits going to help communities badly affected by the pandemic.

NEW JERSEY, USA

Getty

A WOMAN shovels her car out of the snow. Two days of snow covered some parts of New Jersey in more than 60cm of the white stuff.

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

Getty

Getty

PEOPLE watch Skywhalepapa hover during its world premiere. Skywhalepapa (left) is the latest hot-air balloon creation by Australian artist Patricia Piccinini, and is a companion piece to Skywhale (right). Skywhalepapa is as tall as a seven-storey building, and 2,343 panels of fabric were needed to create the balloon.

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END YEMEN WAR, SAYS BIDEN

Getty

PRESIDENT Joe Biden has said the US will no longer support the war in Yemen.

In his first foreign policy speech, Mr Biden said: "This war has to end."

The US has been supporting Saudi Arabia and its allies against Houthi rebels in Yemen. Fighting broke out between the rebels and the Yemeni government in 2014.

In December, the UN said the conflict has led to 233,000 deaths, including 131,000 from effects of war such as a lack of food.

In his speech, Mr Biden also announced that the US would increase the number of refugees it allows to enter the country.

YOUR SAY ON BIDEN

A FEW weeks ago, we asked: Do you think Joe Biden will be a good president? Nine out of ten of the 600+ votes were YES. Here's what some of you had to say...

sunnysmilz: "I think that he will be a good president because he seems to want to do what is best for his country and he seems to care about making life better for everyone."

oceangirl: "Biden has said that he will reverse some of Trump's controversial decisions, such as the construction of the border wall and the exit of WHO. I think he will unite America and restore peace and democracy."

ivansp2011: "He has much experience and will be able to see the best ways to lead the USA instead of Donald Trump. I also hope that he will make sure that the wall across the border of Mexico will be taken down."

nim-pom: "He has already joined the Paris Agreement; this is wonderful news. This will definitely help in the fight against climate change! Additionally, he appointed Kamala Harris as vice president, which supports equality in general."

EDITOR'S COMMENT

SO, treasure hunting is becoming more popular than ever (front page).

I know that lockdown and other restrictions over the past 11 months have been hard. But, it's worth thinking about some of the things that have been good – like finding new hobbies. Treasure hunting is a great way to get outdoors, and stay socially distanced, during the COVID-19 restrictions.

What things have you discovered you enjoy during lockdown? Let us know at newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk.

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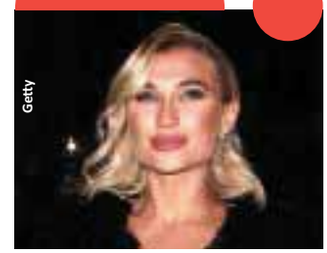
GOOD WEEK FOR BUDDING ASTRONAUTS

iStock

FOR the first time in 11 years, the European Space Agency (ESA) is looking for new astronauts – especially women. The new recruits will work with the ESA's existing astronauts to welcome a new era of space exploration.

BAD WEEK FOR DANCING ON ICE


Getty

THE ITV show has run out of reserve skaters, after reality TV star Billie Shepherd (left) had to quit ahead of last week's show. She is the fourth star who has had to leave this series due to injury or illness. It's the first time ever that the show has used both of its replacement skaters.

RED HAND DAY

ON 12 February it will be International Day Against the Use of Child Soldiers – otherwise known as Red Hand Day.

The day calls on world leaders to put an end to the use of children in armed conflict.

Young people across the world are being used to fight and deliver messages or are used as slaves for military purposes. Often they are forced into becoming soldiers and aren't allowed to leave.

Getty

On Red Hand Day, people are encouraged to colour their hands in red and share their handprints on social media. It's hoped this will raise awareness of those affected, and help put an end to young children being recruited in conflict once and for all.

CUMBRIA

Walkers wait

After a rise in call-outs at the start of January, mountain rescuers have thanked walkers for staying away, as requests for help have fallen dramatically. A spokesman said: "The Lake District is quiet and the situation is starting to slowly improve. Please continue to stick to the rules. There will be a time when we can all get out there fully."

Walkdales/Twitter

HIGHLANDS

Snow go for skiers

Ski centres in Scotland are reporting the best winter snow for years, but no-one can hit the slopes due to lockdown. Susan Smith, boss of Cairngorm Mountain Ltd, said: "For the whole team here, it is hugely frustrating that we are unable to welcome snowsports enthusiasts to enjoy the high-quality snow cover, which is the best we have seen in recent years." People who work on Glencoe Mountain Resort have also reported great skiing conditions, calling the snowfall "the best we have seen at this time of year".

Getty

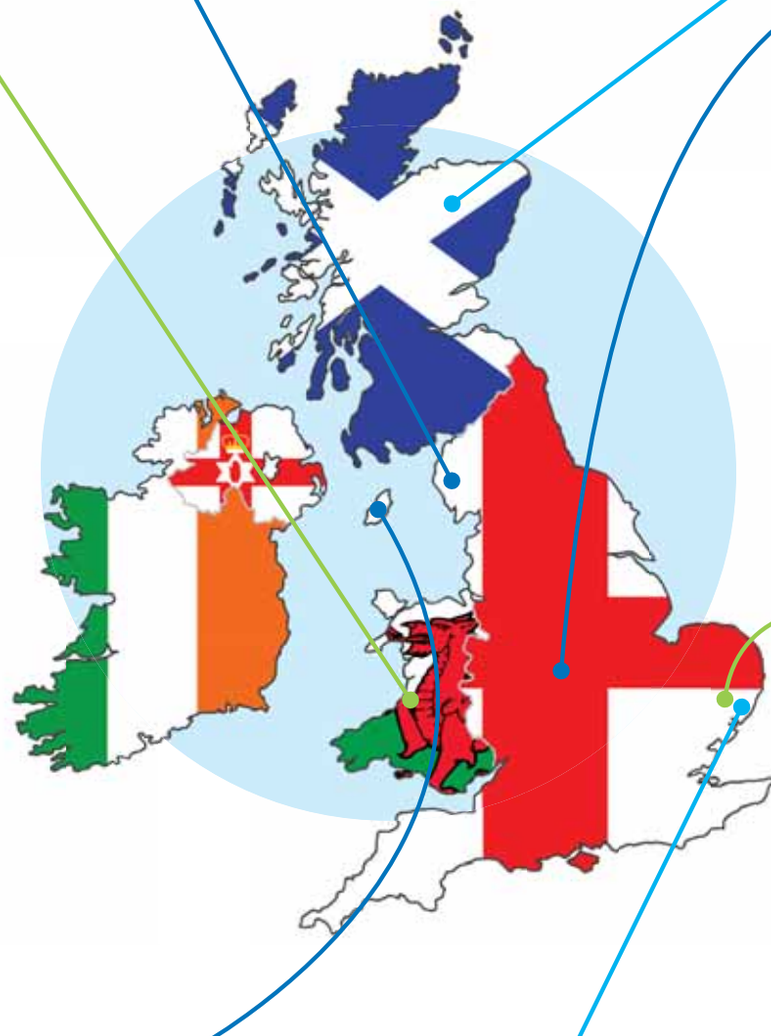
Coire an t-Sneachda in the Cairngorms

CARDIGANSHIRE

Record sheepdog sale

A 12-month-old border collie called Kim has sold for £27,100, smashing the previous sheepdog record of £20,000. Dewi Jenkins, the farmer who trained her, said: "Everything I trained her to do, she knew by the second time. She was a very fast learner." Mr Jenkins, from Talybont, near Aberystwyth, speaks Welsh but trains his sheepdogs in English so they can be used on farms worldwide. Kim was bought by Eamonn Vaughan, a farmer from Staffordshire. Mr Vaughan said Kim was "probably the most advanced sheepdog at that age I've ever seen", but he added: "I've got to get her loyal to me. It'll take her a bit of time before what she does for Dewi she does for me."

DewiJenkins/Facebook



WARWICKSHIRE

Getty

Doses go to waste

More than 1,000 doses of coronavirus vaccine had to be thrown away because they weren't put in the fridge. A £12,000 batch of the Pfizer vaccine, which needs to be kept at -70ºC, was sent to Stratford Hospital, but spoilt as it was left unattended for hours. Luckily, no-one missed their vaccine that day as nearby hospitals donated some extra supplies.

SUFFOLK

Money mix-up

Thousands of people have asked a woman on Twitter for financial advice by accident. The words 'hedges' and 'stocks' can refer to making money on the stock market, which has led people to incorrectly ask Zoah Hedges-Stocks for help with their money. In a tweet that has been seen 40m times, Ms Hedges-Stocks posted: "THIS IS NOT A FINANCE ACCOUNT. I DO NOT HAVE ANY TRADING ADVICE. HEDGES-STOCKS IS MY SURNAME."

ISLE OF MAN

Soggy doggy found safe

A dog that disappeared while chasing a duck has been found safe and sound. Eight-year-old springer spaniel Tilly was on a beach walk at Garwick when she spotted a duck and swam out to sea until she disappeared from view. A man found her on rocks 16 hours after her disappearance. Owner Hayley Varney said Tilly was doing well and looking forward to walks, but that "we might avoid the sea for a little while".

