

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

COVID
JABS
BEGIN!
P3



SANTA
AT SEA!
P23



BEES FIGHT
HORNETS...
WITH POO!
P7



First News

Issue 756 £2.25 11 – 17 December 2020

HELPING
THE UK GROW

NEWS | SPORTS | ENTERTAINMENT | INTERVIEWS | PUZZLES | COMPETITIONS

THE HAPPY ISSUE!

2020 HAS BEEN
A DIFFICULT YEAR
FOR MANY, SO WE'RE
FOCUSING ON ONLY
THE GOOD NEWS THIS
WEEK, WITH A WHOLE
ISSUE FULL OF STUFF
TO MAKE YOU SMILE!



TURN OVER FOR POSITIVITY, NICENESS AND 28 PAGES OF GOOD STUFF

2. QUICK NEWS

FirstNews • Issue 756 • 11 – 17 December 2020

STAR AWARDS

World-famous chef Jean-Christophe Novelli has helped to kick off the Cancer Research UK for Children & Young People Star Awards. The awards celebrate the courage of children under 18 who have been diagnosed with cancer. Jean-Christophe had an online call with seven-year-old cancer survivor Edith to share some tips on how to put a festive twist on her favourite pancakes. Edith, from Southampton, is a previous Star Award winner and is celebrating her first Christmas since she finished 26 months of cancer treatment. Congratulations, Edith! Nominations for the awards are now open. You can nominate a brave child fighting cancer at cruk.org/starawards.



PAY WITH KINDNESS

A high school in America has opened a grocery shop where pupils pay with good deeds instead of cash. Customers at the shop at Linda Tutt High School in Texas pay for their purchases with points earned by helping others in the community.

DREAM DONATION

Former professional basketball player Michael Jordan has donated £1.5m to a charity for people facing hunger. The American star gave the proceeds from a documentary about his career to Feeding America, the country's largest hunger-relief company, which has been hard hit during the pandemic.

THE GOOD GRINCH

A 10.7m (35ft) inflatable Grinch in Hartlepool has raised over £6,000 for charity. Ray Liddell and his daughters put the inflatable up outside their house, but after it started attracting attention they decided to use it to raise money for Alice House Hospice.

QUICK NEWS

TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS

SPECIAL PANTO



Today (Friday 11 December) the National Lottery is hosting a one-off performance of *Pantoland* at the London Palladium to celebrate key workers. People attending the special event are from a wide range of professions, including NHS frontline staff, the police, military, teachers, refuse collectors and delivery drivers.

DAY TRIP TO THE TIP?



A Grimsby rubbish tip has become a visitor attraction after staff turned it into a winter wonderland. Workers at the Community Recycling Centre created a festive scene using old tyres, traffic cones and other bits and bobs they could find.

WHAT THE DICKENS?

Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* is an absolute Christmas classic. This year, the Charles Dickens Museum has pulled out all the stops, allowing you to watch a unique online performance of the much-loved play, performed in the very rooms where Dickens lived and worked. To find out more, visit dickensmuseum.com/events.

LITTLE PYGMY POSSUM



After last year's devastating bushfires in Australia, many feared for the survival of the little pygmy possum, one of the smallest (and most adorable) possum species in the world. Fortunately, one has been found, raising hopes that the species will be able to survive after its habitat was mostly destroyed in the fires.

ROYAL THANK YOU

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are taking part in a special tour of the UK to thank key workers. The royals will travel 1,250 miles through England, Scotland and Wales to meet school pupils, care home workers, teachers and health volunteers. Prince William and Kate will travel on the royal train for their tour.



TERRIFIC TEEN

US teenager Emily Meyer is celebrating ten years of her annual Emily's Awesome Toy Drive, where she collects toys to give to children who are in hospital over Christmas. Last year, Emily, from New York, collected more than 2,500 toys.

CHRISTMAS KOALA

What do you put on the top of your Christmas tree – a star, an angel? What about a koala? Well, a lady in Australia got a shock when she discovered a koala had wandered into her home and made itself at home on her Christmas tree. Amanda McCormick called wildlife rescue group 1300Koalas and, happily, the furry intruder was released back into the wild.



Spot the koala!

FURRY FIGHTERS



Australia's Tasmanian devil population has been facing its own pandemic. Since 1996, a type of face cancer has spread between the marsupials, and numbers have dropped significantly. Fortunately, researchers now say that the creatures are evolving to resist the disease and will survive.

RAINBOW CROSSING

A village in Somerset has voted for a rainbow zebra crossing on a busy road. The proposal, for a black and white crossing with coloured borders, has been approved by Evercreech Parish Council in order to improve road safety. Councillor Barry O'Leary said the village was desperate for a crossing. "Not only would this brighten your day but it would stand for inclusion," he said. More than 80% of the local community voted in favour of the new rainbow crossing.



3. BIG NEWS

COVID JABS BEGIN



Margaret Keenan gets the UK's first vaccination against COVID-19. She turns 91 next week, and said the jab was "the best early birthday present"

DOCTORS, politicians and pretty much the whole country have welcomed the start of the UK's first vaccinations against COVID-19, and the beginning of the end of the pandemic.



Masks and distancing will still be needed for many months, until more people can be vaccinated and we can be sure that it's safe to go back to normal

The first elderly and vulnerable patients were given their jabs on Tuesday, after the UK's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) said that the vaccine is safe and ready to use.

Last week, the UK became the first country in the world to approve the vaccine, developed by Pfizer and BioNTech. Dr June Raine, the head of the MHRA, said that 48 scientists from outside the MHRA were involved in checking that the vaccine is safe, including experts in viruses, diseases and toxic substances. Every batch of the vaccine will be checked to see that it is the same as the ones that were approved.

Some people have questioned how quickly the UK gave approval for the vaccine, but Dr Raine has insisted that no corners have been cut. The UK's four chief medical officers, the NHS and the British Medical Association have all welcomed the vaccine.

This vaccine is only meant for those aged 16 and over, so by the time the vaccine programme gets round to *First News* readers, you'll be getting one of the other vaccines that are being developed and will hopefully be approved in the coming months.

A PIZZA POSITIVITY



A BOY in America brought smiles to faces when he asked to feed the homeless on his birthday.

Eight-year-old Kieng Rivens handed out 75 pizzas to people living in a 'tent city' (where people without a home sleep in tents together). Kieng's reason for his food choice was: "Everybody likes pizza." Quite right!

Kieng's mum said she had tears in her eyes when her son told her his birthday wish. She then called some pizza places to see if she could get a discount for buying lots of pizzas at once.

Gage Lock, who manages a pizza shop, donated 75 pizzas and turned up with his staff to help Kieng and his mum hand out slices. He said: "Most kids want videogames, toys, bikes, and Kieng just wanted to give back."



KID OF THE YEAR

TIME magazine has announced its first ever Kid of the Year, 15-year-old scientist and inventor Gitanjali Rao.

She was one of more than 5,000 American nominees. Her research and work has used technology to tackle things like cyberbullying and water pollution.

In an interview with actor and activist Angelina Jolie, Gitanjali spoke of her hopes of inspiring others to help the world.

She said: "My goal has really shifted, not only from creating my own devices to solve the world's problems, but inspiring others to do the same. If I can do it, you can do it, and anyone can do it."

Time has been handing out awards for its Person of the Year for more than 90 years, with previous winners including popes, presidents and Greta Thunberg.

MORE MONOLITHS!

LAST issue, we told you about a mysterious monolith that appeared, then disappeared, in Utah, USA. Well, there are more!

They have now been discovered in California, Romania and now the UK. The latest monolith to have been spotted is on a beach on the Isle of Wight, and seems more reflective than the others.

It's still unknown what's going on. Is it an art installation, some creative marketing or even aliens?! We'll keep you posted when we know more...



Isle of Wight



Utah



California

4. NEWS IN PICTURES

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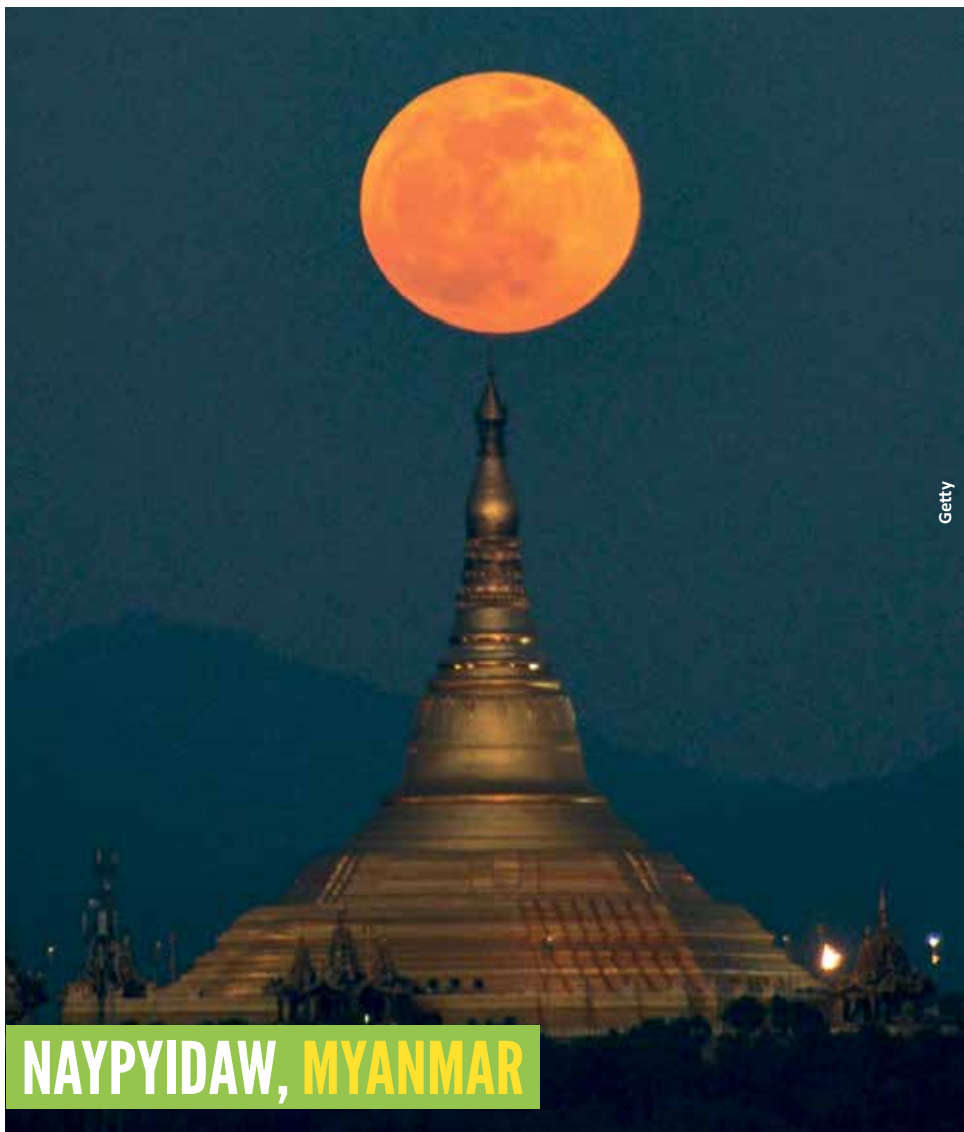
LONDON, UK

DISNEY+ commissioned artist and cake designer Michelle Wibowo to recreate the *Home Alone* movie set using edible ingredients, for the 30th anniversary of the film's UK release. The scene from the festive film favourite also includes Kevin's treehouse, the paint cans used in one of the booby traps, an icing figure of Kevin's neighbour Marley and the statue in the garden. In total, the creation includes 63 trees, 33 windows, 14 pizza boxes and six lamp posts.