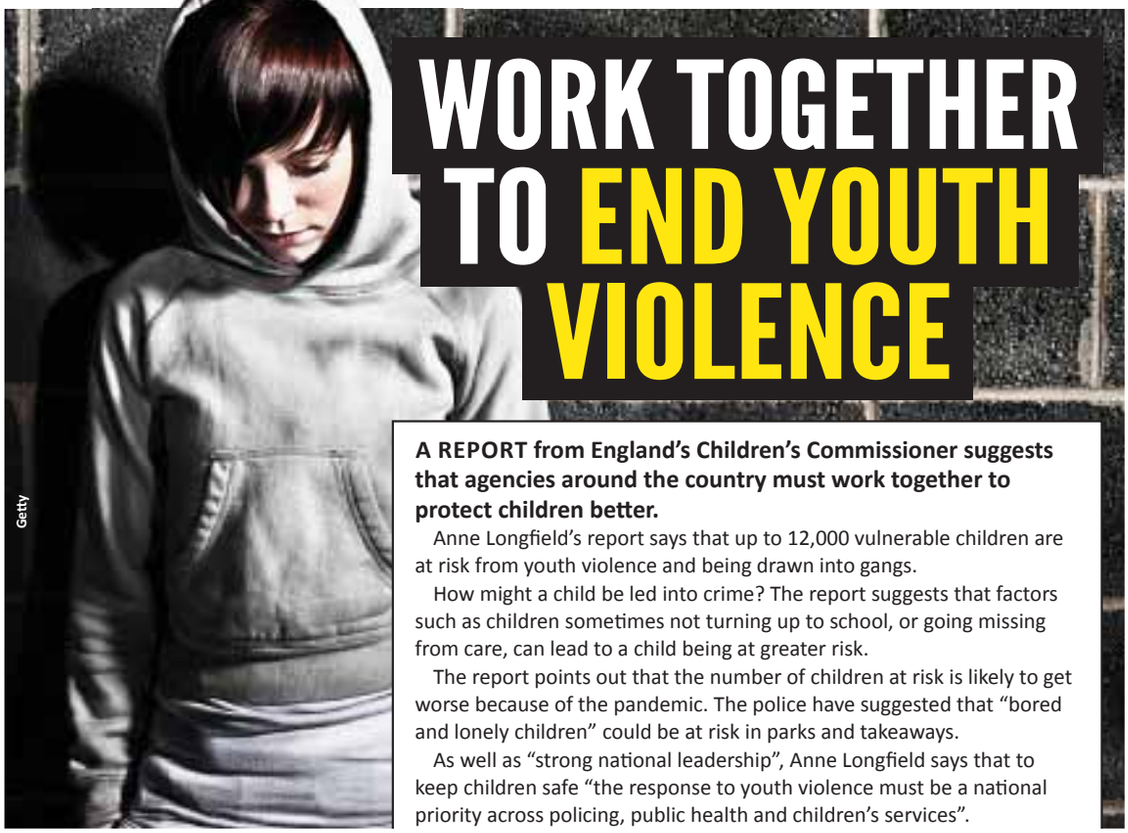
Hayley Varney/Facebook

SUFFOLK

Wild plant thrives

One of the rarest wild plants in the UK is thriving in a tiny nature reserve in the middle of an industrial estate. The reserve in Brandon is only 1,000m^2, but it has the largest amount of field wormwood in the UK. Botanists at Plantlife, a conservation charity for wild plants, said the number of flowering plants had grown from two in 2019 to 85 now.

Getty



Getty

WORK TOGETHER TO END YOUTH VIOLENCE

A REPORT from England's Children's Commissioner suggests that agencies around the country must work together to protect children better.

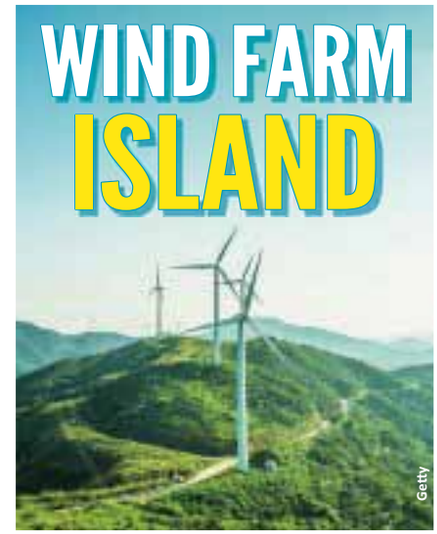
Anne Longfield's report says that up to 12,000 vulnerable children are at risk from youth violence and being drawn into gangs.

How might a child be led into crime? The report suggests that factors such as children sometimes not turning up to school, or going missing from care, can lead to a child being at greater risk.

The report points out that the number of children at risk is likely to get worse because of the pandemic. The police have suggested that "bored and lonely children" could be at risk in parks and takeaways.

As well as "strong national leadership", Anne Longfield says that to keep children safe "the response to youth violence must be a national priority across policing, public health and children's services".

WIND FARM ISLAND



Getty

DENMARK is set to build the world's first wind farm island, providing power for three million homes.

The giant island will be built in the North Sea alongside 200 wind turbines. It will be as big as 18 football pitches and will cost an estimated 210 billion kroner (£25 billion).

As you can probably tell, this is a huge project, the biggest in Danish history. As a result, it isn't expected to be ready until 2033.

WHEN WILL SCHOOLS REOPEN?

Getty

APART from one day on Monday 4 January, most kids haven't gone to school in 2021. As the vaccine roll-out continues, when can you expect to be back in class?

ENGLAND

- The Government has said it hopes schools can start to reopen from 8 March. However, nothing has been confirmed.

WALES

- 3 to 7-year-olds should be returning to school from 22 February.
- Some older pupils on vocational courses will be allowed to return on the same date.
- All other pupils will continue with remote learning for now.

SCOTLAND

- Primary 1-3 will return on 22 February.
- On the same date, some S4-6 pupils will be able to do practical work in school if it is essential for completing qualifications.
- All other pupils will continue with remote learning for now.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- Remote learning will continue for pupils until at least 8 March.
- If a return is possible in March, it will only be for some year groups at first.

NEVER TOO OLD!

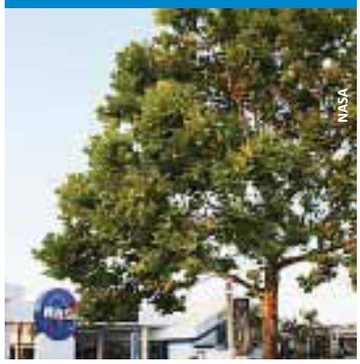
Frank Rothwell's Atlantic Challenge 2020/Facebook

A 70-YEAR-OLD grandad has rowed 4,800km (3,000 miles) across the Atlantic Ocean on his own for charity.

Frank Rothwell set off in a boat called Never Too Old on 12 December. He sailed from the Canary Islands and arrived in the Caribbean on 6 February. His adventurous trip has raised £878,000 (and counting!) for Alzheimer's Research UK.

Frank dedicated his achievement to his brother-in-law Roger, who died with Alzheimer's during his journey.

USA



Missing Moon Trees

This month, NASA is celebrating 50 years since Apollo 14 became the third manned mission to land on the moon. While the two other astronauts set foot – and played golf – on the surface, Command Module pilot Stuart Roosa orbited the moon with 500 tree seeds to test the effect of zero gravity on them. On their return, the seeds were planted across the US and the world, and are known as Moon Trees. Unfortunately, the exact locations of only around 50 are known – maybe there's one in your local park!

MYANMAR

Protests grow

Myanmar has seen its largest protests since 2007, following last week's military coup, where the country's elected leader was removed by the military. Monks and nurses joined the protests, and lots of protesters gave the three-fingered salute from *The Hunger Games*. As *First News* went to press, the protests had been peaceful, but there were fears that they could become violent, after a water cannon was used to break up crowds.

INDIA

Farmers' protests continue

Farmers in India have been protesting for three months against changes that they say will give big business too much power. Tens of thousands of farmers are camped outside Delhi. This week, these farmers were cut off from internet services by the government, which said it was to "maintain public safety". Singer Rihanna tweeted a link to her 101 million followers about a news story reporting the internet shutdown and the protests, asking: "Why aren't we talking about this?" Shortly after, environmental activist Greta Thunberg did the same. Their tweets angered the Indian government, which described them as "neither accurate nor responsible".

KENYA

Brilliant bricks

A Kenyan woman made headlines around the world last week, for using waste plastic to make bricks that are tougher than concrete. Nzambi Matee's factory produces around 1,500 bricks a week, made from a mix of different plastics. To make the bricks, plastic waste is mixed with sand, heated and then compressed into bricks. Nzambi says her bricks are five to seven times stronger than concrete.

RUSSIA

Ice cream for vaccines

Russia became the first country to roll out a vaccine for COVID-19 last August, but has had trouble getting jabs out to citizens. In a vaccination centre in Moscow, Russians have been encouraged to get their jabs in exchange for free ice cream. A doctor at the clinic said that the ice cream provided "a nice bonus" to those making it to the clinic in bad weather.