KRAKÓW, POLAND

PADDLEBOARDERS make their merry way down the Vistula River during a charity event on Saint Nicholas Day (6 December).



NAYPYIDAW, MYANMAR

THE moon rises over the Uppātasanti Pagoda.



VAN, TURKEY

A DISABLED fox shows off its walking wheelchair. It was developed at the Van Yüzüncü Yıl University Wildlife Conservation and Rehabilitation Centre, after the fox was found wounded in the countryside.



SPACE

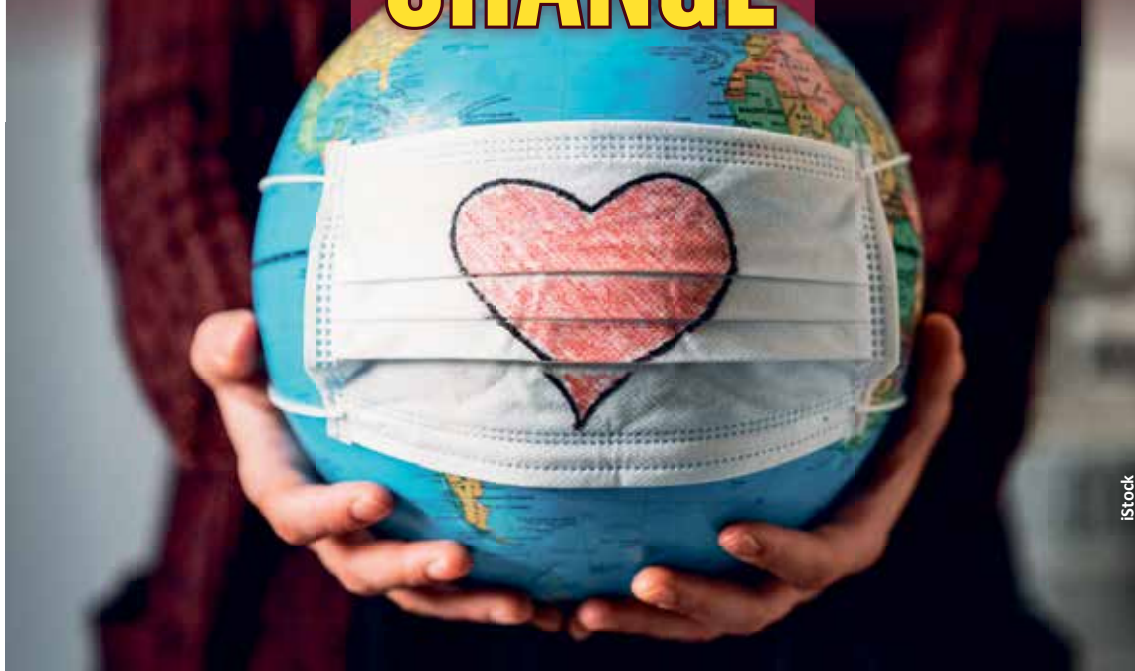
THE Royal Mint has launched a commemorative coin to celebrate the musical career of David Bowie. It is the first time a UK coin has been sent into space. The coin reached 35,656m and orbited the Earth for 45 minutes. Bowie's famous songs include *Space Oddity*, *Life on Mars?* and *Ziggy Stardust*.



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5. BIG NEWS

THE UK'S BIG PLAN TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE



THE UK has set a new climate target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 68% (compared to levels in 1990) by the end of the decade.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's ambitious new plan sees the UK leading the way in tackling climate change, with aims to reach net-zero emissions by 2050. The target of a 68% reduction is the fastest rate of any major economy. As part of this week's Climate Ambition Summit, the PM is urging other world leaders to bring forward their own plans to cut emissions.

Not only is the move great for the environment, it will also create more jobs.

Dr Andrew Steer, president and CEO of the World Resources Institute, said: "This bold emissions reduction target is very encouraging. It demonstrates that the UK is gearing up to be a pace-setter on the road to a net-zero future. In doing so, the Government is showing that it understands the new economy that can be created by smart climate action. The UK will now benefit from the job growth and economic opportunities of a clean, high-efficiency and equitable [fair] economy."

EDITOR'S COMMENT



WHILE many of us here at *First News* have been fortunate enough to be able to work from home this year, we know that 2020 hasn't been so easy for many of our readers.

So as term ends and the holidays begin, we wanted to put a smile on everyone's face by having an entire issue that's devoted to positive developments in the world, people being nice and, well, animals just being cute. And there's no happier news right now than the COVID-19 vaccine that's being given to the UK's most vulnerable people this week (p3).

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GOOD WEEK FOR...

CRISPS AND BEER

CRISP firm Walkers has said it will soon be able to cut 70% of CO₂ emissions from its manufacturing process. It will capture CO₂ from breweries and use it to turn potato waste into fertiliser, which itself usually produces high CO₂ emissions when it's made.



BETTER WEEK FOR...

BEATING MALARIA

OXFORD University experts say they are about to start the final stage of human trials of a malaria vaccine. The jab will be tested on 4,800 children in four African countries next year, after positive results

in early trials. Malaria kills more than 400,000 people a year, so a successful vaccine could go on to save millions of lives.

QUARANTINED CHEF'S CRAZY COOKING

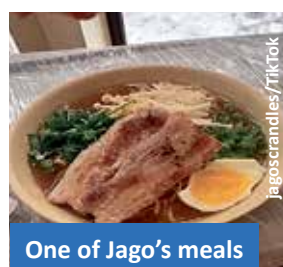


Cooking bacon on an iron!

WHO needs a fancy kitchen to whip up a meal? A chef from Cornwall has managed to cook up a storm on social media with just a kettle, iron and coffee maker while quarantining in a hotel room.

Jago Randles from Truro has impressed the world's leading chefs after posting videos on TikTok of his "isolation cooking." The chef was stuck quarantining in a hotel room in Vancouver, Canada, and, after realising he couldn't afford takeaways and didn't want to eat sandwiches for two weeks, he started experimenting. He wrapped eggs in plastic to poach them in a kettle, cooked chicken breast on an iron, and asparagus in the coffee percolator.

Even Gordon Ramsay was impressed, writing: "To be honest, that looks like some decent food, certainly some of the best food I've seen in any hotel."



One of Jago's meals



A boy cools off after a busy day, thanks to a water tank donated by WWF Kenya



KENYAN SCHOOLS HELPED BY WWF

SIX primary schools in Kenya are no longer having their classes interrupted by elephants!

New concrete water tanks and solar-powered electric lines are helping to keep elephants away, reducing tension between them and the local community.

The equipment was paid for by wildlife charity WWF. Before, in one school, elephants destroyed the water storage system – meaning students had to walk 15km before school each day to collect water. Sometimes lessons had to be cancelled altogether to protect students from dangerous elephants approaching.

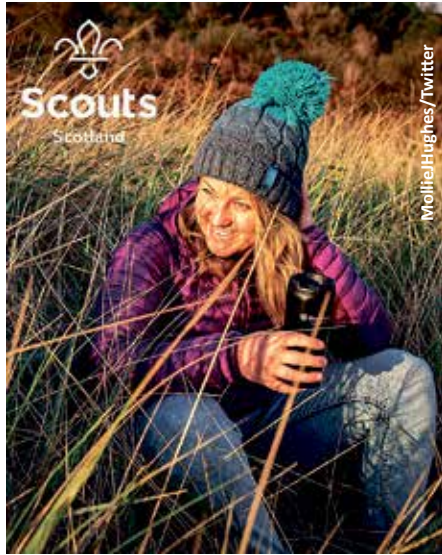
On one occasion, a school head teacher was even chased by an elephant on his way to school and had to hide.

Through the Land for Life project, WWF is collaborating with local communities and partners to secure habitat and develop solutions like this for people and wildlife to co-exist and thrive in Kenya and Tanzania. All donations to the Land for Life appeal will be doubled by the UK Government, up to £2 million.

For more information, visit the WWF website at www.wwf.org.uk.

6. HOME NEWS

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SCOTLAND

Historic first for Scouts Scotland

Scouts Scotland has announced Mollie Hughes as its new president – the first woman to hold the position. The 30-year-old from Edinburgh is the youngest woman to scale the north and south sides of Mount Everest, as well as the youngest woman to ski solo from the coast of Antarctica to the South Pole. Mollie tweeted: “I can’t wait to start working with these young people, to share a bit of inspiration and to learn how Scouts supports them.” She also emphasised the physical and mental health benefits of getting out and about in nature, especially during the coronavirus pandemic.



COUNTY DURHAM

Wednesday Wave

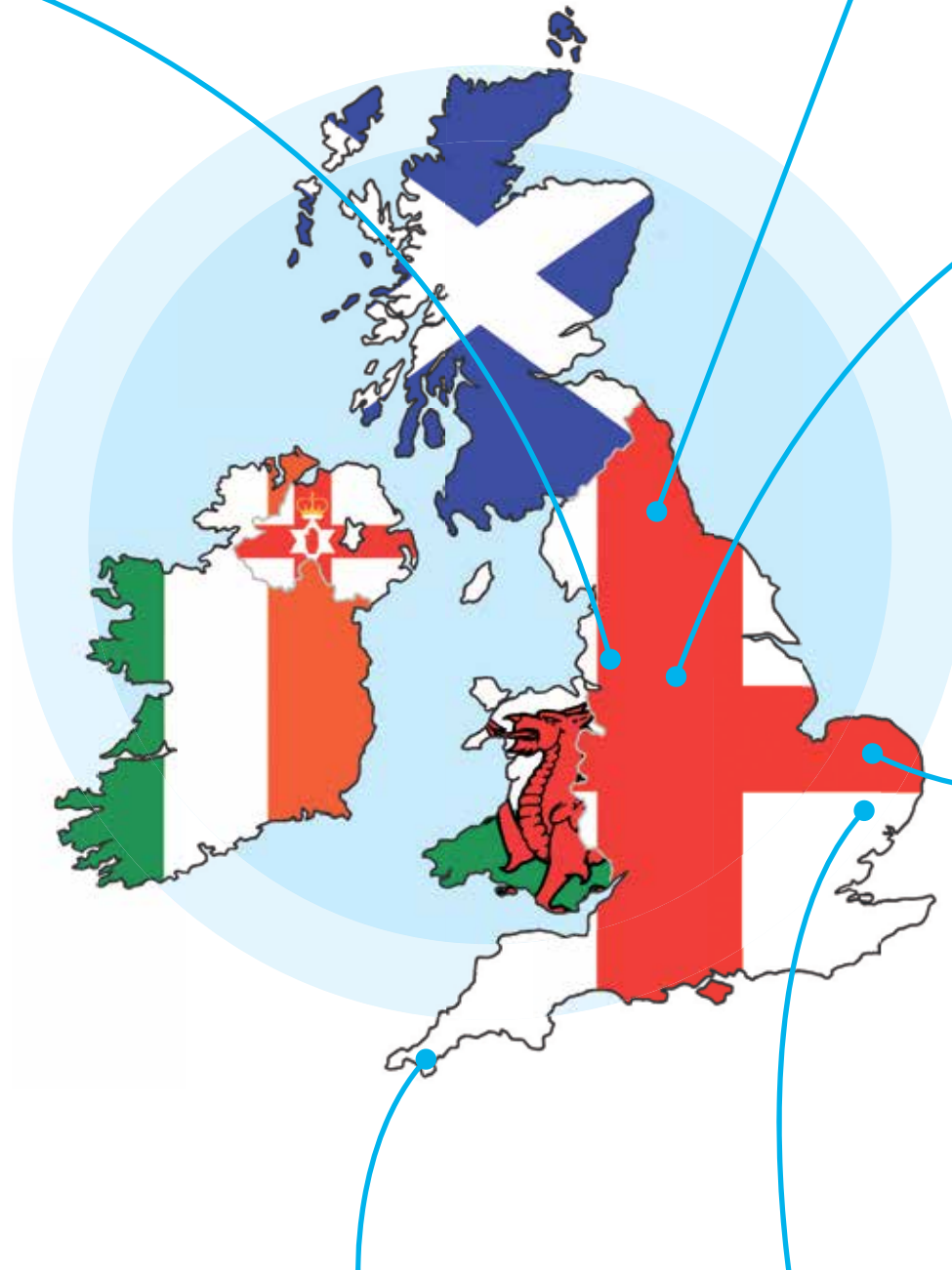
Pupils from South Stanley Junior School have been on a mission to cheer up residents at Towneley Court with a Wednesday Wave. Many elderly residents have been stuck in their rooms during the coronavirus pandemic, so the kind-hearted pupils stood outside to wave hello and sing Christmas songs to lift their spirits.