SOUTH KOREA

Green power boost

South Korea has announced a 48.5 trillion won (£31.5 billion) plan to build the world's largest offshore wind farm. The wind farm would produce 8.2 gigawatts, which officials say is as much energy as six nuclear reactors, and will have the environmental effect of planting 71 million pine trees. President Moon Jae-in said: "With this project, we are accelerating the eco-friendly energy transition."

OUR WORLD

NAME: DUMISA
LIVES: SOUTH AFRICA

DUMISA lives with his family in Johannesburg, in a dangerous neighbourhood.

Growing up in a dangerous neighbourhood often left Dumisa feeling scared, angry and alone. That all changed when he discovered Fight With Insight (FWI) – a boxing gym that is funded by Comic Relief, which supports and develops young people physically, emotionally and academically. As well as a passion for boxing, FWI has given Dumisa life skills to build a positive future. "Boxing shows me I can do better," he says.

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

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

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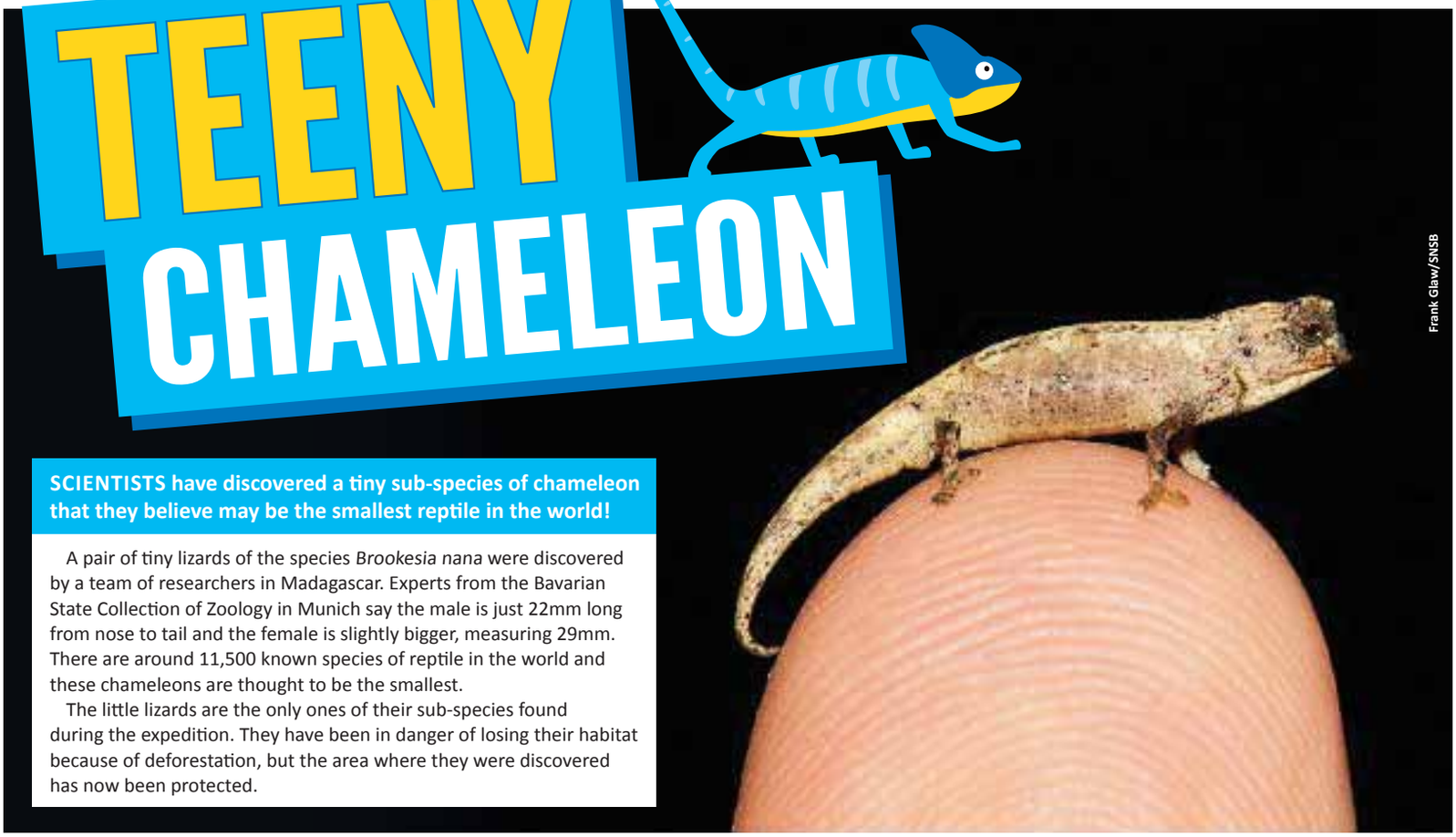
TEENY CHAMELEON



Frank Glaw/SNSB

SCIENTISTS have discovered a tiny sub-species of chameleon that they believe may be the smallest reptile in the world!

A pair of tiny lizards of the species *Brookesia nana* were discovered by a team of researchers in Madagascar. Experts from the Bavarian State Collection of Zoology in Munich say the male is just 22mm long from nose to tail and the female is slightly bigger, measuring 29mm. There are around 11,500 known species of reptile in the world and these chameleons are thought to be the smallest.

The little lizards are the only ones of their sub-species found during the expedition. They have been in danger of losing their habitat because of deforestation, but the area where they were discovered has now been protected.

CRANES RISE AGAIN

iStock

CRANES in the UK are bouncing back from the brink of extinction, with a record number of breeding pairs confirmed.

There are now 64 breeding pairs in the UK, according to data collected by conservationists monitoring the species. Last year the breeding pairs produced 23 chicks between them. Experts believe the total population of cranes in the UK is over 200 animals, include single cranes living alone.

Cranes are the tallest birds found in the UK and can reach 1.2m tall. They were almost wiped out completely in the 1600s but, thanks to conservation efforts, including re-introduction programmes, they are back and doing well.

BABY BEE BAN

A DELIVERY of 15 million baby bees from Italy may have to be sent back or destroyed because of new import laws since the UK left the EU.

iStock

Every year a company called Bee Equipment in Kent imports thousands of bees, which are used to help pollinate crops. New rules put in place since Brexit say that only queen bees can be imported to the UK. Patrick Murfet, managing director of Bee Equipment, has written to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) in the hope of finding a solution.

AYE-AYE ARRIVAL

Bristol Zoo Gardens

BRISTOL Zoo Gardens has released the first pictures of a rare nocturnal lemur called an aye-aye, which was born there two months ago.

Until now, the rare baby has been kept hidden by its mother Tahiry, who was also born at the zoo five years ago.

Aye-ayes are shy and nocturnal animals, and Tahiry built her nest so that she had complete privacy while her baby was small. This picture shows the first time the keepers caught a glimpse of the baby.

Aye-ayes are extremely vulnerable and can only be found in Madagascar. They are known for having really long middle fingers, which they use to poke around in holes in trees to find food.

Their numbers are falling rapidly in the wild, and with only 50 aye-ayes in captivity globally, every birth is fantastic news for the species.

FRILL SEEKER

CC BY-SA 4.0
This is what the *Protoceratops* might have looked like

SCIENTISTS reckon ceratopsian dinosaurs like the one above had neck frills in order to attract mates.

Many dinosaurs are known to have had frills around their necks. The most famous frilly dino is probably the *Triceratops*. Previous theories were that the frills were for protection or to cool down the body temperature. But this new study suggests that they may have been used to attract a partner.

A team at the Natural History Museum in London studied the skulls of *Protoceratops*, a sheep-sized ceratopsian dinosaur that would have lived in what is now Mongolia's Gobi Desert. They 3D-scanned 30 complete skulls of the dinosaur, creating the biggest complete set of 3D data for any one dinosaur. Their set ranged in size from tiny day-old hatchlings to fully-grown adults, so they had a full growth chart of the species.

This allowed the scientists to compare how the skull changed in shape as the animal grew. From this, they could see if the shapes of the frills were a result of evolving to attract dinos of the opposite sex.

Andrew Knapp
One of the 3D scans of the skull

They found that the frills had a much greater rate of change in growth compared to other traits of the animals. In many species, this fast change happens because of 'sexual selection', which is a process of natural selection in which one sex prefers a specific characteristic in the other sex.

Dr Andrew Knapp, a member of the research team, explained: "While there are quite a few examples in living animals, where usually females select males based on the size of their tail feathers or calls, it is quite often overlooked that males do the same thing with females as well."

The scientists also think the *Protoceratops*' frills may have developed due to other social behaviour, such as defending food or territory from rival dinosaurs.

Protoceratops were herbivores who lived in the Cretaceous Period, 146 million to 66 million years ago.

Andrew Knapp
Protoceratops remains

WHO STEPS UP LONG COVID RESEARCH

iStock

THE World Health Organization (WHO) is hosting its first global meeting on 'long COVID' this week.

Long COVID is the term given to describe symptoms that continue weeks or months after the infection has gone.

Most people who catch the new coronavirus seem to feel better within a few weeks, but some are still feeling symptoms such as fatigue, cough, chest pain, dizziness or a loss of taste or smell for a long time after the initial illness.

Scientists don't know much about it yet, because COVID-19 is such a new illness. But studies have suggested as many as 76% of patients who go to hospital with the coronavirus have at least one symptom six months later. The UK's Office for National Statistics carried out a survey last December that found one in ten people still had symptoms 12 weeks after testing positive. One in five had symptoms for five weeks or more.

The WHO's Dr Janet Diaz said: "It's a condition that needs further description, further understanding of how many are affected and further understanding of what is causing it, so we can better prevent, manage and treat it."

Dr Diaz explained that doctors still don't know why one person gets some symptoms, but another person gets completely different ones.

This week's seminar will be the first of many to tackle long COVID.

PIGS PLAY VIDEOGAMES

A STUDY that involved pigs playing videogames has shown how smart the animals are.

Eston Martz/ Pennsylvania State University

Four pigs were trained to use their snouts to move a joystick connected to a monitor.

They were then taught how to play a game in which the aim was to use the joystick to move a cursor up to four target walls on the screen. All the pigs' responses were excellent – way better than just being due to chance – showing they understood that the movement of the joystick was connected to the cursor on the computer screen. Their response was "remarkable," according to the researchers.

SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

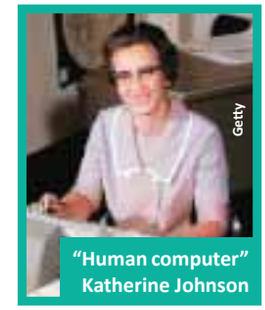
This report is from the Science Museum in London

IT was International Day of Women and Girls in Science on 11 February.

To celebrate, we're highlighting females who made enormous contributions to science, but were practically unknown for 50 years.

Katherine Johnson, Mary Jackson, Dorothy Vaughan and Christine Darden were four African-American women working at NASA in the 1950s and '60s.

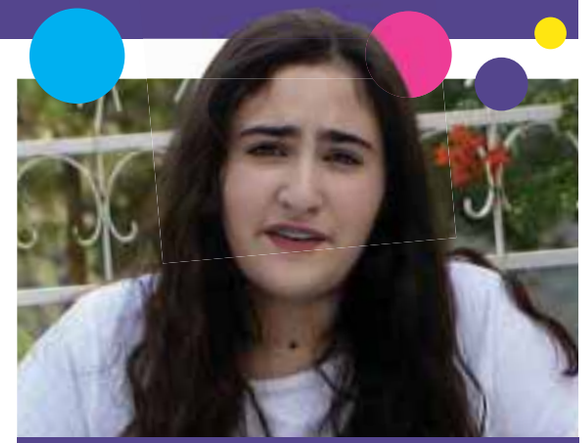
They overcame gender and racial barriers to enable one of the most momentous projects in history. They used their formidable maths skills to calculate launch and landing co-ordinates for space rockets and program NASA's computers. Their work contributed to the launch of the first NASA astronaut into orbit and later to the historic moon landings.


Getty
"Human computer" Katherine Johnson

First News has teamed up with sky KIDS show *FYI* and the BFI young audiences CONTENT FUND to make programmes and videos about the news, which you can watch on First News Education TV. This week we filmed in Lebanon, six months after the blast that devastated the capital city, Beirut.

BEIRUT

SIX MONTHS AFTER THE EXPLOSION



WATCH MY REPORT AT FIRST.NEWS/EDUCATIONTV
***FYI* EPISODE 109**

SIX months have passed since a huge explosion shook Beirut, the capital city of Lebanon. This week, we hear from Luciana Keyrouz, a 14-year-old singer who lives in Beirut, about what happened, how her city has been coping since the explosion on 4 August 2020 and what she has been doing to help. This is her story.

"At first I thought it was an earthquake so that's why I wasn't that afraid, but then I realised that it was a big explosion that had hit Beirut.

It was the most terrifying experience. At that time I was at home with my little sister. My parents were out, and it was so difficult to see the windows breaking and falling down on the ground.

I ran to my sister and I told her: 'Come with me, we're going to go to the neighbour's house' because I really felt unsafe and insecure at home alone. It was so scary.

The explosion was caused by dangerous material being stored in a warehouse. To have lived near that danger for so long, not knowing, has angered many of us here in Lebanon, and now people have to rebuild their homes and their lives.

My music means a lot to me. It's a way to express myself and to overcome my fears. I think when we start replacing negative thoughts with positive ones we'll start seeing positive results. We released so many songs and video clips, just to try and spread positivity all over Lebanon. Sometimes it was distracting me from the hard situation that we're living in.

I was crying when I was recording because it's so heartbreaking. It was a tribute for all the people who lost their lives, or for all the people who lost a family member.

The year 2020 was hard for the whole world, but it was another level of 2020 for Lebanon. We're facing so many problems and challenges, many children that cannot eat and so many children that don't have a home to sleep in.

It's a challenge to live in Lebanon because every day you have something new; maybe a new problem, a new difficulty, a new financial crisis. It's so difficult.

For now, I have my family and I have my music to keep me positive and I am sharing my music videos online in the hope I can keep all young people in Lebanon optimistic about the future."

MORE THAN 200 PEOPLE DIED AND OVER 7,500 WERE INJURED

Getty

You can watch Luciana's video report at first.news/EducationTV on *FYI*, episode 109

Teachers – you can use your *First News* login to access education resources to accompany the films at first.news/EducationTV

THE BIG PICTURE

PROOF that a pandemic doesn't mean you can't look fabulous!

The famous Venice Carnival has been going for around 1,000 years, but is mostly being held online this year. However, people from the local area can still dress up and stroll around the beautiful Italian city.

The elaborate masks and costumes are still a huge part of the fun, and every year there's a competition for the best mask.

The famous Bridge of Sighs can be seen at the top of the picture. It is said to have got its name from the sighs of prisoners who were taken across the canal from the Doge's Palace to the prison.

Getty

FirstNews ● Issue 765 ● 12 – 18 February 2021

TRACY BEAKER RETURNS

DANI Harmer has played Jacqueline Wilson's famous character since she was 12 years old! She's back on our screens this week as Tracy in the brand-new series *My Mum Tracy Beaker*. We chatted to Dani about the new series and why Tracy Beaker is such a popular character.

● Tracy Beaker is all grown up! What can you tell us about Tracy in this new series?

So Tracy now is a mum, which is amazing. I think the last time we saw her she was working as a care worker in her 20s. Now she's in her 30s and she's a mum, so it's been really cool for me because, like everyone else, I really wanted to know what happened next and where Tracy's journey is going to take her. I think everyone is going to be really pleased seeing how Tracy's progressed and what a great mum she is.

● You're a mum too. Have you brought any of your real-life mum skills to the role?

Oh yes, I've definitely brought my mum skills with me, though Jess is a bit older than my daughter. My daughter's only four, but I thought back to how I've changed. Having a child changes you completely. Your whole priorities change, your whole perspective on life. You realise what's really important – and I wanted to make sure that really came across with Tracy as well. Before, she would get really angry over the smallest things, but now her priority is Jess and she's massively protective of her; maybe a little bit too much.

● What's the relationship between Tracy and her daughter Jess like?

So Tracy and Jess's relationship is a bit more like friends because Tracy had her when she was a bit younger. They're very different: Jess is quiet, she's really good at school and she loves reading, whereas Tracy wasn't any of those things! But that relationship is really nice actually. Sometimes it almost feels like Jess is the mum figure; she really looks out for her mum. Tracy is a fiercely protective mother and does everything for Jess.

● What was it like working with Emma, the young actor who plays Jess?

Emma blew my socks off, from the minute I met her. Her confidence… Actually, she reminded me of me when I was younger, nothing phased her at all. I can't wait for everyone to see her performance, because my goodness, she has got such a bright future ahead of her.

● What advice do you think Tracy would give to her younger self?

It would probably be to just calm down a bit, just chill! You don't have to get so angry all the time. Although, saying that, as an adult she does tend to get a little bit angry! But not as much.

● We hear there are some old friends – and foes – returning for the show?

Yes, we've got a few returning characters. The audience will be very pleased to know that Justine Littlewood is coming back. Obviously that's not going to go well. Tracy and Justine have butted heads since they were younger and nothing's changed there, really.

● Tracy has been a popular character since the first book was published in 1991. Why do people love her so much as a character?

I think people love Tracy because everyone can see a little bit of themselves in her. She has so many different emotions. Just in one day, she can go from being really sad to really angry to ridiculously happy – and everyone can find a little bit of Tracy in themselves. She comes across as fierce and a bit scary, but underneath it all, there's a heart of gold there. I think people just love how independent and fierce she really is. I hope that's why people like her, that's why I like her. When we first brought out *The Story of Tracy Beaker* there weren't really many strong female characters, especially in kids' TV. There was a lot of slapstick comedy, so for me to be able to portray this awesome female character was just a dream come true. I'm really glad it's stood the test of time because women are awesome.

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

KARIM ZEROUAL

THE CBBC presenter is currently showing off his cooking skills on BBC's *Celebrity Best Home Cook*.

● What's your home-cooked signature dish?

My home-cooked signature dish would be chicken curry with cumin rice, chapatis and all the trimmings – a mint sauce, onion salad, some fresh coriander and chillies on the side.