MERSEYSIDE



Elephant mystery solved

A herd of ornamental elephants were recently left outside a number of houses in St Helens. Neighbours waking up to an elephant on their doorstep were very confused and local police soon got involved to unravel the mystery. Happily, the reason for the elephants was a simple act of kindness. An elderly man came forward to explain that they used to belong to his wife. It was the first anniversary of her death and he decided to share her collection with local neighbours. Sergeant Andy Halfpenny, of Merseyside Police, said: “I would like to thank those people who made us aware of the presence of the elephants out of genuine uncertainty about why they were there. Thankfully it has now been confirmed the motivation was sheer kindness and the ornaments were left on doorsteps as a touching gesture by an elderly man, in honour of his late wife, who had collected them.”



DERBYSHIRE



Elvis brings good vibes

An Elvis tribute act has been singing for his neighbours on the streets of Chellaston. Bal Johal, who calls himself the Indian Elvis, has been cheering up his street, while footage of his performances have been watched thousands of times online.

NORFOLK

£80k raised for toddler

Generous people have helped to raise nearly £80,000 for a child with cerebral palsy. The family of three-year-old Tommy want to pay for special surgery that will help to reduce the stiffness in his legs. Thanks to generous donations, the Wroxham family can now do that. His mother Alex said: “Tommy will no longer need to be in daily discomfort and pain. ‘Thank you’ doesn’t feel like enough.”

CORNWALL

Lonely otters find love in lockdown

Two otters who lost loved ones have been paired up for company and found love together! Pumpkin, from Sea Life Scarborough, lost her beloved Eric a few months ago. Meanwhile, at the Cornish Seal Sanctuary, Harris’ partner, Apricot, died. The animal care teams at both places noticed that the otters were looking a little bit lonely, so that’s why they put their heads together and arranged for Harris to move in with Pumpkin. Sea Life Scarborough said the pair are getting on great and “proved that you can definitely find love in lockdown”. Otterly amazing!



SUFFOLK

Cracker donations

A five-year-old boy has been praised after helping his mum with her annual community fundraiser. Harry picked his school, Gunton Primary, to get a special treat using the money that was raised. He and his little sister Jessica used the money to buy 360 Christmas crackers, one for every pupil at his school. Mum Melanie said Harry wanted to “bring a smile to everyone’s face”.



7. BIG NEWS

FirstNews ● Issue 756 ● 11 – 17 December 2020

AMAZING
ALBATROSS
LAYS EGG
AT 69

WISDOM the albatross, thought to be the world's oldest bird with a leg band tag, has laid an egg at the age of 69.

The Laysan albatross has flown 3.5 million miles in her lifetime – that's the same as eight return trips to the moon! Conservationists were thrilled when she returned to her annual breeding ground in the Pacific Ocean to lay her egg. It's been considered a triumph for conservation. The birds face many threats, the main one being the plastic that ends up in the Pacific – and often birds' stomachs.



USFWS/Jon Brack/ Friends of Midway Atoll NWR



FIRST NEWS needs you! Our #HelpingTheUKGrow challenge aims to get everyone planting over Christmas, so join in!

All you have to do is plant something as a symbol of hope and growth for our future. Now is the perfect time to plant bulbs for the spring, or you could grow something from a fruit pip or an avocado stone. Whatever you try, upload your planting pics at first.news/HelpingTheUKGrow.

If you're looking for something new to do, give it a go. We hope everyone involved will share their photos and videos and challenge someone else to join the movement, using the hashtag #HelpingTheUKGrow. Please be aware of age restrictions on social media.

LAB-GROWN
CHICKEN
GOES ON SALE
IS THIS THE FUTURE
OF MEAT?

A COMPANY in America has been given permission to sell the world's first lab-grown chicken nuggets in Singapore.

San Francisco-based Eat Just's product is grown from animal muscle cells in a lab and then combined with plant nutrients.

Demand for alternatives to regular meat has surged due to consumer concerns about health, animal welfare and the environment.

According to Barclays, meat alternatives could be worth £104 billion within the next decade, or about 10% of the global meat industry.

The lab-grown meat will first be used in nuggets, although the company has not said when they will become widely available.

THE PROTECTIVE
POWER OF POO!

ASIAN honeybees have come up with a rather stinky way to keep giant hornets away – animal poop!

An international team of researchers at Wellesley College in Massachusetts, USA, have discovered that the bees carefully collect animal poo and arrange it around the entrances of their nests to discourage attacks from giant hornets.

Giant hornets are known to launch group attacks on honeybee colonies, killing thousands before taking over their nests. The research showed that honeybees collected small balls of animal dung and popped them around the entrances to their nests after visits from giant hornets, to stop them from coming back to attack. It works too, as the hornets were less likely to land on nest entrances with large numbers of poop balls outside.

Other ways the clever bees have been known to take on predators like hornets include synchronised visual displays, hissing, or surrounding them in a ball of bees until they overheat.



iStock

THE UK'S TOP
FESTIVE FILMS:
REVEALED

iStock

SETTLING down at Christmas time and watching a festive film is one of our favourite Christmas traditions, but which festive film is the best?

Funky Pigeon has polled the nation and, according to their research, the top five Christmas films of all time are:

- 1) *Home Alone* (1990)
- 2) *Elf* (2003)
- 3) *Love Actually* (2003)
- 4) *Miracle on 34th Street* (1994)
- 5) *The Muppet Christmas Carol* (1992)

It's a strong list, but we're not 100% sure they've got it right. After all, for their poll, they only asked those aged 18 and over.

Here at First News, we know that our readers are the real experts on Christmas films, so we want to hear your thoughts! Which one's the best?

JOIN IN OUR POLL

What do you think? What is the greatest Christmas film ever released? Vote at first.news/polls



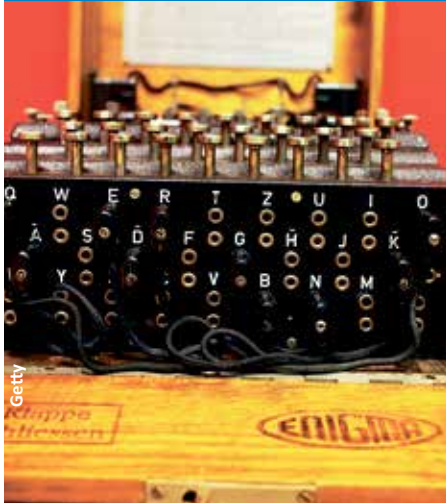
Heather Mattila

Busy bees – arranging poo!

8. WORLD NEWS

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GERMANY



● Enigma discovered

German divers have uncovered an old Enigma encryption machine in the Baltic Sea. The code machine was used by the Nazis to send secret messages during World War 2. The historical artefact has now been taken to an archaeological museum in Schleswig-Holstein, where experts will attempt to restore it. One said it will take about a year to fix the machine, which has spent 70 years under water.

PUERTO RICO



● Brand-new blob

Scientists with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have discovered a new species of deep sea creature while looking at high-definition video footage captured from the bottom of the ocean. Officially named *Duobrachium sparksae*, the two-tentacled balloon-like blob was spotted off the coast of Puerto Rico in 2015, but it's taken five years to verify that the blob-creature is, in fact, a brand-new species.

DENMARK



● End to oil exploration

The Danish government has voted to stop drilling for oil and gas in the North Sea. The decision comes as part of the country's plan to stop extracting fossil fuels by 2050. Environmental activists from Greenpeace said that the decision was a "huge victory for the climate movement" and "what climate leadership looks like".

JAPAN



● Asteroid samples retrieved

The Japanese Hayabusa2 spacecraft has sent samples collected from the Ryugu asteroid safely back to Earth. In July 2019, Hayabusa2 landed on Ryugu as it passed the Earth. The spacecraft spent more than a year studying the asteroid and extracting materials. Two samples were retrieved, one from the surface of the asteroid, the other taken from inside. Last week, Hayabusa2 released a capsule containing the materials it had collected, which landed safely in the Australian outback. Asteroids are rocks that didn't form into planets. They are billions of years old and are believed to contain the building blocks of our solar system. Scientists hope the samples will reveal clues about how our solar system formed.



NEPAL



● Everest grows

Nepal and China have jointly announced that the world's highest mountain, Mount Everest, is 0.86m higher than its previous official measurement. Until now, Chinese authorities said that Mount Everest should be measured to its rock height, while Nepalese authorities argued the snow on top of the summit should be included. Two surveyor teams from Nepal and China climbed the mountain throughout the year, to re-measure it. Together, they came to the official height of 8,848.86m.



INDIA



● Clay cup comeback

At all 7,000 railway stations in India, tea will now be served in clay cups instead of plastic. Known as kulhads, the cups are unpainted, unglazed and have no handles, but they're environmentally friendly and biodegradable. It's hoped that the plan will give jobs to thousands of potters. Before the pandemic, 23 million people travelled on India's trains every day. If every passenger wants a cuppa, that's a lot of pots!



CAMBODIA



● Kaavan arrives

Last week, we told you about Kaavan, 'the world's loneliest elephant', who packed his trunk and left for Cambodia. Kaavan has now safely arrived in Cambodia, and he's already made a new friend! From his new enclosure, Kaavan reached out with his trunk to his elephant neighbours, who returned the greeting. Aww!





HM Government



**I wash
my hands
to protect
everyone.**



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

STAY ALERT ► CONTROL THE VIRUS ► SAVE LIVES

BE DOG SMART THIS CHRISTMAS



LEADING charity Dogs Trust give us their tips on enjoying Christmas (and every other day) with our four-legged friends.



Christmas can be an exciting time, and is often filled with presents and games, delicious food and plenty of fun with our families and loved ones.

While we often enjoy the festive fun, dogs can sometimes feel worried by the different sounds, routines and activities in their homes. To help keep both you and your dog safe and happy this Christmas, we are pleased to offer the following advice to ensure everyone has a pawsome time!

PLAYTIME!

Dogs have excellent hearing and can easily become frightened by loud or unusual noises. If your games might be particularly loud or exciting, consider playing in a different room to your dog.

If you are playing with your dog, there are a few things to remember: firstly, dogs will often try to play with items that aren't theirs, so make sure you only use their own toys and don't encourage them to play with your clothes or hands. If your dog picks something up that doesn't belong to them, you should quickly tell the adult who's with you, so they can swap the item for a tasty treat or a toy that your dog likes! If your dog walks away at any point during playtime, you must leave them alone and give them space.

DINNER TIME!

Dinner time is really important to dogs. Dogs must be left alone while they are eating – they might start to feel worried that their food is going to be taken away if we try to approach or stroke them when they are having their dinner. This may understandably cause them to feel protective of their food, and your dog may feel the need to growl, for example, in order to tell you how they feel. If your dog does growl at you for getting too close (in any situation), they are simply telling you to leave them alone, so make sure you calmly move away from your dog, let an adult know what happened and never tell your dog off for growling.