● What's your earliest memory of home cooking?

Cooking a tagine with my dad when I was a young chicken! It was a lamb tagine and I remember it was my nan's recipe. We made it in London but then soon after we actually went to Morocco to make it with my nan, so that was really sweet.

● How does your background and experience help you in the kitchen?

My culture. My dad is Moroccan and he was a chef, so I got to watch him cook a lot of Moroccan food. We had a lot of sweet and spicy flavours as well. My mum loved Indian food, so we had a lot of spices. I hope to bring that blend of culture to *Celebrity Best Home Cook*. When I'm working at CBBC it's got to be high energy, so lunch is important. I often get something like a baguette with some crisps and maybe a cheeky slice of cake. Or if I am really pushing the boat out, it's a well-known high street chicken restaurant, so that keeps my energy up!

● We've all been cooking more at home over the last 12 months, but what have you been cooking that's been a new hit? And what have you learnt that you love about home cooking?

I tried a lot of cooking when I was in lockdown. I made a really nice ramen and I learnt how to roll my own sushi. Lots of Japanese food, it's really awesome! I also attempted gyozas, but they're a bit tricky.

● How would you describe your cookery style in the kitchen – are you cool and calm or is there cookery chaos?

Messy but organised chaos! It's always about the pot that's cooking, never about the pots in the sink that need washing up. I'm calm with what I'm cooking, but around me it looks like chaos.

● Tell us about your worst ingredient or any foods you really don't like.

I don't like potatoes, mashed, boiled, roasted – unless they're fries!

Catch up with *Celebrity Best Home Cook* on BBC iPlayer

PICS OF THE WEEK

LAST week we told you that a new production of *Billionaire Boy* will be touring this Easter. This week, we've got some brand-new pictures of David Walliams (and a lot of loo roll) to kick off the show!

David Walliams said: "I am delighted that families will have the opportunity to see some live theatre again. The show is hilarious and I hope spreads some happiness in these difficult times."

The COVID-safe production takes place in car parks around the country, kicking off at Birmingham NEC on 2 April.

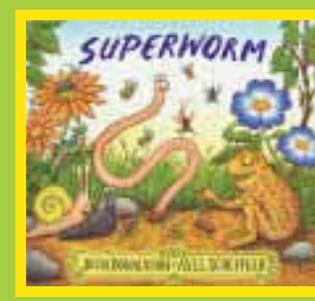
Find out if the show will be touring near you at carparkparty.com.

THIS WEEK

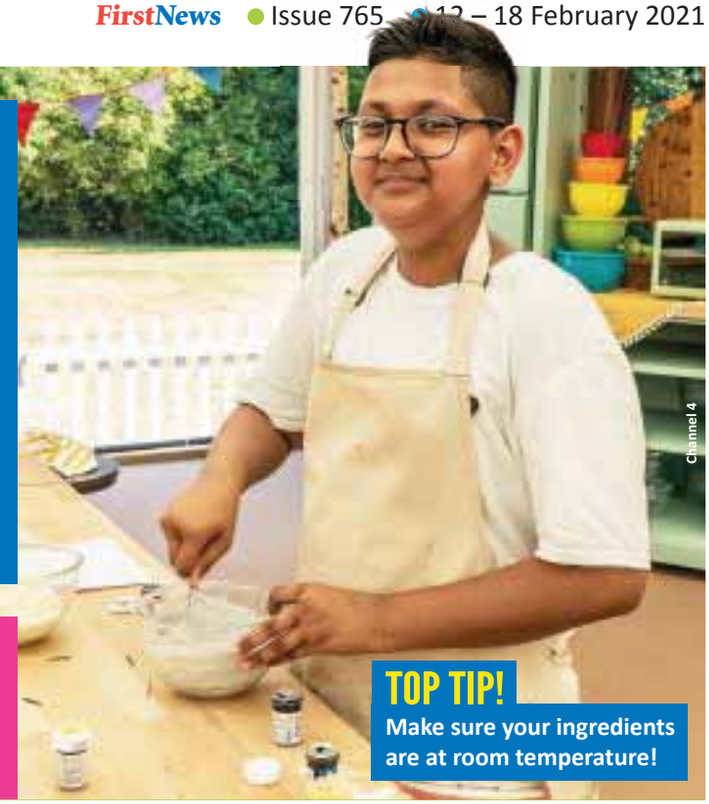
1 While lots of live shows are being postponed, Nickelodeon's *Kids' Choice Awards* will be going ahead! The show, hosted by Kenan Thompson, will be shown on 15 March at 6pm on Nickelodeon. We can't wait to see which celebs get slimed this year!

2 Sonic the Hedgehog is coming to Netflix! A new, 3D animated series starring the speedy blue hedgehog will launch on the streaming service early next year. A sequel to the hit live-action film, which starred Jim Carrey, is also due to be released in 2022.

3 Magic Light Pictures has announced that *Superworm* is the next Julia Donaldson book to be turned into a film. Olivia Colman will narrate the animation and former *Doctor Who* star Matt Smith will provide the voice of Superworm. The film is in production now and will be on our screens this Christmas!



GET YOUR BAKE ON!



REECE, 14, is the new *Junior Bake Off* champion, and over the next few weeks he's going to be sharing some of his delicious recipes and some top baking tips with *First News*. This week he's whipped up some yummy coffee and walnut cupcakes. We'd love to see what you bake over half term, so send your mouth-watering pictures to newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk.

TOP TIP!
Make sure your ingredients are at room temperature!

● Congratulations for winning *Junior Bake Off*! Was it hard to keep the secret for so long?

Winning *Junior Bake Off* was an absolute dream. I was so happy and proud, but not telling family and friends was the hardest secret I've ever had to keep.

● This was the second time you entered. Why do you think you got through this time?

I think last year I didn't have enough variety of baking knowledge or skills. Ever since I didn't get in last year I practised a variety of bakes and skills, and I think that's what got me in this year, which was so exciting. Being in the tent is an indescribable feeling; it's an absolutely incredible experience. I've learned so many skills on the show, such as having a tidy kitchen gives a tidy mind, and time management. I have really managed to work out how to use my time wisely.

● How much time does it take to practise for each week of *Junior Bake Off*?

I tried to practise each show-stopper at least twice, but sometimes I didn't really even get to practise. I was most proud of my finale cake, I was so impressed with the result! I love making cakes, as I think they are so versatile and you can decorate however you like and flavour however you like.

● Who inspired your love of baking?

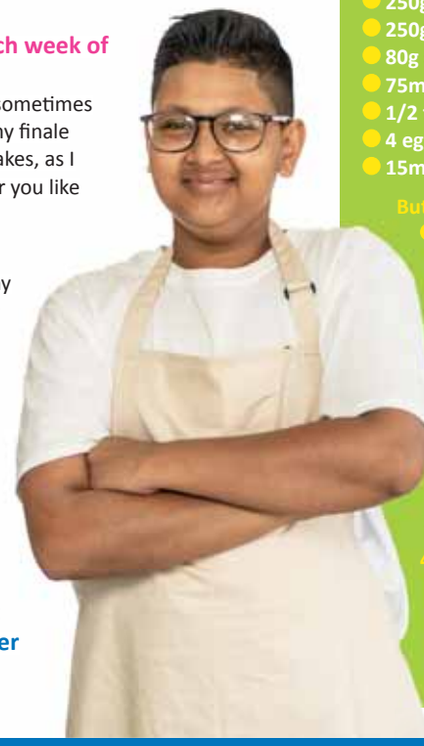
My mum was my biggest inspiration. I've always helped my mum cook dinner and dessert in the kitchen. It's probably my favourite part of the day – except the clean-up!

● What's your next ambition?

I love to write recipes and it would be amazing to share them with the world, but my ultimate goal is to help people come out of their comfort zone and bake! Some people don't like to talk about how they bake due to stereotypes like "only girls can bake". I don't want people to hide away their dreams, so my goal is to help people pursue their dreams.

● What advice would you give to kids who want to do more baking at home and maybe even enter the show?

Just be yourself and try a lot of new bakes!



REECE'S COFFEE AND WALNUT CUPCAKES!

Ingredients

Cupcakes (makes 20)

- 250g self raising flour
- 250g caster sugar
- 250g softened butter
- 80g chopped walnuts
- 75ml cold black coffee
- 1/2 teaspoon of vanilla bean paste
- 4 eggs
- 15ml neutral oil (e.g. vegetable, canola, grapeseed, sunflower)

Buttercream

- 150g butter, softened
- 225g icing sugar
- Splash of milk

Decoration (optional)

- Extra walnuts

Method

1. Preheat your oven to 180°C and line your cupcake tins
2. Cream your butter and sugar until super pale and fluffy, then add the eggs one at a time
3. Add in dry ingredients, oil, coffee and walnuts, then fold until it's all mixed together
4. Bake for 17 minutes then leave to cool
5. For the buttercream, whip up your butter for five minutes, add icing sugar and whip for a further five minutes. Then add a splash of milk and whip for another two minutes
6. Pipe your cupcakes and serve

If you're inspired by Reece and fancy showing off your baking skills, then why not apply for *Junior Bake Off* 2021? If you're aged between 9 and 15, and can whip up a cool cake or some brilliant biscuits, then this could be your year! To apply, visit junior.take-part.co.uk, but make sure to check with a grown-up first. Entries close on 28 March 2021.