LET SLEEPING DOGS LIE

Dogs need lots of sleep and you may often see them napping in their beds or other places around the house. They may also choose to rest if they are feeling worried or poorly. Just like you, they don't like being disturbed when they are sleeping or resting, and can become upset or frustrated if they aren't left alone.

DOGGY LANGUAGE

When your dog is feeling worried or uncomfortable, they might express those feelings using the following actions and body language:

- Lifting a paw
- Turning their head/body away from you
- Licking their lips
- Yawning
- Moving their ears back

If you notice your dog doing any of these things, it's important to move away and give them space. It is also very important to watch how your dog responds when you are playing, stroking or interacting with them, in case they become uncomfortable. An adult must always supervise you and your dog, as they may pick up on signs of stress or over-excitement that you might miss.



TOP TIPS FOR BEING DOG SMART



Want to learn more? Dogs Trust offer online dog safety workshops direct to your classroom or home. To find out more and for your parent or teacher to book a workshop, visit www.learnwithdogstrust.org.uk/workshops

AMAZING ANIMAL SNAPS



Andrew Lee/Wildlife Photographer of the Year



Neil Anderson/Wildlife Photographer of the Year

BUILDER BEAVERS

BEAVERS that were reintroduced to the wild in Exmoor have built their first dam (pictured below).

The beavers were released on the Holnicote Estate in January as part of a National Trust project to reduce flooding. Camera traps set up by the National Trust caught footage of the beavers gnawing at trees and collecting plants to build their dam. It is the first beaver dam to be built in England for more than 400 years, after wild beavers were wiped out in England in the 16th century due to hunting.

Rangers are very excited by the news because beaver dams are not only important for the beavers, but they have a positive impact on the ecosystems around them by attracting a wider range of wildlife and creating new habitats.



National Trust

THE People's Choice vote for the Natural History Museum's Wildlife Photographer of the Year is now open!

There are 25 images to choose from, including these two. The voting is open until 2 February and the winning images will go on display in the Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition at the Natural History Museum in 2021.

Cast your vote now at www.nhm.ac.uk/wpy/peoples-choice.

TEENY TWIN



Chester Zoo

TWIN pygmy marmosets have been born at Chester Zoo.

The tiny monkeys are no bigger than a ping pong ball and weigh just ten grams each, making them some of the smallest monkeys in the world. They have already been spotted by keepers exploring their enclosure on the backs of their family. The baby monkeys are so small that it will be a while before keepers can find out if they are male or female. The tiny creatures originate from South America, where they are under threat because of habitat destruction, so the new arrivals are great news for the species.

12. BIG-ISH PICTURE

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THIS plump little robin is the picture of Christmas, as it rests on the branch of a holly bush.

While we still might be a couple of weeks away from the big day, that hasn't stopped us from embracing the festivities and eating mince pies here at First News.

No matter how you spend this year's Christmas holidays, we hope you enjoy yourself!

First News is teaming up with former *Blue Peter* presenter **Peter Duncan** for a spectacular panto to watch online at school or at home. *First News* readers can get an exclusive 15% off tickets when they book to watch the show. All you have to do is use the code **FIRSTNEWS** when you book online at pantoonline.co.uk

BEHIND THE SCENES... WHAT A COINCIDENCE



MY two favourite films for young people and grown-ups are *The Princess Bride* and *Flash Gordon*. The latter I was lucky enough to be in when it was released 40 years ago on 5 December 1980!

I had a small part and was killed by a scorpion-like creature when I put my hand in a tree stump. I own the original monster, which was given to me on my last day as a presenter on *Blue Peter*. These films were partly an inspiration for my *Jack and the Beanstalk* movie, as they both have a pantomime quality of being slightly surreal and a bit scary, while telling a good story.

As I was being interviewed live on television for ITV news at our premiere at the Everyman cinema in London, someone told me it was exactly 40 years to the day that *Flash Gordon* had been released. It was hard to believe that this was my next film after a very long gap. A happy coincidence, but better late than never!

Quite a few schools have now seen the movie and their reaction has been warm and wonderful; the reviews are pretty good too. Dame Trott has been holding Zoom sessions and answering Facebook live questions to Scouts and Guides all week, giving shout-outs and wishing happy birthdays. If you haven't got to see it yet, it is opening in many cinemas around the country and is available for you all to stream at pantoonline.co.uk.



A CLIMATE CHRISTMAS

THE Royal Institution (Ri) Christmas Lectures are as much a part of the British Yuletide as turkey and Brussels sprouts. This year, for the first time in 60 years, there will be three scientists giving the talks. Physicist and oceanographer Dr Helen Czerski, geologist Professor Chris Jackson (right) and environmental scientist Dr Tara Shine are teaming up to deliver a “user’s guide to planet Earth”, looking at what keeps life on Earth alive. First News spoke to Professor Jackson to find out more, and how scientists can help in the fight against fake news.



Paul Wilkinson Photography

What does it mean to you personally to become a Christmas lecturer?

It means a huge amount to get to represent the Ri. They put a lot of importance on this lecture, quite rightly, and there’s a huge amount of responsibility to make sure you maintain the quality and standards of the Christmas Lectures. I think for me personally, as well, it’s important to represent as positively as I can my discipline, geoscience. This is one of the biggest shows of geosciences that’s ever going to happen in 180-plus years of lectures. I want to make sure that people leave and think geology is really important. It has this really central role to play in helping us understand the present climate and the potential future climate. Then also for me, in terms of being black, I want to make sure that I positively represent my racial group on a very significant platform.

What made you want to study geology?

Ease! It was one of the disciplines I found the easiest. Often, when you talk about some bits of science, they’re harder to see or imagine. For me, geology is all around us. Every time you’ve been to the beach, or you’ve been in the mountains, or you’ve looked in a river as it’s flowing next to you, you’re seeing geology, you’re seeing the dynamics of the Earth. If you’re struggling to fall in love with science because the fundamentals seem really hard, try and look at something natural around you. Why did the leaves turn from green to brown on trees? This huge building – how does it stand up? Ask that question and then look at the science behind it.



Paul Wilkinson Photography

The three lecturers: from left, Helen Czerski, Chris Jackson and Tara Shine

Is that how science should be taught?

I think that’s it. To pose a question that needs answering, because it’s really important, or is just really super awesome. And then to go and use the scientific tools to try to answer that question, as opposed to “here are just some fundamental things you need to know”.

COVID-19 has meant science has been all around us this year. Has science become more accessible lately?

Scientists are normally behind the curtain. Now, scientists are standing up in these very prominent positions, talking directly to the public. And so yes, COVID-19 has certainly brought science and scientists into a more visible space. If we think about climate change, and the role that geoscience might play, it’s as much to do with scientists co-ordinating with social scientists and economists and other people. So because we need to understand how best to talk to people about science, we need to understand how people learn, what makes them responsive to guidance. We as scientists are not trained to do that, quite frankly. We’re not taught about how to communicate to the public, as part of our basic training. Often the science will just stay on the bookshelf or will just stay in a fancy journal paper. It’s brought to life either on the stage like at the Ri, where it’s brought into people’s homes in an accessible format, or in terms of, say, COVID, where it’s made clear how the public needs to respond to the guidance they’re being given.

You’re delivering the first of this year’s three talks. What can we expect?

Right at the start of my lecture, I’m going to give you a sense of how long the Earth has been around. If you think about climate change, a lot of people are used to thinking about the now and the future. But before we were here, there was this 4.5-billion-year history of the Earth, and all the way through that, climate has changed. And it’s changed because of natural processes that have been occurring within the Earth and on the Earth’s surface and in the oceans. And we weren’t here, so that wasn’t our fault! But even though our time spent on Earth has been tiny, our impact in that time has been enormous. It’s the pace of change of the temperature and carbon dioxide that is the thing to be worried about. They have changed over the hundreds of millions of years, but what’s happening now is truly unique. The Earth has never seen anything like this. Let’s go on this journey over billions of years and look at how things have changed. And I’m excited for everybody to engage in that.



A sneak peek of Chris’ lecture!

There’s a lot of fake science and fake news on the internet, particularly about climate change. How much of a challenge is it for scientists to counter the fake news?

It’s really, really hard. The internet’s a big place, there are lots of people getting news from lots of different places. They can create Facebook groups overnight and get tens of thousands of followers in literally hours talking about some fake piece of news. And we as scientists can’t mobilise as quickly as that and we don’t really have direct dial to politicians, who can go on the news and counter the fake news. So we are in a bit of a fight to try and get out the message about what is really happening. Historically, scientists perhaps have not made it as easy as they could for themselves. They have not engaged as much as they potentially could with talking to people about how the science is done, and also how it is interwoven into our daily lives. So I think we need to do better at making science really central and relevant to people’s lives, and making them appreciate that.

On the Ri website you’re described as an adventurer. What’s been your greatest adventure so far?

I think abseiling into a volcano was pretty adventurous! But the thing that’s most important about it is that it’s important. It looks very dramatic, but actually if you want to do the best science possible, we sometimes have to go to places that are dangerous. But it’s worth doing that because you’re trying to save people’s lives, or trying to help people live better lives.

The Royal Institution Christmas Lectures will be broadcast on BBC4 on Monday 28, Tuesday 29 and Wednesday 30 December at 8pm. They will also be on the BBC iPlayer.

Puyo Puyo TETRIS 2

THE ULTIMATE PUZZLE MATCH

WE all know Tetris®, don't we? It's one of the most famous puzzle games in the world, created by Russian software engineer Alexey Pajitnov in 1984. In Japan, however, Puyo Puyo has been a fan favourite puzzle game since it first hit the gaming scene in 1991. One exciting fact about puzzles is that they are enjoyed universally by all ages, but still, different cultures have their own unique approach to puzzles. This year both Tetris® and Puyo Puyo bring players together again to enjoy both puzzle worlds in an ultimate puzzle match, Puyo Puyo Tetris 2!

THE STORY SO FAR...

The colourful cast of characters from the original Puyo Puyo Tetris game are back, and this time they're joined by some new friends. During the events of the first game, a crack opened between the worlds of the Puyo Puyo and Tetris, causing chaos for both dimensions. Thankfully, our heroes from both worlds managed to save the day and restore the boundary between worlds...

But what's this? In Puyo Puyo Tetris 2, a mysterious Dimensional Parasite has merged the worlds of Puyo Puyo and Tetris, again causing pandemonium.

Can our heroes pop Puyo and clear Tetriminos to rescue their pals from a dark corruption?

HOW TO PLAY

Playing is easy! You've simply got to match four or more of the same coloured Puyos or complete a line of Tetrimino blocks, to clear them from your board.

By clearing Puyos or Tetriminos, you can dump "garbage" into your opponent's game, making it harder for them to get their blocks, or Puyos to match and eventually clearing them.

Of course, they can also send garbage over to you, so keep an eye out for what's coming your way, too!

You can select from 28 adorable playable characters to play by yourself or with up to four players, either online or all together on your couch. Of course, with two legendary games teaming up, expect loads of different game modes, an exciting story and fun for puzzle pros as well as newcomers alike!

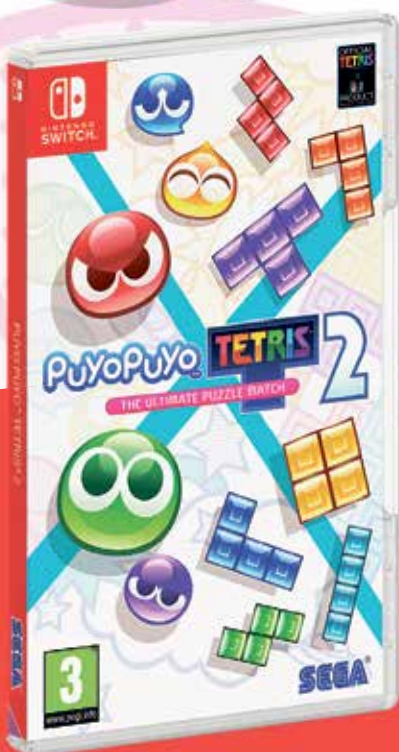
DID YOU KNOW...