GOLDEN CREME EGG

Batemans Auctioneers

A RARE gold Cadbury's Creme Egg is going up for auction on 19 February – and boy, does it look magical!

The Cadbury's Conundrum egg was part of a nationwide treasure hunt back in 1983. Cadbury created 12 eggs with different themes, then hid them in secret locations across the UK. The public had to find clues hidden in a book to discover where the eggs were stashed. What lots of people didn't know was that a 13th egg was also created. This egg – much larger than the others – was up for grabs for retailers to win through a private draw. It's this particular egg that is now heading for auction.

The 13th golden egg was made by the Queen's official jeweller and weighs a hefty 326.6 grams. It was first sold back in July 2017 for a whopping £17,200. Batemans Auctioneers believe the extraordinary egg could be sold again for between £15,000 – £20,000. Keep an eye on *First News* soon to find out how much it went for!

SWEET SUCCESS

Guinness World Records

THESE racing cars aren't just fast, they're also tasty!

The amazing creations are made from 91% cake, built up around an aluminium base. Racing driver Michael Andretti had to park his sweet tooth so he could hop aboard one of the unusual vehicles to give it a spin. In the process, he also managed to break not one, but two Guinness World Records.

Andretti's cool cake car reached a top speed of 27.48km/h (17.08mph), making it the fastest edible vehicle. It also travelled 106.62m (349.81ft), the longest distance covered by an edible vehicle.

The event was hosted by Cowlitz Indian Tribe in America.

Guinness World Records

VALENTINE'S VILLAGE

Facebook/Lover Villagers

This year, the village has launched a Send A Little Love campaign, encouraging people to send cards to those they are missing during the pandemic. Visit www.lover.org.uk

COULD a little place in Wiltshire be the most romantic of all?

The village of Lover (yes, that's its real name!) hits the headlines every Valentine's Day, thanks to its very special postmark.

Lots of people like to send their cards or love letters from the village so that they can get a unique stamp on the envelope.

In fact, the tradition has been going on for years. Back in the '60s, it became known as the Lover Valentine Post. The village postmistress used to receive around 2,000 Valentine's cards from across the world asking for the stamp.

The affectionate fun came to an end in 2005 when the local post office had to close, but thankfully in 2016 it was brought back. Now there is an official Lover Community Trust that helps to manage all that Lover-ly post!

WATER WEDDING

Facebook

A COUPLE in Chennai, India, have enjoyed a rather different wedding ceremony – 18.3m underwater!

V Chinnadurai and S Swetha showed that their love runs deep, by taking their vows 60ft down while scuba diving!

The couple said "I do" off the coast of Neelankarai in Chennai. They both wore traditional dress instead of scuba diving suits, and there was even a flower garland.

The newlyweds said they came up with the idea to get married in the sea to help raise awareness of water pollution.

Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer

SUDOKU!

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

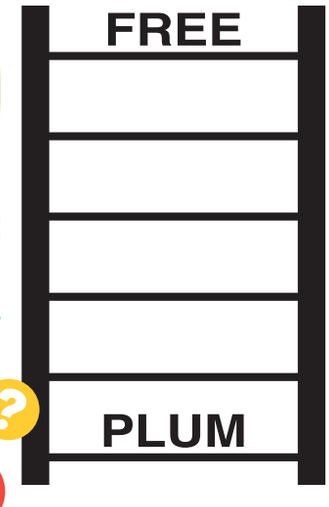
		3	4		6	1		
7		4				6		5
6				9				2
	8		6		9		1	
	5		2		8		7	
	6		3		7		5	
9				6				8
1		2				9		3
		6	9		3	5		

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

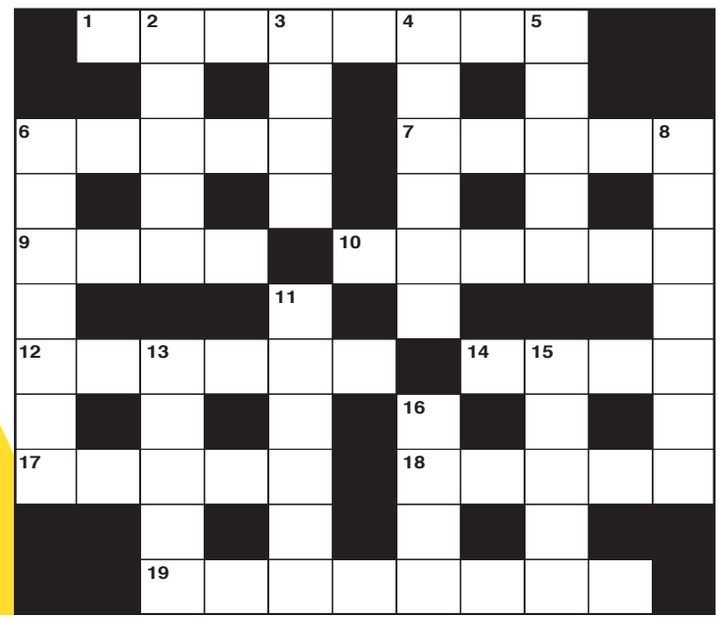
SEE if you can get from the top of the ladder to the bottom by changing one letter at a time to make a new word.



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.

Artists will love these 12 vibrant colouring pencils, each printed with a positive word to spark ideas. Each pack includes a double wooden pencil sharpener and sheet of stickers. And 10% of profits go to charity. www.stibpencils.com



ACROSS

1 Extremely big (8)
6 Enclosed area for sports events (5)
7 Room inside the roof of a building (5)
9 Small green vegetables (4)
10 Popular puzzle where one places numbers in a grid (6)
12 A type of shellfish (6)
14 Continent to the east of Europe (4)
17 Strange and frightening (5)
18 Passage between rows of seats (5)
19 Painting of a person (8)

DOWN

2 Drama set to music (5)
3 Egg-shaped (4)
4 Sculpture (6)
5 Game of luck (5)
6 Officially agree to (7)
8 Bravery (7)
11 Shooting star (6)
13 Parts (anagram) (5)
15 Japanese food dish (5)
16 This grows from the top of your head (4)

HOW TO ENTER: Send your finished puzzles by email to **win@firstnews.co.uk**. Don't forget to put **Puzzles 765** in the subject box. We're afraid we can't accept postal entries for now. The closing date for puzzle entries is **Thursday 18 February 2021**.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

CAN you spot the five changes we've made to this picture from *Wonder Woman 1984*?

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WORDSEARCH

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

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

- [ ] Socks
- [ ] Kilt
- [ ] Tie
- [ ] Jumper

- [ ] Dress
- [ ] Shirt
- [ ] Shorts
- [ ] Coat

- [ ] Trousers
- [ ] Blouse
- [ ] Cardigan
- [ ] Dungarees

WHERE ON EARTH?

CAN you guess which country these are all associated with?

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: Symbol missing from flag, sword added behind head, pattern removed from vest, strings added to collar on shirt, extra plait of hair. **Where on Earth?:** South Africa.
Word ladder: rock, rack, tack, talk, tall, fall.
Word wheel: cardboard.

H	E	D	G	E	H	O	G	B
A	E	A	O	K				
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5	6	4	2	8	7	9	3	1
6	5	3	7	1	9	8	4	2
7	4	2	8	3	5	1	9	6
9	8	1	6	4	2	3	5	7
4	3	6	9	2	1	5	7	8
8	2	5	3	7	6	4	1	9
1	7	9	4	5	8	6	2	3

FirstNews QUIZ

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED THIS WEEK?

HAVE a go at our *First News* Challenge! See how well you did by using the answers at the bottom. Good luck!

1 Who is the Government's new youth mental health ambassador?

.....

2 How much did Kim the border collie recently sell for?

.....

3 This month, how many years will it be since the Apollo 14 spacecraft landed on the moon?

.....

4 Which famous footballer just scored their 500th club goal?

.....

5 Which bird is said to be bouncing back from the brink of extinction?

.....

6 Who plays Firedrake in the new animated film *Dragon Rider*?

.....

7 In which county would you find the village of Lover?

.....

8 What do the initials DEFRA stand for?

.....

1) Dr Alex George 2) £27,100 3) 50 years
4) Zlatan Ibrahimović 5) the crane
6) Thomas Brodie-Sangster 7) Wiltshire
8) Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

WIN! A BUNDLE

LET your imagination turn you into a superhero as you take on cool superpowers with My First Mighty Blasters from Little Tikes.

The bundle includes the Dual Blaster, Mighty Bow and Boom Blaster, to take play to the next level. The Dual Blaster comes with six colourful power pods: Magma, Dino Smash, Webs, Spikes, Shock Wave and one secret power pod! The Dual Blaster can launch two power pods at once for double the fun! The Dual Blaster is super easy to launch, with a simple pull-back trigger and front-loading mechanism.