An English cartographer named John Spilsbury created the very first jigsaw puzzle in 1767. He chopped up a wooden map and challenged people to reassemble it!

There's a degree for enigmatology, which is the study of puzzles!

Tetris is played competitively! The most famous competitive Tetris event is called the **Classic Tetris World Championship!**

Tetris was the first game played in space!



PUYO PUYO TETRIS 2 IS NOW AVAILABLE TO OWN ON THE NINTENDO SWITCH, PLAYSTATION 5, PLAYSTATION 4, X

COLOUR IN CARBUNCLE!

THE cheerful mascot of the Puyo Puyo games has lost his colour! Colour in Carbuncle and bring his bounce back.

THE *PUYO PUYO TETRIS 2* QUIZ!

1. HOW MANY DIFFERENT COLOURED PUYOS ARE THERE IN THE GAME?

2. WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE YELLOW MASCOT THAT FEATURES IN THE *PUYO PUYO* GAMES?

3. IN WHICH COUNTRY IS *PUYO PUYO* ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR PUZZLE GAMES?

ANSWERS: 1. Five different colours: red, blue, green, yellow and purple 2. Carbuncle 3. Japan

Official game website: puyo.sega.com/tetris2
Facebook: www.facebook.com/PuyoOfficial

Twitter: www.twitter.com/PuyoOfficial
Instagram: www.instagram.com/PuyoOfficial

Please be aware of age restrictions on social media sites

SUPER SOUL



SOUL is the name of Pixar's latest animated adventure. To celebrate the release of the movie on Disney+ this Christmas, Adam Tanswell went behind the camera (or should we say computer!) for the inside scoop...

ONCE UPON A TIME

Pixar's brand-new movie whisks audiences to New York City for a fun-filled adventure alongside a music teacher called Joe Gardner. When Joe falls down a manhole, he ends up in a cosmic world called The Great Before – and he's not a happy chap. Eek!

TURN IT UP

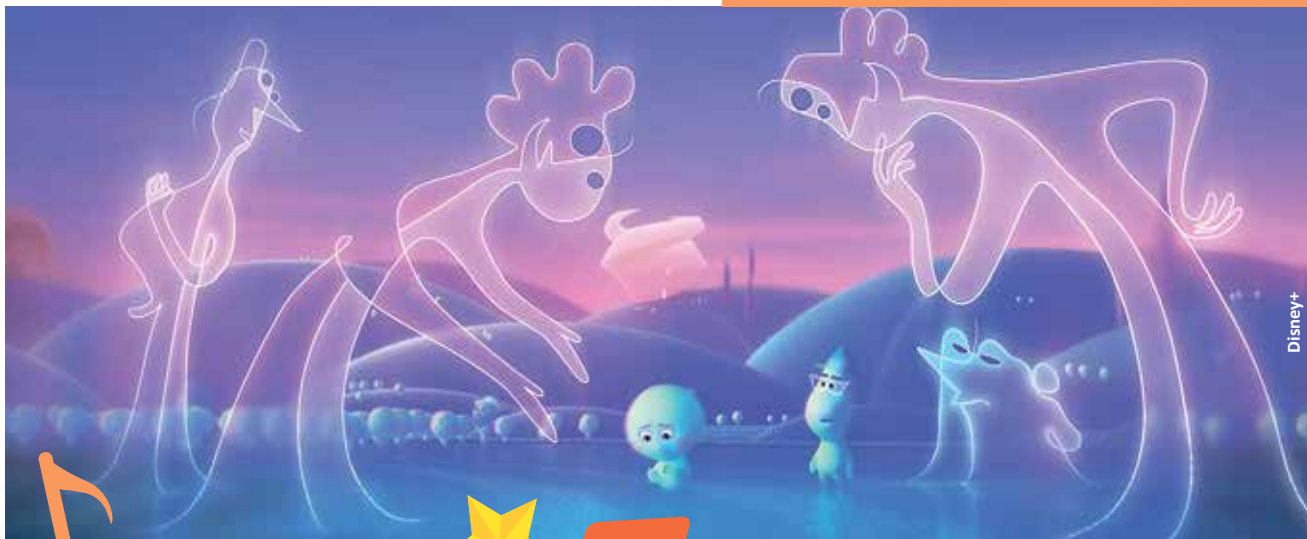
Alongside Jamie Foxx, the star-studded voice cast for *Soul* includes BBC presenter Graham Norton, who plays a spiritual sign-twirler called Moonwind. "We have a very international voice cast, which means we recorded a lot of the voices on Zoom calls," says Pete Docter. "Sadly, we didn't get to meet everyone in the cast, but we did meet Graham in New York. Graham has an amazing sense of humour. He's not as well known for his acting, but he really knocked it out of the park for us. He's fantastic. He's a very funny character."

CARTOON CRAZY

Jamie Foxx is a huge fan of animation, which is one of the reasons he was so eager to work on the movie. "Growing up, I watched lots of cartoons," he admits. "I loved all of the greats, like *Bambi*, but it wasn't always movies. I loved *Tom and Jerry*, *The Jetsons* and other cartoon shows too. Animation has always been in my life and I love the technology involved. It's been amazing to watch it all come together in *Soul*."

FOXX NEWS

The lead character in *Soul* is voiced by Jamie Foxx. "Jamie is an amazing actor, musician and comedian," says Pete Docter. "He is perfect as our lead because he can do everything. In the story, Joe Gardner's a little stuck as a middle-school band teacher. It's a noble profession, but it can get a little tiresome. Especially if all you dream about is playing music in a successful jazz band."



SOUL MAN

A talented team of artists, animators and storytellers have been working on the top-secret project for more than four and a half years. "It's been a lot of hard work," admits director and co-writer Pete Docter, "but we hope everyone really enjoys the film. *Soul* is a movie that asks the ultimate questions that we've all thought about at one time or another. Why am I here? Where did I come from? What am I here for?"

COMEDY GOLD

Prepare for a giggle-fest when you meet Tina Fey's quirky character in the movie. "Tina is an amazing actor," explains Pete Docter. "She's fantastic in the movie as a soul called 22. I don't think she gets enough credit, but she's really good, really smart and really clever. She was able to take several passes at punching up her character, as well as other characters in the movie."



A BRIGHT SPARK

Pete Docter first came up with the idea for *Soul* nearly 20 years ago. "When my kids were born, they already had a personality," he explains. "How did that happen? Where did it happen? My kids were both raised in the same environment, but why do they look at the world differently? I thought it was fascinating. That's where the idea for the movie was born."

CITY SIGHTS

The creative team took a number of trips to New York to research the movie. "We visited a school and some jazz clubs in the city," says Pete Docter. "We took our sketch books with us and we'd draw sketches along the way. We'd take notes too. We also had our cameras, so we'd take pictures and record everything we saw. We wanted to capture all of the essential details around us."

Soul premieres exclusively on Disney+ on 25 December

LOOK OUT

Keep your eyes peeled for lots of fun Pixar Easter eggs in the midst of the animated action. "There are inside jokes everywhere," reveals Pete Docter. "When the story moves to a place called The Hall Of Everything, there are tons of objects from Pixar movies on display. I think there's something from every one of our films in that one shot."

PICS OF THE WEEK

THE LEGO Group has unveiled an immersive LEGO experience in London called *A Really Cool World*.

The walk-through brick world is inspired by the creative and imaginative way children see the world. The experience is linked to the LEGO Group Christmas advert that features LEGO-building families creating hot-dog trees, dragons and other magical creations out of bricks.

The display will be in London's Covent Garden until 2 January. Tickets are free, but must be reserved in advance to make sure social distancing rules are followed. But the good news is that even if you can't make it to London, you can still visit virtually!

Book your tickets or enjoy a virtual visit at www.coventgarden.london/lego-christmas



THIS WEEK

1 Panto season is here and, now lockdown is over, lots of theatres are holding real pantomimes, hurrah! The National Theatre in London is putting on a production of *Dick Whittington* that runs until 23 January 2021. The Arts Centre in Hounslow has put together a production of *Red Riding Hood* that runs until 20 December. Sheffield Theatres have *Damian's Pop-Up Panto!* running until 3 January. Theatres really need support (and audiences) after being closed for most of the year, so check your local theatre to see if it's running a pantomime this year! If you aren't able to visit a theatre, you can still get a panto experience from your own home. To find out more, go to pantoonline.co.uk.



2 Giovanna Fletcher has been crowned the first Queen of the Castle after winning *I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here!* The author and podcaster beat TV presenter Vernon Kay and BBC Radio 1 DJ Jordan North in the final. This year the show was set in Wales instead of Australia because of travel restrictions due to COVID-19.



FIVE MINUTES WITH...



GOLDIE HAWN & KURT RUSSELL

THE real-life couple play Santa and Mrs Claus in Netflix's festive film, *The Christmas Chronicles 2*.

■ What can we expect from *The Christmas Chronicles 2*?

Kurt: We wanted to make a smart Christmas movie that everyone can enjoy. It's fun and adventurous – and it's perfect for the holidays. We go to the North Pole in this second movie. We spend most of the story there, in that world. It's great for everyone to learn about Santa and Mrs Claus' life together there with all of the elves and whatnot.

■ How much fun was it to play Mrs Claus?

Goldie: I had a wonderful experience playing this character. Originally, I was going to play her a little more twinkly. I thought she might be a little pixie-esque, but the director had a strong idea that Mrs Claus would be very grounded, strong and not much of

a giggler. I was so happy with the way it came out.

Kurt: She's great. I love the fact that Mrs Claus doesn't just bake cookies, she designed Santa's Village!

■ Santa's beard is epic! Is it real?

Kurt: The beard has a lot of moving parts, as it were. I had to spend four to five months growing the beard to get it to where it can start looking that way. If you look at it closely, it's an upside-down Christmas tree. It's pretty wild.

Goldie: It's really beautiful.

I thought it was like a work of art.

■ How do you celebrate Christmas in Los Angeles?

Goldie: We're a very traditional family. I do a big Christmas dinner and we always have a lot of fun. On the night before Christmas, all of the children sit around and we hang up our stockings. It's very sweet.

Kurt: We always have somebody read *The Night Before Christmas* to get us into the Christmas spirit. Who reads it? Maybe somebody who hasn't done it before or somebody who hasn't done it for a long time. It's always nice.



Catch *The Christmas Chronicles 2* on Netflix now!

18. FAMILY FUN

FirstNews • Issue 756 • 11 – 17 December 2020

WIN! A COPY OF TIN & KUNA

INTRODUCING best friends Tin and Kuna, who are out to save the world from evil spirits and rebuild the Prime Orb.

Numskull Games is proud to announce that the delightful 3D puzzle platformer, Tin & Kuna, has launched on the Nintendo Switch and PlayStation 4.

Best friends Tin and Kuna are messing around one day when they discover a mysterious orb. Kuna accidentally cracks it open – oops! – unleashing evil spirits who take possession of poor Tin. Kuna will need all his speed and skill to rescue Tin, and together they must rebuild the orb and contain the chaos that is terrorising their

tiny planetoid.