The Mighty Bow comes with four colourful power pods: Magic, Wind, Shark Bite and one secret power pod – and is super easy to load and launch with a pull-back trigger. The fun continues with Boom Blaster, including three colourful power pods: Red Fireball, Missile Launch and one secret power pod – launching is a breeze with front loading and a simple pull-back trigger!

One lucky winner will win a My First Mighty Blasters bundle. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

little tikes

What is Peter Parker's alias?
a) Batman b) Hulk c) Spider-Man

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY MIGHTY

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 19. The closing date is 25 February 2021.

WIN! A EUGY BUNDLE

CREATE your own cute 3D creatures and animals with the amazing EUGY range.

This 100% sustainable arts and crafts collection allows you to create models using a simple number sequence to fit all the pieces together. Make a panda, a parrot, a dragon and even a mermaid. There are so many to collect, with new figures being added all the time. Start growing your EUGY collection with this brilliant prize. We have three bundles to give away and each winner will receive 15 different EUGY sets to create and keep.

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

In which country would you find the Little Mermaid statue?
a) Italy b) Denmark c) Greece

Available from Hobbycraft and all good retailers.

T&Cs: the 15 EUGY sets will be chosen at random from the existing EUGY range.

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY EUGY

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 19. The closing date is 25 February 2021.

FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS!

THOMAS Brodie-Sangster plays a young dragon called Firedrake in the new animated adventure film *Dragon Rider*.

Getty

● Tell us about *Dragon Rider*!

It's a fun, cute little story about courage and determination, and travelling and going with your gut feeling, and friendship and self-belief. It's also a little bit about deforestation and conserving our world and our imprint as human beings upon it. It's a fun, feelgood, perfect half-term movie.

● You play Firedrake, who is a beautiful silver dragon. What's he like?

He's courageous and he's frustrated with his current predicament and questions the reasons behind the authority and why there is a lack of freedom. I think he just wants a little bit more from life. He decides to act upon that and branch out and go off on an adventure with his best friend to see if there is a better life out there for him and his friends and family.

● How did you find your inner dragon voice to play him?

It was a funny one because we were like, well, should he sound really deep and big because he's a large animal? But then he should also sound a little young, a little naive, perhaps. So we came to this kind of like halfway between a squeaky voice, but with some kind of guts to it as well. It took a little bit of fiddling around with, until everyone was happy with the general sound. It's very cool seeing your voice come out of a dragon. You get to play a part that you would just never get to play in live-action.

● Did you practise your dragon roars in the mirror?

Not in the mirror, no!

● How did you find doing the voice for this animation? Did you get to record with the other actors?

No, not for this one. It can be a little lonely. I was one of the first to record, so I just had guide tracks to go off. It is a bit strange sometimes, but I enjoy it. It's just a different challenge and it's quite fun. I mean, you can knock out a feature film in a couple of days, it's a bit mad. It's just a very different way of going about making a movie, but I enjoy it.

● What's unusual about this film is that it's about dragons, but is also set in a modern world with the internet and iPads!

Yes, I think it's great! I mean, magical worlds don't always have a connection with the real world, so I like the fact that they have a crossover point in this movie. For me as a child watching TV shows and children's movies, I liked the stuff that was perhaps far-fetched, but at least based in an environment and surrounding that I was quite familiar with. That made it a lot more real.

Sky Cinema

Sky Cinema

● What would you pack for a magical quest like the one that Firedrake goes on?

I've got my little pocket army knife, my Swiss Army knife that I've had since I was about 12. It's got a pair of scissors, it's got tweezers, it's got everything you possibly need, so I'd definitely bring that. I'd bring a pillow because I'm a fussy sleeper, multiple spare pairs of dry socks and a good waterproof coat. For a luxury I'd bring Marmite sandwiches.

● The film is full of mythical creatures, but which would you like to meet in real life?

Definitely fairies – a naughty little creature that you could pop in your pocket. They'd probably whisper in your ear, but I think they'd be good fun to hang out with.

Sky Cinema

● Your character can sometimes lack confidence. Have you ever felt like that, and what advice would you give to kids who feel the same?

Yeah! If you come up with an idea or thought that gets pooh-poohed or trampled on immediately, then it's very easy to feel squashed by that and feel like you're wrong. That can lead to insecurities in your own self-belief and that's perfectly normal; everyone feels that. However, if it's something that continues to niggle at you, then you should go with your gut instinct and have the courage to pursue those ideas and those thoughts. The people who came up with all the most amazing inventions and ideas that transformed the world did so in a sea of backlash from people who said that wasn't possible, or not needed. It was only the people who fought against that and continued with their own self-belief that gave us all these amazing, wonderful things like the power of flight and the internet. Now we're up in space and travelling to the moon and all sorts of stuff that seemed nuts. It's amazing, so just follow your dreams.

Watch *Dragon Rider* on Sky Cinema now

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THE BIG PICTURE

YOUR eyes aren't playing tricks on you, that really is a tank underwater!

This odd sight was captured by British photographer Grant Thomas off the coast of Jordan, where military vehicles were deliberately sunk to give divers something cool to explore.

Grant's amazing picture was the runner-up in the Wrecks category of the Underwater Photographer of the Year 2021 competition. He says it was a huge team effort to place all the spotlights in the right place, so the Diverse Divers club deserve a shout-out too for helping to create this stunning picture.

© Grant Thomas/UPY2021

FirstNews ● Issue 765 ● 12 – 18 February 2021

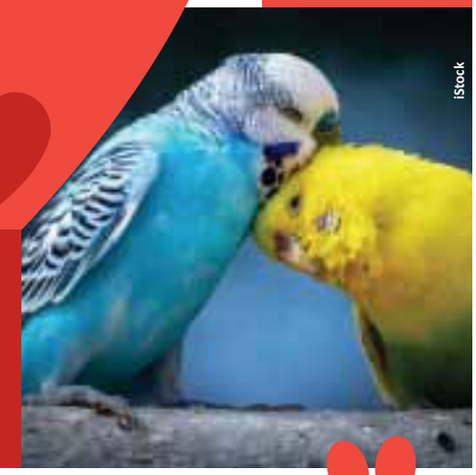
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

FOR lots of us, the beginning of the year has been pretty tough. But since 14 February is Valentine's Day and lots of the UK is blanketed by snow and ice, we thought that we could all use a bit of warmth and love this Sunday – and what's warmer and more lovely than a cuddle? So take a deep breath, get under a blanket and have a look at these adorable hugging animals this Valentine's Day!

A KOALA-TY HUG

Getty

LOVEBIRDS



iStock

SOFTLY SOFTLY

Getty

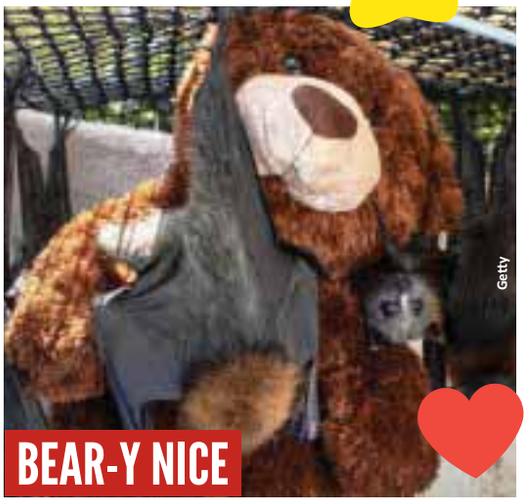
TONS OF LOVE

iStock

WALLABY MINE?

iStock

BEAR-Y NICE



Getty

L-OTTER LOVE HERE

iStock

PENGUIN PILE-UP

iStock

SONIC IN BRICKS

LEGO has teamed up with Sega to turn a fan-made *Sonic the Hedgehog* set into a reality!

The LEGO Ideas website lets you submit your own LEGO set designs. If they receive more than 10,000 votes from other users, the LEGO Group will then consider making the set a real thing.

The *Sonic the Hedgehog* set was created by Viv Grannell, who based her design on 2017's *Sonic Mania*.

Viv said: "Having 10,000 people back my design was overwhelming enough, even with friends and family behind me, but having it be selected for further development was the most exciting secret I have ever had to keep!"

Viv, Sega and LEGO will now work together to finalise the design for Viv's LEGO *Sonic Mania* Green Hill Zone LEGO Ideas set, which will be available worldwide.

ILLEGAL POKÉMON SELLER ARRESTED

A JAPANESE man has been arrested after he was reportedly caught selling hacked *Pokémon Sword* and *Shield* creatures online.

In Japan, the Unfair Competition Prevention Act makes it illegal to modify games in a way that promotes "unfair usage" or "imitation".

Back in April last year, a man modified the Pokémon Sobble to be much better than usual, using his PC to hack the software.

He then sold the shady Sobble (below left) to a *Pokémon Sword* and *Shield* player in Kyoto for 4,400 yen (around £30).

The police heard about the deal, and last week arrested the man, who is thought to have earned over £7,300 selling modded *Pokémon Sword* and *Shield* monsters over the years.

As *First News* went to press, the *Pokémon* trader hadn't been sentenced, so we don't know what his punishment for selling illegally upgraded Pokémon is.

Selling Pokémon sounds more like a scheme by Team Rocket!