Six lucky winners will each win a copy of Tin & Kuna on a format of their choice. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

Which of these is not a character in Tin & Kuna?

a) Bouncer b) Pusher c) Thumper

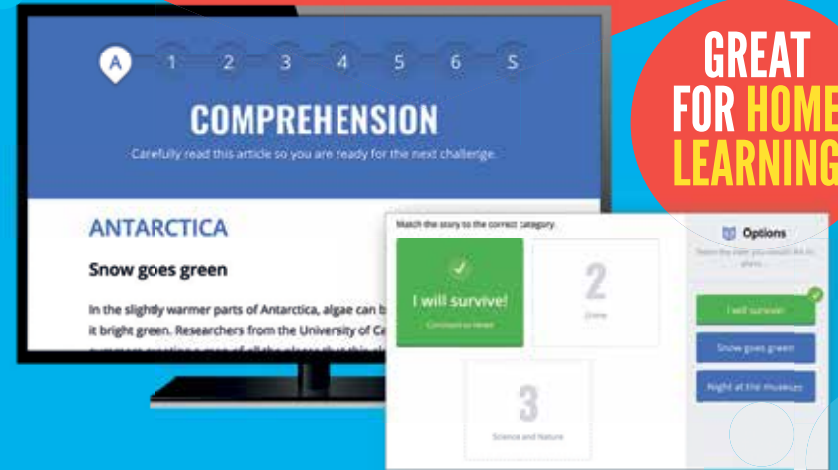


Tin & Kuna
3D puzzle platformer
for Nintendo Switch
and PlayStation 4

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY TIN

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 21. The closing date is 24 December 2020.

FIRST NEWS HOME iHUB THE AWARD-WINNING, INTERACTIVE, ONLINE LEARNING PLATFORM



GREAT
FOR HOME
LEARNING

BY popular demand, the First News iHub, used by schools, is now available to subscribe to at home!

The iHub is packed with multi-level literacy activities to help children from 7-14 develop key reading, comprehension and writing skills – while learning about amazing news stories from around the world.

HEAD TO WWW.FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK/HOMEIHUB TO LEARN MORE!

THINKFUN Advertisement feature



AT ThinkFun, we love to make learning fun!

Our range of logic games and puzzles are designed to flex your brain while you play.

We'd love to introduce you to Laser Maze, a beam-bending logic game that is totally a-maze-ing! There are 60 challenges in the game, from Beginner to Expert level. You'll need to use your skill to place mirrors and beam-splitters in the right places to direct the real laser through a series of mazes and light up the target.

Laser Maze
is available
now!



Find out more about ThinkFun games at www.thinkfun.co.uk

Laser Maze is suitable from age eight years to adult, and is available from games retailers nationwide

LASER MAZE BEAM-BENDING LOGIC GAME

Can you
master the
Laser Maze?

Why not give our brainteaser a try and see how you get on? Which of the three mirror maze set-ups would correctly direct the laser from the red start to the target?



Key



Example:
laser travels
along straight
lines



Answer: maze #3

First News has teamed up with **sky kids** show **FYI** and the **young audiences CONTENT FUND** to make a series of videos for you to watch at home or at school, called **Kidversation**. Across the world, children are fighting for their right to a better life. Article 28 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child says: “Children have the right to an education. Primary education must be free and different forms of secondary education must be available to every child.” This week’s Kidversation sees FYI’s Xavier meet Prince, a boy from Ghana in Africa who hasn’t had an education – until now.



XAVIER MEETS PRINCE

I’m Prince, and I have a right to an education.

XAVIER: Prince has lived in this remote part of Ghana all his life – and it’s a totally different world to what I’m used to. He’s never had running water or electricity, so, like the other children in the village, he’s never had a TV and definitely not a smartphone. And because he’s never had the chance to get an education, Prince knows there’s no way any of this is ever likely to change. Do you want to have a chat, Prince? Cool!

PRINCE: Where are you from?

XAVIER: I come from England. It’s pretty far away [points on map] – this is really cold up here; it’s super hot down here because you’re on the equator.

PRINCE: That’s a long way!

XAVIER: What do you do when you get up in the morning?

PRINCE: I wash my face, clean the pots and go fetch water. After I bathe, I go to the farm to work. On my way back I fetch more water.

XAVIER: How tough was it to hold that water? It looked super heavy.

PRINCE: I walk fast so I can get there early, and because the water is heavy, my sister has to help me lift it onto my head.

XAVIER: Farming is the main way the family survives – though the land often suffers from droughts. Prince takes me to where he and Gifty harvest cocoa beans. With so many hands needed to help in the fields, many children in rural Ghana don’t go to school. Ghana’s government has recently made all education free, but poor families can’t afford books, pencils, uniforms and shoes. Now, a charity called Humanitas is helping out. They’re bringing education to an area where very few children used to go to school. And they’re giving Prince and Gifty all they need to begin their education. It’s a life-changing moment that I feel really lucky to be a part of. Prince, do you think every child should go to school?

PRINCE: Yes, because every child’s future matters. If you go to school you can get a better job and take care of your family.

XAVIER: What’s one thing you really want to learn?

PRINCE: Maths!

XAVIER: Prince and Gifty have waited all their lives to go to school, but still have to do a few household chores first. Finally, they’re off to their very first day of school



and Prince has invited me to share the experience with him. The school has electricity and even the internet – almost unheard of around here. Aged ten, Prince gets his first ever proper maths lesson.

PRINCE: It made me so happy; the lessons, the drums, everything.

XAVIER: How many friends did you make today?

PRINCE: Ten!

XAVIER: That’s amazing. Not as many people fit in as quickly as you did. Prince may have come from the poorest background but now he’s getting an education, he’s full of plans for the future. What do you want to be when you grow up, Prince?

PRINCE: A bank manager!

XAVIER: It’s been amazing to see Prince integrate into school so well, and find all these new friends. I think it’s really something we could all learn from. I think we just really need to appreciate what we’ve got more and we just need to know, don’t take education for granted.



20. PUZZLE FUN

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SUDOKU!

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

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

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.

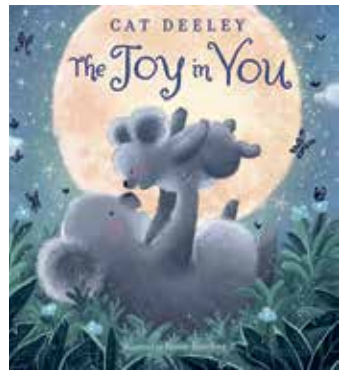
CALM

TOAD

WIN! THE JOY IN YOU BOOKS

CAN you complete our crossword puzzle by using the clues below?

Send in your answers and five lucky winners will each win a copy of *The Joy In You*. Feel uplifted and hopeful when you connect with life's most joyful moments in *The Joy In You*, the new picture book from Cat Deeley.



1		2			3		4		5	
6					7					8
9			10			11				
12						13		14		
					15					
16	17						18			
			19							

ACROSS

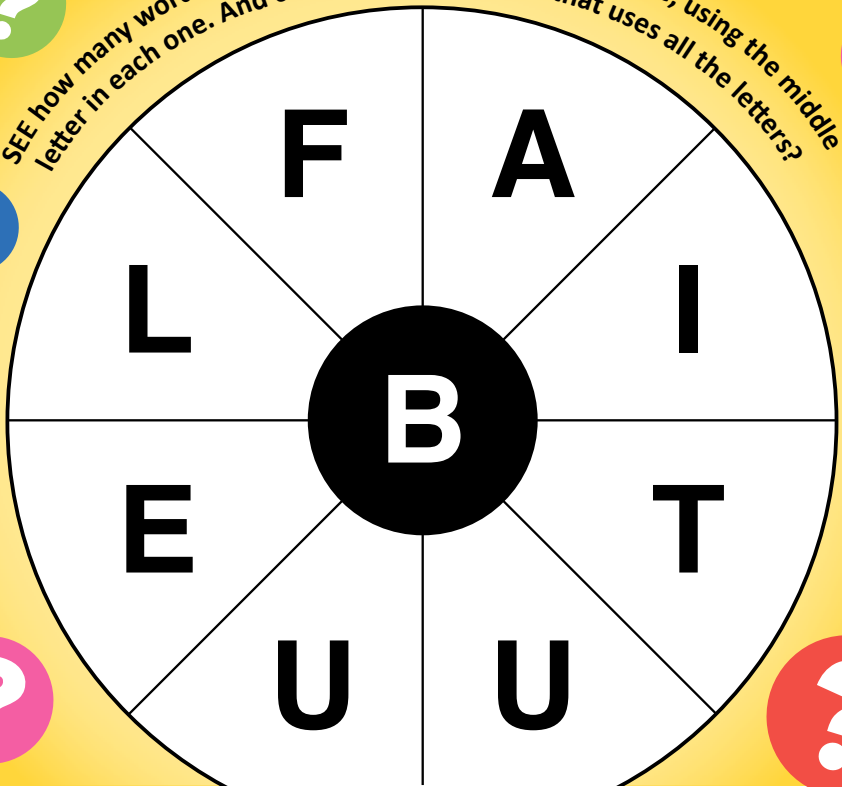
- 1 Famous US singer (4,4)
- 6 Eight plus one (4)
- 7 Holds up (6)
- 9 Root vegetable (5)
- 11 Imagine at night (5)
- 12 Entertain (5)
- 13 An elastic fabric (5)
- 16 Bring about; cause to happen (6)
- 18 Vehicle used to transport passengers for a fee (4)
- 19 Wind ____ : devices for creating energy (8)

DOWN

- 1 Scenery; scan pedal (anag) (9)
- 2 Move rhythmically to music (5)
- 3 ____ Murray: British tennis player (4)
- 4 A negative reaction of the body to a substance such as pollen (7)
- 5 Attempt (3)
- 8 Brief recaps of stories (9)
- 10 Pudding (7)
- 14 Metal rings fastened together (5)
- 15 Mix or blend (4)
- 17 Small winged insect (3)

WORD WHEEL

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



21. PUZZLE FUN

HOW TO ENTER:

Send your finished puzzles by email to win@firstnews.co.uk. Don't forget to put **Puzzles 756** in the subject box. We're afraid we can't accept postal entries for now. The closing date for puzzle entries is **Thursday 17 December 2020**.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

CAN you spot the five changes we've made to this picture from *The Boss Baby 2: Family Business*?



WORDSEARCH

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



- ☐ Glass slipper
- ☐ Fairy
- ☐ Beanstalk
- ☐ Wicked Witch

- ☐ Buttons
- ☐ King Rat
- ☐ Widow Twankey
- ☐ Flying carpet

- ☐ Captain Hook
- ☐ Ugly sisters
- ☐ Magic beans
- ☐ Mother Goose



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.

Looking for a unique Christmas gift?

Cookie



Sponsor a rescued horse or donkey from Redwings for a whole year from just £15!

Upgrade your gift!

We have a gorgeous selection of Adoption Star merchandise available in our online gift store



www.redwings.org.uk/shop

www.redwings.org.uk/adopt
0870 040 0033



LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS:

Spot the difference: dog's collar has extra bell, Grinch's shoe is green, dog has extra antler, cave in background has been filled in, Grinch is wearing Santa hat.
Word ladder: left, loft, loot, look, lock, sock.
Word wheel: reflected.

I	M	P	O	S	S	I	B	E		3	6	8	1	5	2	4	9	7
B	I	N	C	O	V	E	R			1	2	7	6	9	4	3	5	8
Z	R	I	M	E	A					9	5	4	8	7	3	6	2	1
A	L	T	E	N	S					6	4	3	9	8	1	2	7	5
S	A	T	E							5	8	1	4	2	7	9	6	3
D	A	T	A							7	9	2	5	3	6	8	1	4
I	L	I	S							8	1	9	2	4	5	7	3	6
M	I	A	O							4	7	5	3	6	9	1	8	2
N	A									2	3	6	7	1	8	5	4	9
C	O	M	P	L	I	M	E	N										

2020's STABILO CHRISTMAS CARD

COMPETITION WINNER IS...

TRULY McINTOSH

Aged 12 from Lincolnshire

Last year we had the punny 'rapping paper' and 'Mistle-toad' winner and, after lots of discussion, the winning design for 2020 is this colourful and intricately detailed card featuring a Christmas on Zoom, masterly created by Truly McIntosh, aged 12 from Lincolnshire. We think that Truly's design truly captured what Christmas might look like this year! Congratulations, Truly!



STABILO is also on the hunt for the designer of this socially-distanced Christmas card. Do you recognise it? Please let us know! This card was wonderfully creative with a lovely Christmas thank you to the NHS, so STABILO would love to give a special mention to the designer.



We would also love to give a special mention to Gabrielle Oke, ten, from Guildford. Gabrielle's picture of the Nativity scene was beautifully drawn.

DOWNLOAD THE WINNING DESIGN!

Head to first.news/stabilo2020 to download Truly's design to print, personalise and send out to as many friends and family as you would like to. Spread the festive cheer with this fun-filled Christmas card!

23. CRAZY BUT TRUE

SANTAS ON THE SEA

MORE than 150 Santas took to the seas on jet skis, but it was for more than just a ho ho ho.

Australians donned their Santa suits and hit the waves to raise money for Christmas Presents for Kids in Care, a charity that hands out toys to children in foster care.

The super Santas whizzed along the waters of the Nerang River in Queensland. As well as raising \$10,000 (around £5,524), they were also going for a Guinness World Record.

They believe they've beaten the current record of 129 jet ski Santas, but it won't be confirmed until they submit the record for official review.



50-YEAR-OLD COIN REMOVED FROM MAN'S NOSE

A 59-YEAR-OLD Russian man has finally had a coin removed from his nose, after he stuck it up there when he was six.

The man had apparently not had any real problems for the best part of 50 years. However, in recent years, he said he struggled to breathe out of his right nostril.

A scan at the hospital revealed the presence of an old one kopek coin (worth about 1p at the time) that the man claimed he had forgotten about. Little nasal stones called rhinoliths had grown around the coin, blocking his nostril.

Luckily, after a quick bit of surgery, the stones and coin were removed and the man can now breathe easily again. After 53 years with nothing but snot for company, the coin was unrecognisable!



"Something's up here. Almost got it."

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CAUGHT BY THE POO-LICE

A CAR thief thought he could make a clean getaway, but boy, was he wrong!

After a stolen car was spotted, officers from Sussex Police gave chase. The suspect left the car and made a run for it on foot, but fell right into a slurry pit full of cow poo!

Sussex Police tweeted: "Eager to flee in a hurry, the suspect was eventually arrested neck-deep in a pit of slurry. Thanks to our officers a rescue ensued, and they all ended up safe but covered in cow poo."

We bet the captured criminal caused a bit of a stink back at the police station!



PS5 OR AIR PURIFIER?

A MAN in Taiwan bought a second-hand PS5 for a bargain price after its previous owner tried, and failed, to fool his wife into thinking it was an air purifier.



NOT an air purifier

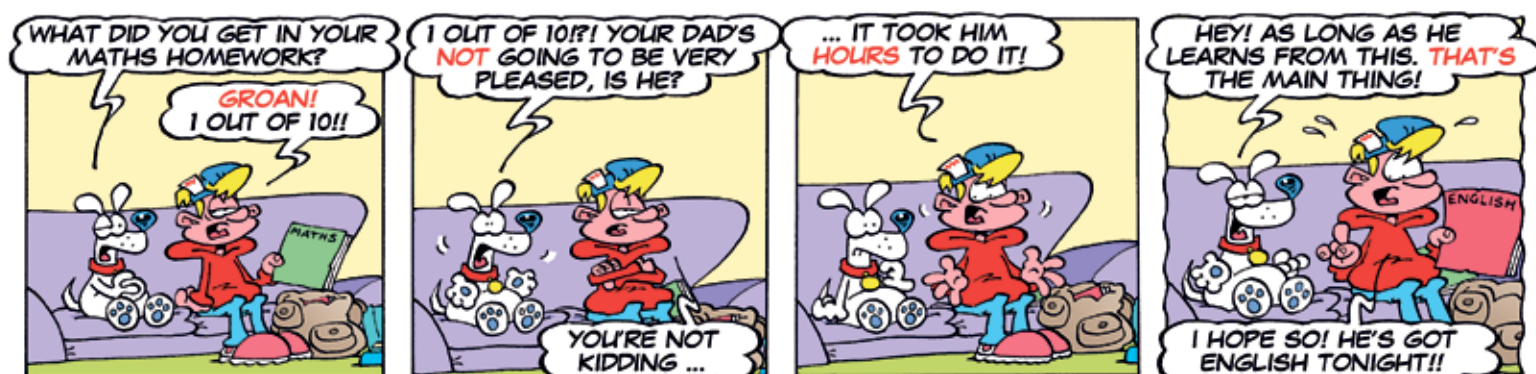
According to Jin Wu, the lucky recipient of the cheap console, he saw the PS5 advertised and called the seller to arrange collection. A woman answered and it became clear that she didn't know much about the console but wanted it gone, even at what sounded like a surprisingly low price.

When Wu went to meet the seller, he was greeted by a sad-faced man, who explained: "My wife wants to sell it. It turns out that women can tell the difference between a PS5 and an air filter."

Perhaps if he'd been honest with his wife to begin with, he might still be playing games on it instead of lucky Jin Wu!



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer



24. GAME ZONE

GALACTUS IS DEFEATED!



A RECORD 15 million Fortnite (PEGI 12) players came together last week to take on the big Marvel baddie, Galactus, the devourer of worlds.

With a little help from Iron Man, Thor and Storm, *Fortnite's* Marvel-themed superhero-filled Season 4 came to an end with a serious bang.

If you missed the event, it was all about an enormous Galactus trying to munch on the *Fortnite* island's Zero Point. Players then had to board an Iron Man-improved Battle Bus and fly it into Galactus' mouth!

It was pretty impressive, like almost all of *Fortnite's* events have been so far!

If you've not been following the story, you might be left with a few questions. Like, just what is the Zero Point? Well, we have the answers...

The Zero Point is a source of infinite energy that's been tucked away under the island, ever since the first season of the battle royale game.

The *Fortnite* island is stuck in a time loop, and after every match it resets and loops again. Galactus cracked the Zero Point orb when trying to eat it, putting the loop at risk. Outside of the loop, there's an agency that's watching everything that happens on the *Fortnite* island. A member of this agency, called Jonesy, has now jumped into the time loop, to go and protect the Zero Point.

To help him out, he's enlisted a bunch of the toughest fighters from all the universes from outside the loop. According to the *Fortnite* website, it'll be a "chaotic battle that will shape the future of the island!". We're excited here, are you?

PS5 TOPS CONSOLE SALES

ALMOST 600,000 games consoles were sold in the UK during November.

The big winner was the newly released PS5, with the Nintendo Switch taking second place.

Some 2.38m games were sold last month too. Switch games were most popular, with PS4 games just behind.

Did you buy any new games or get a new console?



DO YOU INVERT?



A NEW study by the Visual Perception and Attention Lab of Brunel University London is researching why so many gamers prefer to play their games with inverted controls.

We all know someone who, when playing games on console, prefers to invert their controls, so that when you push the thumb-stick down, things on the screen move upwards.

Despite being a popular way to play videogames, no-one is sure just why some people prefer it, which is why the researchers are going to study this behaviour.

Whatever the results of the study, the lab says that understanding the way that humans view things is useful in "almost all aspects of gaming and visual technology."

ADVERTISEMENT

A Christmas gift from £4 a month

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO LOVES ORCAS?

ADOPTING AN ORCA HELPS PROTECT THEIR FUTURE...

Orcas are amazing but too many are dying. Poisoned by polluted seas. Accidentally caught in fishing nets. Some are even taken into captivity. **By adopting an orca with Whale and Dolphin Conservation this Christmas, you can help us give orcas the protection they need to survive.**

Your support will help us protect them from activities such as industrial development, fish farming, logging and pollution. We'll send you your very own adoption pack, including, a personalised certificate with a picture of your adoption whale, a set of fun stickers and a colourful WDC badge. We'll keep you up-to-date on their daily lives through a great quarterly magazine, a monthly e-newsletter and you'll receive an email birthday and Christmas card.



YOU CAN ADOPT:



BEND

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

OR



FIFE

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

WDC { WHALE AND DOLPHIN CONSERVATION

TO FIND OUT MORE VISIT **ADOPTAWHALE.COM**

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25. BOOKS

FirstNews • Issue 756 • 11 – 17 December 2020

YOUR READS!



FROM THE MIXED-UP FILES OF MRS BASIL E FRANKWEILER • E L KONIGSBURG

reviewed by Neha Shivdeep, aged 12

Claudia Kincaid has been planning to run away from home for a while, and has a long list of reasons why.

She decides to take one of her three brothers with her, and chooses Jamie because he is the richest, with over \$20 (£15) to his name, which was won by

cheating the other 3rd graders at cards!

Claudia soon comes to the conclusion that she is going to run away to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York because she thinks life would be much more stimulating in comparison to her dull home. Then, a new statue of a mysterious angel arrives at the museum. The children are fascinated by it and decide to investigate it, which leads to their unexpected adventure.

I enjoyed this story a lot because it has a gripping plot and you simply can't put the book down!

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



EOIN Colfer is the best-selling author behind *The Fowl Twins*.

And now, he's author of the week in the Virtual School Library! Eoin's recommended reads are:

- The Lockwood and Co series by Jonathan Stroud
- The Turf-Cutter's Donkey by Patricia Lynch
- Asterix the Gaul by René Goscinny and Albert Uderzo

Head to the Virtual School Library to listen to a new instalment of *The Fowl Twins* every weekday for free.

Visit virtuallschoollibrary.org.uk to find out more.

“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

FANTASTIC CHRISTMAS GIFTS AVAILABLE FROM JUST £10!

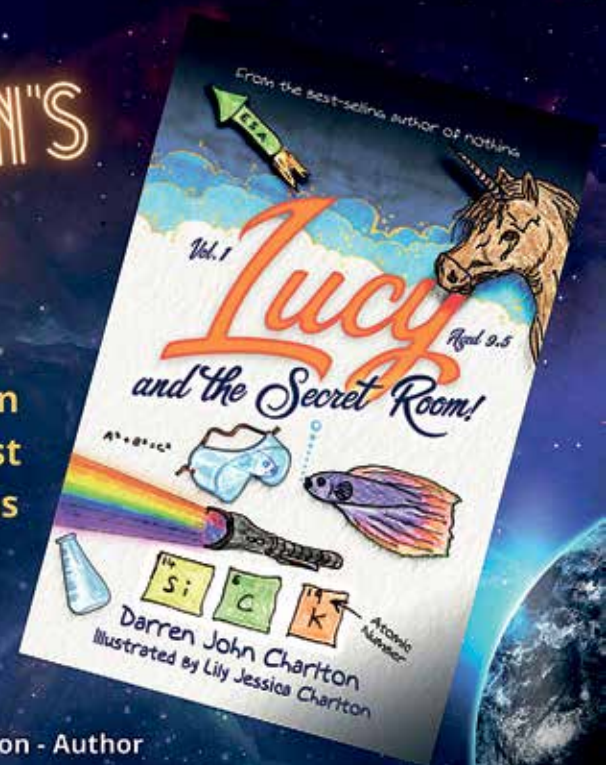


A subscription to First News makes a brilliant Christmas gift, feeding their curiosity and engaging them in the world around them.

FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK/CHRISTMAS

NEW CHILDREN'S BOOK

Now available on Amazon and most e-book platforms



Darren John Charlton - Author

Check out the website www.lucyandthesecretroom.co.uk for reviews and details of how purchasing this book will benefit the following charities:



Fundraising for... British Dyslexia Association

Out Of This World Publishers, PO Box 5996, Dronfield, S18 9DZ, UK

WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?

CHRISTMAS POM POM KITS BAKEROSS.CO.UK FROM £4.95

These happy festive favourites with their pom pom tummies will look great on any Christmas tree.