ELDRADOR CREATURES

***ELDRADOR Creatures* puts you in control of powerful monsters, who you must lead in the Battle of the Four Worlds. *First News* reviewer George went into battle for us.**

"*Eldrador Creatures* is a strategy game where you go into battle for the Superweapon. You can choose from four different worlds: Lava, Jungle, Ice and Rock.

You get to choose a character to battle other creatures. Each one has its own special abilities, so you need to choose the best one for each battle.

I really liked all the different creatures; my favourite was the crocodile. I also liked the power-ups, but it is quite hard – you have to have a good strategy to beat all the different creatures."

STADIA SHOCK

GOOGLE has said that it won't make any more new games for Stadia.

Stadia is Google's cloud-based gaming platform. It streams games in 4K to Google devices including Chromecast Ultra, the Chrome browser and the Stadia mobile app for Android smartphones and tablets. The idea was that you wouldn't need an expensive console to play games.

Now Google has decided to stop making its own games and has shut down its two development studios. Google says it wants to work with other developers who will continue to make their own games for Stadia.

TELL YOUR FRIENDS

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MY LOCKDOWN YEAR

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

by Kimmi-Leigh

I WANTED to let you know what I have been up to.

As you know, we have had a nasty bug that has hit the world, including North Wales, where I live: coronavirus.

This has shut places down and has left only essential places open. This means we cannot do much, which I find really boring. I am doing home-schooling, because we're not allowed in school to keep us safe. I do enjoy it, but I find it hard also because asking for help or instructions is difficult too. Some days I'm okay, but some days I struggle. The work can be hard, but it can be enjoyable too. For example, I have entered school competitions, fitness videos and done a Welsh rap for Ysgol Hip Hop.

I have many friends in and out of school who I miss socialising with. I have been keeping in touch with them through FaceTime, which is not so bad. It makes me feel lonely not seeing or being with people, but we have to listen to the rules and keep everyone safe by being in lockdown. Socialising, seeing teachers, family and friends is what I miss the most.

It has not all been bad, though. I had a lovely Christmas spent with my mum and dad, and I also brought the New Year in with them. I was happy to leave the year 2020 behind.

COVID-19 has been a sad time but I am grateful for my mum and dad, who are both key workers. Dad is a rigger in South Wales and Mum works in healthcare in the NHS and is looking after patients with COVID-19.

In my spare time I have baked, ridden my bike, gone on walks, done arts and crafts, puzzles, drawing and reading, so I have had some fun times over the last lockdown year.

Kimmi-Leigh...

...and her baking. Mmm!

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.

BOOKS

YOUR READS!

FORESTS

JESS FRENCH

reviewed by Sabirah James, aged 11

I really enjoyed reading this book. It gave me lots of facts about the different types of rainforests there are and the problems that each of them has.

It is very informative about the impact humans are having on our beautiful Earth. It makes me very sad that we are damaging our environment, but the book has given me encouragement with suggestions about how we can reverse the damage.

I am super happy about the section where there are answers to how we can make the changes. It also talks about useful jobs that can help maintain protection of the rainforest.

Sabirah's mum said: It's eco-friendly, made with recycled paper and soy inks. We found it would have been helpful for those in Year 5, who are working on a rainforest project.

It's not all doom and gloom: the book finishes well on affirmative action and steps to take to be a part of the solution!

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

HEAD back to the Roman age with Jeremy Strong.

Jeremy is our author of the week in the Virtual School Library.

Step inside the Virtual School Library from the National Literacy Trust and the Oak National Academy to read the hilarious *Romans on the Rampage* for FREE!

Jeremy recommends these books:

- The *Mr Gum series* by Andy Stanton, illustrated by David Tazzyman
- The *Just So Stories* by Rudyard Kipling
- Almost any poems by Michael Rosen!

Visit **library.thenational.academy** to find out more.

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WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?

MUSIC

MUSIC MAKER SCIENCE LAB
LEARNINGRESOURCES.CO.UK
£32.50

Create noise and learn about the science of sound and music with this fun STEM activity kit. This DIY kit will teach you about science, music, and sound concepts like pitch, vibration and acoustics. The 36-page illustrated storybook takes you on a music adventure, while you get to build your own instruments to play.

MUSIC PLAYMAT
BRIGHTMINDS.CO.UK £29.99

Become a one-person band with this interactive musical playmat! It comes complete with MP3 input, speakers, microphone and different instrument sounds, and offers hands-on fun for all music fans. There are eight musical instruments, three scratch pads and four different drum sounds, 24 touch-sensitive keys and a DJ scratch wheel.

MUSIC STAR ROLL UP PIANO
SMYTHSTOYS.COM £19.99

This bright 49-key piano is perfect for those wanting to learn the piano in a fun way. With eight tones and six demo songs, it's perfect for you to practise your musical talents or help develop a new one. Just roll it up and take it with you wherever you go.

*All prices correct at time of printing

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WIN! A BUNDLE OF BOOKS FROM COLLINS

ENRICH and boost your at-home learning with Collins children's dictionaries.

Be curious and keep learning at home with Collins. This brilliant bundle of dictionaries, atlases and activity books will help you with your school work, keep you entertained and spark ideas for new hobbies.

One lucky winner will win a bundle of books from Collins worth £300. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

How much of the Earth's surface is coved by ocean?
a) 71% b) 51% c) 91%

Collins 4parents

For free dictionary activity sheets and more, visit collins.co.uk/pages/collins-primary-dictionaries-free-worksheets

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SPORT IN PICTURES

All images: Getty

Manchester City's John Stones beats Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson, only for the goal to be ruled out for offside. It didn't matter – City thrashed the champions 4-1 at Anfield. It was their first win at Liverpool's ground since 2003, and the first time since 1963 that Liverpool have suffered three home league defeats in a row

Tim Wellens of Belgium and the Lotto Soudal team celebrates winning stage three of the Étoile de Bessèges race in France. Wellens went on to take overall victory

Belgian tennis star Elise Mertens poses with the Gippsland Trophy after beating Estonia's Kaia Kanepi 6-4, 6-1 in the final

The dazzling opening ceremony of the Alpine World Ski Championships 2021 in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy

AC Milan striker Zlatan Ibrahimović, aged 39, celebrates scoring the 500th club goal of his career in a 4-0 win over Crotone. The victory took Milan back to the top of Serie A

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SPORT IN NUMBERS

7 Super Bowls have been won by Tom Brady, after his Tampa Bay Buccaneers beat reigning champions Kansas City Chiefs 31-9. It was the Buccaneers' second title and they are the first team to play a Super Bowl in their home stadium. Brady, aged 43, is the oldest Super Bowl player ever.

Getty

2-1 was the shock score as Brighton & Hove Albion beat Chelsea in the Women's Super League. The result ended Chelsea's unbeaten run, which had lasted 33 games. The Blues took the lead but Aileen Whelan scored (below) to make it 1-1, before Megan Connolly's corner went straight into the back of the net.

Getty

227 runs was the winning margin for England against India on the final day of the first Test in Chennai. It was only the second time India had lost at home in eight years. Bowler James Anderson (below) took an impressive 3-17 for the tourists.

Getty

Getty

Scottish players celebrate their historic Six Nations win over England

SUPER SCOTS!

SCOTLAND have beaten England at Twickenham for the first time in 38 years, on the opening weekend of rugby union's Six Nations.

The Scots put on a brilliant show to stun the reigning champions 11-6. Fly-half Finn Russell scored two penalties and set up Duhan van der Merwe's try as the visitors secured a first victory since 1983 at the home of English rugby.

England struggled throughout, managing just 38% of possession. They also conceded 15 penalties.

Six Nations matches between Scotland and England are known as the Calcutta Cup, and the trophy is awarded to the winner. This game marked the 150th anniversary of the first Calcutta Cup. It was glorious for the Scots but a day to forget for the English. Coach Eddie Jones said that his side let the country down and that he took the defeat "very seriously".

This year's Six Nations began with France steam-rollering Italy 50-10 in Rome. The French scored seven tries, which won them a bonus point (awarded to any side scoring four or more tries in a single match).

Meanwhile, Wales beat Ireland 21-16, with George North and Louis Rees-Zammit scoring a try each, and Leigh Halfpenny (right) notching up 11 points from penalties and a conversion.

Peter O'Mahony became the first Irishman to be sent off in the Six Nations after elbowing Tomas Francis in the face.

The next round of matches will be played on 13-14 February.

Getty

GB STARS SEEK SKI SUCCESS

Getty

Team GB's Charlie Guest in action in November 2020

COVID-19 has led to many international sporting events being cancelled, but the 2021 Alpine Ski World Championships are underway.

Some 600 athletes from 70 nations are competing in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, at the biggest ski racing event of the year. It runs until 21 February.

Two of Team GB's medal hopefuls are Charlie Guest and Dave Ryding. In 2019, Guest became the first British woman to ever win an Alpine European Cup race, and she won another last year. Ryding achieved a World Cup podium finish earlier this year.

Paul Trayner of GB Snowsport reckons Britain goes into the tournament with "one of the strongest teams ever, after a season of top results".

The championships got off to an unfortunate start, however, when the first event, the women's alpine combined, had to be cancelled due to… heavy snow!

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