Make a pom pom using the yarn and tool included,



then add the self-adhesive foam pieces and you'll see Rudolph, an elf and Santa himself take shape.

MINI FELT WREATH CRAFT KIT NOTONTHEHIGHSTREET.COM £12.00

This box is packed full of supplies to make a very cute mini felt wreath to add a touch of festive cheer to your house this Christmas. There's also a selection of wool mix felts, pom poms, needles and threads, instructions and templates included.



CHRISTMAS ARTS AND CRAFTS



SOCK REINDEER CRAFT KIT AMAZON.CO.UK £10.00

Sew your own reindeer with this sock reindeer craft kit. The kit contains everything you need to make a reindeer from a pair of stripy socks. It includes, socks, stuffing, needle and thread, decoration kit and instructions, plus a birth certificate for you to complete. You get everything you need to decorate your sock reindeer toy to make it completely individual.

*All prices correct at time of printing

CHRISTMAS SAND ART SET HOBBYCRAFT.CO.UK £3.00

Experiment with unique Christmas sand art this Christmas! You'll be all set to create colourful snowmen in a totally unique way, with festive shades included, and a duo of snowmen-shaped clear bottles. The set includes a funnel, stirrer, coloured sand and the snowmen bottles. There's plenty of white to use for that snowy look too.



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

WIN! A NINTENDO SWITCH LITE AND A COPY OF PUYO PUYO™ TETRIS® 2



WHILE Tetris® may be one of the most well-known puzzle games globally, in Japan, Puyo Puyo has been a fan favourite since it first took the Japanese gaming scene by storm in 1991.

Ready for some puzzle mayhem? With Puyo Puyo Tetris 2, you will unite two puzzle legends in one game, with Puyo-popping and Tetrimino-clearing fun for an ultimate puzzle match! And don't fret if you're a newcomer, as there are many ways to play, including Lesson Mode to teach you the ropes! Choose from 28 adorable playable characters and save a world or two in this wild new puzzle adventure!

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

First prize: A Nintendo Switch Lite (turquoise), "Team Puyo" or "Team Tetris" T-shirt, branded pin plus a Switch copy of the game
Second prize: A "Team Puyo" or "Team Tetris" T-shirt, branded pin plus a copy of the game in a format of your choice (Nintendo Switch, PlayStation 4, PlayStation 5, or Xbox Series X/S)
Third prize: A branded pin plus a copy of the game in a format of your choice (Nintendo Switch, PlayStation 4, PlayStation 5, or Xbox Series X/S)



In which year was Puyo Puyo first launched in Japan?

a) 1981 b) 1991 c) 2001

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY PUYO

firstnews.co.uk/competitions
or see page 21. The closing date is 24 December 2020.

FIRST NEWS SHOES

by Joshua Glass, Nancy Reuben Primary School

AT Nancy Reuben Primary School, Year 6 have been making newspaper shoes.

We were only allowed to use newspaper and Sellotape! This was a STEM activity. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

Our school has four House teams and we worked in pairs from the same team. We made the shoes by circling and cutting around our partners' feet to make three layers of newspaper for the base of the shoe.

We then moved on to the 3D part of the shoe, which was slightly more complex. We had to measure the right amount of newspaper to cut out and sometimes it took a few attempts and trial and error before we got it just right.

At times there were a few rips and yells, but luckily everyone finished on time, even though some had to rush. This rather odd task was extremely fun and all the class enjoyed it so much. What I found particularly enjoyable was when we tried on our shoes, as we had to be extremely careful not to rip them.

When we first started, everyone thought it would be quite difficult, but the hard work was worth the effort!

Thank you so much to our teacher for setting us this amazing activity.



First News newspaper shoes



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.

FUNDRAISING FUN

by Yarrells Preparatory School

ON Wednesday 17 November, we packed the Trussell Trust van full of a whopping 187 Christmas shoe boxes.

The shoe boxes are to be given to children in real need in Europe, as part of the FSCI [Foundation for Social Change and Inclusion] Christmas Box Appeal. It has been lovely to see everyone's smiling faces as they brought their boxes into school.

Last week we also raised over £700 for Children in Need.

We all took part in the online 'Duck Race', ran a paper aeroplane competition, paid to 'Soak the Teacher', and the teachers did a sponsored bus pull. It was a great day of fun, with all the children dressed in bright colours.

We have also just given our Poppy donation to the Royal British Legion, totalling a wonderful £376.79 this year.

We are overwhelmed by everyone's care and compassion towards those in real need and wanted to thank our school community for their generosity.



187 filled shoe boxes



Bus pulling!



COMMUNITY CHAMPION



Ruby at the top of Cancano hill

by Ruby Isaac

I HAVE been given a Community Champion award by the charity World Bicycle Relief for my fundraising.

They have given out 15 awards all across the world to celebrate their 15th anniversary. I am so proud to have this award, as I am the only child to have one.

World Bicycle Relief helps children and adults in Africa who have to walk miles to get to work, school and to a doctor by giving them a Buffalo Bike. What they do is amazing because a bicycle can change someone's life for the better.

In May last year I tried to ride up the Stelvio Pass in Italy, but sadly due to snow on the roads I wasn't able to do it. So instead I rode 70km and up Cancano hill, which was amazing. I raised over £4,000, which helped make 34 Buffalo Bikes!

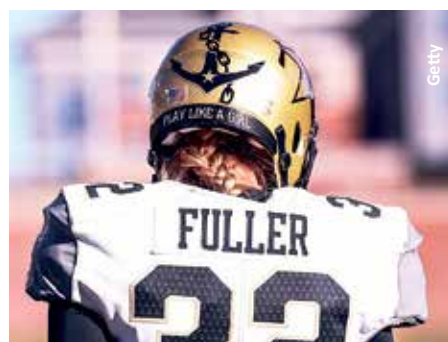
Next year I want to raise even more money for World Bicycle Relief by taking on the Stelvio. This time I'm hoping the weather will be a bit warmer! I hope to inspire other girls and boys to ride too, because it's good fun.



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

SPORT IN NUMBERS

1 woman has now played in an American football Power 5 match, after Sarah Fuller made her debut for the Vanderbilt Commodores. The college team place-kicker later said: "I just want to tell all the girls out there that you can do anything you set your mind to."



128 years after the first modern Olympic Games were held, new sports are still making their debut.

Breaking, a form of breakdancing, is scheduled to wow spectators at the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris. Competitors will be judged on their technical skill, creativity and style.



16 pole vault competitions were won by Mondo Duplantis in 2020! The undefeated Swede

was crowned Male World Athlete of the Year at the World Athletics Awards 2020. The female title went to Venezuelan Yulimar Rojas, who broke the world indoor triple jump record by 7cm, with a leap of 15.43m.



Yulimar Rojas



Sergio Pérez and Racing Point leading the F1 field (below top); Mick Schumacher in his final F2 race for Prema Racing (below bottom)

190TH TIME'S THE CHARM!

IT has been a long wait for Sergio Pérez, but the F1 driver was celebrating after the Sakhir Grand Prix.

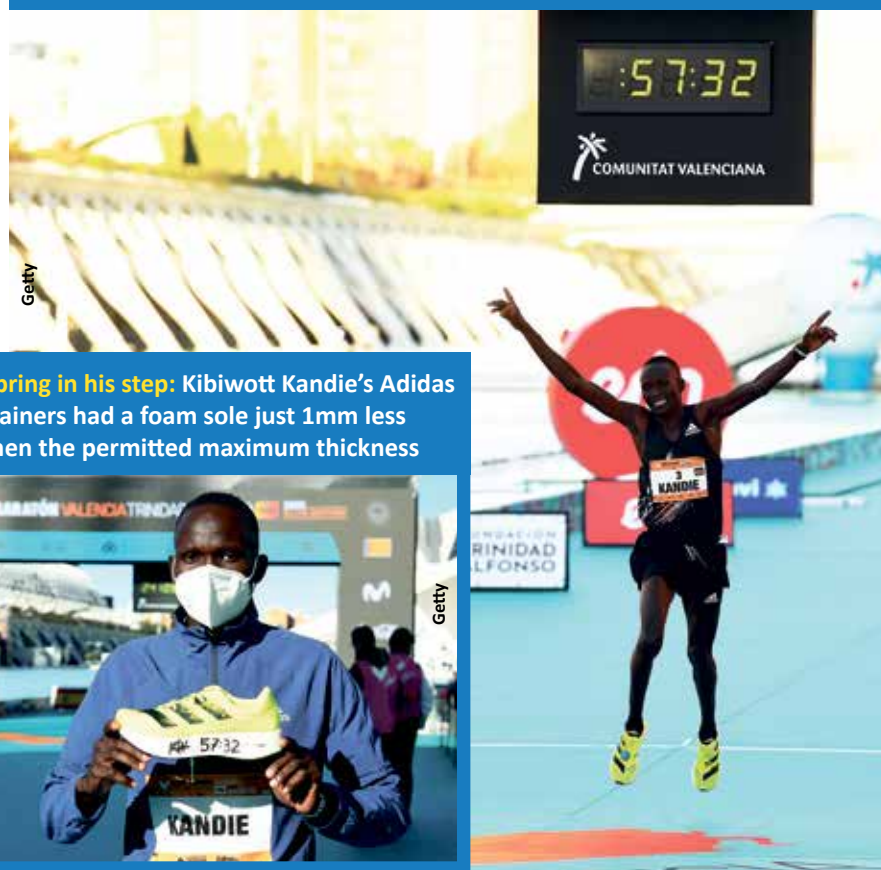
Sergio made his debut in Formula 1 in 2011 for Sauber F1. This year, the Mexican is driving for the Racing Point F1 team and the Sakhir circuit in Bahrain was his 190th Grand Prix. This Formula 1 season has been dominated by the breathtaking skills of Lewis Hamilton – the winner of 10 of the first 15 races. Unfortunately, Lewis had to miss a race for the first time in 13 years, after testing positive for COVID-19. That gave the contest a different feel – and also meant that young British driver George Russell raced for Mercedes, in place of Lewis.

The race began badly for Sergio, who was hit by Charles Leclerc and was forced to make a tyre change, rejoining at the back of the field. George was at the front as the Mexican made

his way up to third. Debris on the track required the safety car to be deployed, so George made a pit stop – and was mistakenly given his team-mate's tyres! He had to return on the next lap to be fitted with the correct ones. Meanwhile, Sergio had taken the lead and George fought his way up from fifth to second to challenge him, before a puncture meant another pit stop. The unlucky George finished ninth, but Sergio took the chequered flag to record a first victory for him and for Racing Point.

Sergio is yet to secure a team for next season, but one driver who will be making his F1 debut is Mick Schumacher, son of the legendary Michael. On the same day as Sergio's win, Mick sealed the F2 title and will be racing with Haas F1 in 2021.

KANDIE CRUSH!



Spring in his step: Kibiwott Kandie's Adidas trainers had a foam sole just 1mm less than the permitted maximum thickness



THE half-marathon world record was smashed in Valencia, Spain – by four of the competitors!

The race fielded an impressive line-up of athletes, with Kenyans Rhonex Kipruto, Alexander Mutiso and Kibiwott Kandie vying for first place. The half-marathon is a distance of 21.1km (13.1 miles) and the world record of 58:01 had been set by fellow Kenyan Geoffrey Kamworor in 2019.

The early stages of the race were run at a blistering pace, with the opening 5km covered by the leaders in just 13 minutes and 37 seconds. The last 5km saw the three Kenyans joined by Jacob Kiplimo of Uganda – and he and Kibiwott took turns at the head of the field. In the end, Kibiwott triumphed, crushing the record by knocking 29 seconds off it. Incredibly, Jacob, Rhonex and Alexander all beat the 2019 record too!

The victory caps a remarkable year for 24-year-old Kibiwott. He has competed in four half-marathons this year, coming second in one and winning the other three!



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